

## THE RECENT TREND OF MORTALITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

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IN continuation of the tables given in *J.I.A.* 84, 281-86, central death-rates in age-groups for males and females separately in the year 1958, and the ratios of these 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 as occurring in Great Britain in the year and the population used is the 'home' population, i.e. the number of people actually in the country at a stated time, as estimated by the Registrars General of England and Wales and of Scotland. The relatively high mortality rates of men in the age-groups 15-19 and 20-24 may be attributed in part to the exclusion from the experience of part of the armed forces at those ages, with the result that the remaining population, including as it does all those unfit for military service, is somewhat under-average in health. This feature has, however, only a very minor effect on the broader age-group 15-44 and its effect on the trend from year to year is negligible.

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 1948 are set out in Tables 2 and 3, and the ratios to the 1950-52 standard are shown in graphical form in Figs. 1 and 2. On this occasion figures for 1946 and 1947 have not been given, but they are available in previous articles. In these tables and graphs the age-groups have been reduced to six, namely under age 1 (infants), 1-4 (young children), 5-14 (children of school age), 15-44 (younger adults), 45-64 (older adults) and 65 and over (elderly). Further, the group death-rates and ratios have been standardized on the age distribution of 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 been included in Tables 2 and 3.

The standardized death-rate in the year 1958 for all ages combined was higher than in 1957 by about  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  for men and about  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  for women. This is entirely due to an increase in mortality among the elderly, death-rates in 1958 at ages 65 and over being  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  heavier for men and 3% heavier for women than the exceptionally light rates experienced in 1957. At ages under 65 there was a considerable improvement over the preceding year; this represents a return to the general trend of the rates over the past ten years which was interrupted in 1957.

The graphs were drawn by Mr D. F. Renn, F.I.A.

Table 1. Death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain in the year 1958 and ratios of these rates to the rates for 1950-52

Age-group	Death-rates in 1958		Ratios to 1950-52 rates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	·02676	·02068	·78	·78
1-4	·00099	·00079	·70	·66
5-9	·00050	·00032	·74	·67
10-14	·00040	·00024	·73	·62
15-19	·00085	·00036	·89	·52
20-24	·00107	·00055	·77	·56
25-29	·00107	·00067	·71	·54
30-34	·00130	·00098	·74	·67
35-39	·00193	·00145	·83	·76
40-44	·00314	·00232	·88	·86
45-49	·00538	·00363	·86	·86
50-54	·00984	·00559	·89	·87
55-59	·01762	·00859	·97	·87
60-64	·02810	·01415	·96	·89
65-69	·0443	·0237	·98	·89
70-74	·0687	·0410	1·00	·89
75-79	·1039	·0707	·95	·89
80-84	·167	·1205	·98	·90
85 and over	·243	·219	·85	·94
All ages:				
Crude rates	·01248	·01100	·980	·987
Standardized*	·01183	·00972	·929	·872

\* Standardized on 1951 Census age distribution.

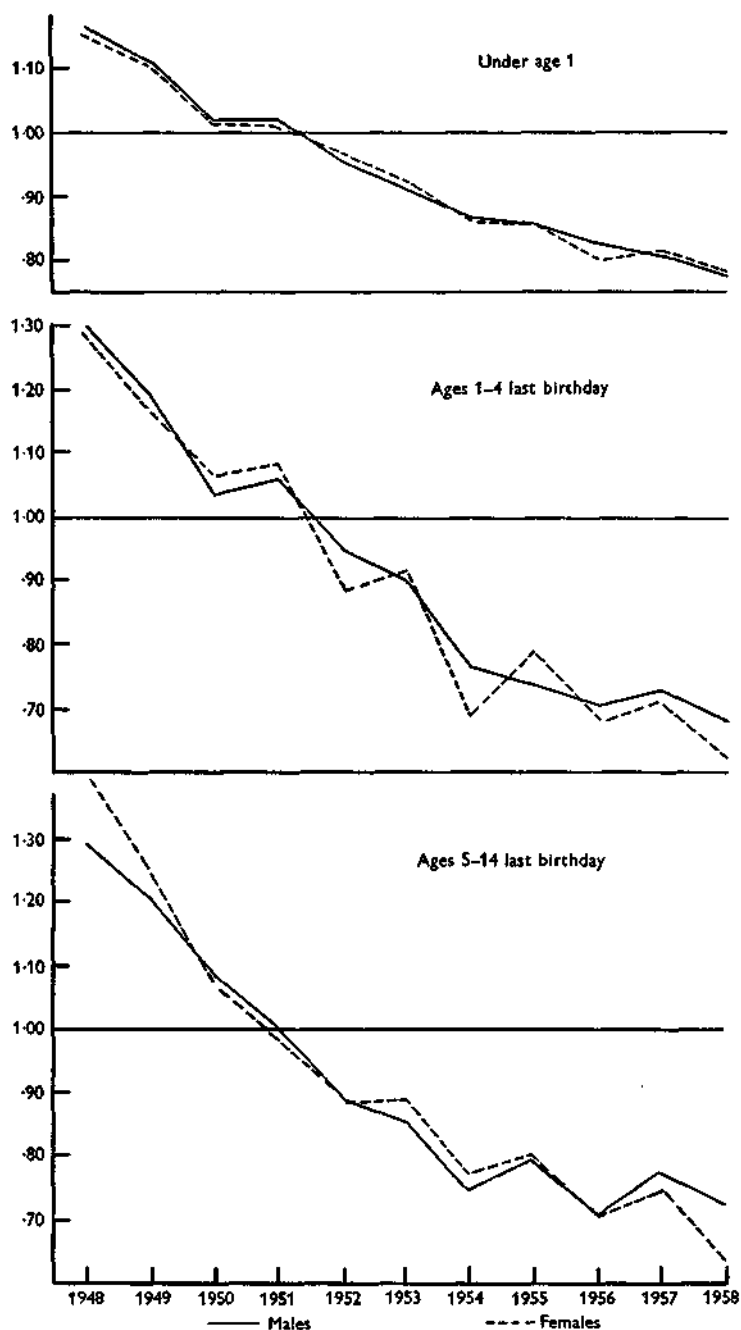


Fig. 1. Ratios of group death-rates (standardized) to 1950-52 rates—children.

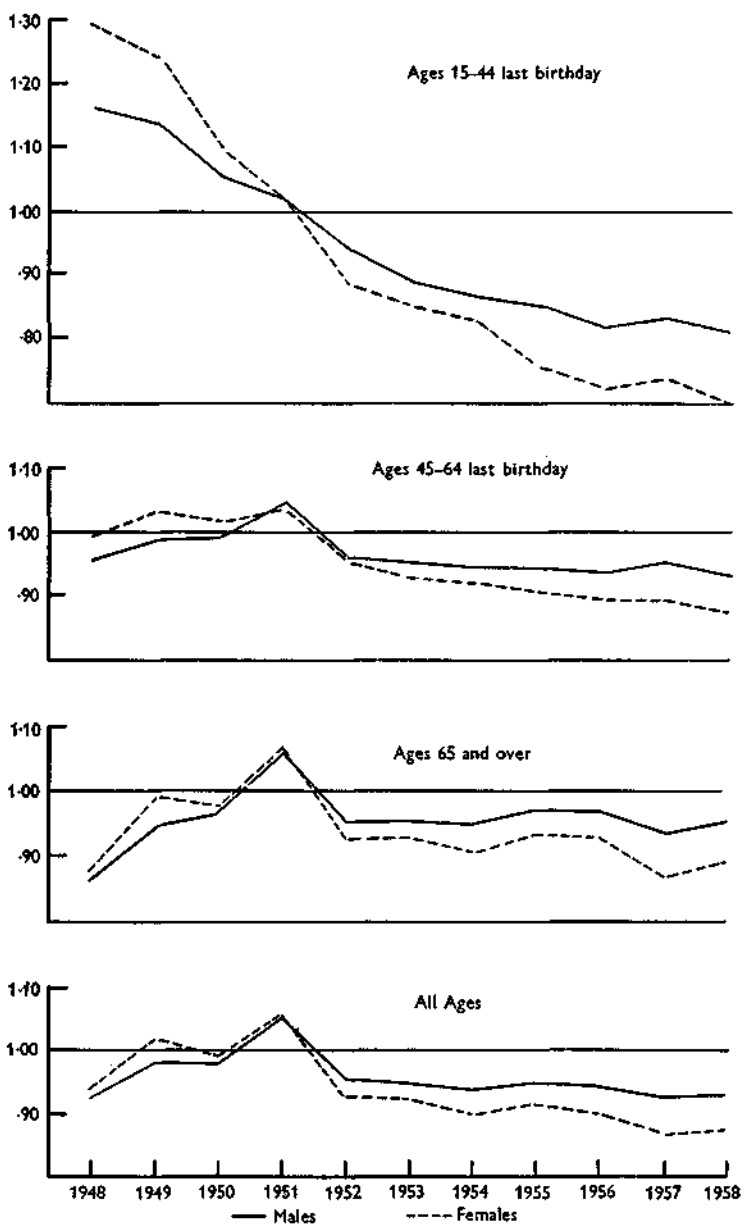


Fig. 2. Ratios of group death-rates (standardized) to 1950-52 rates—adults and all ages.

*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
1948	·04006	·00183	·00080	·00228	·01393	·0711	·01175
1949	·03813	·00168	·00074	·00222	·01445	·0782	·01247
1950	·03511	·00146	·00067	·00206	·01448	·0796	·01246
1951	·03524	·00149	·00062	·00199	·01528	·0877	·01336
1952	·03293	·00134	·00055	·00184	·01404	·0787	·01211
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
	Females						
1930-32	·05973	·00686	·00178	·00351	·01243	·0735	·01519
1948	·03057	·00154	·00062	·00199	·00860	·0555	·01046
1949	·02922	·00140	·00055	·00191	·00888	·0625	·01131
1950	·02681	·00128	·00047	·00169	·00874	·0617	·01104
1951	·02668	·00130	·00043	·00156	·00895	·0674	·01174
1952	·02556	·00106	·00039	·00136	·00822	·0584	·01032
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

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
1948	1'162	1'298	1'290	1'163	'953	'859	'923
1949	1'106	1'191	1'194	1'133	'988	'944	'980
1950	1'018	1'035	1'081	1'051	'990	'961	'979
1951	1'022	1'057	1'000	1'015	1'045	1'059	1'049
1952	'955	'950	'887	'939	'960	'950	'951
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
	Females						
1930-32	2'256	5'716	4'046	2'279	1'439	1'163	1'362
1948	1'154	1'283	1'409	1'292	'995	'878	'938
1949	1'103	1'167	1'250	1'240	1'028	'989	1'014
1950	1'012	1'067	1'068	1'097	1'012	'976	'990
1951	1'008	1'083	'977	1'013	1'036	1'066	1'053
1952	'965	'883	'886	'883	'951	'924	'926
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