

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY Public Health Service

NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States for Week Ended February 21, 1953

The incidence of measles in the United States has been increasing during the past 5 months. The peak incidence is usually reached in the spring. The number of cases (8,017) for the current week is a little more than a third of the number (22,824) reported for the corresponding week of 1952. Wisconsin has been reporting the largest weekly numbers of cases. However, for this week Texas reported the largest number. For the current week, States reporting 500 or more cases are: Texas, 1,421; Wisconsin, 1,229; Ohio, 611; and California, 572.

There were 524 cases of whooping cough reported for the current week. Texas with 106 cases was the only State to report more than a hundred cases. For the first 7 weeks of the year, a total of 4,589 cases has been reported in the United States as compared with 8,471 for the corresponding period of last year.

For the current week 89 cases of poliomyelitis were reported in the country as a whole. This is the first week since the middle of May 1952 in which the weekly number of cases has been less than 100. This is the second consecutive week that the weekly total has been less than that for the corresponding week of the previous year.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Influenza

The following reports have been received from the Influenza Information Center, N. I. H. and the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Dr. C. C. Croft, Ohio Department of Health, has reported the serologic diagnosis of influenza A-prime in 7 cases occurring in 3 different areas. Three were in Columbus, 3 in Bowling Green, and 1 in Wayne County.

The Navy Research Unit at Great Lakes, Illinois, has reported 6 strains of influenza A (strain not specified) and 1 strain of influenza B which were isolated during January. During the same period serologic diagnosis of influenza A (FM-1) was obtained in 18 cases, and of influenza B (Lee) in 2 cases.

Dr. L. L. Parks, Florida State Board of Health, reports that influenza has been widely distributed in the State but there is a definite decline in the incidence.

Dr. E. H. Lennette, California Department of Public Health, has reported the serologic diagnosis of influenza A and A-prime in 43 cases having onsets from January 8 to 22. Most of these were from the San Francisco area and the others were from scattered areas in the State.

The number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia reported by 58 cities was 594 for the week ended February 14 as compared with 610 for the previous week. The numbers reported for these cities by geographic division, with figures for the previous week in parentheses, were: New England, 35 (32); Middle Atlantic, 200 (180); East North Central, 94 (112); West North Central, 68 (91); South Atlantic, 89 (67); East South Central, 53 (40); West South Central, 23 (57); Mountain, 21 (8); and Pacific, 31 (23). These data apparently indicate that the peak of mortality from influenza and pneumonia was reached the week ended February 7. On February 18, Dr. J. R. Strain, Maryland Department of Health, reported that the number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia for the previous week in the State increased over an earlier peak about 3 weeks previously.

The proportion of deaths from influenza continued to be high among persons 65 years of age and over, as shown by figures supplied by a few large cities.

The World Health Organization reports that influenza is apparently widespread in Spain, and increasing in Switzerland, Iceland, Finland, and Bavaria. In France it is reported that the disease is present in certain localized areas in the east central part of the country, and a recrudescence of influenza is reported in the southwest. In Italy influenza is widespread with attack rates of 10 to 30 percent. Localized outbreaks have been reported in Yugoslavia and the western towns of Turkey. Outbreaks in Thailand and the Cook Islands are also reported. A few mild cases of influenza with no deaths were noted in Bermuda about February 10.

Dr. C. H. Andrewes, World Influenza Center, London, reports that most of the strains of influenza virus isolated from cases in England and Europe are close to the Scandinavian subtype (Sweden A 3/50). However, strains isolated in Paris and Switzerland are more like the Liverpool subtype.

Anthrax in animals

According to a report from the Department of Agriculture, 17 outbreaks of anthrax in animals occurred in 11 States and Puerto Rico during January 1953. There were no anthrax outbreaks reported in 30 States. For most of the outbreaks the source of infection was unknown. However, infected soil was responsible for 5 outbreaks and contaminated feed was responsible for 2. Twenty cows and 20 hogs were lost in 15 of these outbreaks. The losses in 2 outbreaks in South Dakota were not given. A supplemental report for 1952 shows that Texas experienced 5 outbreaks in October and 2 in November. The losses were 16 cattle, 15 of which were in October.

Ringworm of the scalp

Dr. A. M. Washburn, Arkansas State Board of Health, reports that information was received from 1 county of an outbreak of ringworm of the scalp in a grade school involving 25 children. These children were treated locally and the usual control measures have been instituted.

Lung flukes

Dr. Washburn reports that a diagnosis of lung flukes (*paragonimus westermani*) in a person was made at a hospital in Arkansas. No information was received as to the origin of the infection.

Infectious hepatitis

Dr. W. H. Y. Smith, Alabama Department of Public Health, reports that scattered cases and several outbreaks of infectious hepatitis are being reported throughout the State. In Lee County the incidence began increasing late in December or early January, and reached its peak about the middle of January. An epidemiologic survey was made which revealed reports of 35 cases from private physicians. Visits to each school in the county uncovered 18 additional cases. Most of the patients were of school age and one rural and one urban school had the greatest concentration of cases. Liver function tests revealed abnormal findings in many instances. The disease was considered to be spread by person to

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person contact. The original source of the infection could not be determined. Investigation of a report disclosed 24 probable cases of infectious hepatitis in widely scattered areas of Lawrence County. The prevalence of influenza and other respiratory infections was a complicating factor in determining actual cases. While only persons experiencing jaundice or definite URQ tenderness were listed, it is quite possible that other nonicteric infections were missed. The disease was apparently spread from person to person and was centered mainly in the schools.

Trichiniasis

Dr. W. J. Murphy, Georgia Department of Public Health, reports a case of trichiniasis in a 54-year-old white man. The diagnosis was confirmed by muscle biopsy. The patient had eaten raw sausage, sent from a friend in a neighboring State. His wife and daughter who did not eat the meat did not become ill. Larvae were recovered from remnants of the sausage.

Shigellosis

Dr. Dean Fisher, Maine Department of Health and Welfare, reports an outbreak of shigellosis in one family. The source of infection of the first case, which occurred January 7, was unknown. The other cases probably developed from contact in the family. The only member of the family to escape the illness was a daugh-

ter who was married on January 10. On the day of the wedding a party was held at the family home. Ham and turkey sandwiches and bottled punch were served. That evening 4 of the family became ill, and 2 days later 2 more had symptoms of the disease. The eighth member of the family became ill on January 13. Laboratory examination of stool specimens from 3 patients revealed *Shigella sonnei*. Only 2 guests at the party were known to have suspicious symptoms but specimens were not taken from these.

Typhoid fever

Dr. W. L. Halverson, Director, California Department of Public Health, reports a case of typhoid fever, phage type 3, in a 6-year-old child. The source was a private laboratory where the patient had been playing with mice inoculated with *S. typhi* Army strain 58.

Gastro-enteritis

Dr. R. R. Cross, Illinois Department of Public Health, reports an outbreak of 36 cases of gastro-enteritis in a hospital. The incubation period was from 6 to 8 hours. The laboratory test of the suspected vehicle, left over turkey, revealed the presence of coliform organisms. No other information was given.

Table 1. COMPARATIVE DATA FOR CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES

(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	TOTAL FOR WEEK ENDED		5-year median 1948-52	Approximate seasonal low week ended	CUMULATIVE TOTAL SINCE SEASONAL LOW WEEK		5-year median 1947-48 through 1951-52	CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR		5-year median 1948-52
	Feb. 21, 1953	Feb. 16, 1952			1952-53	1951-52		1953	1952	
Anthrax-----062	11	-	-	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	3	7	9
Botulism-----049.1	24	1	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	4	3	---
Brucellosis (undulant fever)----044	17	48	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	179	235	---
Diphtheria-----055	54	78	143	July 1	1,984	2,739	5,547	336	558	1,196
Encephalitis, acute infectious---082	17	16	9	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	111	142	72
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	789	693	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	4,817	3,354	---
Malaria-----110-117	2	51	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	75	229	---
Measles-----085	8,017	22,824	16,100	Sept. 1	78,869	173,452	105,333	548,095	121,275	75,116
Meningococcal infections-----057	151	125	98	Sept. 1	2,270	1,967	1,619	1,039	812	611
Poliomyelitis, acute-----080	89	97	92	Apr. 1	57,366	28,240	28,240	1,120	868	795
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	-	1	---
Rocky Mountain spotted fever---104A	-	-	-	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	5	5
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	4,254	3,238	2,536	Aug. 1	65,083	34,281	34,281	29,481	18,370	15,513
Smallpox-----084	-	-	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	-	4	7
Trichiniasis-----128	9	4	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	27	27	---
Tularemia-----059	8	26	22	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	83	126	153
Typhoid fever-----040	16	25	26	Apr. 1	2,157	2,002	2,628	168	217	223
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	-	2	---	Apr. 1	171	---	---	21	17	---
Whooping cough-----056	524	1,243	1,545	Oct. 1	12,446	22,656	33,123	4,589	8,471	11,509
Rabies in animals-----	188	155	---	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	1,119	1,136	---

¹Reported in New Jersey.²Colorado reported 3 cases and Washington, 1 case.³Not computed.⁴Addition: South Carolina, week ended January 31. 1 case.⁵Deduction: Kansas, week ended February 14, 50 cases.

SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

These provisional data are based on reports from State and territorial health departments to the Public Health Service. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding

Saturday. When the diseases which rarely occur (cholera, dengue, plague, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted under the table above.

Symbols.—1 dash [-]: no cases reported; asterisk [*]: disease stated not notifiable; parentheses, [()]: data not included in total; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.

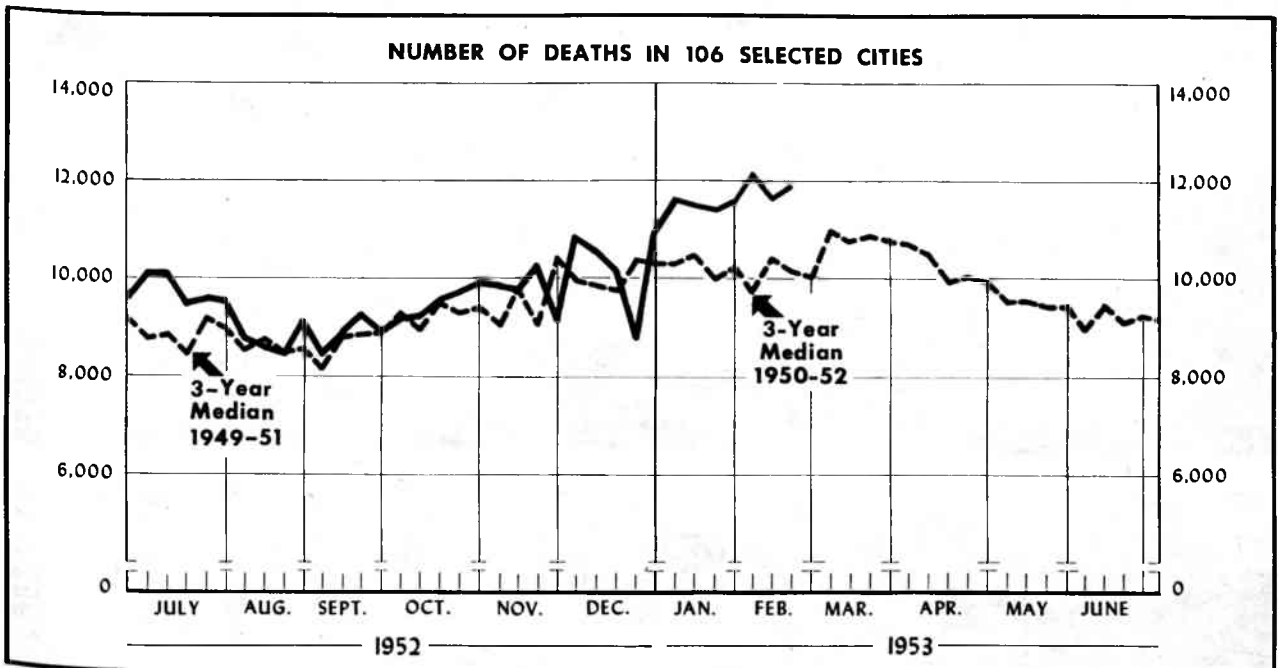
Table 3. CASES OF SPECIFIED DISEASES: SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED

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(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	Brucellosis (undulant fever) (044)	Diphtheria (055)	Encephalitis, acute infectious (082)	Hepatitis, infectious, and serum (092, N996.5 pt.)	Measles (085)	Meningococcal infections (057)	Poliomyelitis, acute (080)	Rocky Mountain spotted fever (104A)	Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (050,051)	Trichiniasis (128)	Tularemia (059)	Typhoid fever (040)	Typhus fever, endemic (101)	Whooping cough (056)	Rabies in animals
NEW ENGLAND															
Boston-----				7	2	1			33						6
Bridgeport-----					12	1			7						
Cambridge-----				1	1				1						
Fall River-----					4				1						
Hartford-----					1				20					1	
Lowell-----						1									
Lynn-----									5						
New Bedford-----					3	1			3						
New Haven-----					19				10						
Portland, Me.-----				4										1	
Providence-----									18						
Scoville-----					1				1						
Springfield, Mass.-----									8						
Waterbury-----									11						
Worcester-----				8	4				23						
MIDDLE ATLANTIC															
Albany-----															
Buffalo-----															
Camden-----					4										
Elizabeth-----					1				3						
Erie-----					16				11						
Jersey City-----															
Newark, N. J.-----					5				9					5	
New York City-----			3	15	70	12	1		60	6		1		24	
Paterson-----															
Philadelphia-----		1		12	9	5	1		33					11	
Pittsburgh-----						2			6					1	
Reading-----					1				1						
Rochester, N. Y.-----															
Schenectady-----															
Syracuse-----															
Trenton-----				1	1				2					2	
Utica-----															
Yonkers-----															
EAST NORTH CENTRAL															
Akron-----					5										
Canton-----		1													
Chicago-----				1	40	3			49			1		6	
Cincinnati-----					13	4			13					1	
Cleveland-----					3	2			34						
Columbus-----					37				6						
Dayton-----														1	
Detroit-----					23	1			46					24	
Evansville-----				1	8				13					1	
Flint-----					10				13					3	
Fort Wayne-----									1						
Grand Rapids-----									9						
Indianapolis-----					5		2		13					2	
Milwaukee-----					230		1		21					8	
Peoria-----															
South Bend-----									2						
Toledo-----					290	1			8					1	
Youngstown-----				1	18										
WEST NORTH CENTRAL															
Des Moines-----				20					5					1	
Duluth-----					2				5						
Kansas City, Kans.-----					3				1						
Kansas City, Mo.-----					68	1			6					1	
Minneapolis-----				3	103				26						
Omaha-----															
St. Louis-----					58		1		14						
St. Paul-----				1	14				4					2	
Wichita-----					214				1						

Provisional Statistics for Deaths in Selected Cities for
Week Ended February 21, 1953



The number of deaths reported in the 106 major cities continues, for the eighth successive week, very much above the 3-year median. This excess mortality is associated with the current outbreak of influenza and other acute respiratory diseases. For the 7-week period ended February 21, a total of 80,215 deaths was reported, 13 percent more than the total of 70,931 deaths for the 7 corresponding weekly 3-year medians. The excess for the current week, ended February 21, was 18 percent.

The figures reported represent the number of death certificates received in the vital statistics offices during the week indicated, for deaths occurring in that city. Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. However, differences are to be expected because of variations in the interval

between death and receipt of the certificate.

While week-to-week changes in the total number of deaths reported for all major cities generally represent a change in mortality conditions, this may not be true for variations in weekly figures for each city. For example, in a city where 50 deaths are the weekly average, the number of deaths occurring in a week may be expected to vary by chance alone from 36 to 64 ($d \pm 2\sqrt{d}$, where d represents the average number of deaths per week).

The number of deaths in cities of the same size may also differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations, and because some cities are hospital centers serving the surrounding areas. Changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due in part to population increases or decreases.

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	7th week ended Feb. 21, 1953	6th week ended Feb. 14, 1953	7th week median 1950-52	Percentage difference between current week and median	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 7 WEEKS		
					1953	1952	Percentage difference
TOTAL: 103 REPORTING CITIES-----	11,781	11,458	10,015	+17.6	80,215	71,552	+12.1
New England----- (13 cities)	777	786	626	+24.1	5,085	4,570	+11.3
Middle Atlantic----- (16 cities)	3,475	3,389	3,115	+11.6	23,605	21,947	+7.6
East North Central----- (17 cities)	2,650	2,471	2,145	+23.5	16,642	14,308	+16.3
West North Central----- (9 cities)	902	857	729	+23.7	6,529	5,440	+20.0
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	1,027	972	817	+25.7	6,621	5,604	+18.1
East South Central----- (7 cities)	533	554	428	+24.5	3,648	3,086	+18.2
West South Central----- (13 cities)	785	800	757	+3.7	6,252	5,464	+14.4
Mountain----- (7 cities)	256	286	203	+26.1	2,081	1,607	+29.5
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,376	1,343	1,196	+15.1	9,752	9,526	+2.4

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Table 5. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED
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(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

CITY	7th week ended Feb. 21, 1953	6th week ended Feb. 14, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 7 WEEKS		CITY	7th week ended Feb. 21, 1953	6th week ended Feb. 14, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 7 WEEKS	
			1953	1952				1953	1952
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston-----	267	273	1,760	1,566	St. Paul-----	67	76	536	460
Bridgeport-----	51	42	259	261	Wichita-----	44	49	327	324
Cambridge-----	---	(20)	---	(241)	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Fall River-----	35	37	212	202	Atlanta-----	135	128	835	707
Hartford-----	70	45	385	334	Baltimore-----	334	296	2,003	1,717
Lowell-----	27	41	205	180	Charlotte-----	48	22	209	201
Lynn-----	27	18	163	175	Miami-----	135	70	514	432
New Bedford-----	31	37	195	175	Norfolk-----	30	34	266	216
New Haven-----	48	65	371	298	Richmond-----	70	70	552	485
Providence-----	68	71	488	468	Tampa-----	86	86	508	467
Somerville-----	28	19	124	121	Washington, D. C.-----	150	230	1,495	1,144
Springfield, Mass.-----	52	37	278	258	Wilmington, Del.-----	39	36	239	235
Waterbury-----	13	27	203	180	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Worcester-----	60	74	442	352	Birmingham-----	77	86	583	496
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Chattanooga-----	42	67	337	354
Albany-----	44	44	343	281	Knoxville-----	64	46	270	226
Buffalo-----	128	157	1,033	1,024	Louisville-----	137	140	847	707
Camden-----	37	30	273	263	Memphis-----	104	108	921	713
Elizabeth-----	---	(36)	---	(274)	Mobile-----	42	44	264	233
Erie-----	32	21	245	233	Montgomery-----	(38)	(29)	(249)	(190)
Jersey City-----	78	83	536	540	Nashville-----	67	63	426	357
Newark, N. J.-----	133	125	862	867	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
New York City-----	1,858	1,877	12,965	11,641	Austin-----	24	26	225	162
Paterson-----	56	42	297	301	Baton Rouge-----	16	14	98	117
Philadelphia-----	572	524	3,599	3,521	Corpus Christi-----	16	18	149	123
Pittsburgh-----	196	156	1,272	1,271	Dallas-----	80	91	752	645
Rochester, N. Y.-----	118	112	760	698	El Paso-----	21	32	253	201
Schenectady-----	22	29	189	171	Fort Worth-----	43	53	465	393
Syracuse-----	64	64	424	371	Houston-----	104	153	988	889
Trenton-----	62	63	376	349	Little Rock-----	38	55	350	337
Utica-----	43	26	218	208	New Orleans-----	211	169	1,263	1,093
Yonkers-----	31	36	213	208	Oklahoma City-----	57	40	453	415
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	88	81	668	546
Akron-----	79	73	478	423	Shreveport-----	45	41	358	271
Canton-----	31	41	211	229	Tulsa-----	42	27	230	272
Chicago-----	866	904	6,184	5,005	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	204	180	1,170	1,021	Albuquerque-----	28	23	235	176
Cleveland-----	258	252	1,567	1,445	Colorado Springs-----	13	10	115	79
Columbus-----	140	144	893	723	Denver-----	111	144	951	743
Dayton-----	---	(74)	---	(421)	Ogden-----	12	18	91	88
Detroit-----	380	339	2,482	2,164	Phoenix-----	33	20	187	156
Evansville-----	23	43	265	245	Pueblo-----	13	20	117	79
Flint-----	42	42	257	261	Salt Lake City-----	46	51	385	286
Fort Wayne-----	28	41	254	206	Tucson-----	(2)	(3)	(41)	(43)
Grand Rapids-----	39	51	315	275	PACIFIC				
Indianapolis-----	125	---	---	(801)	Berkeley-----	20	21	145	154
Milwaukee-----	161	162	1,056	868	Long Beach-----	57	42	351	358
Peoria-----	43	33	240	243	Los Angeles-----	501	480	3,534	3,454
South Bend-----	18	31	167	166	Oakland-----	100	105	751	791
Toledo-----	141	70	669	669	Pasadena-----	37	49	271	254
Youngstown-----	72	65	434	365	Portland, Oreg.-----	111	115	768	802
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					Sacramento-----	52	55	367	339
Des Moines-----	41	67	408	367	San Diego-----	89	51	541	566
Duluth-----	36	26	213	160	San Francisco-----	230	215	1,589	1,439
Kansas City, Kans.-----	58	30	290	272	Seattle-----	101	133	862	834
Kansas City, Mo.-----	124	147	1,080	838	Spokane-----	44	47	313	279
Minneapolis-----	152	159	1,076	875	Tacoma-----	34	30	260	256
Omaha-----	65	63	565	444	Honolulu-----	(25)	(29)	(232)	(229)
St. Louis-----	315	240	2,034	1,700					

Symbols.—parentheses [()]: data not included in table 4; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.