

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended January 1, 1955

According to the provisional totals for 52 weeks of 1954, compared with those of 1953 as shown in table 1, a number of changes have occurred in the trends in incidence of several communicable diseases. For instance, about as many psittacosis cases were reported during the year as had been recorded during the past 7-year period (1947-53). Case reporting of influenza is not made to the PHS, but laboratory tests showed that the incidence was relatively low; and no widespread epidemics occurred in any part of the year. This is the first year since smallpox was made notifiable that no verified cases were reported, although there were several suspect cases. The incidence of typhoid fever which had been declining for many years remained about the same as in 1953, but diphtheria continued to decline. Meningococcal infections decreased for the first time in 6 years. This probably completes the usual 10- to 12-year cycle of the disease which began in 1944. The numbers of encephalitis and poliomyelitis cases exceed those for 1953, but are less than their respective numbers for 1952 which was an epidemic year for both diseases. The incidence of infectious hepatitis continued to increase, but the increase during the latter part of the year has been relatively small compared with that for the latter part of 1953. The number of malaria cases was about half that for the previous year, with only a few cases being definitely established as indigenous. More cases of measles and whooping cough were reported in 1954 than have been reported for several years.

Psittacosis was not listed as a notifiable disease on a weekly basis in 1953, and the provisional number of cases shown in the table for 52 weeks of that year represents the cumulation of fragmentary reports from a few States. The final figure on an annual basis for last year was 169. Much of the increase this year as well as for 1953 is the result of a large increase in the psittacine bird population together with the discovery that turkeys were sources of infection of many human cases. Twenty-nine States and the District of Columbia reported cases in 1954. Those reporting 15 cases or more are: Texas (151), California (56), Pennsylvania (28), New York (24), Illinois (23), Colorado (20), Washington (16), and Minnesota (15). In Texas, 149 of the cases were among employees of several poultry processing plants. The virus was isolated from turkeys associated with these plants. Several other cases developed among employees of processing plants in 2 other States, and in one instance turkeys were implicated. Pigeons and possibly chickens were involved as the source of infection of several human cases. However, psittacine birds, particularly parakeets, constitute the principal source of infection of human cases. The total number (445) of human cases reported indicates that this disease is still a minor health problem in comparison with most other reportable diseases.

Two outbreaks of infectious encephalitis were reported during the 3-month period, August-October, 1954. One occurred in the southern part of Texas where about 200 cases were reported, beginning with the last week in August. This outbreak occurred simultaneously with an increase in the number of cases reported as poliomyelitis, some of which may have been encephalitis. It is believed that many additional cases occurred but were not officially reported. The St. Louis virus was isolated from a fatal case, and there was serologic evidence to indicate that this virus was the cause of the outbreak. During the 3-month

period, 289 cases were reported in California in the course of their investigations of the disease. Of these, 118 were arthropod types of infection—96 were shown by laboratory tests to be the St. Louis type; 22, Western equine. While the incidence in the State was higher than that for 1953 it was less than that during the 1952 epidemic when about 420 laboratory confirmed cases of arthropod-borne disease were reported. In 1952, the outbreak began 6 weeks earlier and ended about the same time as that for 1954. During the 4½-month period of 1952, almost 3 times as many cases were reported as compared with the number reported during the outbreak in 1954. The predominating virus in 1952 was the Western equine (375 cases) compared with the St. Louis (45 cases).

The increase in poliomyelitis cases began about a week earlier in 1954 than in 1953, but the peak incidence was not reached until the middle of September which was 4 weeks later than in the previous year. This accounts for most of the increase (about 8 percent) in incidence over that for last year. Unusually high incidence occurred in Florida and in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Relatively large increases in the incidence over 1953 were noted in 5 other States: Massachusetts, Iowa, Nebraska, Kentucky, and Texas. In California, a large number of cases occurred but the increase over the previous year was relatively small. However, an outbreak of the disease did occur in the city of Los Angeles during the latter part of July and the early part of August. It was reported that the incidence in that city was higher than that for any year since 1948. In Florida, where an unusually large number of cases were reported, there were 3 different outbreaks. One developed early in the season in Key West. In July an outbreak occurred in Ft. Lauderdale, and late in the season one was reported in Leon County. The latter outbreak was of significance because of its late occurrence and because the group mainly affected was that of young adult females.

The number of cases of infectious hepatitis is about 50 percent greater than the number reported last year. A large proportion of the excess was reported during the first quarter of this year when the number of cases was more than double that for 1953. During the last quarter, the number was only about 5 percent more than the number for the same period of 1953. Increases over last year were reported in all geographic divisions except the East South Central. The greatest increases occurred in the Middle Atlantic, West South Central, and Mountain Divisions. The Middle Atlantic with more than 10,000 cases reported a greater number than any other division in 1954.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Psittacosis

Dr. R. H. Hutcheson, Tennessee Department of Public Health, reports 4 cases of psittacosis. Three were in employees of chain stores which sold parakeets, and 1 was in a family who purchased a bird from one of the stores. These stores received 1,100 parakeets from a company in Missouri about 2 months before Christmas. During a 3-week period, approximately 900 birds were sold and about 25 died before they could be sold. Thirteen of the remaining birds were sent to the CDC Virus Laboratory, and psittacosis virus was isolated from 1. Blood

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

specimens were collected from 10 other birds, and the complement fixation test was positive for 2. The results of complement fixation tests on blood specimens of the 4 patients have not yet been received.

The California Department of Public Health reports 2 cases of psittacosis. One was in a 58-year-old man who had 3 parakeets. One of the birds was droopy with ruffled feathers the next day after the purchase, and died the following day. Eleven days later the owner became ill with pneumonia, having fever, a cough, and pains in the chest. A diagnosis of psittacosis was made on the basis of chest X-rays. It was confirmed by a complement fixation test which was positive for the disease in a dilution of 1:32. The other case was in the wife of an operator of a private aviary of 200 parakeets. None of the birds was examined, but the complement fixation titer on blood specimens of the patient rose from 1:32 to 1:64.

Fish poisoning

The California Department of Public Health reports an outbreak of poisoning following the ingestion of smoked bonito. Nine of 16 persons who ate the fish became ill with flushed face, diarrhea, headache, pain in the neck, chills, cramps, and an unusual sensation of upper lip from 15 minutes to 1½ hours later. The fish were caught off the coast and were taken to a smoking and curing place. A similar outbreak was reported for the week ended December 4. As a result of these outbreaks, an attempt is being made to determine the source of illness following the consumption of this type of fish.

Gastro-enteritis

The Los Angeles City Health Department reports 2 outbreaks of gastro-enteritis among patrons of 2 restaurants. No food was

Continued on page 8

Table 1. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES
(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	52d week			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended Jan. 1, 1955 ¹	Ended Jan. 2, 1954	Median 1949-53	52 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1954 ¹	1953 ¹	Median 1949-53	1953-54	1952-53	Median 1948-49 to 1952-53	
Anthrax-----062	-	1	-	19	33	44	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	13	³ 12	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	36	22	---	1,712	1,792	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Diphtheria-----055	42	51	78	2,083	2,392	4,152	1,211	1,545	2,182	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-----082	16	37	15	1,907	1,131	1,047	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	668	647	---	49,727	33,363	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Malaria-----110-117	1	2	---	705	1,426	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Measles-----085	8,201	4,751	4,101	682,904	446,331	521,120	55,076	36,092	31,434	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	66	93	80	⁴ 4,105	5,078	4,125	⁴ 1,089	1,322	1,206	Sept. 1
Poliomyelitis-----080	143	198	198	58,734	35,953	35,968	37,181	34,387	34,387	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	-	-	---	445	54	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	-	9	13	13	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rocky Mountain spotted fever-----104A	1	2	1	292	299	334	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	1,694	3,097	1,452	144,689	133,379	74,105	36,948	34,634	16,925	Aug. 1
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	4	18	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Trichiniasis-----128	1	4	---	251	372	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Tularemia-----059	24	17	19	628	567	665	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Typhoid fever-----040	25	24	20	2,276	2,294	2,393	1,866	1,991	1,991	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	-	3	---	183	228	---	149	188	---	Apr. 1
Whooping cough-----056	1,077	665	809	60,972	36,915	67,981	17,211	9,757	14,206	Oct. 1
Rabies in animals-----	93	136	---	⁵ 6,739	7,398	---	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

¹Excludes Texas for 52d week. ²Information not available or frequencies are too small. ³Corrected figure. ⁴Addition: Week ended December 25, Kansas, 2 cases and Utah, 1 case. ⁵Addition: Week ended December 25, Kentucky, 1 case.

NOTES:

For dengue, 4 cases were reported in 1954, 8 in 1953.

No cases of cholera, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, or yellow fever were reported in the United States during 1953 and 1954.

SOURCE AND NATURE OF MORBIDITY DATA

These provisional data are based on reports to the Public Health Service from health departments of each State and Territory and of one possession. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, psittacosis, rabies in man, and smallpox are not shown

in table 2, but a footnote to table 1 shows the States making the reports. In addition, when diseases of rare occurrence (cholera, dengue, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted at the end of table 1.

Symbols.—1 dash [-]: no cases reported; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 2, 1954, AND JANUARY 1, 1955

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER) (044)		DIPHTHERIA (055)		ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS (082)		HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM (092,N998.5 pt.)		MALARIA (110-117)			
									Civilian ¹		Military	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	36	22	42	51	16	37	668	647	-	2	1	-
NEW ENGLAND-----	1	-	-	2	2	-	78	47	-	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	17	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	-	-	-	1	2	-	26	24	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	1	2	3	-	5	13	226	113	-	-	-	-
New York-----	1	1	2	-	4	13	113	75	-	-	-	-
New Jersey-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	11	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	-	1	1	-	-	-	103	27	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	18	8	4	10	2	19	97	113	-	-	-	-
Ohio-----	-	-	-	4	-	1	15	30	-	-	-	-
Indiana-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	16	-	-	-	-
Illinois-----	13	6	-	2	1	-	47	32	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	5	2	4	2	1	18	22	31	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	3	4	8	1	-	-	79	105	-	-	-	-
Minnesota-----	2	-	1	1	-	-	38	48	-	-	-	-
Iowa-----	1	3	-	-	-	-	18	45	-	-	-	-
Missouri-----	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
North Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-
Kansas-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	4	-	10	22	2	2	41	91	-	-	-	-
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Maryland-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Virginia-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	47	-	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	10	-	-	-	-
North Carolina-----	-	-	2	5	1	-	5	16	-	-	-	-
South Carolina-----	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia-----	3	-	4	6	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Florida-----	1	-	1	9	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	-	1	12	9	-	1	24	50	-	-	-	-
Kentucky-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-
Tennessee-----	-	-	2	5	-	-	11	22	-	-	-	-
Alabama-----	-	-	9	4	-	1	5	3	-	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	-	1	1	-	-	-	6	17	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	4	7	1	6	2	1	8	29	-	2	-	-
Arkansas-----	-	³ 6	-	-	1	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma-----	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	6	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	19	-	2	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	4	-	3	-	1	1	59	32	-	-	-	-
Montana-----	1	-	3	-	-	1	7	4	-	-	-	-
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	2	-	-	-	-	-	13	19	-	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	1	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Utah-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	1	-	1	1	2	-	56	67	-	-	1	-
Washington-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	18	14	-	-	-	-
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	19	-	-	-	-
California-----	1	-	1	-	2	-	22	34	-	-	1	-
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-

¹Includes cases not specified as civilian or military.

³Includes delayed cases.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 2, 1954, AND JANUARY 1, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	MEASLES (085)		MENINGO- COCCAL INFECTIONS (057)		POLIOMYELITIS (080)						ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (104A)	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	Total ²		Paralytic (080.0,080.1)		Nonparalytic (080.2)		1955	1954
					1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954		
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	8,201	4,751	66	93	143	198	65	76	28	37	1	2
NEW ENGLAND-----	2,712	123	-	7	8	19	2	12	4	4	-	-
Maine-----	213	81	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
New Hampshire-----	35	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	20	-	1	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	1,806	13	-	-	4	9	2	7	2	1	-	-
Rhode Island-----	55	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	603	8	-	2	2	5	-	3	-	2	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	2,846	712	16	20	34	23	14	6	5	-	-	-
New York-----	1,309	435	9	9	23	10	10	3	5	-	-	-
New Jersey-----	475	32	2	4	6	4	4	3	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	1,062	245	5	7	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	1,332	1,229	5	18	21	32	9	10	3	1	1	-
Ohio-----	125	143	-	3	5	4	1	1	-	-	1	-
Indiana-----	29	446	-	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Illinois-----	153	235	2	3	2	6	2	2	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	879	370	-	7	13	15	5	7	3	1	-	-
Wisconsin-----	146	35	3	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	280	199	5	3	10	17	2	7	1	2	-	1
Minnesota-----	137	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iowa-----	66	162	-	-	1	6	-	-	1	-	-	-
Missouri-----	40	5	1	-	2	4	1	3	-	1	-	-
North Dakota-----	25	9	1	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	3	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Nebraska-----	-	6	-	2	6	2	1	1	-	1	-	-
Kansas-----	9	8	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	226	304	12	10	15	24	8	7	4	5	-	1
Delaware-----	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Maryland-----	16	79	1	1	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	1	5	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia-----	23	39	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	143	33	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	2	-	-
North Carolina-----	13	17	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	-	-	1
South Carolina-----	1	32	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia-----	22	55	3	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Florida-----	6	43	3	2	4	13	2	2	1	3	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	178	402	11	12	10	6	5	-	1	2	-	-
Kentucky-----	15	238	5	3	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
Tennessee-----	137	92	2	2	2	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
Alabama-----	18	44	4	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	8	28	-	4	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	63	545	3	13	6	17	3	8	2	3	-	-
Arkansas-----	58	35	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	3	63	2	1	4	1	2	1	2	-	-	-
Oklahoma-----	2	8	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	-	439	-	9	-	15	-	7	-	3	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	124	721	1	1	9	14	3	5	1	1	-	-
Montana-----	14	91	-	-	1	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
Idaho-----	3	141	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	292	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	9	20	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	39	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	53	4	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Utah-----	6	163	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	440	516	13	9	30	46	19	21	7	19	-	-
Washington-----	84	169	1	-	6	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
Oregon-----	29	49	2	1	6	3	6	1	-	1	-	-
California-----	327	298	10	8	18	38	11	20	7	18	-	-
Alaska-----	-	16	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	21	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	50	12	-	1	19	-	19	-	-	-	-	-

²Includes cases not specified by type, category number (080.3).

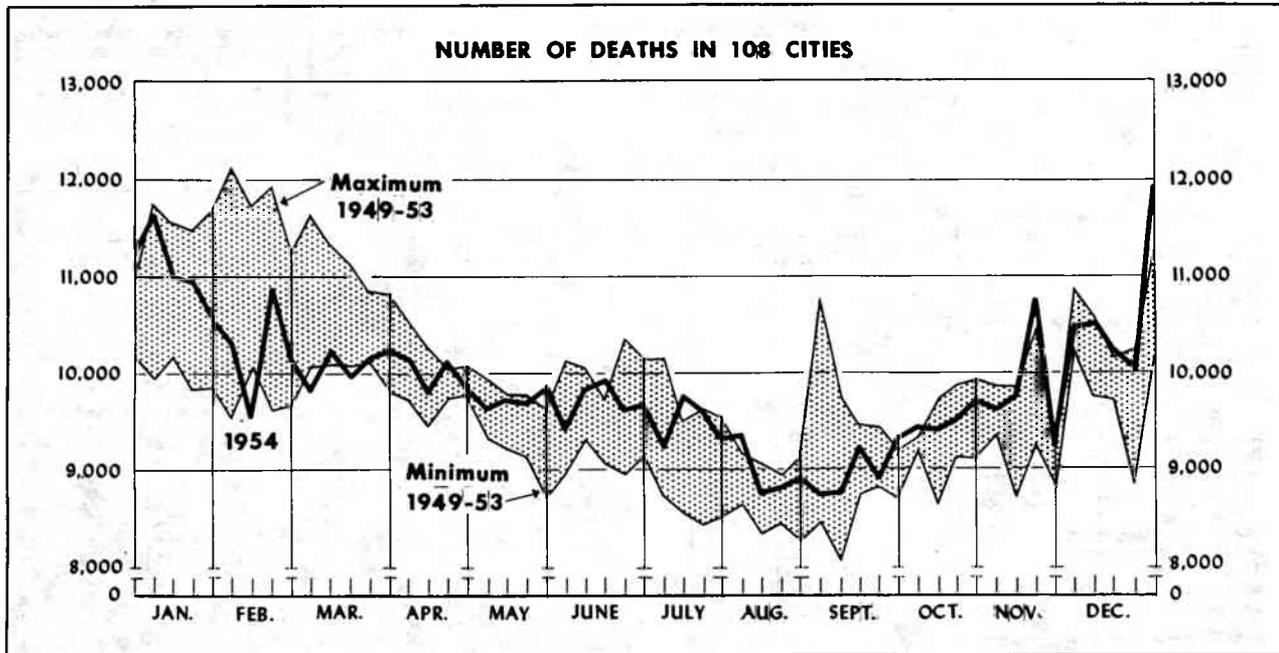
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 2, 1954, AND JANUARY 1, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT (050,051)		TRICHI- NIASIS (128)	TULAREMIA (059)		TYPHOID FEVER (040)		TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC (101)	WHOOPING COUGH (056)		RABIES IN ANIMALS	
	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	1,694	3,097	1	24	17	25	24	-	1,077	665	93	136
NEW ENGLAND-----	144	199	1	-	-	-	-	-	212	86	-	-
Maine-----	12	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	-	-
New Hampshire-----	15	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-
Vermont-----	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	-
Massachusetts-----	80	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	21	-	-
Rhode Island-----	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	98	4	-	-
Connecticut-----	27	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	16	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	210	277	-	-	-	4	3	-	222	211	13	7
New York-----	110	134	-	-	-	2	1	-	88	124	10	5
New Jersey-----	29	59	-	-	-	-	2	-	28	49	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	71	84	-	-	-	2	-	-	106	38	3	2
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	291	445	-	8	2	4	5	-	213	123	19	28
Ohio-----	62	100	-	-	1	2	4	-	25	25	4	-
Indiana-----	40	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	10	1	11
Illinois-----	71	102	-	7	1	-	1	-	25	12	11	13
Michigan-----	74	112	-	1	-	-	-	-	98	56	1	4
Wisconsin-----	44	92	-	-	-	2	-	-	42	20	2	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	65	158	-	2	1	-	-	-	71	5	15	8
Minnesota-----	9	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	2	2	3
Iowa-----	8	56	-	1	-	-	-	-	14	-	1	1
Missouri-----	14	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	2	9	3
North Dakota-----	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-
South Dakota-----	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kansas-----	4	27	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	325	274	-	4	5	2	1	-	129	65	20	27
Delaware-----	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Maryland-----	116	27	-	-	-	1	-	-	13	20	-	-
District of Columbia-----	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-
Virginia-----	59	89	-	-	1	-	-	-	26	5	3	5
West Virginia-----	28	94	-	2	-	-	-	-	46	26	7	9
North Carolina-----	47	16	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	2	1	-
South Carolina-----	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	5	9
Georgia-----	46	22	-	2	3	-	1	-	23	-	1	2
Florida-----	10	13	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	3	2
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	82	85	-	9	-	7	3	-	32	34	16	30
Kentucky-----	15	27	-	3	-	-	2	-	11	30	2	8
Tennessee-----	45	44	-	5	-	4	-	-	12	1	5	6
Alabama-----	14	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	-	5	9
Mississippi-----	8	7	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	3	4	7
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	47	930	-	1	8	4	9	-	11	77	3	23
Arkansas-----	16	45	-	1	³ 8	1	2	-	-	11	3	7
Louisiana-----	12	8	-	-	-	2	5	-	8	3	-	-
Oklahoma-----	19	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	-	-
Texas-----	-	862	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	61	-	16
MOUNTAIN-----	298	530	-	-	-	3	-	-	26	30	6	-
Montana-----	12	8	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Idaho-----	13	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	-
Wyoming-----	16	452	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	35	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
New Mexico-----	43	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	4	-
Arizona-----	143	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	1	2	-
Utah-----	34	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Nevada-----	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	232	199	-	-	1	1	3	-	161	34	1	13
Washington-----	55	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	14	-	-
Oregon-----	48	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	-
California-----	129	122	-	-	1	1	3	-	118	16	1	13
Alaska-----	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	5	-	-

³Includes delayed cases.



The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 108 major cities of the United States by week during the past year. (An estimate is made for a missing report for the last week in December to maintain comparability for graphic presentation.) For comparison, the chart shows both the maximum and minimum number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the 5 previous calendar years.

The provisional figures shown in tables 3 and 4 were compiled from reports of the number of death certificates received each week in the vital statistics office of each city. The weekly count included all certificates for deaths occurring within the city limits, regardless of the date of death and regardless of the residence of the deceased.

Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. Differences are to be expected because of variations in

the interval between death and receipt of the certificate. Whenever a holiday falls on the last day of the work week, the number of death certificates received for that week is usually low, while the number for the following week is high.

When the data shown here are used to compare 2 cities or to compare 2 years for a certain city, consideration must be given to several factors. The number of deaths reported by a city generally varies with the size of its population, so that changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due in part to population increases or decreases. In cities of the same size, the number of deaths may differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations. Some cities are hospital centers serving large numbers of persons from areas outside the city limits, and in some areas the hospitals serving the city are outside the city limits.

See page 8 for a summary of mortality in 1954.

Table 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

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

AREA	52d week ended Jan. 1, 1955	51st week ended Dec. 25, 1954	52d week median 1951-53	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS		
					1954	1953	Percent change
TOTAL: 107 REPORTING CITIES-----	11,099	10,006	10,932	+1.5	510,408	523,394	-2.5
New England----- (14 cities)	792	716	751	+5.5	34,155	34,634	-1.4
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	3,251	3,008	3,400	-4.4	150,028	155,619	-3.6
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,451	2,304	2,407	+1.8	111,805	115,341	-3.1
West North Central----- (9 cities)	745	690	782	-4.7	38,166	39,425	-3.2
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	936	755	901	+3.9	38,996	40,123	-2.8
East South Central----- (8 cities)	470	370	496	-5.2	23,612	24,314	-2.9
West South Central----- (12 cities)	854	672	838	+1.9	38,733	38,502	+0.6
Mountain----- (8 cities)	275	234	239	+15.1	11,873	12,471	-4.8
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,325	1,257	1,234	+7.4	63,040	62,965	+0.1

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 1, 1955

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

CITY	52d week ended	51st week ended	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS		CITY	52d week ended	51st week ended	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS	
	Jan. 1, 1955	Dec. 25, 1954	1954	1953		Jan. 1, 1955	Dec. 25, 1954	1954	1953
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston-----	279	230	11,480	11,676	St. Louis-----	222	230	12,013	12,422
Bridgeport-----	44	35	1,810	1,768	St. Paul-----	62	74	3,510	3,279
Cambridge-----	38	37	1,423	1,420	Wichita-----	61	17	2,142	2,056
Fall River-----	35	36	1,399	1,465	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford-----	51	60	2,417	2,362	Atlanta-----	119	108	5,389	5,383
Lowell-----	27	33	1,402	1,315	Baltimore-----	227	230	11,150	11,645
Lynn-----	18	20	1,104	1,158	Charlotte-----	34	8	1,515	1,463
New Bedford-----	24	26	1,171	1,188	Jacksonville-----	(66)	(41)	(2,527)	---
New Haven-----	54	45	2,211	2,271	Miami-----	40	58	3,065	3,019
Providence-----	72	53	3,133	3,138	Norfolk-----	38	23	1,489	1,630
Somerville-----	21	18	759	775	Richmond-----	79	54	3,273	3,337
Springfield, Mass.-----	39	32	2,008	1,995	Sevannah-----	(25)	(37)	(1,433)	---
Waterbury-----	33	23	1,231	1,315	Tampa-----	91	52	2,738	2,721
Worcester-----	57	68	2,607	2,788	Washington, D. C.-----	259	192	8,691	9,203
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Wilmington, Del.-----	49	30	1,686	1,722
Albany-----	54	49	2,357	2,340	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Allentown-----	(54)	(33)	(1,754)	---	Birmingham-----	71	52	3,777	3,751
Buffalo-----	137	128	6,979	7,364	Chattanooga-----	38	23	2,172	2,321
Camden-----	43	39	1,902	1,863	Knorrville-----	20	34	1,755	1,681
Elizabeth-----	65	44	1,493	1,428	Louisville-----	122	78	5,407	5,466
Krie-----	37	43	1,732	1,769	Memphis-----	128	97	4,965	5,426
Jersey City-----	70	59	3,535	3,590	Mobile-----	41	29	1,672	1,618
Newark, N. J.-----	76	92	5,017	5,386	Montgomery-----	14	24	1,354	1,408
New York City-----	1,752	1,603	78,905	81,733	Nashville-----	36	33	2,510	2,643
Paterson-----	39	40	1,954	1,984	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Philadelphia-----	507	463	23,747	25,039	Austin-----	21	22	1,303	1,275
Pittsburgh-----	206	173	8,355	8,855	Baton Rouge-----	7	14	1,102	872
Reading-----	(24)	(21)	(1,063)	---	Corpus Christi-----	10	8	895	851
Rochester, N. Y.-----	83	105	4,694	4,843	Dallas-----	84	86	5,087	4,946
Schenectady-----	18	36	1,263	1,212	El Paso-----	---	(28)	---	(1,488)
Scranton-----	(42)	(31)	(1,760)	---	Fort Worth-----	87	40	2,909	2,911
Syracuse-----	65	53	2,832	2,792	Houston-----	147	120	6,219	6,326
Trenton-----	41	40	2,320	2,434	Little Rock-----	50	25	2,125	2,197
Utica-----	30	25	1,543	1,605	New Orleans-----	224	145	7,741	8,166
Yonkers-----	28	16	1,400	1,382	Oklahoma City-----	59	45	3,008	2,769
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	104	96	4,076	4,176
Akron-----	54	59	2,768	2,922	Shreveport-----	36	32	1,998	2,015
Canton-----	40	25	1,452	1,469	Tulsa-----	25	39	2,270	1,998
Chicago-----	781	742	36,970	38,216	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	171	123	7,173	7,728	Albuquerque-----	23	28	1,402	1,388
Cleveland-----	197	201	10,223	10,584	Colorado Springs-----	11	12	627	669
Columbus-----	115	90	5,202	5,335	Denver-----	108	99	5,227	5,484
Dayton-----	91	52	3,236	3,198	Ogden-----	24	12	589	640
Detroit-----	369	391	16,031	16,419	Phoenix-----	30	24	1,088	1,192
Evansville-----	40	41	1,557	1,688	Pueblo-----	17	13	681	707
Flint-----	35	37	1,910	1,873	Salt Lake City-----	57	46	2,054	2,129
Fort Wayne-----	36	35	1,374	1,594	Tucson-----	5	-	205	262
Gary-----	(18)	(33)	(1,336)	---	PACIFIC				
Grand Rapids-----	45	52	2,056	2,001	Berkeley-----	18	19	900	896
Indianapolis-----	131	118	5,716	5,766	Long Beach-----	53	56	2,510	2,388
Milwaukee-----	129	137	6,299	6,299	Los Angeles-----	516	429	22,523	22,543
Peoria-----	31	28	1,518	1,607	Oakland-----	77	85	4,657	4,809
South Bend-----	32	24	1,204	1,184	Pasadena-----	37	32	1,715	1,773
Toledo-----	98	107	4,609	4,733	Portland, Oreg.-----	81	102	4,913	5,008
Youngstown-----	56	42	2,507	2,725	Sacramento-----	49	46	2,389	2,420
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					San Diego-----	60	59	3,681	3,651
Des Moines-----	43	38	2,580	2,551	San Francisco-----	209	218	9,522	9,631
Duluth-----	31	19	1,333	1,378	Seattle-----	136	127	6,205	5,971
Kansas City, Kans.-----	26	41	1,736	1,710	Spokane-----	54	56	2,302	2,181
Kansas City, Mo.-----	135	102	6,024	6,212	Tacoma-----	35	28	1,725	1,694
Minneapolis-----	102	113	5,878	6,523	Honolulu-----	(48)	(35)	(1,741)	(1,630)
Omaha-----	63	56	3,150	3,294					

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

available at either place for bacteriological examination, but pot roast and hollandaise sauce were suspected of being the vehicles of infection. At one restaurant, the meat for the pot roast was received 2 days prior to its use and was kept in a walk-in icebox. Ten pieces of meat were roasted. As the meat was needed, it was sliced and placed on a steam table. However, the meat for a party of 16 was served directly on the plates. Of these, 10 became ill from 10 to 15 hours later. The sauce at another restaurant was prepared at 5:30 p.m., and was kept on a shelf near the steam table. Of a group of 11 persons who ate at 9:30 p.m., 6 became ill about 4 hours later.

Dr. W. R. Giedt, Washington State Department of Health, reports an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among persons who ate ham and turkey dinners. The ham was boned at the butcher shop where it was purchased. Both the ham and the turkey were cooked in a private home. The ham was then taken to the butcher shop for slicing. Both meats were left at room temperature until the next day, and were served in sandwiches in the afternoon and as sliced meat at 6:00 p.m. Eight persons became ill with severe vomiting, diarrhea, and prostration from 1 to 1½ hours later. Because of the pattern of food intake and illness, it is believed that ham was the probable vehicle of infection, and that the turkey was contaminated from it, either in handling or en route to the laboratory. Gram-positive micrococcus having characteristics of toxigenic staphylococcus was found in specimens of both the ham and the turkey.

SUMMARY OF MORTALITY

During the 52-week period January 3, 1954, through January 1, 1955, a total of 510,408 deaths was reported by the 107 major cities listed in table 4. This was 2.5 percent less than the number of deaths (523,394) reported by these cities during the 52-week period January 4, 1953, through January 2, 1954. Since it is believed that the population of these cities continued to grow, the drop in the numbers of deaths represents a real improvement in mortality for 1954 over that for 1953.

The chart on page 6 shows the number of deaths reported for the major cities of the United States by week during 1954. The outstanding feature in the mortality picture is the very low level of deaths during February and March. This is related to the absence of any reported outbreak of influenza in the early months of 1954, in contrast with outbreaks in each of the 4 preceding years. The severe and widespread outbreak of influenza in the first 2 months of 1953 was responsible for the maximum number of weekly deaths for January and February shown in the chart for the period 1949-53, while the 1951 outbreak produced the high points for March. The 1950 and 1952 outbreaks also reached their peaks in March, but fell below 1951 in the numbers of deaths.

The very pronounced fluctuation of the 1954 curve in February was due to the method of reporting deaths by week of receipt of the death certificates. In some cities Lincoln's Birthday was observed as a holiday on Friday, the last day in the work week; the number of death certificates received for that week was low, while the number for the following week was high.

No peaks in the 1954 curve are particularly prominent during the summer months. However, the extreme heat experienced by the West Central States in July resulted in excess deaths reported by cities in that area.

The sharp fluctuation in November of the 1954 curve was caused when many of the city vital statistics offices closed Thursday and Friday of the Thanksgiving week. The low number of death certificates received for that week was later balanced by the high number the following week. A similar swing is seen for the 2 weeks including and following Christmas.

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