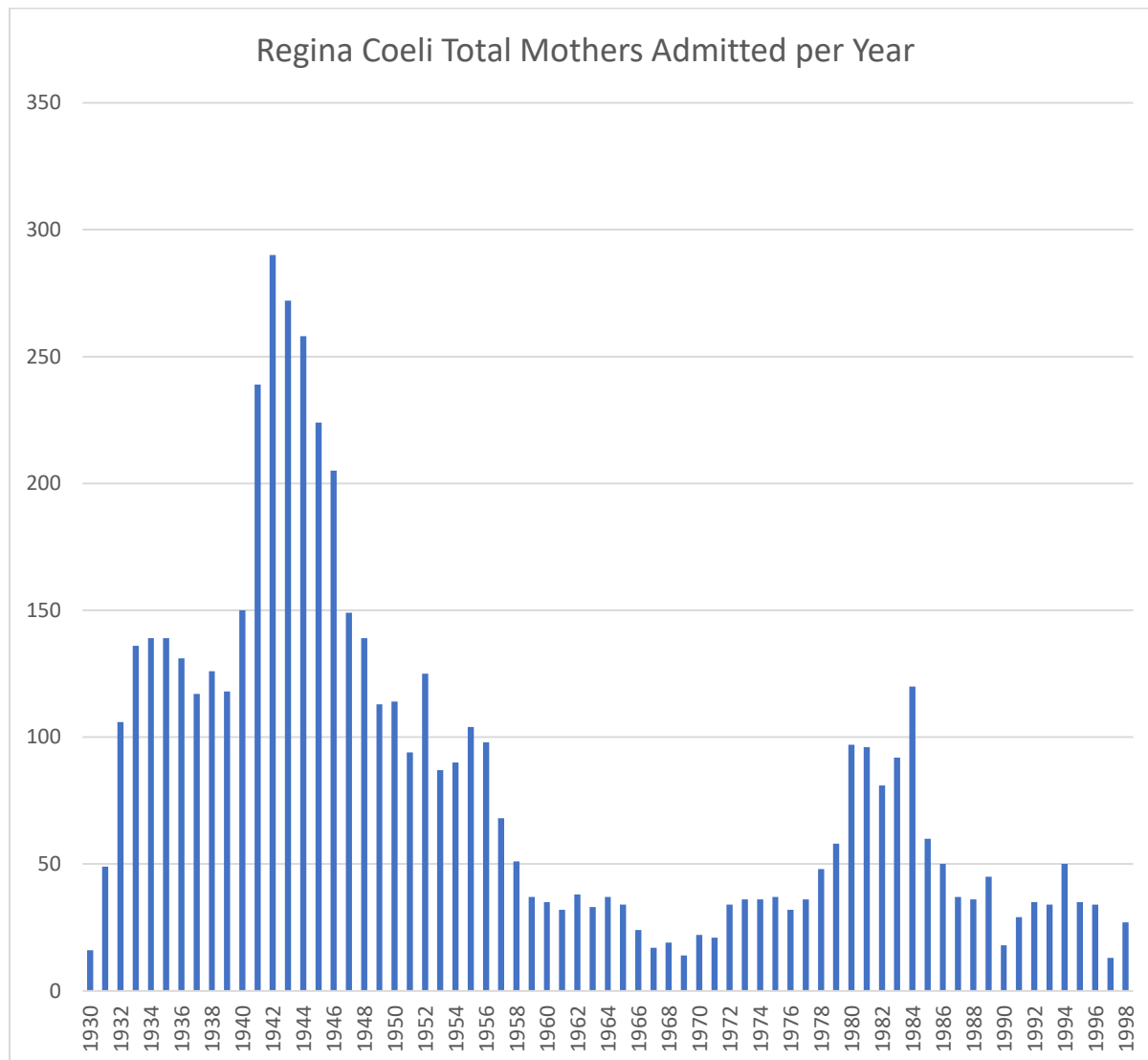


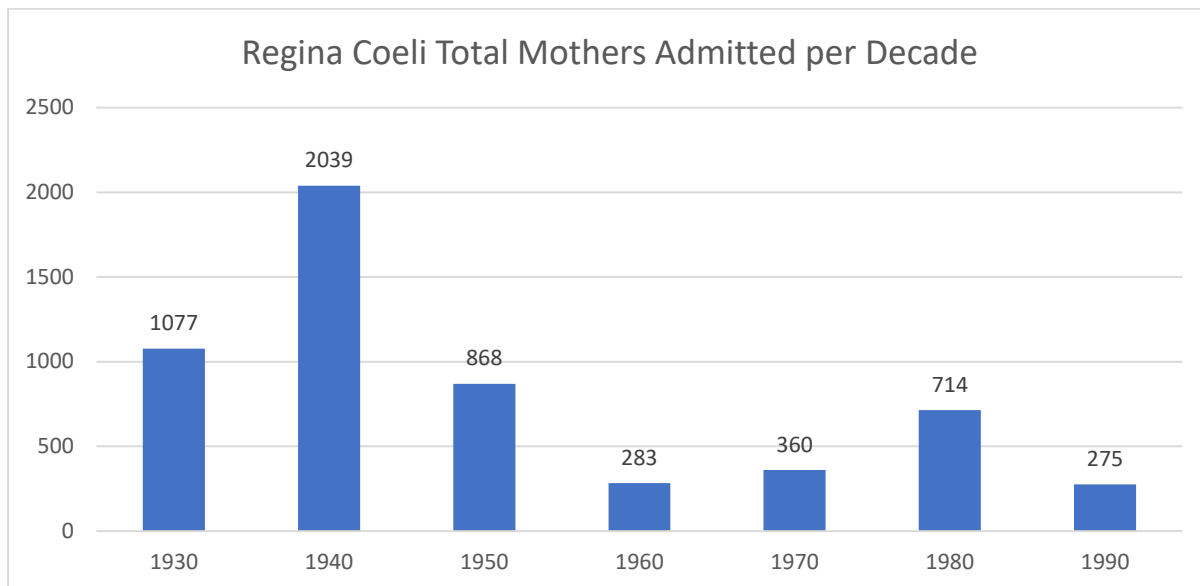
Chapter 21 A: Regina Coeli: Statistical analysis

Admissions



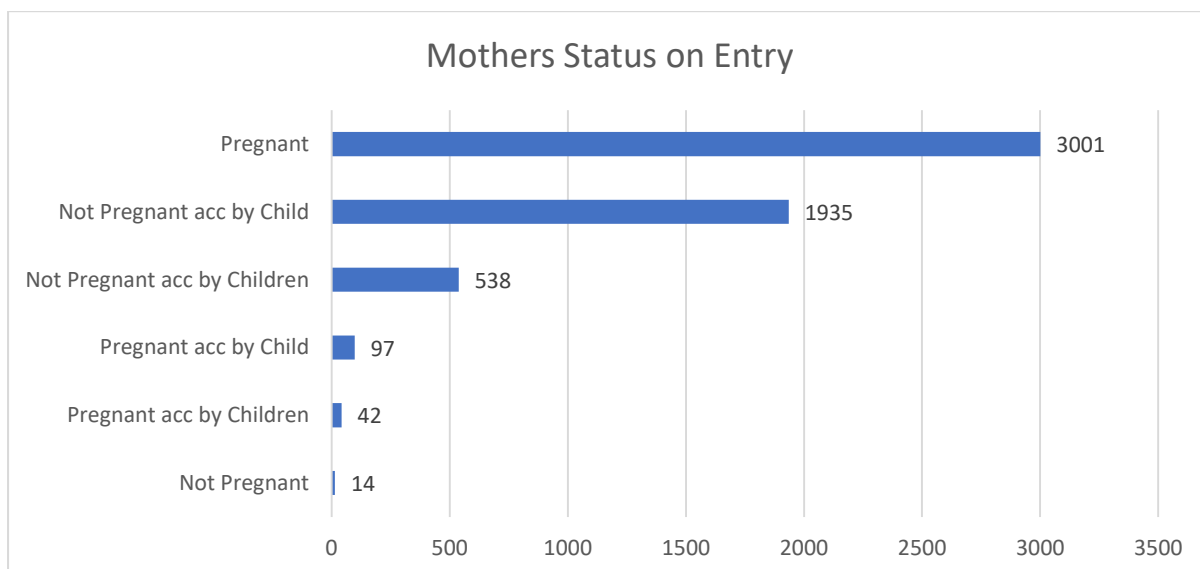
From the institutional records, the Commission identified 5,631 women who were admitted to Regina Coeli in the years 1930 to 1998 and are within the Commission's Terms of Reference. Information relating to date of admission was available for 5,616 women (99.7% of admissions). The majority of women (71%) were admitted prior to 1960. Admissions increased from 16 women in 1930 to 136 in 1933; from 1933 to 1939, 129 women on average were admitted annually. Admissions began to increase again in 1940 and peaked in 1942 when 290 women entered the hostel. The years 1940 to 1948 were the busiest period; 1,926 women, over one in three of all admissions, were admitted in those nine years. Numbers began a staggered decline from 1948; by 1969 just 14 women were admitted. Numbers began to increase again from 1970. In the 1970s, 36 women on average were admitted annually; admissions almost doubled in the 1980s when an average of 71 annual

admissions was recorded but decreased to an average of 31 admission per year in the 1990s.



Analysis by decade shows that more women (36.3%) were admitted to Regina Coeli in the 1940s than any other decade followed by the 1930s (19.2%); 1950s (15.5%); 1980s (12.7%); 1970s (6.4%); 1960s (5%) and the 1990s (4.9%).

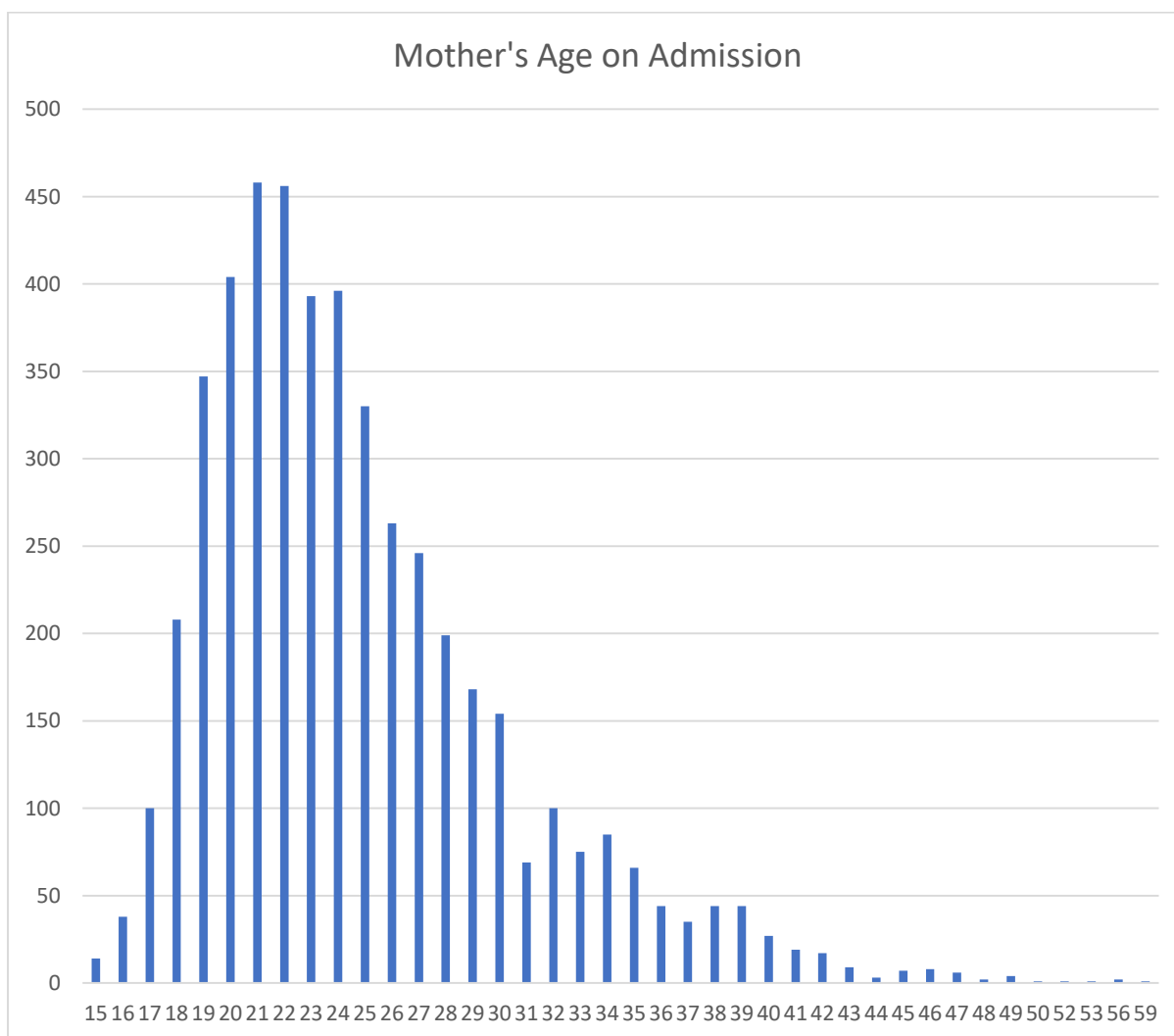
Status on entry



Information relating to status on entry was available for 5,627 women (99.9% of admissions). The institutional records show that most women (53.3%) were admitted pregnant and unaccompanied; 34.4% were not pregnant but accompanied by one child; 9.6% were not pregnant but accompanied by a number of children; 1.7% were pregnant and accompanied

by one child; 0.7% were pregnant and accompanied by a number of children; 14 women were not pregnant and were unaccompanied on admission.

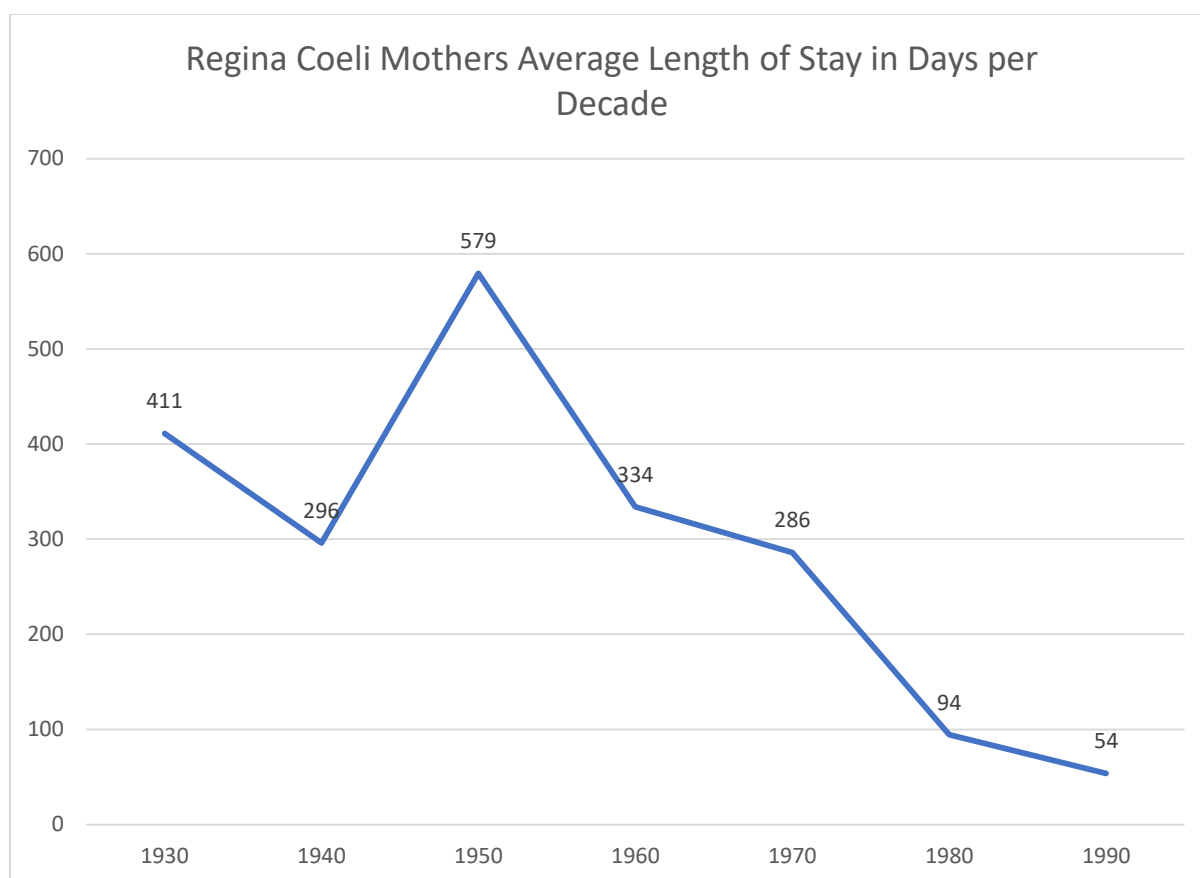
Age on admission



Information relating to age on admission was available for 4,844 women (86.5% of admissions). Age on admission ranged from 15 to 59 years. The mode of age on admission was 21 years. Most women (79.8%) were aged between 18 and 29 years on admission; 17% were aged between 30 and 59 years and 3.1% were aged between 15 and 17 years.

Marital status

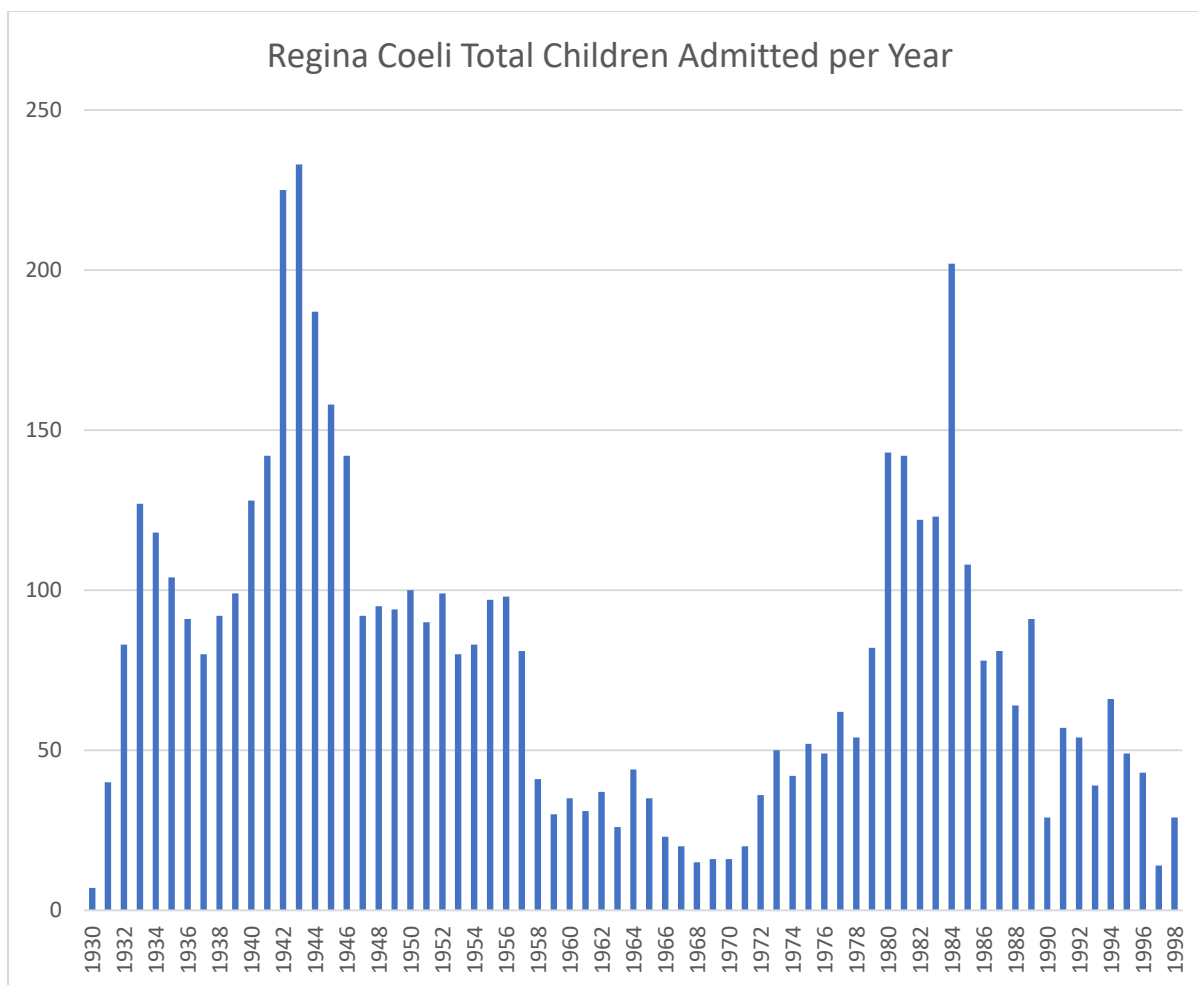
Information relating to marital status was available for all women. The institutional records show that the majority (87.32%) were single women; 10.94% were separated; 1.58% were widowed and nine were recorded as married women.

Length of stay

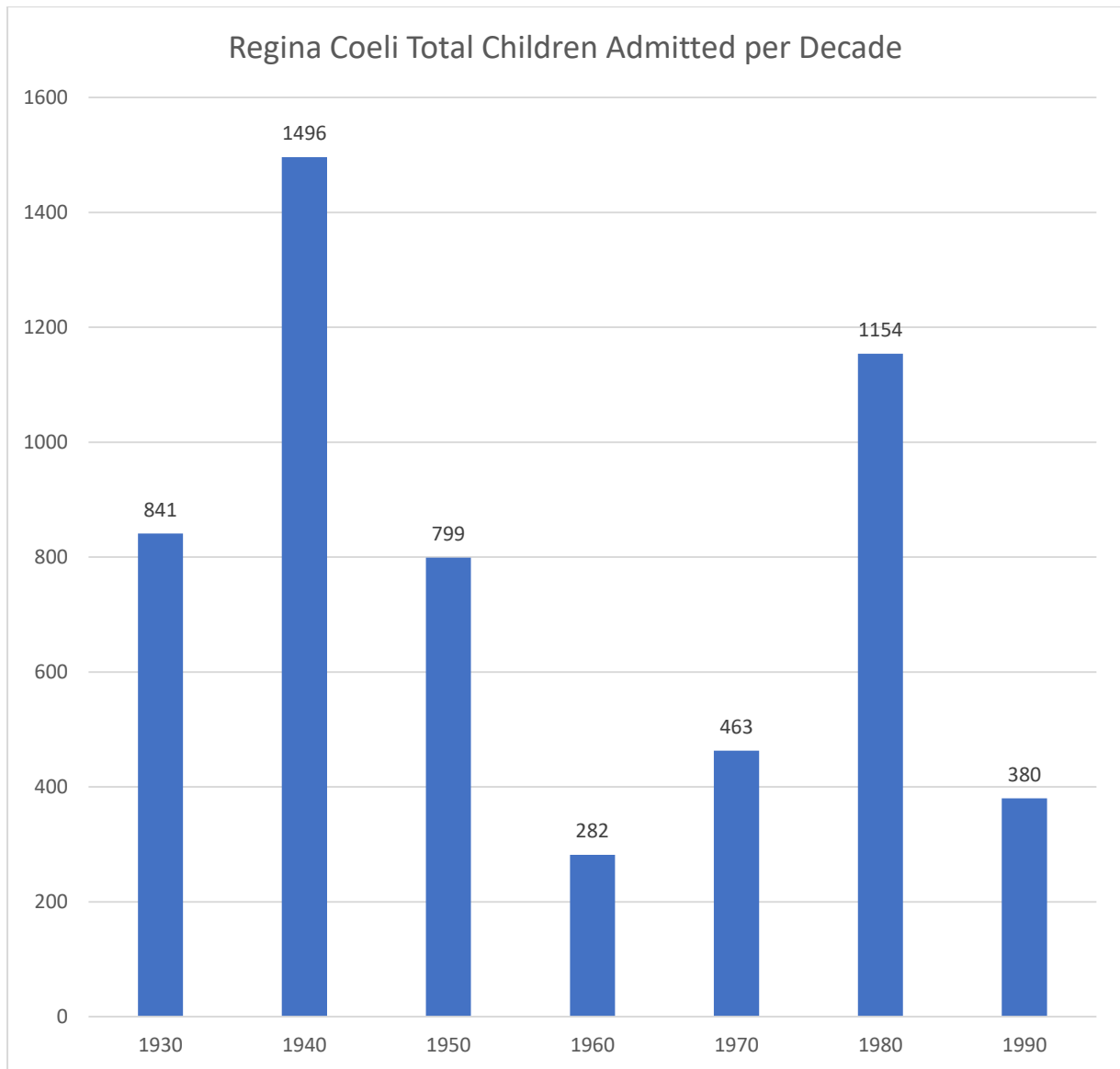
Information relating to length of stay was available for 5,144 women (91.4% of admissions). The institutional records show that average length of stay decreased from 411 days in the 1930s to 296 days in the 1940s. However, in line with many mother and baby homes, length of stay increased substantially in the 1950s when a stay of 579 days was the norm. This had more than halved by the 1970s (286 days) and by the 1990s women spent just 54 days on average in the hostel.

Maternal deaths

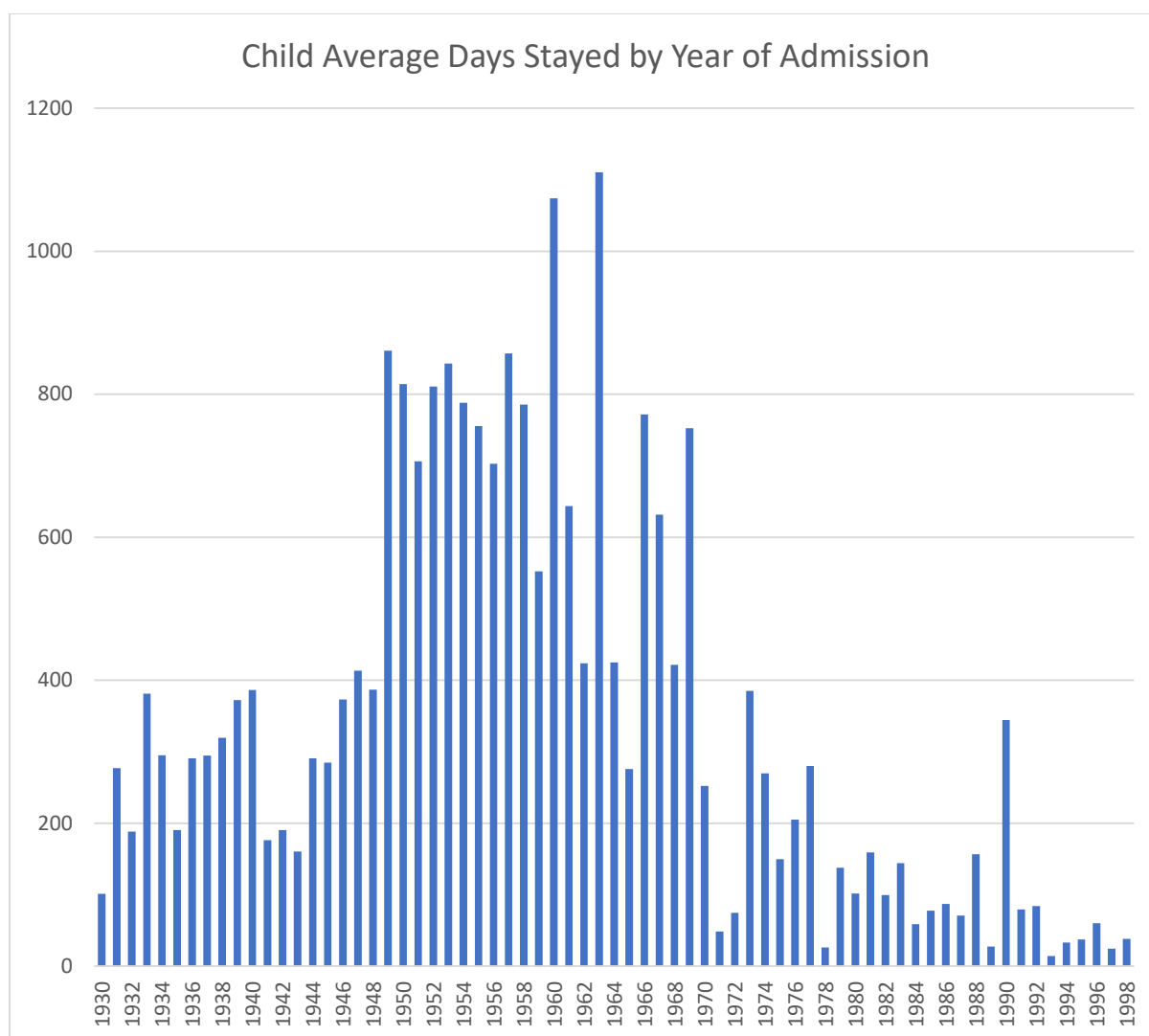
Through the institutional records, the Commission identified 13 deaths among women associated with Regina Coeli. All 13 women died in external hospitals following transfer from Regina Coeli; the majority occurred before 1950. Three deaths were associated either directly or indirectly with pregnancy and childbirth. Most deaths, however, were due to infectious disease such as tuberculosis (eight deaths) and bronchitis.

Children: Admissions

Through the institutional records, the Commission identified 5,434 children who were admitted to Regina Coeli in the years 1930 to 1998. Information relating to date of admission was available for 5,415 children (99.7% of admissions). The institutional records show that child admissions increased from seven in 1930 to 127 in 1933. Child admissions were highest in the years 1933 to 1957; 54.2% of children were admitted to Regina Coeli in that period. Admission peaked in 1943 when 233 children were admitted. Admissions began a staggered decrease from 1957; by 1968 just 15 children were admitted to the hostel. Child admissions began to increase from 1971 rising from 20 admissions that year to 142 in 1981 and 202 in 1984. Admissions began a staggered decrease thereafter; 42 children on average were admitted annually in the 1990s.

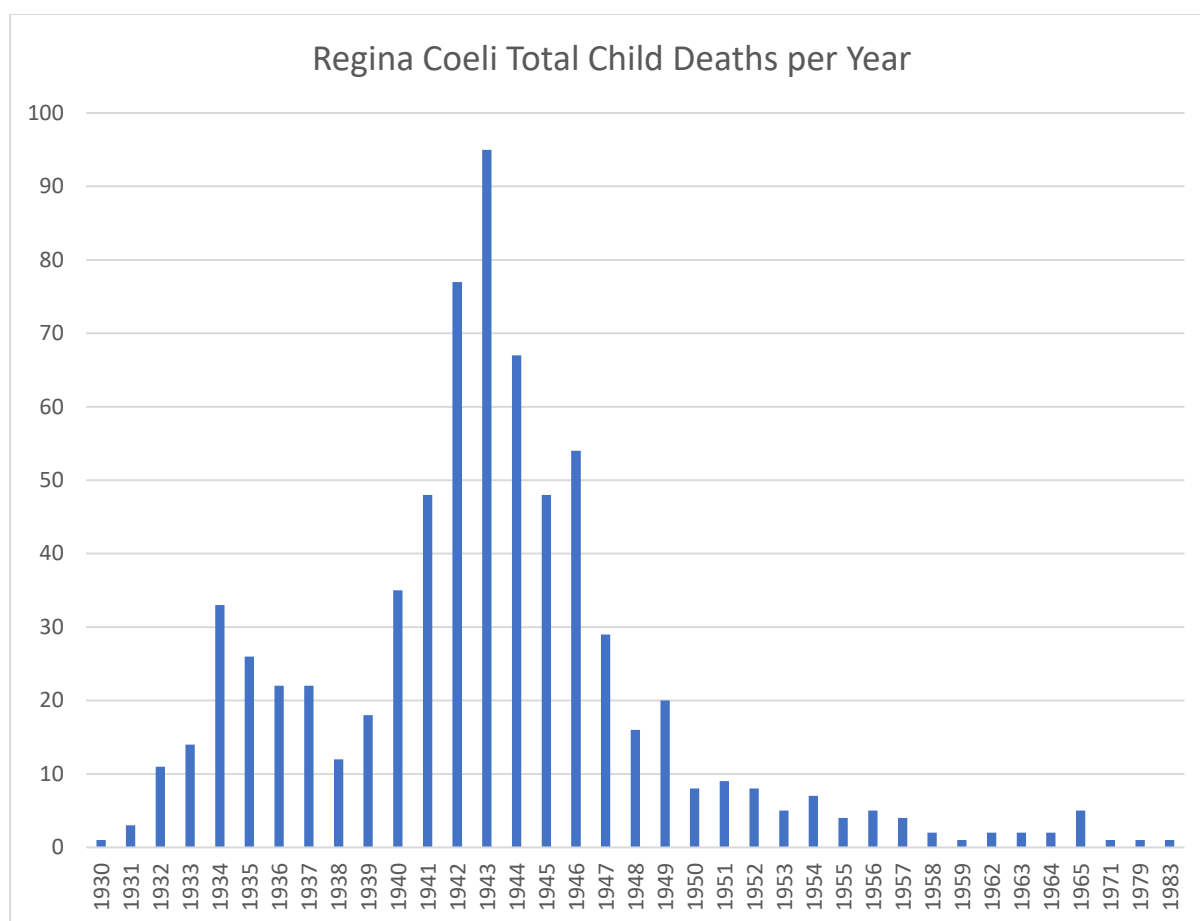


Analysis by decade shows that more children (27.6%) were admitted to Regina Coeli in the 1940s than any other decade followed by the 1980s (21.3%); 1930s (15.5%); 1950s (14.8%); 1970s (8.6%); 1990s (7%) and the 1960s (5.2%).

Length of stay

Information relating to length of stay was available for 4,952 children (91.1% of admissions). In the years 1930 to 1948 length of stay varied from 101 days on average for children admitted in 1930 to 413 days for those admitted in 1947; the average stay for children admitted in this period was 283 days. However, length of stay increased dramatically from 387 days on average for children admitted in 1948 to 861 days for those admitted in 1949. Length of stay remained relatively high in the years 1949 to 1969 and peaked in 1963; children admitted that year spent 1,111 days on average in the hostel. Length of stay decreased sharply from 752 days on average for children admitted in 1969 to just 49 days for those admitted in 1971. Children admitted in the 1970s spent 183 days on average in the home - this decreased to 98 days on average in the 1980s and to 80 days in the 1990s.

Child deaths



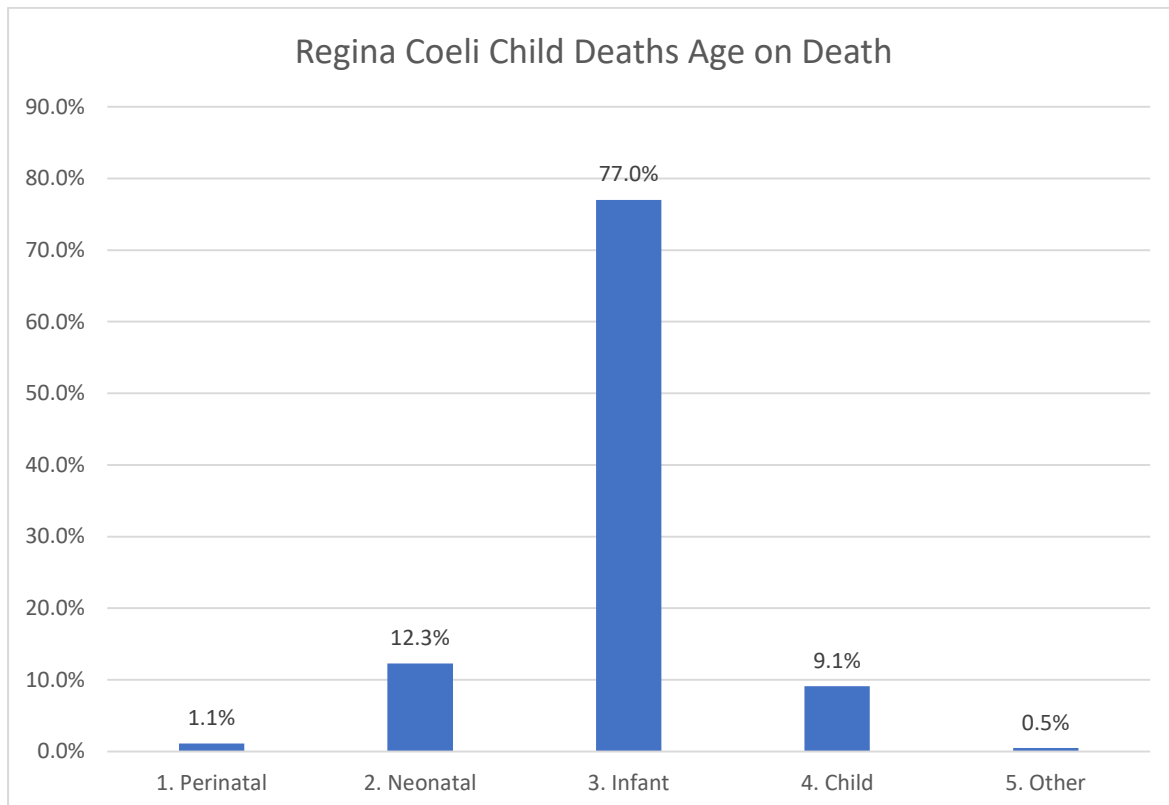
From the institutional records, the Commission identified 734 child deaths associated with Regina Coeli. Information relating to date of death was available for 718 children (97.8% of child deaths). Six hundred and fifty one child deaths (90.7%) occurred prior to 1950. The worst period for child deaths was in the years 1941 to 1946; 54.2% of child deaths associated with Regina Coeli were recorded in those six years. As was the case with other homes, 1943 was the worst year for child deaths; 95 child deaths occurred that year.

Place of death

There was no place of death recorded for 176 children and a further 75 died in unnamed external hospitals. Where a place of death was recorded 133 occurred in Dublin Union/Pelletstown/St Kevin's Hospital; 107 occurred in Regina Coeli; 77 in St Ultan's Hospital; 73 in St Clare's Hospital; 36 in Temple St Hospital; 24 in Cork St, Hospital and 22 in Clonskeagh Hospital. A small number of deaths occurred in the Richmond, Rotunda, Locke and Holles St Hospitals. Child deaths associated with Regina Coeli occurred in at least 13 different hospitals and institutions and information relating to place of death was not available for over one in three children. An attempt to locate GRO death records for children

recorded as having died in the Regina Coeli Hostel itself proved difficult; the Commission considered that efforts to establish cause of death through engagement with GRO death records was not feasible.

Age on death



Information relating to age at death was available for 626 children (85.3% of child deaths). Most children (90.4%) died in infancy as follows: perinatal (0-7 days) 1.1%; neonatal (8-28 days) 12.3% and infant (29-365 days) 77%. 9.6% of deaths occurred in children aged one year and older - three of whom were over 5 years old.