

## THE RECENT TREND OF MORTALITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

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IN continuation of the tables given in *J.I.A.* **89**, 289, central death-rates in age-groups for males and females separately in the year 1963, and the ratios of those death-rates to the corresponding rates for the years 1950-52 taken as the standard, are shown in Table 1. The deaths are those recorded

Table 1.

*Death rates for age-groups in Great Britain in the year 1963 and ratios of these rates to the rates for 1950-52*

Age-group	Death-rates in 1963		Ratios to 1950-52 rates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1	·02504	·01940	·73	·73
1-4	·00101	·00083	·72	·69
5-9	·00050	·00032	·74	·67
10-14	·00040	·00024	·73	·62
15-19	·00088	·00035	·92	·51
20-24	·00111	·00044	·80	·44
25-29	·00101	·00062	·67	·50
30-34	·00123	·00091	·70	·62
35-39	·00188	·00142	·81	·74
40-44	·00317	·00222	·89	·82
45-49	·00553	·00369	·88	·88
50-54	·00966	·00545	·88	·84
55-59	·01736	·00849	·95	·86
60-64	·03001	·01409	1·02	·88
65-69	·0453	·0234	1·00	·88
70-74	·0712	·0405	1·03	·88
75-79	·1089	·0705	·99	·88
80-84	·168	·122	·98	·91
85 and over	·284	·223	·99	·95
All ages:				
Crude rates	·01289	·01159	1·013	1·039
Standardized*	·01219	·00967	·958	·867

\* Standardized on 1951 Census age distribution

as occurring in Great Britain in the year and the population used is the 'home' population at mid-1963, i.e. the number of people actually in the country at the time, as estimated by the Registrars General of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The estimated population has been adjusted to take account of the results, so far as they are available, of the 1961 Census. Most of the adjustments are relatively small and do not materially affect comparisons with earlier years. One adjustment was, however, more substantial; the estimated number of women aged 85 and over has been increased

Table 2.

*Standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain (standardized on 1951 Census age distribution)*

Year	Age-group						All ages
	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
Males							
1930-32	·07953	·00760	·00196	·00412	·01637	·0873	·01588
1953	·03139	·00127	·00053	·00174	·01392	·0790	·01204
1954	·02992	·00108	·00046	·00170	·01382	·0787	·01192
1955	·02955	·00104	·00049	·00167	·01382	·0807	·01208
1956	·02842	·00099	·00044	·00161	·01375	·0804	·01199
1957	·02779	·00104	·00048	·00164	·01391	·0774	·01176
1958	·02676	·00096	·00045	·00160	·01364	·0793	·01183
1959	·02597	·00100	·00044	·00161	·01358	·0784	·01173
1960	·02663	·00094	·00046	·00160	·01335	·0765	·01149
1961	·02546	·00102	·00044	·00160	·01363	·0799	·01186
1962	·02639	·00092	·00045	·00156	·01364	·0802	·01188
1963	·02504	·00097	·00045	·00158	·01395	·0828	·01219
Females							
1930-32	·05973	·00686	·00178	·00351	·01243	·0735	·01519
1953	·02461	·00110	·00039	·00131	·00801	·0585	·01025
1954	·02272	·00083	·00034	·00127	·00794	·0572	·00999
1955	·02270	·00095	·00035	·00117	·00783	·0591	·01018
1956	·02153	·00082	·00031	·00112	·00770	·0585	·01002
1957	·02160	·00086	·00033	·00115	·00770	·0550	·00960
1958	·02068	·00075	·00028	·00109	·00755	·0567	·00972
1959	·02062	·00081	·00031	·00107	·00742	·0561	·00961
1960	·02048	·00076	·00031	·00102	·00728	·0545	·00936
1961	·01976	·00079	·00029	·00103	·00743	·0569	·00969
1962	·01970	·00077	·00030	·00104	·00739	·0560	·00957
1963	·01940	·00080	·00028	·00103	·00749	·0567	·00967

by about 5%, resulting in a corresponding decrease in the apparent death-rate.

In order that the trend of mortality rates may be conveniently studied, the group death-rates and the ratios to the 1950-52 standard since 1953

are set out in Tables 2 and 3 and the ratios are shown graphically in Figs. 1 and 2. Figures for 1952 and earlier years have not been given, but they are available in previous articles. In these tables and graphs the age-groups have been reduced to six—under age 1 (infants), 1-4 (young children), 5-14 (children of school age), 15-44 (younger adults), 45-64 (the middle

Table 3.

*Ratios of standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain to the rates for 1950-52 (standardized on 1951 Census age distribution)*

Year	Age-group						All ages
	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
Males							
1930-32	2.307	5.390	3.161	2.102	1.120	1.054	1.247
1953	.910	.901	.855	.888	.952	.954	.946
1954	.868	.766	.742	.867	.945	.950	.936
1955	.857	.738	.790	.852	.945	.975	.949
1956	.824	.702	.710	.821	.940	.971	.942
1957	.806	.738	.774	.837	.951	.935	.924
1958	.776	.681	.726	.816	.933	.958	.929
1959	.753	.709	.710	.821	.929	.947	.921
1960	.772	.667	.742	.816	.913	.924	.903
1961	.738	.723	.710	.816	.932	.965	.932
1962	.765	.652	.726	.796	.933	.969	.933
1963	.726	.688	.726	.806	.954	1.000	.958
Females							
1930-32	2.256	5.716	4.046	2.279	1.439	1.163	1.362
1953	.929	.917	.886	.851	.927	.926	.919
1954	.858	.692	.773	.825	.919	.905	.896
1955	.857	.792	.796	.760	.906	.935	.913
1956	.813	.683	.705	.727	.891	.926	.899
1957	.816	.717	.750	.747	.891	.870	.861
1958	.781	.625	.636	.708	.874	.897	.872
1959	.779	.675	.705	.695	.859	.888	.862
1960	.773	.633	.705	.662	.843	.862	.839
1961	.746	.658	.659	.669	.860	.900	.869
1962	.744	.642	.682	.675	.855	.887	.858
1963	.733	.667	.636	.669	.867	.897	.867

aged) and 65 and over (the elderly). Further, the group death-rates and ratios have been standardized on the age-distribution in Great Britain at the 1951 Census so as to eliminate the effect of changes in the age-distribution of the population.

As a link with the earlier series of tables that appeared in the *Journal*, showing the trend of mortality in England and Wales since 1930-32, figures for Great Britain for the average of those three years have also been included in Tables 2 and 3.

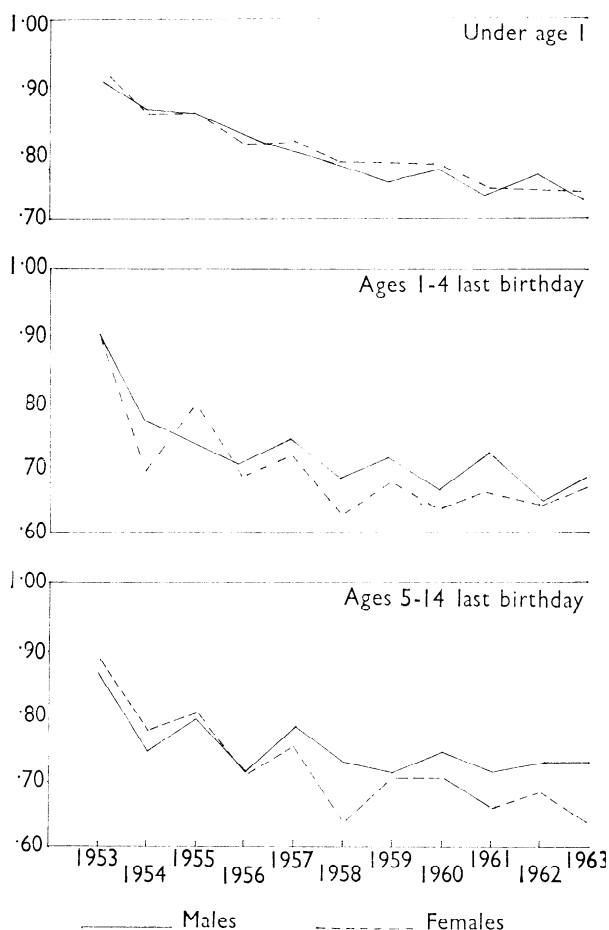


Fig. 1. Ratios of standardized group death-rates to 1950-52 rates—children

The tables show that mortality in Great Britain in 1963 was heavy. For men, the standardized death-rate was about  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  greater than in 1962,

and was higher than in any year since 1951. For women, the increase over 1962 was only about 1%, but it would have been about  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  more had it not

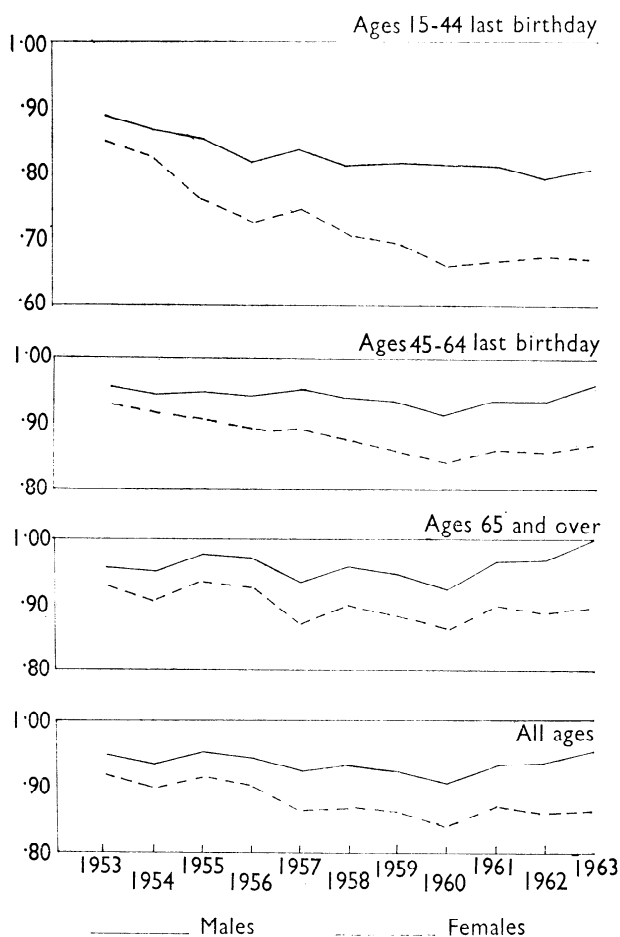


Fig. 2. Ratios of standardized group death-rates to 1950-52 rates—adults and all ages

been for the adjustment to the 85 and over population referred to above. No doubt the heavier mortality was largely brought about by the exceptionally severe weather in the early months of 1963.