

## THE RECENT TREND OF MORTALITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

BY C. D. DAYKIN, M.A., F.I.A., F.S.S.

IN continuation of the tables given in *J.I.A.*, 103, 213, central death-rates for Great Britain in the year 1975 are shown in Table 1. The rates have been calculated using the deaths recorded as occurring in Great Britain in the year and the 'home' population at mid-1975, 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 table also shows the ratio of these rates to the corresponding rates for the three years 1970-72, which have been taken as a standard.

In order that the trend of mortality rates may be conveniently studied, standardized group death-rates for 1930-32, 1950-52, and for each year from 1961 to 1975 are set out in Table 2, and the ratios to the 1970-72 standard are

Table 1. *Death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain in the year 1975 and ratios of those rates to the rates for 1970-72*

Age-groups	Death-rates in 1975		Ratios to 1970-72 rates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1	·01738	·01375	·86	·89
1-4	·00068	·00054	·86	·81
5-9	·00035	·00025	·83	·86
10-14	·00035	·00018	·95	·82
15-19	·00087	·00037	·98	·97
20-24	·00101	·00043	1·02	·98
25-29	·00087	·00051	·96	1·02
30-34	·00109	·00067	·96	·92
35-39	·00155	·00113	·92	·95
40-44	·00277	·00197	·92	·95
45-49	·00525	·00331	·95	·92
50-54	·00921	·00531	·99	·98
55-59	·01486	·00803	·94	·98
60-64	·02478	·01250	·94	·98
65-69	·04073	·01993	·94	·96
70-74	·06523	·03350	·96	·94
75-79	·09958	·05749	·98	·94
80-84	·14944	·10083	1·03	1·00
85 and over	·24044	·19302	·98	·99
All ages:				
Crude rates	·01233	·01144	·99	1·01
Standardized*	·01197	·01093	·96	·97

\* Standardized on 1971 Census age distribution.

Table 2. *Standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain (standardized on 1971 Census age distribution)*

Year	Under 1	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	All ages
<b>MALES</b>						
1930-32	·07953	·00368	·00396	·01738	·08831	·01721
1950-52	·03448	·00085	·00186	·01580	·08392	·01410
1961	·02545	·00062	·00151	·01485	·08114	·01323
1962	·02614	·00059	·00149	·01481	·08157	·01326
1963	·02512	·00062	·00152	·01503	·08372	·01354
1964	·02383	·00056	·00152	·01438	·07564	·01251
1965	·02246	·00058	·00152	·01439	·07742	·01268
1966	·02241	·00058	·00152	·01439	·07961	·01290
1967	·02093	·00056	·00144	·01376	·07484	·01219
1968	·02175	·00056	·00141	·01408	·07986	·01280
1969	·02089	·00055	·00142	·01447	·07914	·01280
1970	·02136	·00051	·00141	·01406	·07757	·01253
1971	·02021	·00052	·00139	·01360	·07524	·01215
1972	·01914	·00051	·00138	·01392	·07868	·01256
1973	·01889	·00050	·00139	·01371	·07690	·01233
1974	·01884	·00046	·00136	·01353	·07605	·01217
1975	·01738	·00045	·00132	·01317	·07540	·01197
<b>FEMALES</b>						
1930-32	·05973	·00333	·00341	·01300	·08229	·01908
1950-52	·02648	·00066	·00146	·00909	·07134	·01460
1961	·01983	·00044	·00096	·00784	·06405	·01281
1962	·01955	·00044	·00097	·00781	·06312	·01265
1963	·01928	·00044	·00095	·00787	·06444	·01287
1964	·01850	·00042	·00094	·00749	·05748	·01165
1965	·01705	·00044	·00094	·00748	·05822	·01175
1966	·01706	·00042	·00092	·00751	·05936	·01193
1967	·01664	·00041	·00089	·00726	·05545	·01122
1968	·01620	·00041	·00088	·00751	·05935	·01189
1969	·01582	·00037	·00090	·00769	·05768	·01167
1970	·01627	·00037	·00087	·00748	·05686	·01148
1971	·01540	·00037	·00084	·00735	·05453	·01106
1972	·01489	·00038	·00085	·00756	·05648	·01141
1973	·01448	·00035	·00084	·00739	·05607	·01129
1974	·01419	·00035	·00081	·00745	·05516	·01115
1975	·01375	·00031	·00082	·00725	·05416	·01093

given in Table 3; the ratios for 1961 to 1975 are also shown graphically. The age groups used are five in number—under age 1 (infants), 1-14 (children), 15-44 (younger adults), 45-64 (the middle-aged) and 65 and over (the elderly). The group death-rates and ratios have been standardized by five-year age groups on the age-distribution of the Great Britain population at the 1971 Census, so as to eliminate the effect of changes in the age-distribution of the population.

It is clear from the tables shown here and in the previous note that the general trend of mortality rates since 1961 has been downward, although examination of

Table 3. *Ratios of standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain to the rates for 1970-72 (standardized on 1971 Census age distribution)*

Year	Under 1	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	All ages
<b>MALES</b>						
1930-32	3.930	7.191	2.843	1.254	1.144	1.386
1950-52	1.704	1.657	1.334	1.140	1.088	1.135
1961	1.257	1.215	1.086	1.071	1.052	1.066
1962	1.292	1.156	1.066	1.069	1.057	1.068
1963	1.241	1.207	1.086	1.085	1.085	1.090
1964	1.177	1.104	1.092	1.038	.980	1.007
1965	1.110	1.139	1.093	1.038	1.003	1.021
1966	1.107	1.132	1.089	1.038	1.032	1.039
1967	1.034	1.092	1.029	.993	.970	.982
1968	1.075	1.102	1.010	1.016	1.035	1.030
1969	1.032	1.068	1.021	1.044	1.026	1.031
1970	1.055	1.001	1.013	1.015	1.005	1.009
1971	.999	1.008	.998	.981	.975	.979
1972	.946	.991	.989	1.004	1.020	1.012
1973	.933	.971	1.000	.989	.997	.993
1974	.931	.899	.976	.976	.986	.980
1975	.859	.871	.949	.950	.977	.964
<b>FEMALES</b>						
1930-32	3.849	8.891	3.991	1.743	1.471	1.686
1950-52	1.706	1.759	1.709	1.218	1.275	1.290
1961	1.278	1.179	1.125	1.051	1.145	1.132
1962	1.260	1.173	1.131	1.047	1.128	1.118
1963	1.242	1.185	1.116	1.055	1.152	1.137
1964	1.192	1.132	1.096	1.004	1.027	1.030
1965	1.099	1.166	1.106	1.002	1.040	1.038
1966	1.099	1.122	1.079	1.007	1.061	1.054
1967	1.072	1.093	1.037	.973	.991	.992
1968	1.044	1.108	1.025	1.006	1.061	1.051
1969	1.019	.991	1.053	1.031	1.031	1.031
1970	1.048	.990	1.015	1.003	1.016	1.014
1971	.992	1.000	.990	.985	.975	.977
1972	.959	1.010	.995	1.013	1.009	1.008
1973	.933	.930	.979	.990	1.002	.998
1974	.914	.923	.953	.998	.986	.985
1975	.886	.830	.956	.972	.968	.966

five-year age-groups reveals wide differences in the degree of improvement. There has been little, if any, reduction in mortality rates at ages 45 to 49, and only a very modest improvement generally among the middle-aged. At the other end of the scale, the greatest improvement has been for infants, where death-rates have fallen by some 40 per cent in the last fifteen years, and for children, where there has been a reduction of about 30 per cent. The accompanying

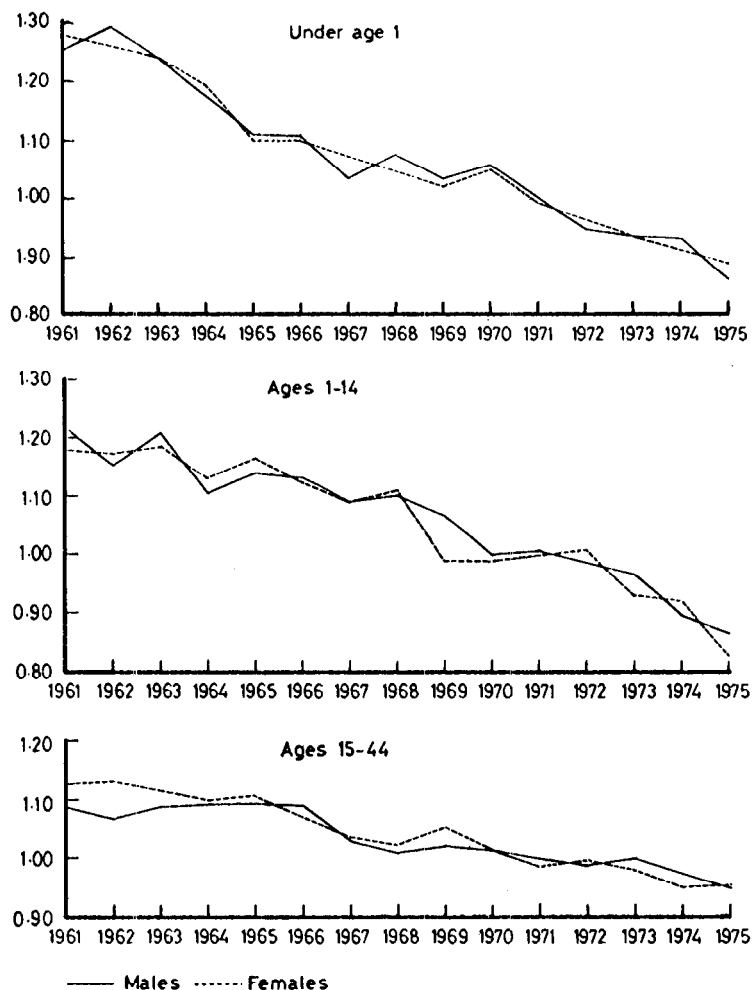


Figure 1. Ratios of Standardized Group death-rates to 1970-72 rates—Children and young adults

diagrams strengthen the impression gained from consideration of the tables, but emphasize the difficulties of determining the true trends because of the year-to-year fluctuations. Mortality in 1975 appears to have been fairly light as compared with the trends, but preliminary figures for deaths in 1976 suggest a worsening of rates, mainly as a result of the heavy mortality experience in the first quarter of the year.

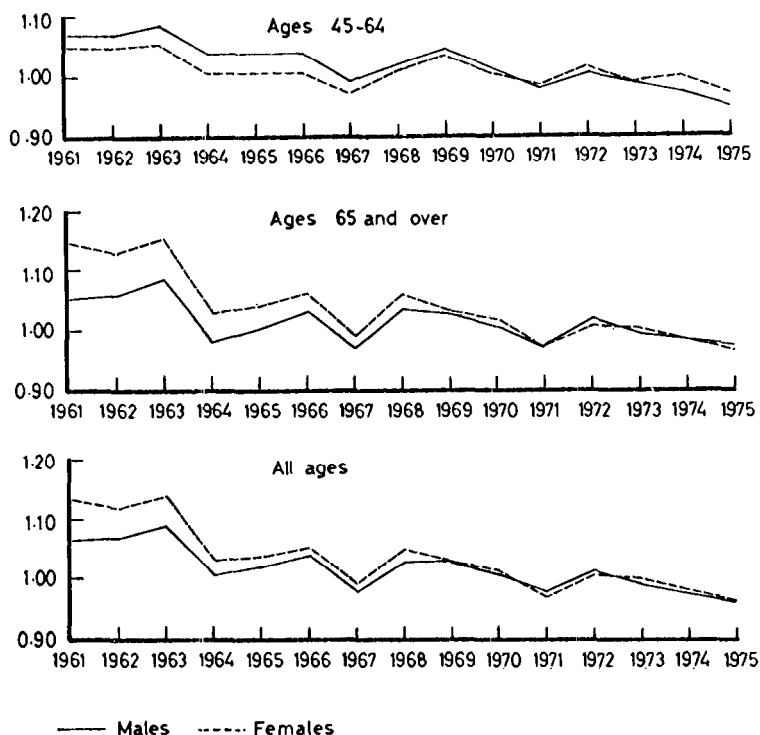


Figure 2. Ratios of Standardized Group death-rates to 1970-72 rates—Older adults and all ages