

A Regional Board was first constituted on 15 June 1968 with representatives of the administration, managements and employees. This was reconstituted on 23 July 1971. The Board which meets from time to time, not only advises the corporation, but also recommends changes in the administrative and executive functions. The Board may also refer complaints to the Director General with its own recommendations.

Given below is a statement showing the maternity benefit paid to women workers under the provisions of the Act :

Sl. No.	Particulars	1967	1970	1973
1.	Total number of female workers employed in factories submitting returns ..	1,807	1,531	1,200
2.	Total number of female workers excluding children covered under the Act	1,807	1,531	1,200
3.	No. of claims accepted	50	58	56
4.	No. of miscarriages	—	—	2
5.	Amount paid by way of maternity benefit (in rupees) ..	13,757.76	36,452.10	2,698.00

II. Vital statistics

Pondicherry had a well established system of registering vital statistics, although registration was not always perfect. The Census Superintendent (1961) attests that registration of female births was not done properly before 1964 as women did not enjoy voting right here.

Birth-rate : The Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (JIPMER) which carried out in the year 1967 a general house to house health survey in Pondicherry region fixed the birth-rate in the urban and rural areas at 33.8 and 42.9 per 1,000 population respectively. The births further showed a seasonal variation and a five year analysis showed that on the average, the maximum number of births took place from July to September.³⁴

The registered live birth-rate and total birth-rates between 1952 and 1971 are shown below* :

Year	Estimated mid-year population	Live-birth	Rate per 1000	Still-birth	Rate per 1000 live and still-birth
1952	3,23,714	12,164	37.5	685	53.3
1953	3,28,893	11,243	34.2	654	55.0
1954	3,34,398	11,100	33.2	641	54.6
1955	3,40,246	12,298	36.1	732	50.2
1956	3,45,783	13,639	39.4	759	52.5
1957	3,50,312	14,749	42.1	814	52.3
1958	3,55,097	14,021	39.5	792	53.5
1959	3,60,137	15,360	42.7	740	46.0
1960	3,65,434	15,278	41.8	673	42.2
1961	3,71,531	15,398	41.4	669	41.6
1962	3,78,991	16,361	43.2	738	43.2
1963	3,86,766	16,061	41.5	808	47.6
1964	3,94,844	15,164	38.4	645	40.8
1965	4,03,213	16,692	41.4	666	38.4
1966	4,11,879	16,270	39.5	652	38.5
1967	4,20,846	16,544	39.3	653	37.9
1968	4,30,063	16,439	38.2	566	39.4
1969	4,39,514	16,742	38.1	554	32.0
1970	4,49,179	16,337	36.4	481	28.6
1971	4,71,574	17,745	37.6	451	24.8

* Data relating to births and deaths in Pondicherry, Mannadipattu, Bahur, Nettappakkam, Ozhukarai and Villiyanur Communes could not be gathered by the Census Superintendent during the 1961 census operation as registers pertaining to the years 1880-1952 were either missing or were in a very bad shape. Hence this study was confined to the period after 1952.

According to the above statement, the registered birth-rate was 37.5 in the year 1952. A general upward trend was noticeable upto 1962, after which there was a slight downward trend only to reach in 1971 the same level that prevailed in 1952. In spite of the general improvement in the living conditions of the people on the one hand and the better public health facilities that were made available to the general public on the other, the birth-rate had remained more or less at the 1952 level. This was attributed to the impact of the family planning programme. The still birth-rate which stood at 53.3 per 1,000 live and still-births in 1952 showed a downward trend since then and was only 24.8 in the year 1971. This was indicative of the improvement in the ante-natal care.

Death-rate : The registered death-rates between 1952 and 1971 are shown in the table below :

Year	Estimated mid-year population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1952	3,23,714	8,586	26.5
1953	3,28,893	8,147	24.8
1954	3,34,398	7,677	23.0
1955	3,40,246	8,675	25.5
1956	3,45,783	9,152	26.5
1957	3,50,312	8,885	25.4
1958	3,55,097	7,657	21.6
1959	3,60,137	7,294	20.3
1960	3,65,434	8,837	24.2
1961	3,71,531	9,377	25.2
1962	3,78,991	8,369	22.1
1963	3,86,766	8,284	21.4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1964	3,94,844	8,752	22.2
1965	4,03,213	7,858	19.5
1966	4,11,879	7,115	17.3
1967	4,20,846	7,216	17.4
1968	4,30,063	6,793	15.8
1969	4,39,514	6,854	15.6
1970	4,49,170	7,175	15.9
1971	4,71,574	6,388	13.5

According to the above table the registered death-rate which was 26.5 per 1,000 population in 1952 showed varying trends up to 1961, and had since then shown a steady trend of decline to reach 13.5 per thousand population in 1971.

Death-rate in various age groups : The table below gives the registered death rate in various age groups during the years 1969, 1971, 1973 and 1975. 35

Age group (1)	1969			1971		
	Male (2)	Female (3)	Total (4)	Male (5)	Female (6)	Total (7)
Less than one year	888	790	1,678	646	589	1,235
From one to 4 years	402	422	824	327	358	685
From 5 to 14 years	241	247	488	194	189	383
From 15 to 24 years	175	214	389	152	158	310
From 25 to 44 years	404	315	719	407	347	754
From 45 to 64 years	591	386	977	658	487	1,145
From 65 to 75 years	502	405	907	388	351	739
From 75 and above	366	392	758	487	512	999
Age not stated	57	57	114	67	71	138

Age group (1)	1973			1975		
	Male (8)	Female (9)	Total (10)	Male (11)	Female (12)	Total (13)
Less than one year	680	566	1,246	651	520	1,171
From one to 4 years	315	329	644	265	302	567
From 5 to 14 years	178	228	406	211	176	387
From 15 to 24 years	181	181	362	156	143	299
From 25 to 44 years	440	392	832	431	330	761
From 45 to 64 years	758	519	1,277	749	433	1,182
From 65 to 75 years	493	417	910	526	333	859
From 75 and above	530	570	1,100	501	561	1,062
Age not stated	41	40	81	82	75	157

It is evident that the mortality rate was high in the case of those under one year and between 45-64 years both in 1969 and 1971. The decline in infant mortality may be attributed among other reasons to the improvement in the child care programme. In fact infant mortality rate was as high as 131.9 per thousand population in 1959. There was a downward trend since then to reach 92.9 in 1966. It declined further to reach 88.2 in 1967 and 55.3 in 1975.

Maternal mortality : Maternal mortality is considered as an index of the quality and efficiency of the maternity services. The table below gives the maternal mortality rate in Pondicherry between 1936 and 1966 :

Year (1)	Maternal deaths (2)	No. of live- births (3)	Maternal mortality rate (4)
1936	15	423	35.46
1941	28	971	28.83
1946	31	1,335	23.22

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1951 }		No data	
1956 }			
1961	46	2,761	16.66
1966	18	5,219	3.4

The maternal mortality rate which was 35.46 per 1,000 in 1936 had declined considerably to reach 3.4 per cent in the year 1966. A study made in this regard revealed that the highest mortality rate occurred between 16-30 years.³⁶ Such cases had never attended pre-natal clinics. The five leading causes of maternal deaths were anaemia, operative shock, sepsis, toxæmia and haemorrhages in the descending order.

Death due to various causes: The table below shows the registered death rate due to various causes during 1959-72 in the Territory:

Diseases	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1. Cholera ..	6	10	—	6	49	222	13
2. Smallpox ..	440	1,029	872	370	284	69	58
3. Plague ..	—	13	6	—	—	—	—
4. Malaria ..	54	198	100	—	—	—	—
5. Other fevers ..	876	893	912	811	764	1,063	892
6. Dysentery and diarrhoea ..	613	771	1,017	874	1,107	1,016	941
7. Respiratory diseases ..	488	526	368	412	560	642	499
8. Child birth ..	63	60	58	47	41	43	52
9. Other diseases ..	4,754	5,337	6,044	5,849	5,479	5,607	5,303

Diseases	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
1. Cholera ..	26	2	13	7	—	—	—
2. Smallpox ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Malaria ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
5. Other fevers ..	811	640	819	664	904	826	754
6. Dysentery and diarrhoea ..	972	622	517	585	536	418	390
7. Respiratory diseases ..	478	493	502	244	283	250	290
8. Child birth ..	51	54	31	26	29	21	52
9. Other diseases	4,774	5,405	4,911	5,325	5,423	4,873	5,038

It is evident from the above table that 'other fevers' are responsible for a high mortality rate in the Territory. In other cases, the mortality rate is on the decline.

III. Common diseases

Communicable diseases :

According to a study conducted in 1971, 31 per cent. of the deaths in the Territory were caused by communicable diseases. This probably is an under estimate, as many deaths due to infections might have been included under other categories. In India as a whole, 54 per cent. of total deaths are caused by communicable diseases, the leading causes being diarrhoea and dysentery followed by fevers. On the basis of morbidity in the general population, venereal diseases, diarrhoea in children, animal bites, tuberculosis, enteric fevers, dysentery (all forms), amoebic hepatitis, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and encephalitis are the 10 leading causes. On the basis of mortality