

## THE RECENT TREND OF MORTALITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

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IN continuation of the tables given in *J.I.A.* 92, 347, central death-rates for Great Britain in the year 1966 and the ratio of those rates to the corresponding rates for the years 1960-62, which, beginning with last year's article, are now taken as the standard, are shown in Table 1. In calculating the mortality rates, the deaths are those recorded as occurring in Great Britain in the year and the population used is the 'home' population at mid-1966, 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.

Table 1. *Death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain in the year  
1966 and ratios of those rates to the rates for 1960-62*

Age-group	Death rates in 1966		Ratios to 1960-62 rates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1	·02224	·01705	·85	·85
1-4	·00093	·00076	·94	·95
5-9	·00045	·00030	·92	·88
10-14	·00042	·00026	1·02	1·00
15-19	·00105	·00042	1·17	1·14
20-24	·00105	·00046	·93	·96
25-29	·00098	·00058	·95	·95
30-34	·00120	·00081	·96	·91
35-39	·00184	·00130	·95	·93
40-44	·00312	·00217	1·02	·98
45-49	·00531	·00348	1·00	·99
50-54	·00954	·00550	1·00	1·01
55-59	·01642	·00818	·96	·98
60-64	·02798	·01304	·97	·94
65-69	·0445	·0222	1·01	·96
70-74	·0681	·0377	1·00	·94
75-79	·1034	·0649	1·00	·94
80-84	·156	·111	·96	·94
85 and over	·260	·206	1·03	·92
All ages:				
Crude rates	·01241	·01118	·993	·998
Standardized*	·01229	·01058	·986	·942

\* Standardized on 1961 Census age-distribution.

The tables show that mortality in Great Britain in 1966, though lighter than in the standard period 1960-62, was heavier than in either 1964 or 1965; the standardized rates for all ages combined were between 1% and 1½% higher than in 1965. For males the all-ages rate in 1966 was only 1½% less than the 1960-62 standard and 9% less than in 1950-52; for females it was 6% less than the 1960-62 rate and 18½% less than the 1950-52 rate, thus showing clearly the greater rate of improvement in female mortality. In both 1965 and 1966 infantile mortality, for both sexes, was 15% less than the average of 1960-62.

Table 2. *Standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain (standardized on 1961 Census age-distribution)*

Year	Age-group					All ages
	Under 1	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
Males						
1930-32	·07953	·00365	·00405	·01671	·0912	·01665
1950-52	·03448	·00084	·00191	·01503	·0866	·01347
1956	·02842	·00060	·00157	·01417	·0840	·01271
1957	·02779	·00064	·00160	·01434	·0806	·01245
1958	·02676	·00060	·00156	·01406	·0828	·01254
1959	·02597	·00061	·00157	·01400	·0818	·01243
1960	·02663	·00060	·00156	·01375	·0797	·01217
1961	·02546	·00062	·00156	·01404	·0835	·01258
1962	·02639	·00059	·00153	·01405	·0839	·01262
1963	·02504	·00061	·00154	·01436	·0867	·01294
1964	·02366	·00056	·00155	·01365	·0785	·01197
1965	·02224	·00058	·00154	·01369	·0805	·01214
1966	·02224	·00058	·00154	·01364	·0823	·01229
Females						
1930-32	·05973	·00330	·00347	·01264	·0788	·01729
1950-52	·02648	·00065	·00151	·00880	·0680	·01297
1956	·02153	·00046	·00110	·00785	·0633	·01178
1957	·02160	·00049	·00113	·00784	·0593	·01123
1958	·02068	·00043	·00107	·00769	·0613	·01143
1959	·02062	·00046	·00105	·00757	·0606	·01130
1960	·02048	·00045	·00100	·00741	·0590	·01101
1961	·01976	·00044	·00101	·00757	·0617	·01142
1962	·01970	·00044	·00102	·00753	·0607	·01128
1963	·01940	·00044	·00100	·00763	·0614	·01139
1964	·01849	·00042	·00098	·00727	·0549	·01035
1965	·01703	·00044	·00099	·00726	·0555	·01043
1966	·01705	·00042	·00097	·00728	·0567	·01058

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 1956 to 1966 are set out in Table 2, and the ratios to the 1960-62 standard are given in Table 3; the ratios for 1956 to 1966 are also shown graphically. The age-groups now 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 on the age-distribution of the Great Britain population at the 1961 Census so as to eliminate the effect of changes in the age-distribution of the population.

Table 3. *Ratios of standardized death-rates for age-groups in Great Britain to the rates for 1960-62*  
(standardized on 1961 Census age-distribution)

Year	Age-group					All ages
	Under 1	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	
Males						
1930-32	3.040	6.037	2.610	1.198	1.108	1.337
1950-52	1.318	1.394	1.233	1.078	1.051	1.082
1956	1.086	1.000	1.011	1.016	1.020	1.021
1957	1.062	1.065	1.032	1.028	.979	.999
1958	1.023	1.000	1.005	1.008	1.005	1.007
1959	.993	1.013	1.015	1.004	.993	.998
1960	1.018	1.001	1.006	.986	.968	.977
1961	.973	1.022	1.009	1.006	1.014	1.010
1962	1.009	.978	.985	1.008	1.018	1.013
1963	.957	1.009	.997	1.029	1.052	1.039
1964	.904	.932	.999	.978	.953	.961
1965	.850	.966	.996	.981	.978	.975
1966	.850	.956	.994	.978	.999	.986
Females						
1930-32	2.990	7.458	3.447	1.684	1.303	1.539
1950-52	1.325	1.478	1.497	1.173	1.125	1.154
1956	1.078	1.044	1.091	1.046	1.047	1.049
1957	1.081	1.109	1.120	1.045	.980	1.000
1958	1.035	.962	1.058	1.025	1.014	1.017
1959	1.032	1.045	1.043	1.009	1.002	1.006
1960	1.025	1.009	.989	.988	.975	.980
1961	.989	.997	1.002	1.008	1.020	1.016
1962	.986	.993	1.009	1.003	1.005	1.004
1963	.971	.988	.997	1.017	1.016	1.014
1964	.925	.952	.977	.969	.907	.921
1965	.852	.984	.983	.968	.919	.928
1966	.853	.944	.961	.971	.938	.942

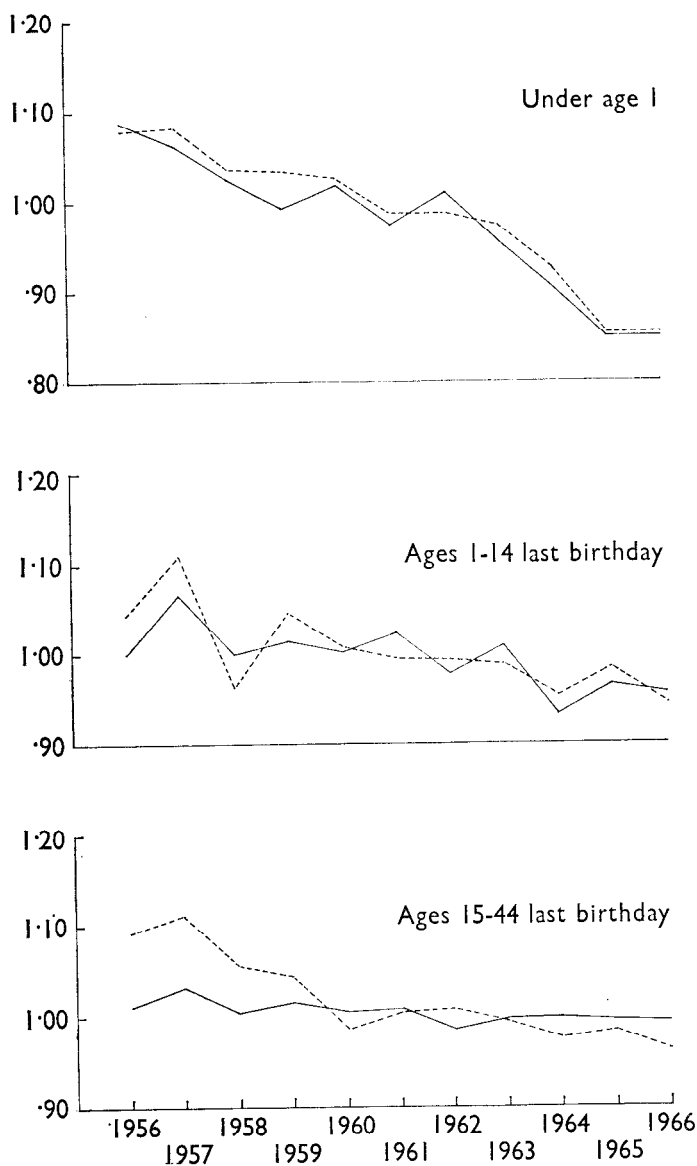


Fig. 1. Ratios of standardized group death-rates to 1960-62 rates—  
children and young adults

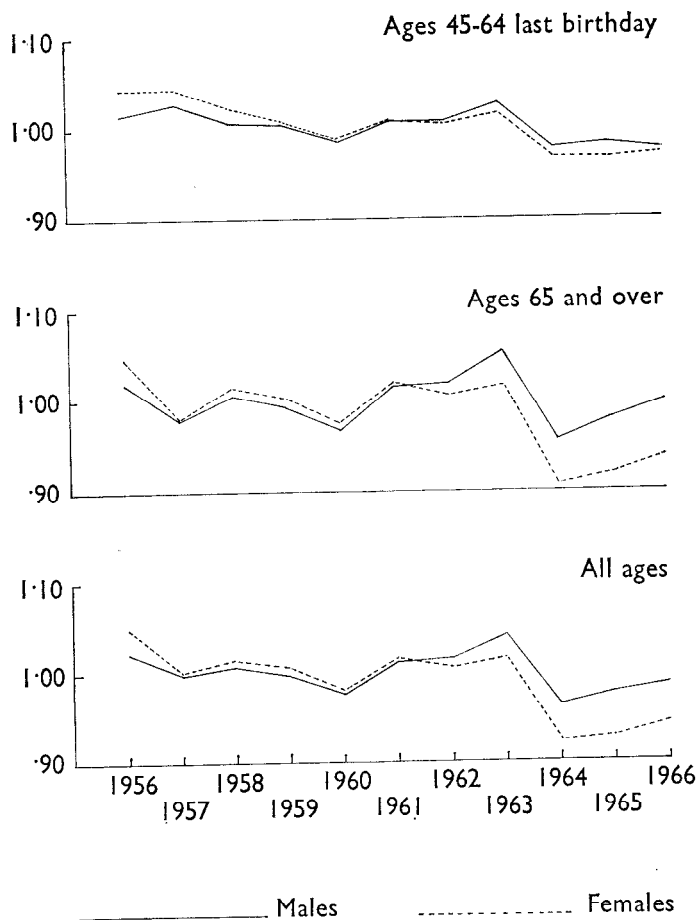


Fig. 2. Ratios of standardized group death-rates to 1960-62 rates—older adults and all ages

