16.—Infant Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Cause, 1958-60—concluded

International List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960
750–759	Congenital malformations	2,235	2,149	2,076	475	448	434
760,761	Injury at birth	1,422	1,400	1,265	302	292	264
762	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	1,508	1,535	1,522	321	320	318
763	Pneumonia of newborn (under 4 weeks)	519	454	454	110	95	95
764	Diarrhœa of newborn (under 4 weeks)	149	126	80	32	26	17
765–768	Other infections of the newborn	42	43	48	9	9	10
769	Antenatal toxæmia	141	121	91	30	25	19
770	Erythroblastosis	373	377	343	79	79	72
771	Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn	107	107	93	23	22	19
772	Nutritional maladjustment	76	71	48	16	15	10
773	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy	872	849	875	185	177	183
774–776	Immaturity	2,354	2,369	2,261	501	494	472
795	Ill-defined and unknown causes	150	145	96	32	30	20
E810–E825	Motor vehicle accidents	25	24	14	5	5	3
E900–E904	Accidental falls	14	10	17	3	2	4
E916	Accidents caused by fire	29	29	24	6	6	5
E921, E922	Inhalation and ingestion of food or other object	299	203	306	64	63	64
E924, E925	Accidental mechanical suffocation	152	159	145	32	33	30
	Other accidental and violent deaths	50	42	51	11	9	11
	Other specified causes	529	520	532	113	108	111
	Totals, All Causes	**14,178**	**13,595**	**13,077**	**3,016**	**2,837**	**2,733**

Infant Mortality in Urban Centres.—Because of the relatively small numbers of infant deaths in individual cities and towns, the rates for these centres usually vary widely from year to year. As is evident from Table 2, pp. 184-186, many cities and towns have maintained consistently low rates as compared with the national rate or the rate for the province in which they are situated.

Subsection 3.—Maternal Mortality

As indicated in Table 1, pp. 182-183, 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 declined steadily from 1930 (when there were 1,215 deaths and a rate of almost 50 deaths for every 10,000 births delivered alive) to 255 in 1957; the slightly higher figure of 263 in both 1958 and 1959 was followed by an all-time low of 215 in 1960. Since 1945, the rate of maternal mortality has been less than 20 per 10,000 live births delivered and has been under 10 since 1951. In 1959 there was a slight decrease in the rate to 5.5 per 10,000 live births from 5.6 in 1958, and in 1960 the rate dropped below 5 for the first time to 4.5. Despite this improvement, Canada's maternal death rate is higher than the rates for several other countries such as England and Wales (3.9), the United States (3.6) and Sweden (2.4). Mortality among unmarried mothers is higher than among married mothers.

Age at Death.—Table 17 shows the distribution of maternal deaths by age group and average age at death; the latter is about four years higher than the average age of all mothers at the time of childbirth. Until recent years, the risk of mortality at childbirth was directly related to the age of the mother—in other words, for all mothers of over 20 years the rate rose with increasing age. While death rates for all age groups of mothers have been declining, there have been rather significant changes in the rates. Formerly, the rate for mothers in the age group 30-34 was twice or three times as high as the rate for the 20-24 group, but recently mortality rates for the four age groups of mothers under 35 years of age have not been far apart, although after age 35 a sharp rise occurs.