

WEST AFRICA  
SMALLPOX ERADICATION/MEASLES CONTROL PROGRAM

SURVEILLANCE REPORT NO. 1

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Public Health Service  
Communicable Disease Center  
Smallpox Eradication Program  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

August 1, 1966

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WEST AFRICA  
NATIONAL RESEARCH AND CONTROL PROGRAM

RESEARCH REPORT NO. 1

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
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Division of Field Epidemiology  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

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According to notifications received by the World Health Organization through January 19, 1966, a provisional total of 50,557 cases of smallpox was notified throughout the world in 1965<sup>1</sup>. Of these, 15,882 were reported from Africa, including 6,237 from the 19 countries participating in the West Africa Smallpox Eradication/Measles Control Program.

The annual number of cases notified by each of the 19 countries are shown in Table 1 for each of the past five years. The 6,237 cases reported in 1965 from the 19-countries are almost twice the 3,374 cases reported in 1964. Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria had a substantial increase in reported cases in 1965. In Chad, 21 of the 73 cases were imported with the importation coming from Nigeria. As shown in Figure 1, the average annual case rate for 1964 and 1965 was highest in Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Liberia, Dahomey, Guinea, Congo (B) and Gabon. Four countries, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Mauritania and Senegal, did not report any cases in 1965.

In reports received by WHO through July 7, 5,405 cases of smallpox have been reported by the 19 countries during 1966. This compares with 4,299 cases reported during a comparable time period in 1965. The number of cases reported by country are shown in Table 2.

Thus far in 1966, there are noticeable increases in Dahomey, Niger, Nigeria and Upper Volta as well as in Sierra Leone and Togo. Ghana has recently reported an outbreak in Kpanda District, Volta Region, following the importation of two cases from Oyo, Nigeria. Other comments concerning 1966 incidence are included in Table 2.

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<sup>1</sup> WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record, 1966; 41; 269-288.

Table 1

Reported Smallpox Cases  
in 19 West African Countries  
1961-1965

Country	1961	1962	1963	1964 <sup>b</sup>	1965 <sup>a,b</sup>
Cameroon	1,345	792	133	81	-
Central Africa Republic	-	57 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	-	-
Chad	273	1,157	10	5	73 <sup>i</sup>
Congo(Brazzaville)	22	1,313	1,515	196 <sup>i</sup>	89
Dahomey	119	124	228	703	167
Gabon	-	1 <sup>iii</sup>	111 <sup>ii</sup>	49	1
Gambia	12	4	52	6	6
Ghana	75	135 <sup>i</sup>	23	9	7
Guinea	96	2,948	224	300	69
Ivory Coast	4,656	2,066	219	11	8
Liberia	1,119	323	57	128	40
Mali	1,706	1,668	1,096	321	615
Mauritania	12	40	1	-	-
Niger	1,740	1,038	445	29	509
Nigeria	3,538	3,863	1,774	1,416	4,566
Senegal	201	231	87	2	-
Sierra Leone	6	78	14	89	60
Togo	281	572	274	21	13
Upper Volta	<u>2,360</u>	<u>1,335</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	17,561	17,745	6,605	3,374	6,237
Total Africa	24,182	24,837	16,723	12,362	15,882
Total World	85,594	82,413	99,599	49,956	50,557 <sup>+</sup>

a Provisional figures for 1965, situation according to reports received by WHO by 19 January 1966.

b Where figures have been taken from weekly reports, the last week of 1964 has been considered as the week ending 2 January 1965 (53rd week), and the first week of 1965 as the week commencing 3 January, 1965 and ending 9 January, 1965.

- Zero; no cases reported

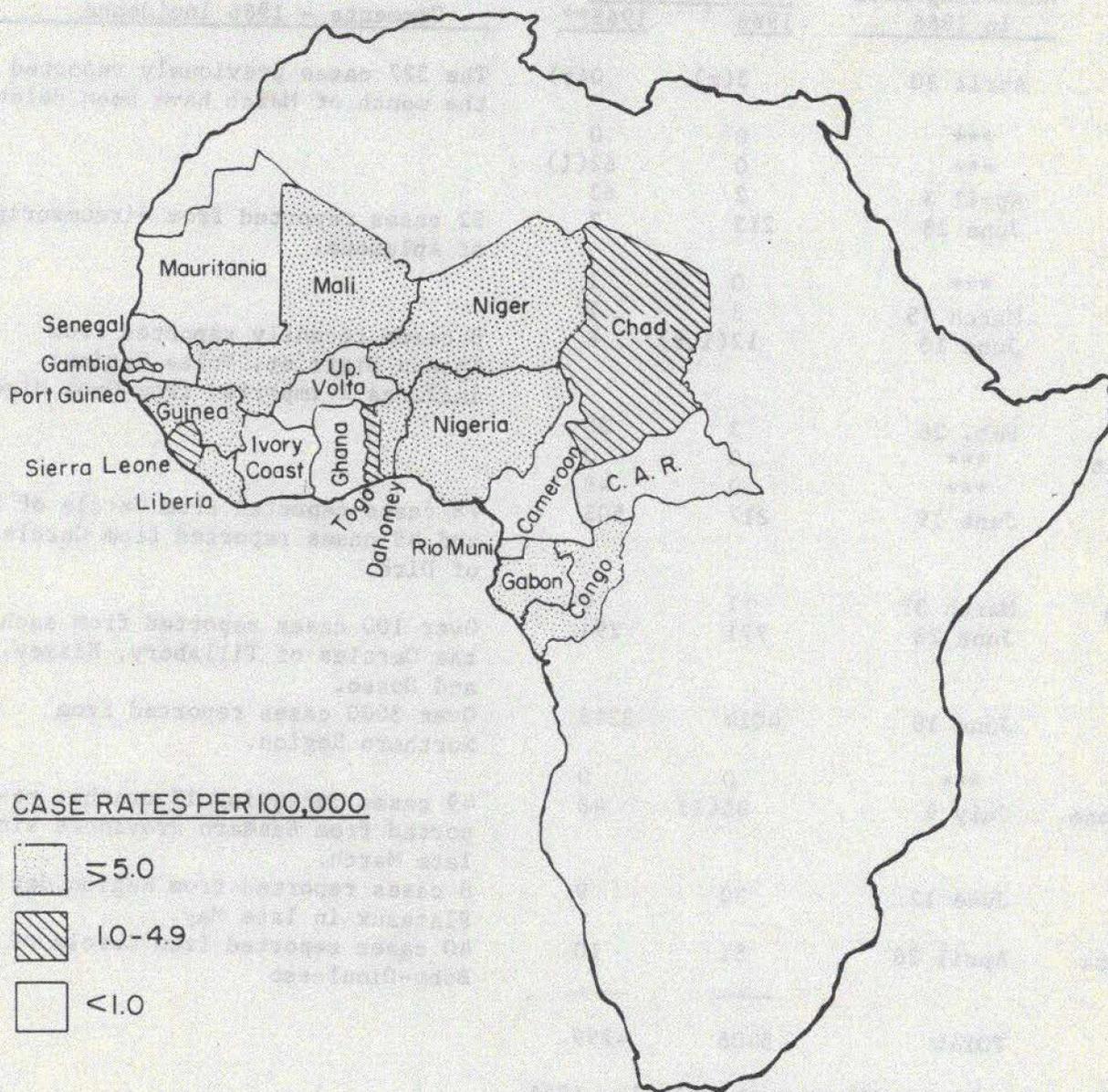
i Includes imported cases.

ii Infection imported.

+ Figures not complete. Late reports from Indonesia (9,051) would raise world-wide provisional total to 59,608.

Figure 1

REPORTED SMALLPOX MORBIDITY - WEST AFRICA  
AVERAGE ANNUAL CASE RATE, 1964-65\*



\*FROM WHO REPORTS THROUGH JANUARY 19, 1966

Table 2

Reported Smallpox Cases  
in 19 West African Countries  
1966\*

Country	Most Recent Reporting Date in 1966	Cumulative No. of Cases		Comments - 1966 Incidence
		1966	1965**	
Cameroon	April 30	3(r)	0(r)	The 327 cases previously reported for the month of March have been deleted.
C.A.R.	***	0	0	
Chad	***	0	62(i)	
Congo(B)	April 3	2	63	
Dahomey	June 28	213	7	52 cases reported from circumscription of Aplahoue.
Gabon	***	0	1	
Gambia	March 15	3	1	
Ghana	June 10	12(i,r)	6	8 cases recently reported from Kpandu District, Volta Region; includes 2 imported from Oyo, Nigeria.
Guinea	Feb. 26	3	28	
Ivory Coast	***	0	0	
Liberia	***	0	49	
Mali	June 19	217	505	78 cases reported from Cercle of San and 48 cases reported from Cercle of Diré.
Mauritania	March 31	~1	0	
Niger	June 28	771	294	Over 100 cases reported from each of the Cercles of Tillabery, Niamey, and Dosso.
Nigeria	June 18	4014	3218	Over 3000 cases reported from Northern Region.
Senegal	***	0	0	
Sierra Leone	July 9	85(i)	46	49 cases, including 17 deaths, reported from Eastern Provinces since late March.
Togo	June 12	30	9	8 cases reported from Region des Plateaux in late May.
Upper Volta	April 26	51	10	40 cases reported from Cercle of Bobo-Dioulasso
	TOTAL	5405	4299	

\* Reports received by WHO through July 14, 1966.

\*\* Comparable time period in 1965.

\*\*\* No cases reported to WHO through July 14, 1966.

(i) Includes imported cases.

(r) Revised.