

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



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

With only 6 weeks left, it appears that there will be about 350 less cases of diphtheria in 1953 than in 1952, when 3,051 cases were reported for 52 weeks. The estimated decrease in incidence for 1953 will be approximately half the annual decreases of 27, 31, and 26 percent, respectively, for the previous 3 years.

During the past several years the peak incidence of diphtheria has not been as pronounced as in former years, but the number of reported cases has usually been larger during the fall months than for the other months. Since about September 1, near the beginning of the current school year, a total of 762 cases of diphtheria has been reported in the United States as compared with 1,002 for the corresponding period of 1952.

During the last few years a large proportion of the total diphtheria cases have occurred in the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions. Beginning with the first week in September these 3 divisions have reported more than three-fourths (614 cases) of the total in the Nation. Decreases in the incidence of the disease have occurred in all divisions during the last 20 years, but the decline has been slower in the south eastern part of the country. About 10 States in this section of the United States have reported most of the cases since about Sep-

tember 1, 1953. These States and the numbers of cases reported (last year's figures in parentheses) are as follows: Virginia, 24 (93); North Carolina, 49 (88); South Carolina, 71 (71); Georgia, 159 (91); Florida, 53 (38); Kentucky, 26 (22); Tennessee, 19 (27); Alabama, 99 (223); Mississippi, 25 (15); and Texas, 51 (87). The only apparent concentration of cases is in Jasper County, Georgia, where 20 cases were reported for the week ended November 7. One case was reported in this county the following week and 7 were previously reported in October. Another county, Burke, in the east central part of Georgia, has reported 12 cases since the first of September.

Since January 1, 1953, Puerto Rico has been reporting an average of 6 cases of diphtheria each week. The total to date (297) is 20 percent less than the 370 cases reported for the corresponding period of 1952.

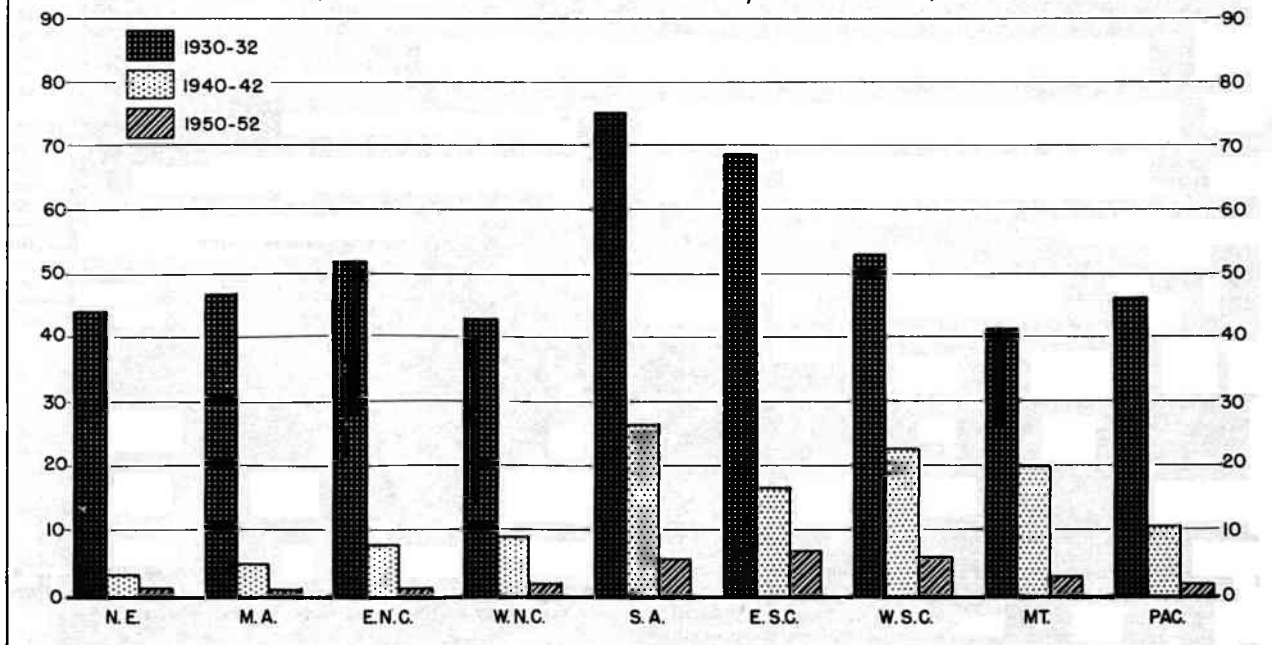
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Botulism

Dr. W. M. Talbert, Illinois Department of Public Health, reports a fatal case of what appears to have been botulism. The

DIPHTHERIA RATES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

(MEAN ANNUAL MORBIDITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION)



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patient, a 58-year-old woman, became violently ill after tasting several cans of home-canned corn. She noticed a peculiar taste to the corn and discarded the contents of the involved cans by feeding it to chickens. It was reported that the chickens died following the consumption of the corn.

Although no post-mortem examination was made, a hospital pathologist was able to secure some of the suspect corn and inoculated 2 guinea pigs with the material. One pig was protected with botulinus antitoxin and the other served as a control. The protected pig survived but the control animal died with symptoms of botulism. A further test was applied by heating the canned corn and inoculating a pig with the material. This pig survived.

Psittacosis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia Department of Health, has supplied additional information on the case of psittacosis reported in an employee of a pet shop. The patient had normal chest findings when first seen, but 2 days later had a diffuse light infiltration in both lower lobes. There was a severe cough and slight hemoptysis for a few days. Convalescence was slow. A laboratory report indicated a positive complement fixation test of 1:1024. A history of virus pneumonia in July 1951 was obtained. About that time she was working in a poultry packing plant. The pet shop where the patient recently worked was in a department store. The parakeets sold by this store were obtained

from a New York supply house, the same as that for birds recently involved in a case reported in Massachusetts.

Dr. W. L. Halverson, Director, California Department of Public Health, has reported 2 cases of psittacosis, both in adult women. One had continuous contact with parakeets in a private aviary. Diagnosis was confirmed by a positive complement test (1:32). The other patient had prolonged contact with pigeons and myna birds. The complement fixation test was positive, 1:64. Both patients had chills and fever, and showed pulmonary infiltration.

Rabies in man

Dr. R. H. Hutcheson, Tennessee Department of Public Health, reports a case of rabies in a 41-year-old woman. The patient was attacked by a fox, and was bitten on the legs, arms, and left hand. The fox was killed and the head sent to the laboratory where it was found to be positive for rabies. The patient's wounds were thoroughly cleansed and she was given antirabic vaccine, the first injection on the day she was bitten (October 14). Two doses of vaccine were given on each of the following 2 days, then one daily until 27 doses had been given. The patient became ill on November 8 with a tingling in the left hand and arm. She developed typical signs and symptoms of rabies and died 3 days later. Unfortunately no autopsy could be obtained.

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
	Nov. 21, 1953	Nov. 22, 1952			1952-53	1951-52		1953	1952	
Anthrax-----062	1 ¹	1	1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	31	33	46
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	12	19	---
Bruceellosis (undulant fever)----044	27	32	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	1,617	1,922	---
Diphtheria-----055	62	82	177	July 1	1,046	1,284	2,298	2,078	2,665	5,307
Encephalitis, acute infectious----082	25	24	21	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	1,031	1,814	886
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	602	506	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	28,595	14,497	---
Malaria-----110-117	24	30	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	1,369	7,481	---
Measles-----085	2,320	2,104	2,104	Sept. 1	² 14,279	12,464	12,464	³ 424,857	653,692	569,190
Meningococcal infections-----057	80	77	65	Sept. 1	813	763	655	4,578	4,272	3,336
Polioyelitis, acute-----080	560	834	733	Apr. 1	⁴ 32,576	53,406	29,563	⁴ 34,090	54,599	30,756
Rabies in man-----094	5 ¹	1	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	13	17	---
Rocky Mountain spotted fever----104A	2	2	2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	290	310	449
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	2,291	2,477	1,295	Aug. 1	19,818	19,215	9,352	119,425	95,080	66,532
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	16	15	29
Trichiniasis-----128	8	3	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	344	327	---
Tularemia-----059	9	15	15	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	476	570	792
Typhoid fever-----040	40	35	42	Apr. 1	1,824	1,866	1,924	2,107	2,247	2,360
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	2	7	---	Apr. 1	179	138	---	217	165	---
Whooping cough-----056	904	740	1,179	Oct. 1	6,147	5,045	8,479	32,517	40,796	60,681
Rabies in animals-----	179	155	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	6,609	6,899	---

¹Reported in New Hampshire.²Not computed.³Addition: Oregon, week ended November 7, 34 cases.⁴Deduction: Nebraska, week ended October 10, 1 case.⁵Reported in Tennessee.

NOTE.—Psittacosis, Minnesota and Virginia, 1 case each.

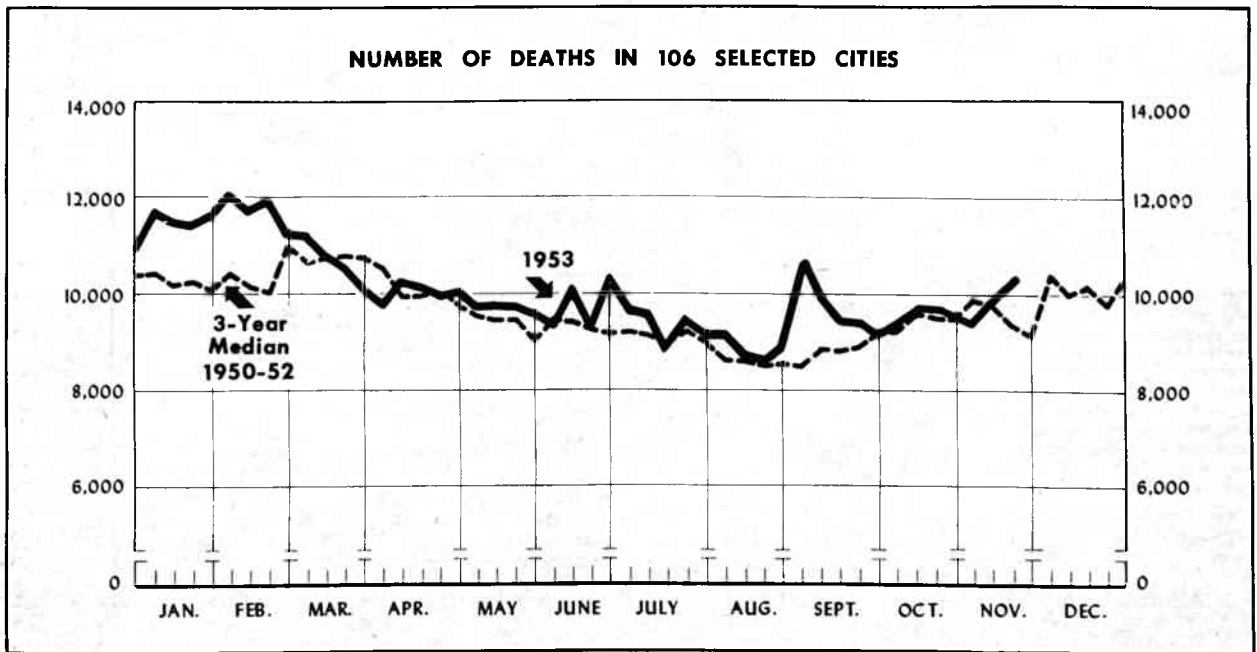
SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

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.

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



The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 106 major cities of the United States by week for the current year, and, for comparison, the median of the number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the three previous calendar years. (The median is the central one of the three values arranged in order of magnitude.) If a report is not received from a city in time to be included in the total for the current week, an estimate is made to maintain comparability for graphic presentation.

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	46th week ended Nov. 21, 1953	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	46th week median 1950-52	Percentage difference between current week and median	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 46 WEEKS		
					1953	1952	Percentage difference
TOTAL: 103 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,204	9,594	9,141	+11.6	453,529	441,983	+2.6
New England----- (14 cities)	693	705	630	+10.0	30,500	30,106	+1.3
Middle Atlantic----- (15 cities)	3,030	2,936	2,757	+9.9	133,083	130,118	+2.3
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,329	2,083	2,127	+9.5	101,954	98,744	+3.3
West North Central----- (9 cities)	754	731	678	+11.2	35,062	33,505	+4.6
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	792	744	793	-0.1	35,378	35,389	-0.0
East South Central----- (7 cities)	397	414	417	-4.8	20,308	19,353	+4.9
West South Central----- (12 cities)	704	632	575	+22.4	30,914	29,713	+4.0
Mountain----- (7 cities)	237	190	227	+4.4	10,806	10,294	+5.0
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,268	1,159	1,142	+11.0	55,524	54,761	+1.4

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Table 5. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED
NOVEMBER 21, 1953

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

CITY	46th week ended Nov. 21, 1953	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 46 WEEKS		CITY	46th week ended Nov. 21, 1953	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 46 WEEKS	
			1953	1952				1953	1952
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston	239	249	10,309	10,141	St. Paul	61	60	2,900	2,762
Bridgeport	38	41	1,530	1,564	Wichita	32	31	1,827	1,803
Cambridge	27	27	1,266	1,342	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Fall River	29	34	1,287	1,216	Atlanta	124	84	4,732	4,625
Hartford	45	46	2,077	2,036	Baltimore	231	202	10,273	10,623
Lowell	29	30	1,166	1,102	Charlotte	32	39	1,324	1,275
Lynn	19	30	1,020	965	Miami	65	48	2,688	2,429
New Bedford	20	25	1,050	1,042	Norfolk	33	31	1,454	1,435
New Haven	32	49	1,982	1,969	Richmond	65	70	2,933	3,064
Providence	71	60	2,742	2,856	Tampa	46	60	2,392	2,432
Somerville	18	13	687	722	Washington, D. C.	160	173	8,066	8,029
Springfield, Mass.	42	45	1,791	1,693	Wilmington, Del.	38	37	1,516	1,477
Waterbury	20	13	1,175	1,109	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Worcester	64	43	2,418	2,349	Birmingham	69	72	3,297	3,181
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Chattanooga	49	41	2,064	2,030
Albany	41	47	2,076	1,889	Knoxville	43	20	1,504	1,458
Buffalo	146	155	6,512	6,230	Louisville	88	95	4,809	4,547
Camden	27	40	1,651	1,639	Memphis	76	97	4,824	4,293
Elizabeth	20	46	1,245	1,315	Mobile	31	35	1,444	1,438
Erie	43	36	1,573	1,490	Montgomery	(26)	(21)	(1,227)	(1,225)
Jersey City	---	(86)	---	(3,259)	Nashville	41	54	2,366	2,406
Newark, N. J.	107	117	4,762	4,727	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
New York City	1,644	1,565	72,122	71,072	Austin	13	29	1,143	1,063
Paterson	47	34	1,773	1,731	Baton Rouge	21	26	744	746
Philadelphia	506	469	22,161	21,321	Corpus Christi	12	16	761	794
Pittsburgh	177	178	7,784	7,904	Dallas	---	(80)	---	(4,008)
Rochester, N. Y.	104	98	4,286	4,142	El Paso	36	30	1,294	1,203
Schenectady	24	13	1,077	1,038	Fort Worth	63	54	2,575	2,439
Syracuse	45	51	2,477	2,342	Houston	115	102	5,570	5,211
Trenton	74	52	2,147	1,996	Little Rock	55	30	1,946	2,033
Utica	25	35	1,437	1,282	New Orleans	165	146	7,185	6,872
Yonkers	---	(31)	---	(1,297)	Oklahoma City	60	59	2,450	2,358
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio	91	68	3,692	3,491
Akron	44	47	2,571	2,510	Shreveport	41	42	1,802	1,742
Canton	36	24	1,298	1,280	Tulsa	32	30	1,752	1,761
Chicago	816	606	33,753	32,695	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati	131	141	6,825	6,426	Albuquerque	41	19	1,222	1,155
Cleveland	227	201	9,391	9,365	Colorado Springs	8	13	603	591
Columbus	108	114	4,744	4,512	Denver	104	81	4,895	4,627
Dayton	72	70	2,820	2,710	Ogden	15	19	564	573
Detroit	355	300	14,423	14,060	Phoenix	20	14	1,011	950
Evansville	33	31	1,477	1,549	Pueblo	7	9	624	570
Flint	37	36	1,646	1,544	Salt Lake City	42	35	1,887	1,828
Fort Wayne	19	48	1,418	1,358	Tucson	(6)	(11)	(235)	(216)
Grand Rapids	33	35	1,774	1,684	PACIFIC				
Indianapolis	127	107	5,134	5,027	Berkeley	20	18	770	848
Milwaukee	108	127	5,545	5,434	Long Beach	39	48	2,096	2,079
Peoria	32	23	1,410	1,355	Los Angeles	488	421	19,961	19,543
South Bend	17	23	1,060	1,050	Oakland	78	82	4,237	4,269
Toledo	102	82	4,213	4,022	Pasadena	41	30	1,560	1,440
Youngstown	52	68	2,452	2,163	Portland, Oreg.	92	81	4,464	4,287
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					Sacramento	49	45	2,114	2,094
Des Moines	60	47	2,261	2,246	San Diego	80	55	3,188	3,179
Duluth	21	16	1,217	1,164	San Francisco	171	184	8,518	8,593
Kansas City, Kans.	30	39	1,527	1,612	Seattle	134	138	5,232	5,021
Kansas City, Mo.	116	114	5,543	5,074	Spokane	42	33	1,911	1,887
Minneapolis	133	115	5,749	5,287	Tacoma	34	24	1,473	1,521
Omaha	56	59	2,916	2,858	Honolulu	(36)	(26)	(1,454)	(1,446)
St. Louis	245	250	11,122	10,699					

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