

131 per 1,000 living births in 1905 to 72.8 in 1920. Statistics are given by leading countries in Table 59.

59.—Rate of Infant Mortality per 1,000 Living Births in Various Countries of the World in Recent Years.

Country.	Year.	Rate of infant mortality.	Country.	Year.	Rate of infant mortality.
New Zealand.....	1921	47.8	Scotland.....	1921	90.0
Queensland.....	1921	54.2	Alberta.....	1922	90.0
Norway.....	1919	62.3	Denmark.....	1920	90.7
New South Wales.....	1921	62.6	Manitoba.....	1922	94.2
Sweden.....	1917	64.4	Finland.....	1920	96.7
British Columbia.....	1922	64.6	Nova Scotia.....	1922	97.3
South Australia.....	1921	65.5	Belgium.....	1919	102.9
Australia.....	1921	65.7	New Brunswick.....	1922	103.7
Victoria.....	1921	72.6	Quebec.....	1921	128.3
Netherlands.....	1920	72.8	Germany.....	1921	134.0
Prince Edward Island.....	1922	73.0	Prussia.....	1922	134.0
Ireland.....	1921	76.0	Serbia.....	1911	146.0
France.....	1912	78.0	Spain.....	1921	147.4
Tasmania.....	1921	78.0	Italy.....	1921	147.5
Western Australia.....	1921	78.3	Bulgaria.....	1911	156.0
Union of South Africa (whites)	1919	82.0	Jamaica.....	1919	161.0
Ontario.....	1922	82.9	Japan.....	1921	168.5
England and Wales.....	1921	83.0	Ceylon.....	1920	182.0
United Kingdom.....	1921	83.0	Rumania.....	1914	187.0
Switzerland.....	1920	83.8	Hungary.....	1922	199.6
Saskatchewan.....	1922	85.6	Austria.....	1918	205.8
United States ¹	1920	85.8	Russia, European.....	1909	248.0
Canada ¹	1922	86.6	Chile.....	1914	286.0

¹ Registration Area.

Infant Mortality in Cities.—In former times cities were considered to be “the graveyards of population.” The number of deaths, consequent upon the rapid spread of infectious diseases, was generally greater than the number of births and it was the prevailing opinion that cities would naturally come to an end if they were not being constantly reinforced by fresh young life from the prolific countryside. The unhealthiness of cities was especially destructive of infant life, and it is one of the greatest triumphs of our time that the city life is in our days, if not as healthy, yet not necessarily more dangerous to human life or especially to infant life, than life in the country as a whole.

To give particular examples, the rate of infantile mortality in London, England was in 1921, 80 per 1,000 living births as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 83 per 1,000. New York City experienced in 1921 an infant mortality of 71 per 1,000 as against a rate of 85.8 per 1,000 for the registration area of the United States. The department of the Seine (Paris) had in 1919 an infantile mortality of 113 per 1,000 living births as compared with 123 for the 77 departments of France for which the vital statistics were collected. In Germany again, the infant mortality for Berlin was, in 1921, 135 per 1,000 living births as compared with 134 for the whole country.

In Canada, our experience, except in the province of Quebec, has also up to the present been rather favourable to the cities. Montreal had in 1921 an infant mortality of 158 per 1,000 living births as compared with 128 for the province of Quebec. On the other hand, Toronto had in 1921 an infant mortality of 91 per 1,000 living births as against 91.2 for the province of Ontario. So too, Winnipeg experienced in 1921 an infantile mortality of 77 per 1,000 as compared with 83 for Manitoba, and Vancouver in 1921 an infantile mortality of 59 per 1,000 living births as compared with 56.5 in the same year in the province of British Columbia as a whole.