Table 12 illustrates the fact that the risk of having a stillborn child increases with the age of the mother. Although stillbirth rates for mothers of all ages have been declining, they continue to be three times as high among mothers of 40-44 years and between four and six times as high among those over 45 years as for mothers under 30.

The average age of mothers who bore stillborn children in 1960 was 30.1 years; as shown in Table 8, the average age of mothers who bore legitimate live-born children was 28.1 and of those who bore illegitimate live-born offspring was 23.7.

12.—Stillbirths and Rates per 1,000 Live Births, by Age of Mother, 1960

(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group of Mother	Numbers		Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Stillbirths	
	No.	No.	No.
Under 20 years	39,089	396	10.1
20 — 24 "	134,191	1,292	9.6
25 — 29 "	130,894	1,513	11.6
30 — 34 "	90,306	1,362	15.1
35 — 39 "	51,787	1,083	20.9
40 — 44 "	15,287	455	29.8
45 — 49 "	1,124	73	64.9
50 years or over	16	3	187.5
Ages not stated	684	19	...
Totals, All Ages	**463,378**	**6,196**	**13.4**
Average age of mothers	30.1		

Section 3.—Deaths*

The Canadian crude death rate (i.e., per 1,000 total population) has moved downward steadily from 10.2 in 1931 to 8.2 for each of the years 1954 to 1957 and, following a record low of 7.9 in 1958, rose to 8.0 in 1959 and dropped to a new record low of 7.8 in 1960, giving Canada one of the lowest crude death rates in the world. Table 1, pp. 182-183, shows that this trend has been apparent in varying degrees in all provinces. The generally low rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly the result of their younger average population; the uniformly higher rate in British Columbia is mainly attributable to a high proportion of people in the older age groups.

Subsection 1.—General Mortality

Age and Sex Distribution of Deaths.—During the period of national vital statistics (1921 to date), the mortality pattern at all ages has been steeply downward. Of major significance in lowering the over-all death rate have been reductions in infant mortality, in childhood death rates and in those of young adults. In 1931 over 19 p.c. of all male deaths occurred among persons of five to 45 years of age; in 1960 only a little over 10 p.c. of all male deaths took place in this age group. Among females in the same age group the proportion dropped from just under 22 p.c. to less than 8 p.c. in the same period. While death rates for males up to age 45 have been roughly halved during the past 25 years, those for females under 45 years have been reduced as much as three to four times. In other words, the death rates for females at every age have declined more than those for males; the male rates have almost always been consistently higher than those for females and the differences are widening. The male death rate stood at 9.1 per 1,000 male population in 1960 as compared with only 6.6 for females.

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 214-215.