

# MMWR

## SPECIAL ISSUE

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## MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

### *Epidemiologic Notes and Reports*

#### Guillain-Barré Syndrome — United States

Twenty-four states have reported a total of 172 cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) to CDC in the period October 1-December 22, 1976 (Table 1). There have been 99 cases in influenza vaccine recipients, with 6 deaths, and 67 cases in non-recipients (1 death). The vaccine status for 6 cases is unknown.

TABLE 1. Reports of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, United States, October 1-December 21, 1976

State	Reported Cases	Vaccinated	Nonvaccinated	Unknown
Alabama	9	7(1)	2	0
Arizona	1	1(1)	0	0
Colorado	11	5	6	0
Connecticut	13	9(1)	4	0
Florida	5	3	2(1)	0
Georgia	8	5	3	0
Idaho	1	0	0	1
+ Maryland	10	7	2	1
Michigan	11	8	2	1
Minnesota	15	11(1)	4	0
Mississippi	7	1	6	0
Missouri	1	1	0	0
Nebraska	1	0	0	1
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0
++ New Jersey	24	6	18	0
Ohio	23	16(1)	6	1
Oklahoma	4	1	3	0
Oregon	1	1	0	0
Pennsylvania	4	3	0	1
Rhode Island	3	2	1	0
South Carolina	1	0	1	0
Utah	2	2(1)	0	0
Virginia	15	9	6	0
Washington	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>99(6)</b>	<b>67(1)</b>	<b>6</b>

( ) = Deaths

+ = Includes 1 case vaccinated with 1975-1976 vaccine formulation

++ = Includes 2 cases vaccinated against B/Hong Kong/72

Of the 125 cases for which data are available, 10% of patients who received vaccine are less than 30 years of age, 67% are between 30 and 60 years old, and 23% are over 60 years old. For nonvaccinated GBS patients, 43% are less

than 30, 41% are 30-60 years old, and 16% are over 60. Sex distribution of cases among vaccinees and unvaccinated persons is essentially similar. For 60 of the 73 cases in vaccine recipients, 48 (80%) had onset of GBS within 8-28 days following vaccination.

The states of Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, and New Jersey have conducted detailed case investigations including complete statewide surveys of practicing neurologists and/or physicians, as well as complete investigations of individually reported cases. These data were reported to CDC, where case rates per million person weeks and relative risks were determined for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals for the period October 16-December 14 (Table 2). Age-specific attack rates were also estimated (Table 3). On the basis of these preliminary data, the U.S. Public Health Service temporarily suspended the National Influenza Immunization Program on December 16.

On December 17, all state health departments were contacted by CDC and requested to participate in a nationwide

TABLE 2. Estimated relative risk of GBS, Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, October 16-December 14, 1976

	Vaccinated	Nonvaccinated	Relative Risk
New Jersey	1.48** (3)*	0.22 (8)	6.70
Alabama	2.45 (7)	0.07 (1)	36.00
Minnesota	1.84 (10)	0.24 (3)	7.67
Colorado	0.74 (2)	0.36 (5)	1.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.69 (22)</b>	<b>0.23 (17)</b>	<b>7.35</b>

\*\*Cases/million person weeks

\*Cases

TABLE 3. Estimated age-specific attack rates of GBS per million population, Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, October 16-December 14, 1976

Age	Vaccinated	Nonvaccinated
<5	0.0	0.0
5-17	0.0	0.7
18-24	3.9	2.9
25-44	9.9	2.2
45-64	6.0	1.6
65+	1.9	3.7

survey on GBS. All practicing neurologists in each state are being contacted and asked to report all cases of GBS diagnosed from September 1, 1976, through the present. State health departments have also been requested to obtain and store appropriate serum and cerebral spinal fluid specimens on all patients with GBS, and to determine the numbers of

vaccinated persons by week of vaccine administration.

*Reported by R Altman, MD, State Epidemiologist, New Jersey Dept of Health; JS Andrews Jr, MD, Acting State Epidemiologist, Minnesota Dept of Health; TM Vernon, MD, State Epidemiologist, Colorado Dept of Health; FS Wolf, MD, State Epidemiologist, Alabama Dept of Health; National Influenza Immunization Program; Viral Diseases Div, Bur of Epidemiology, CDC.*

### Influenza — Wisconsin

An isolate of A/New Jersey-like influenza virus has been made from a 13-year-old boy who lives on a farm in southern Wisconsin and who had onset of illness December 8. Swine raised on the farm also had an influenza-like illness in the early part of December. There is no evidence of

human influenza outbreaks or person-to-person transmission. Investigations are in progress.

*Reported by HG Skinner, MD, State Epidemiologist, Wisconsin State Dept of Health and Social Services; National Influenza Immunization Program; and Virology Div, Bur of Laboratories, CDC.*

**Note to Readers:** The statistical tables for issue No. 50 will be included in next week's MMWR.



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