

15.—Infant Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births by Cause 1952-54

(Exclusive of Yukon and the Northwest Territories)

Inter-national List No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
001-019	Tuberculosis.....	41	55	42	10	13	10
020-029	Syphilis.....	7	2	6	2	1	1
045-048	Dysentery.....	24	20	12	6	5	3
050	Scarlet fever.....	2	3	2	1	1	1
052	Erysipelas.....	—	4	1	—	1	1
055	Diphtheria.....	1	—	1	1	—	1
056	Whooping cough.....	104	97	75	26	23	17
057	Meningococcal infections.....	40	46	50	10	11	11
085	Measles.....	73	43	56	18	10	13
140-239	Neoplasms.....	47	40	35	12	10	8
273	Diseases of thymus gland.....	65	53	37	16	13	9
325	Mental deficiency.....	17	37	24	4	9	6
340	Meningitis (non-meningococcal).....	145	142	138	36	34	32
391, 392	Otitis media.....	251	201	200	62	48	46
470-475	Acute upper respiratory infections.....	73	77	77	18	18	18
480-483	Influenza.....	316	348	172	79	83	40
490-493	Pneumonia (4 weeks and over).....	1,604	1,571	1,577	398	377	362
500-502	Bronchitis.....	102	115	123	25	28	28
543	Gastritis and duodenitis.....	11	10	5	3	2	1
560-570	Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	107	98	86	27	24	20
571	Gastro-enteritis and colitis.....	877	762	542	218	183	125
572	Chronic enteritis, and ulcerative colitis.....	3	2	7	1	1	2
750-759	Congenital malformations.....	2,226	2,161	2,137	553	518	491
760, 761	Injury at birth.....	1,532	1,420	1,386	381	341	319
762	Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis.....	1,314	1,316	1,507	326	316	346
763	Pneumonia of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	483	516	438	120	124	101
764	Diarrhoea of newborn (under 4 weeks).....	214	211	137	53	51	31
765-768	Other infections of the newborn.....	56	47	51	14	11	12
769	Antenatal toxæmia.....	171	181	146	42	43	34
770	Erythroblastosis.....	366	339	365	91	81	84
771	Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn.....	130	149	136	32	36	31
772	Nutritional maladjustment.....	161	130	112	40	31	26
773	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy.....	1,125	930	777	279	223	179
774-776	Immaturity.....	2,164	2,243	2,062	538	538	474
795	Ill-defined and unknown causes.....	275	230	192	68	55	44
E810-E825	Motor vehicle traffic accidents.....	19	14	12	5	3	3
E900-E904	Accidental falls.....	10	11	14	2	3	3
E916	Accidents caused by fire.....	30	30	25	7	7	6
E921, E922	Inhalation and ingestion of food or other object.....	235	215	248	58	52	57
E924, E925	Accidental mechanical suffocation.....	131	136	128	33	33	29
	Other accidental and violent deaths.....	64	62	56	16	15	13
	Other specified causes.....	687	697	644	171	167	148
	Totals, All Causes.....	15,303	14,764	13,841	3,802	3,542	3,181

¹ Less than one per 100,000 live births.

Subsection 3.—Maternal Mortality

As indicated in Table 1, pp. 199-201, the number of mothers who die in pregnancy and childbirth has been greatly reduced during the past two decades. Although the number of births has been much greater in recent years, the number of maternal deaths has declined steadily since about 1930 (when there were 1,215 deaths and a rate of almost five deaths for every 1,000 live births) to 290 in 1954. Since 1945 the rate of maternal mortality has dropped below two per 1,000 live births and was under one per 1,000 live births in 1954. Mortality among unmarried mothers is higher than among married mothers.

Age at Death.—Table 16 shows the distribution of maternal deaths by age groups and average age at death. The latter is slightly more than two years higher than the average age of all mothers at the time of childbirth. The rates per 1,000 live births by age groups show that age is a most important factor in maternal mortality. Though all the rates are much lower than they used to be, the inequalities between the age groups remain (see Chart, "Maternal Deaths," opposite). The rate at ages 30-34 is more than