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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1927

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports 7,912 deaths due to cancer in 1927 (preliminary figures) in the nine provinces of Canada, as compared with 7,614 in 1926, the increase in number being about four per cent. The rate was 83 per 100,000 of population in 1927 and 81 in the previous year. In 1926 the cancer death rate for the Registration Area of the United States was 95 and for England and Wales 136 per 100,000 inhabitants. The rates for Canada by provinces in 1927 ranged from 53 per 100,000 in Saskatchewan to 102 per 100,000 in Nova Scotia. The remaining provinces showed cancer death rates as follows: Alberta 67, Quebec 73, Manitoba 77, Prince Edward Island 78, New Brunswick 81, British Columbia 90 and Ontario 100. The age composition of the population is an important factor in producing these differences.

which comprised

For the eight provinces/the Registration Area from 1921 to 1925 inclusive, the death rate from cancer in 1927 was 87 per 100,000 against 85 in 1926, 82 in 1925, 83 in 1924, 78 in 1923, 79 in 1922 and 75 in 1921. These figures show an upward trend, against which must be set the possibility of improvement in diagnosis and the fact that in Canada the change in age composition of the population year by year is probably in the direction more conducive to heavy cancer mortality.

Male deaths from cancer in Canada numbered 3,828 in 1927, as against 3,622 in 1926, while 4,088 female deaths in 1927 compared with 3,992 in the preceding year. The age incidence of cancer deaths is very striking: the age group under 35 years, which contained 64 per cent of the male population had less than 4 per cent of the male deaths from cancer in 1927; the corresponding proportions for females were 67 per cent of the population and slightly more than 4 per cent of the deaths. On the other hand, the age group from 55 years up, with only 11 per cent of the male population, had 78 per cent of the male cancer deaths, and with only 10.8 per cent of the female population had 68 per cent of the female deaths. The age group 45 to 54 years, while showing for each sex smaller cancer mortality than later ages, had a substantially larger proportion of the total cancer deaths among females than among males although its proportion of the population was lower for females.

Distributing deaths by organs affected, for males, cancer of the stomach and liver contributed 48 per cent, of the peritoneum, intestines and rectum 17 per cent, of the buccal cavity 8 per cent, of the skin 3 per cent and of other organs 24 per cent. For females, cancer of the stomach and liver was the cause in 32 per cent of the deaths, of the genital organs in 20 per cent, of the breast in 18 per cent, of the peritoneum, intestines and rectum in 16 per cent, of the skin in 1.6 per cent, of the buccal cavity in 1.5 per cent and of other organs in 11 per cent.

The most pronounced proportionate increase of deaths for males in 1927 over the preceding year was shown for cancer of the peritoneum, intestines and rectum, which advanced from 578 to 636 or by 10 per cent; deaths from cancer of the stomach and liver increased by 5½ per cent. For females, if we except cancer of the skin, for which the numbers were small in both years, cancer of the breast showed the only marked advance, causing 719 deaths in 1927, as against 652 in 1926, or an increase of ten per cent. For the eight provinces for which national statistics are available since 1921, cancer of the stomach and liver, of the peritoneum, intestines and rectum and of the buccal cavity show a general upward trend for both sexes, which is shared by cancer of the female genital organs and cancer of the breast for females.

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