



## POLIOMYELITIS TRENDS, 1960

Paralytic poliomyelitis is a virus disease that gains in strength with the advance of the summer season, attacking in its course people of all ages but particularly those under 40 and more particularly those under 20 years of age. This was the experience of the decade from 1951 to 1960. In other respects the disease has been variable, some years reaching an epidemic level for the country as a whole, some years falling far short, with the rate of incidence of the new cases in one province often greatly different from that in another.

The course of the disease in 1960 illustrates these points: there were more cases in the ninth 4-week period than in any other period of the year; the highest attack rate appeared in the age group four years and under; the overall rate of 5.1 cases per 100,000 was less than half the rate of the previous year, yet in four provinces the

1960 rate was higher than that for 1959. (Age is not reported for all provinces.)

The seasonal incidence of new cases in 1960 reached its highest levels in the eighth, ninth and tenth 4-week periods. Seven times altogether in the past 10 years these have been the three periods in which the most cases occurred. While the last 24 weeks have always accounted for the majority of cases the first 28 weeks have on occasion contributed substantially to the year's total, 1960 being an example of this, with 28 per cent of the cases coming in the first 28 weeks of the year. In contrast, in 1959 there were seven per cent of cases, only, in this period.

The effect of paralytic poliomyelitis for a number of years on people of different ages is displayed in some detail in the following table,—for six provinces for which this information was continuously available.

Age-Specific Case Rates per 100,000 Population

Province	All ages			Age group											
				4 years and under			5-14			15-19			20 years and over		
	1951	1959	1960	1951	1959	1960	1951	1959	1960	1951	1959	1960	1951	1959	1960
<b>Total</b> .....	2.9	8.4	9.9	5.8	29.6	26.8	6.8	11.1	15.7	4.1	5.2	9.7	1.0	3.3	4.2
Newfoundland .....	1.1	31.0	10.7	—	125.0	47.4	3.6	31.4	7.6	—	19.7	9.3	0.5	2.7	0.9
New Brunswick .....	2.9	9.5	15.2	5.3	21.5	24.1	8.3	13.5	34.8	2.3	5.7	18.1	0.3	5.4	3.7
Manitoba .....	4.2	2.9	1.4	12.2	15.3	5.7	10.5	1.1	2.7	5.3	—	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.2
Saskatchewan .....	6.9	5.0	6.2	12.0	17.7	16.7	14.8	4.7	10.8	7.3	4.2	9.5	3.3	2.5	1.7
Alberta .....	2.3	6.7	15.7	4.3	18.8	42.6	4.1	10.4	23.7	6.8	2.2	12.6	0.9	3.0	6.6
British Columbia .....	0.1	8.0	10.1	0.8	21.6	23.1	—	12.9	13.7	—	5.8	8.3	—	4.2	6.8

The truth of the statement that the disease attacks most strongly the younger age groups is evident. It is also evident that the effect on one age group relative to any other varies both from year to year and from province to province. For the six provinces considered as a group the total rate for those four years and under was, in round terms, six times the rate of those 20 and over in 1951, nine times in 1959 and six times in 1960. In the same round terms the total rate for those in the 5-14 age group was seven, three and four times the 20 plus rate in 1951, 1959 and 1960, respectively. In Newfoundland the four years and under rate in 1960 was more than 50 times as great as the 20 plus rate, in British Columbia it was between three and four times the rate of the older age group.

The average yearly rate per 100,000 persons for poliomyelitis for all Canada for the 10 years 1951-60 was

eight cases. (In 1945 and 1953 Alberta did not report paralytic poliomyelitis separately.) The Canada rate in those 10 years reached a maximum of 28.3 in 1953 and a minimum of 1.1 in 1957. The highest provincial rate recorded in the decade was that of 182.9 for Manitoba in 1953. In that year the New Brunswick rate was only 2.4 per 100,000. In 1960 the Manitoba rate was 1.4, the New Brunswick rate 15.3.

Differences in rate of seasonal advance, fluctuations in intensity in time and in place, these are the highly variable features of paralytic poliomyelitis; concentration in the summer reaching a peak in the ninth 4-week period of the year, highest incidence among the younger age groups, these are the constant features of the disease in the last 10 years.

## Notes:

1. All information for cases presented in this report is for paralytic poliomyelitis (080.0, 080.1).
  2. Data have been revised in accordance with the most recent information available.
  3. As certain revisions in data are supplied in monthly totals they are pro-rated in order to adapt to the thirteen 4-week periods.
  4. The first 4-week period in 1960 ended on January 30.
  5. Deaths are from acute poliomyelitis (080). These figures are supplied by the Vital Statistics Section, D.B.S.
- No cases reported.  
 .. Figures not available.  
 -- Less than 0.05.

**TABLE 1 Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population, by Provinces, 1951 - 60**

Year	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
Cases													
1951 .....	1,220	4	13	205	15	247	619	37	57	22	1		
1952 .....	1,595	2	56	41	67	123	289	410	447	1	180		
1953 .....	3,912	162	6	25	13	477	985	1,480	357	1	407		
1954 .....	1,456	14	49	63	7	791	94	66	41	221	110		
1955 .....	584	12	11	55	6	119	75	15	20	125	146	-	
1956 .....	400	3	3	9	7	156	127	15	7	35	37	1	
1957 .....	182	1	-	-	5	37	54	8	20	31	26	-	
1958 .....	249	4	-	-	4	79	20	107	1	22	12	-	
1959 .....	1,886	139	7	9	62	1,171	200	26	46	83	132	1	10
1960 .....	909	49	1	9	92	284	39	13	56	201	165	-	..
Rates <sup>2</sup>													
1951 .....	8.7	1.1	13.2	31.9	2.9	6.1	13.5	4.8	6.9	2.3	0.1		
1952 .....	11.8	0.5	56.0	6.3	12.7	2.9	5.6	51.4	53.0	1	14.9		
1953 .....	28.3	42.3	5.9	3.8	2.4	11.2	19.9	182.9	41.5	1	32.6		
1954 .....	9.5	3.5	48.5	9.4	1.3	18.0	1.8	8.0	4.7	20.9	8.5		
1955 .....	3.7	3.0	11.0	8.1	1.1	2.6	1.4	1.8	2.3	11.5	10.9	-	
1956 .....	2.5	0.7	3.0	1.3	1.3	3.4	2.3	1.8	0.8	3.1	2.6	8.2	
1957 .....	1.1	0.2	-	-	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	2.3	2.7	1.7	-	
1958 .....	1.5	0.9	-	-	0.7	1.6	0.3	12.3	0.1	1.8	0.8	-	
1959 .....	10.8	31.0	6.9	1.3	10.5	23.4	3.4	2.9	5.1	6.7	8.4	7.7	47.6
1960 .....	5.1	10.7	1.0	1.2	15.3	5.6	0.6	1.4	6.2	15.7	10.3	-	..

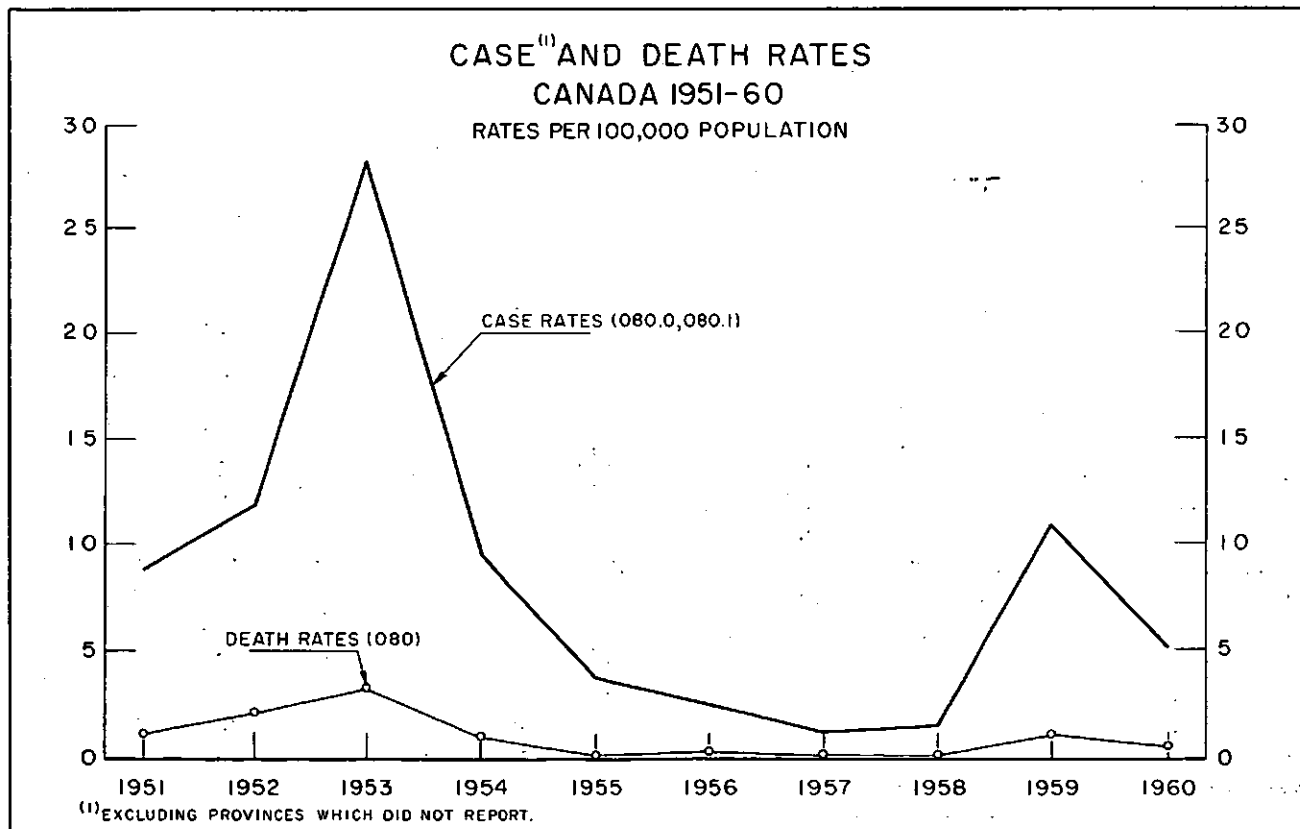
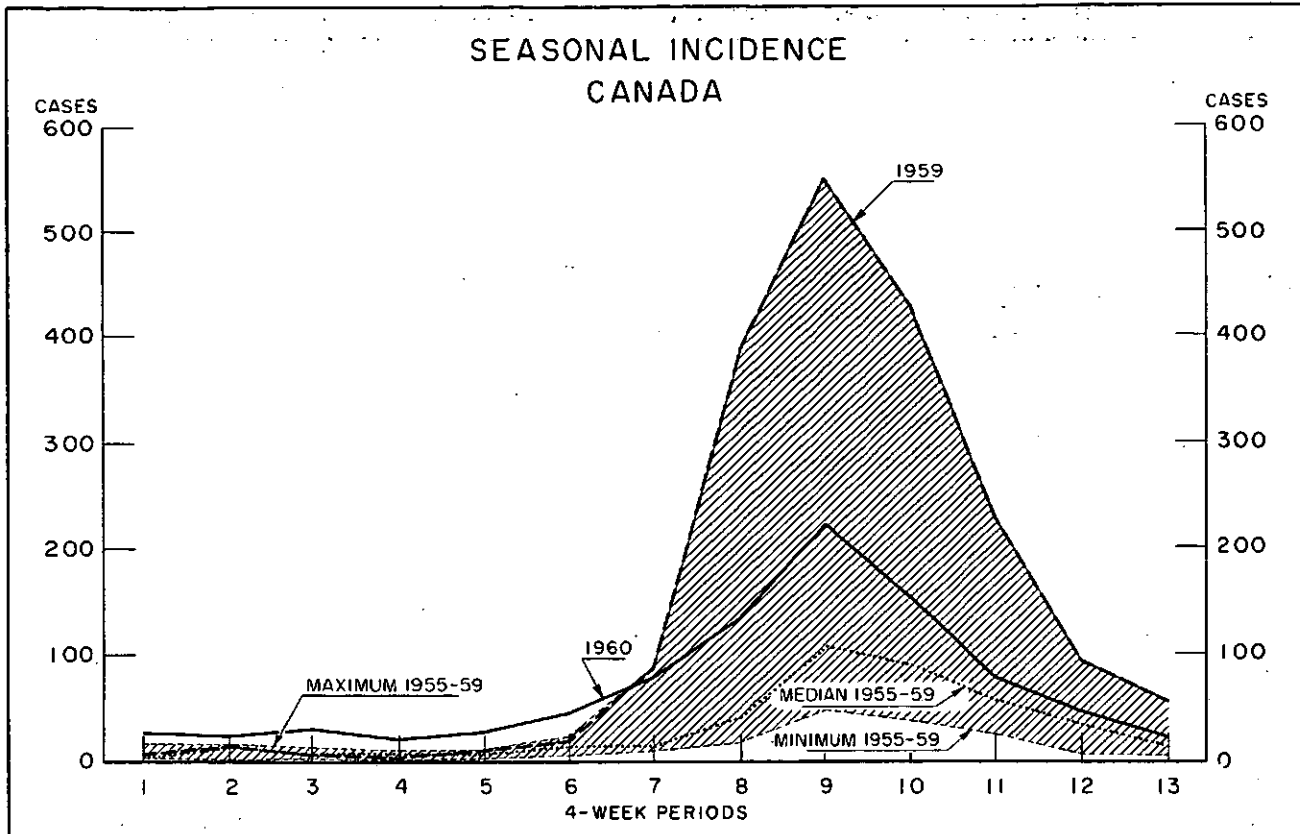
<sup>1</sup> Cases in Alberta not reportable by type.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding provinces which did not report.

**TABLE 2. Cases, by 4-week Periods, Canada, 1951 - 60**

4-week period	1951	1952 <sup>1</sup>	1953 <sup>1</sup>	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
cases										
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>909</b>
1 .....	6	7	17	25	15	7	6	4	7	27
2 .....	2	4	12	21	11	13	5	2	11	23
3 .....	1	8	6	18	12	6	2	5	5	30
4 .....	1	3	6	11	9	9	6	2	1	19
5 .....	4	5	12	26	9	8	3	2	9	28
6 .....	4	8	32	33	20	5	8	13	16	45
7 .....	34	48	136	73	47	10	14	10	86	80
8 .....	176	219	682	187	93	40	23	17	385	135
9 .....	406	428	1,126	375	163	107	45	65	549	221
10 .....	332	388	1,042	357	91	89	38	66	427	152
11 .....	161	239	506	185	61	55	22	44	225	79
12 .....	64	131	236	96	32	40	5	10	95	45
13 .....	16	51	99	49	21	11	5	9	53	20
Not stated .....	13	56							17	5

<sup>1</sup> Cases in Alberta not reportable by type.



**TABLE 3. Cases, by Age for Specified Provinces,<sup>1</sup> 1951-60**

Year	Total	Age group										
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over	20 years and over	Not stated	
cases												
1951 .....	136	3	30			56	14				29	4
1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,106	34	228			396	116				315	17
1953 <sup>2</sup> .....	2,419	84	568			820	165				758	24
1954 .....	459	16	84			164	50				138	7
1955 .....	324	7	79			95	29				111	3
1956 .....	104	2	27			27	4				43	1
1957 .....	91	3	27			15	4				40	2
1958 .....	150	8	44			29	6				62	1
1959 .....	1,041	54	329	280	80	360	58	196	28	2	226	14
1960 .....	860	45	261	197	95	292	56	148	24	2	174	32

See notes 1 and 2, Table 5.

**TABLE 4. Percentage of Cases, by Age for Specified Provinces,<sup>1</sup> 1951-60**

Year	Total	Age group										
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over	20 years and over	Not stated
		per cent										
1951 .....	100.0	2.2	22.1			41.2	10.3				21.3	2.9
1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	3.1	20.6			35.8	10.5				28.5	1.5
1953 <sup>3</sup> .....	100.0	3.5	23.5			33.9	6.8				31.3	1.0
1954 .....	100.0	3.5	18.3			35.7	10.9				30.1	1.5
1955 .....	100.0	2.1	24.4			29.3	9.0				34.3	0.9
1956 .....	100.0	1.9	26.0			26.0	3.8				41.3	1.0
1957 .....	100.0	3.3	29.7			16.5	4.4				44.0	2.1
1958 .....	100.0	5.3	29.3			19.3	4.9				41.3	0.7
1959 .....	100.0	5.2	31.6	26.9	7.7	34.6	5.6	18.8	2.7	0.2	21.7	1.3
1960 .....	100.0	5.2	30.3	23.0	11.0	34.0	6.5	17.3	2.8	0.2	20.3	3.7

See notes 1 and 2, Table 5.

**TABLE 5. Age-Specific Case Rates per 100,000 Population for Specified Provinces,<sup>1</sup> 1951-60**

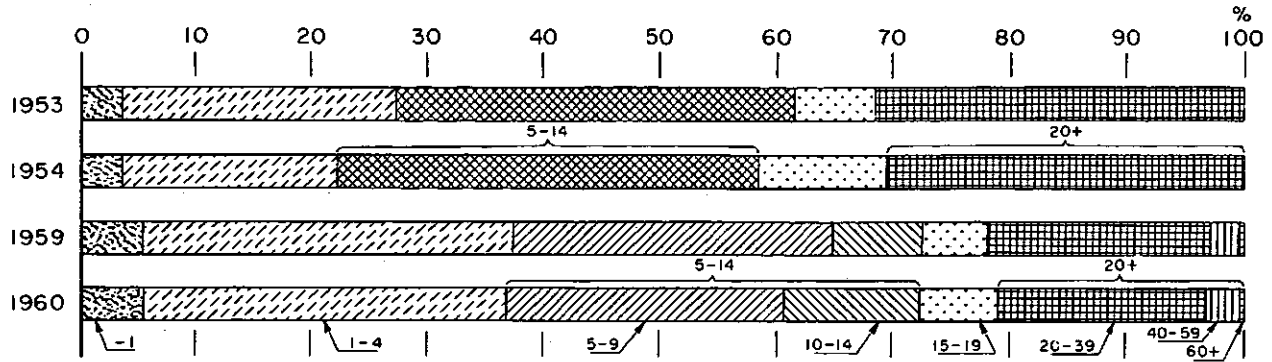
Year	Total <sup>3</sup>	Age group									
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	5-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over	20 years and over
		rates									
1951 .....	2.9	2.6	6.7			6.8	4.1				1.0
1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	29.3	36.0	61.9			57.4	42.3				13.6
1953 <sup>2</sup> .....	62.5	84.5	151.6			113.7	59.3				32.1
1954 .....	9.1	11.9	17.2			17.1	13.8				4.5
1955 .....	6.3	5.1	15.8			9.5	7.8				3.6
1956 .....	2.0	1.4	5.2			2.6	1.1				1.4
1957 .....	1.7	2.1	5.0			1.4	1.0				1.2
1958 .....	2.7	5.5	7.8			2.5	1.5				1.9
1959 .....	9.6	19.2	30.1	22.7	7.5	15.7	6.9	6.6	1.3	0.2	3.7
1960 .....	7.6	16.0	23.5	15.6	8.6	12.4	6.4	5.0	1.1	0.2	2.8

<sup>1</sup> For 1950-58 an age distribution was reported for the following provinces: Newfoundland; New Brunswick; Manitoba; Saskatchewan; Alberta; and British Columbia. In 1959 Quebec and the Yukon began reporting an age distribution also.

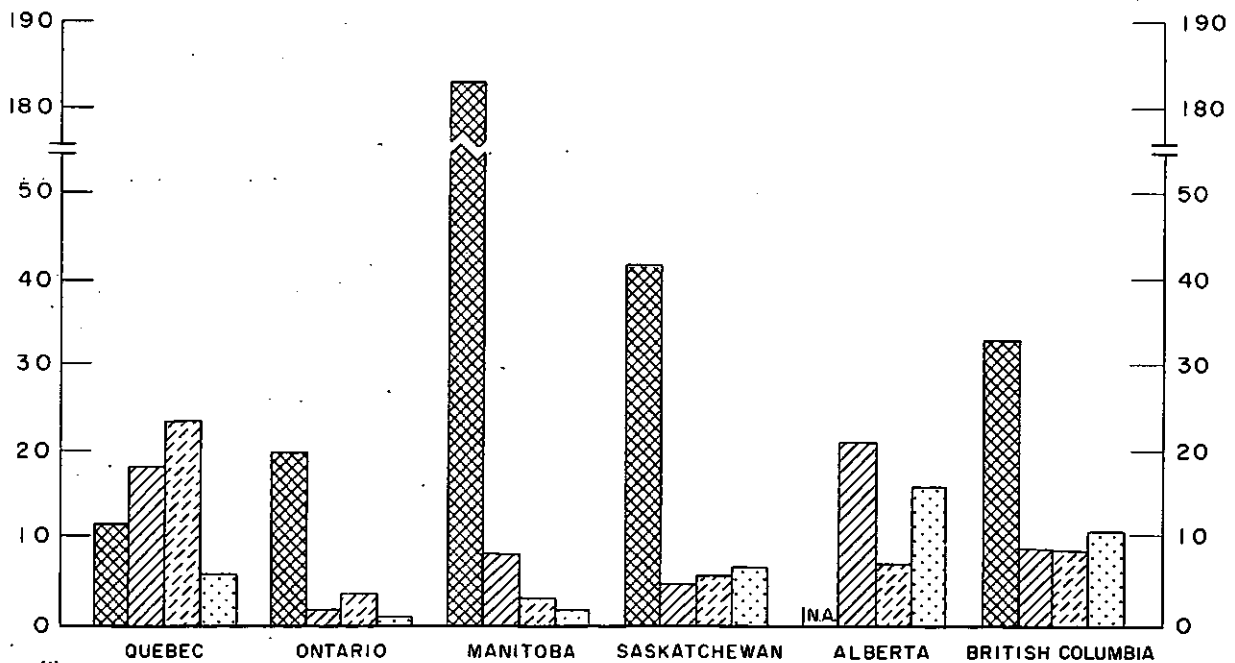
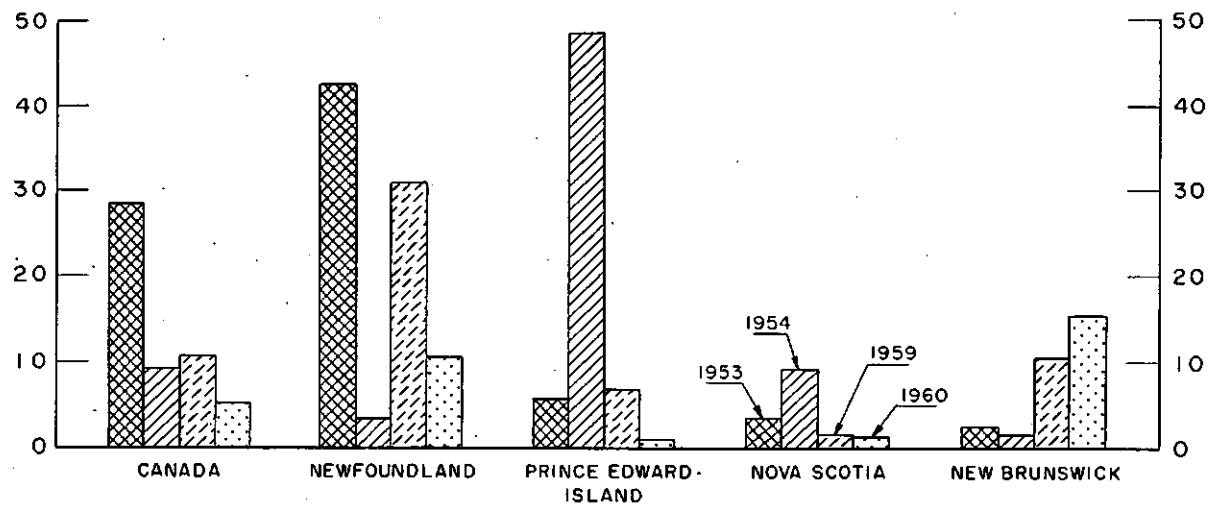
<sup>2</sup> Cases in Alberta not reportable by type.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding age not stated.

# PERCENTAGE OF CASES, BY AGE<sup>(1)</sup> FOR SPECIFIED PROVINCES<sup>(2)</sup>



## RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, CANADA AND PROVINCES



(1) EXCLUDING AGE NOT STATED  
(2) SEE NOTE 1 TABLE 5

**TABLE 6. Deaths and Rates per 100,000 Population, by Provinces, 1951 - 60**

Year	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
Deaths													
1951 .....	162	—	2	23	2	10	101	4	12	2	6	—	—
1952 .....	311	—	2	6	11	12	46	25	90	79	40	—	—
1953 .....	494	11	1	6	5	33	124	91	72	108	30	9	4
1954 .....	157	—	4	6	—	80	21	5	7	28	6	—	—
1955 .....	36	—	—	1	1	13	6	1	5	4	5	—	—
1956 .....	51	—	—	1	—	27	13	—	3	3	4	—	—
1957 .....	26	—	—	1	—	6	8	—	4	6	1	—	—
1958 .....	26	—	—	—	1	5	5	11	—	1	3	—	—
1959 .....	182	12	1	—	7	106	23	2	3	12	14	—	2
1960 .....	83	5	—	1	2	38	3	1	8	11	14	—	—
Rates													
1951 .....	1.2	—	2.0	3.6	0.4	0.2	2.2	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.5	—	—
1952 .....	2.2	—	2.0	0.9	2.1	0.3	1.0	3.1	10.7	8.1	3.3	—	—
1953 .....	3.3	2.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.5	11.2	8.4	10.7	2.4	100.0	25.0
1954 .....	1.0	—	4.0	0.9	—	1.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	2.6	0.5	—	—
1955 .....	0.2	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	—	—
1956 .....	0.3	—	—	0.1	—	0.6	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	0.3	—	—
1957 .....	0.2	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.5	0.5	0.1	—	—
1958 .....	0.2	—	—	—	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.3	—	0.1	0.2	—	—
1959 .....	1.0	2.7	1.0	—	1.2	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.9	—	9.5
1960 .....	0.5	1.1	—	0.1	0.3	0.7	—	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	—	—

**TABLE 7. Deaths, by Age, Canada, 1951 - 60**

Year	Total	Age group							
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over
deaths									
1951 .....	162	4	12	16	24	27	69	9	1
1952 .....	311	11	33	57	42	30	124	12	2
1953 .....	494	12	37	51	44	44	275	25	6
1954 .....	157	6	37	30	16	10	45	12	1
1955 .....	36	—	8	3	2	4	14	5	—
1956 .....	51	—	14	8	5	2	22	—	—
1957 .....	26	—	4	2	1	3	14	2	—
1958 .....	26	1	3	2	1	—	18	1	—
1959 .....	182	10	28	36	3	12	67	14	2
1960 .....	83	9	16	15	5	6	22	9	1

TABLE 8. Percentage of Deaths, by Age, Canada, 1951-60

Year	Total	Age group							
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over
		per cent							
1951 .....	100.0	2.5	7.4	9.9	14.8	16.7	42.6	5.6	0.6
1952 .....	100.0	3.5	10.6	18.4	13.5	9.6	39.9	3.9	0.6
1953 .....	100.0	2.4	7.5	10.3	8.9	8.9	55.7	5.1	1.2
1954 .....	100.0	3.8	23.6	19.1	10.2	6.4	28.7	7.6	0.6
1955 .....	100.0	—	22.2	8.3	5.6	11.1	38.9	13.9	—
1956 .....	100.0	—	27.5	15.7	9.8	3.9	43.1	—	—
1957 .....	100.0	—	15.4	7.7	3.8	11.5	53.9	7.7	—
1958 .....	100.0	3.8	11.5	7.7	3.9	—	69.2	3.9	—
1959 .....	100.0	5.5	15.4	19.8	7.1	6.6	36.8	7.7	1.1
1960 .....	100.0	10.8	19.3	18.1	6.0	7.2	26.5	10.8	1.2

TABLE 9. Age - Specific Death Rates per 100,000 Population, Canada, 1951-60

Year	Total	Age group							
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-39	40-59	60 years and over
		rates							
1951 .....	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.1	2.1	2.6	1.6	0.3	0.1
1952 .....	2.2	2.9	2.3	3.8	3.5	2.8	2.8	0.4	0.1
1953 .....	3.3	3.1	2.6	3.3	3.5	4.0	6.2	0.8	0.4
1954 .....	1.0	1.5	2.5	1.8	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.1
1955 .....	0.2	—	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	—
1956 .....	0.3	—	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	—	—
1957 .....	0.2	—	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	—
1958 .....	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	0.4	—	—
1959 .....	1.0	2.2	1.6	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.1
1960 .....	0.5	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1



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91-204 - Estimates of Families in Canada - A.		.50
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> A. - Annual E. - English F. - French </div> <div> Bil. - Bilingual R. - Reference Supp. - Supplement </div> </div>		

In addition to the selected publications listed above, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes a wide range of statistical reports on Canadian economic and social affairs including detailed reports on the 1956 and 1951 Censuses. A comprehensive catalogue of all current publications is available free on request from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa B.