

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



U. S. Department of
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended February 26, 1955

The incidence of measles has been increasing for the past 6 months, but during January and February of 1955 the increase has not been as great as for the corresponding months of 1954. During the 8-week period ended February 26, there has been a little more than a twofold increase as compared with a fourfold increase for the corresponding period of last year.

This is the first week in more than a year that the reported cases of measles were less than those for the corresponding week of the previous year.

During the first 8 weeks of 1955, a total of 121,519 cases of measles has been reported as compared with 96,359 for the corresponding period of 1954. For the "disease year," which began about September 1, the cumulative total is 177,269 as compared with 132,451 for the corresponding previous period.

The provisional rate for cases of typhoid fever in the United States was 1.4 per 100,000 estimated population for 1954. Rates for the individual States are shown in the accompanying chart.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Influenza

The following reports have been received by the WHO Influenza Information Center, NIH, and the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Dr. R. F. Feemster, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, reports serological diagnosis of influenza B in 2 students at Andover. Influenza virus, not yet typed, has been recovered in 5 throat washings from college students at Cambridge. The wave of upper respiratory disease in this area reached its peak during the third week of February and has now subsided.

Dr. Irving Gordon, New York State Health Department, reports the serological diagnosis of influenza B in one of four paired sera from an outbreak of an influenza-like disease near Ravena, New York, late in January.

Dr. M. L. Robbins, Ohio State Department of Health, reports that, in cooperation with the Communicable Disease Center, samples were obtained and an investigation made of an outbreak occurring in a school near Columbus early in January. Approximately 89 percent of the 288 students were ill during the several weeks of the epidemic. The illness was characterized by respiratory symptoms, digestive symptoms, and frequently by conjunctivitis. Severity was variable and 2 of the students developed pneumonia, 1 of whom died 3 days after onset of illness. Preliminary laboratory results showed some samples of convalescent sera with elevated titers to influenza B, and two of six paired sera showed a significant increase in influenza B antibodies, but it is not clear that all cases were due to influenza virus.

Dr. M. M. Sigel, Communicable Disease Center, Montgomery, Alabama, reports serological evidence of influenza B in several patients in Birmingham and Auburn, Alabama.

The World Health Organization, Geneva, reports the presence of an influenza B epidemic in different parts of Japan. The infection appeared on Hondo Island late in January and in Tokyo early in February, principally among school children.

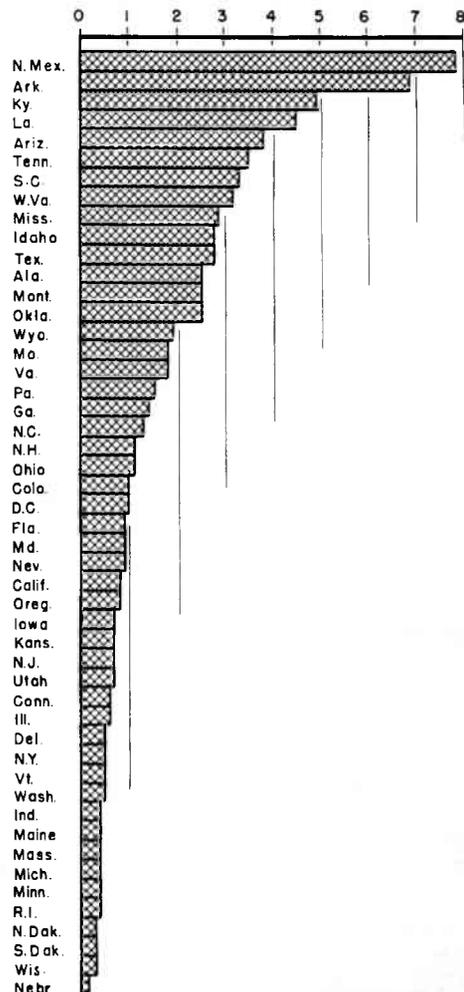
Poliomyelitis

Dr. Juan A. Pons, Secretary of Health, Puerto Rico, has supplied information on the epidemic of poliomyelitis which has

been occurring in Puerto Rico. The disease was first recognized on the island in 1928, and sporadic cases have been reported each year throughout the island without any significant concentration except in 1942 and 1946, when there were 117 and 307 cases, respectively. During 1954, only 21 cases were reported up to

Provisional Rates for Typhoid Fever Cases Reported by Each State: 1954

(Rates per 100,000 population)



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

the end of October. In November there was a sudden upsurge in incidence in a semirural area of 7,000 inhabitants (Toa Baja Municipality), 27 cases with 4 deaths developing in rapid succession in a period of about a month. The epidemic soon spread to the surrounding rural territory, where a total of 40 cases with 5 deaths was reported. The incidence per 100,000 population reached 287 in the whole municipality of Toa Baja. The epidemic spread to other adjacent areas and for the period beginning November 1, 1954, and ended January 31, 1955, there was a total of 218 cases with 16 deaths.

Laboratory tests by the U. S. Army Tropical Research Laboratory at San Juan, on 2 autopsy specimens revealed the presence of type I virus.

The age distribution of the cases was similar to that of previous epidemics, the pattern characterizing tropical poliomyelitis. Five percent of the cases were in persons under 6 months of age; 13 percent, 6 to 11 months old; 49 percent, 1 to 2 years old; 20 percent, 3 to 5 years old; about 10 percent, 6 to 9

years old; and nearly 3 percent were 10 years of age and over.

The 218 cases in persons were classified according to severity as follows: 7.3 percent died; 47.2 percent were severe, having involvement of one or more extremities; 32.6 percent were mild; and 8.3 had no residual paralysis or muscular weakness at the time of the report.

Cryptococcosis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia Department of Health, has reported a fatal case of cryptococcosis in an elderly white female. The first symptoms appeared in June 1954, when an egg-sized mass appeared fairly suddenly on the patient's neck. The mass subsided, but in August the patient developed a sore throat, malaise, fever, and a cough. Rigidity of the neck was noted when she was admitted to a hospital. An X-ray examination showed no evidence of an active pulmonary disease. Biopsy of the cervical mass showed a granulomatous inflammatory

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	8th week			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended Feb. 26, 1955	Ended Feb. 27, 1954	Median 1950-54	First 8 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1955	1954	Median 1950-54	1954-55	1953-54	Median 1949-50 to 1953-54	
Anthrax-----062	-	-	-	4	2	5	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	4	6	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	20	29	---	² 150	208	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-----055	33	33	54	333	319	607	1,550	1,664	2,789	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-----082	27	21	20	156	137	137	1,508	864	861	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	891	1,708	---	7,459	9,964	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-----110-117	4	4	---	25	57	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Measles-----085	19,382	19,714	14,918	121,519	96,359	85,397	177,269	132,451	114,787	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	104	127	115	776	906	906	1,868	2,228	2,130	Sept. 1
Poliomyelitis-----080	70	99	96	³ 748	1,120	997	³ 7,935	35,507	35,507	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	4	5	---	⁵ 57	22	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	-	1	1	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Rocky Mountain spotted fever-----104A	-	1	1	9	4	6	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	5,199	4,849	3,291	⁶ 32,571	34,244	21,661	⁶ 69,962	68,878	37,983	Aug. 1
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	-	4	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Trichiniasis-----128	3	7	---	23	40	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tularemia-----059	15	9	9	125	118	118	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Typhoid fever-----040	27	28	28	204	250	247	2,077	2,241	2,241	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	-	4	---	9	20	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Whooping cough-----056	1,077	991	991	10,679	8,329	9,432	27,961	18,086	23,638	Oct. 1
Rabies in animals-----	137	196	174	963	1,425	1,313	2,316	3,209	---	Oct. 1

¹Frequencies are too small.

²Deduction: New Mexico, week ended February 12, 4 cases.

³Addition: South Carolina, week ended February 12, 1 case.

⁴Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin, 1 case each.

⁵Addition: Kentucky, week ended February 19, 1 case.

⁶Additions for week ended February 19: Virginia, 100 cases; Washington, 19; and Wyoming, 22.

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 antirax, 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 FEBRUARY 27, 1954, AND FEBRUARY 26, 1955

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

AREA	BRUCELOSIS (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-----	20	29	33	33	27	21	891	1,708	4	3	-	1
NEW ENGLAND-----	1	5	-	-	-	2	70	64	-	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	23	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	1	-	-	-	-	2	28	25	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	24	8	-	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	-	-	2	2	8	10	218	291	-	-	-	-
New York-----	-	-	2	1	7	10	112	206	-	-	-	-
New Jersey-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	18	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	88	67	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	3	3	9	-	2	3	92	215	-	-	-	-
Ohio-----	-	-	3	-	-	-	30	38	-	-	-	-
Indiana-----	-	-	5	-	1	1	6	45	-	-	-	-
Illinois-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	20	35	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	1	-	-	-	1	1	18	73	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin-----	2	-	1	-	-	1	18	24	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	5	11	1	2	1	1	131	412	-	-	-	1
Minnesota-----	1	4	-	1	-	1	41	59	-	-	-	-
Iowa-----	2	3	-	-	-	-	47	268	-	-	-	-
Missouri-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	20	-	-	-	-
North Dakota-----	1	1	-	-	-	-	9	28	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	18	32	-	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Kansas-----	-	2	-	-	1	-	8	5	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	4	3	5	14	2	2	79	261	-	-	-	-
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
Maryland-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	33	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Virginia-----	1	3	-	-	-	-	35	146	-	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	31	-	-	-	-
North Carolina-----	-	-	1	5	-	-	18	29	-	-	-	-
South Carolina-----	-	-	-	6	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-
Georgia-----	2	-	2	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Florida-----	1	-	-	-	2	2	3	3	-	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1	-	8	11	5	1	62	146	-	-	-	-
Kentucky-----	-	-	1	1	-	-	8	35	-	-	-	-
Tennessee-----	-	-	3	3	3	-	33	62	-	-	-	-
Alabama-----	1	-	-	5	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	-	-	4	2	2	1	13	45	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	4	5	7	4	2	-	49	96	2	2	-	-
Arkansas-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	7	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	1	2	1	-	-	-	2	20	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	25	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	2	1	6	4	2	-	28	44	2	2	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	2	2	-	-	-	1	64	68	-	1	-	-
Montana-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	21	-	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	1	1	-	-	-	-	16	28	-	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	2	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	17	15	-	1	-	-
Utah-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	-	-	1	-	7	1	126	155	2	-	-	-
Washington-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	30	-	-	-	-
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	48	-	-	-	-
California-----	-	-	-	-	7	1	80	77	2	-	-	-
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹Includes cases not specified as civilian or military.

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 FEBRUARY 27, 1954, AND FEBRUARY 26, 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-----	19,382	19,714	104	127	70	99	20	29	32	30	-	1
NEW ENGLAND-----	6,287	371	4	3	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Maine-----	284	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	616	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	251	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	2,768	83	1	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	437	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	1,931	21	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	3,854	3,191	19	14	6	9	3	1	-	1	-	-
New York-----	1,255	2,242	8	6	3	6	3	1	-	-	-	-
New Jersey-----	1,947	72	3	6	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	652	877	8	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	2,537	4,116	12	19	4	11	1	3	-	3	-	-
Ohio-----	357	1,120	3	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana-----	187	959	3	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Illinois-----	244	750	4	5	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	777	995	2	4	-	5	-	2	-	2	-	-
Wisconsin-----	972	292	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	1,284	559	3	9	5	12	-	4	2	8	-	-
Minnesota-----	541	17	2	2	-	4	-	1	-	3	-	-
Iowa-----	364	118	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Missouri-----	195	87	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
North Dakota-----	125	38	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	9	11	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
Nebraska-----	8	187	-	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Kansas-----	42	101	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	645	2,809	25	28	5	11	2	3	3	1	-	1
Delaware-----	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland-----	64	483	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	10	73	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia-----	109	592	5	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	187	129	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina-----	15	395	11	11	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
South Carolina-----	47	595	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Georgia-----	137	220	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Florida-----	74	309	6	2	4	4	2	-	2	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	510	2,807	10	23	6	7	1	-	3	1	-	-
Kentucky-----	55	1,402	3	11	4	3	1	-	3	-	-	-
Tennessee-----	345	814	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alabama-----	83	510	3	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	27	81	1	4	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1,799	2,598	19	18	22	15	6	3	11	3	-	-
Arkansas-----	90	124	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	4	272	5	10	4	2	2	-	2	2	-	-
Oklahoma-----	72	118	2	3	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	1,633	2,084	10	5	18	6	4	1	9	1	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	695	940	1	2	4	8	1	2	2	1	-	-
Montana-----	27	129	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
Idaho-----	14	184	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	32	98	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
New Mexico-----	277	115	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	327	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah-----	8	264	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	1,771	2,323	11	11	17	24	6	12	11	12	-	-
Washington-----	353	675	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oregon-----	70	79	2	1	3	1	1	-	2	1	-	-
California-----	1,348	1,569	8	6	14	23	5	12	9	11	-	-
Alaska-----	3	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	205	10	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	1	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	46	131	-	-	32	4	32	4	-	-	-	-

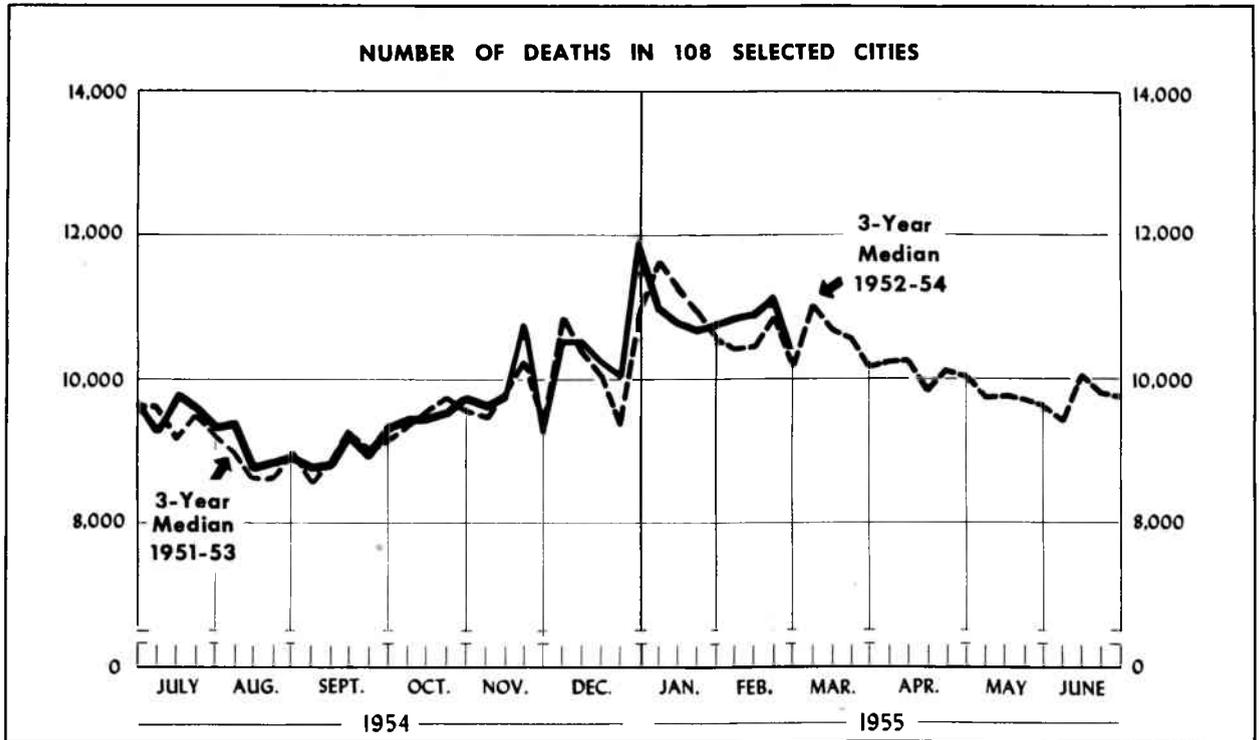
²Includes cases not specified by type, category number (080.3).

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED FEBRUARY 27, 1954, AND FEBRUARY 26, 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-----	5,199	4,849	3	15	9	27	28	-	1,077	991	137	196
NEW ENGLAND-----	239	396	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	95	-	-
Maine-----	4	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	6	-	-
New Hampshire-----	5	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-
Vermont-----	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	-	-
Massachusetts-----	171	155	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	52	-	-
Rhode Island-----	16	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-
Connecticut-----	42	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	19	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	582	798	3	2	-	5	3	-	126	238	13	2
New York-----	274	376	3	-	-	2	2	-	47	116	8	1
New Jersey-----	67	111	-	-	-	-	1	-	16	29	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	241	311	-	2	-	3	-	-	63	93	5	1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	719	943	-	2	-	-	3	-	209	202	9	27
Ohio-----	148	236	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	30	3	3
Indiana-----	230	97	-	-	-	-	1	-	60	21	4	9
Illinois-----	106	187	-	2	-	-	-	-	20	15	1	11
Michigan-----	130	182	-	-	-	-	1	-	76	108	-	4
Wisconsin-----	105	241	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	28	1	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	142	248	-	-	1	2	-	-	86	66	15	23
Minnesota-----	36	79	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	10	2	1
Iowa-----	26	63	-	-	-	1	-	-	22	13	6	8
Missouri-----	22	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	7	12
North Dakota-----	34	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	-	1
South Dakota-----	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Nebraska-----	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kansas-----	20	39	-	-	1	-	-	-	26	23	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	868	465	-	2	2	2	9	-	115	82	45	45
Delaware-----	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Maryland-----	188	71	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	8	-	-
District of Columbia-----	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-
Virginia-----	312	143	-	1	1	-	1	-	25	11	18	13
West Virginia-----	195	76	-	-	-	-	6	-	45	22	5	16
North Carolina-----	71	106	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	13	4	4
South Carolina-----	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	5	4
Georgia-----	40	31	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	7	5	8
Florida-----	30	22	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	11	8	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	249	347	-	1	4	4	7	-	66	80	29	41
Kentucky-----	101	163	-	-	1	2	2	-	19	48	5	11
Tennessee-----	121	148	-	1	3	2	3	-	18	9	8	8
Alabama-----	17	21	-	-	-	-	1	-	29	11	12	9
Mississippi-----	10	15	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	4	13
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1,281	875	-	6	2	7	3	-	159	120	21	58
Arkansas-----	76	88	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	12	-	12
Louisiana-----	11	6	-	1	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-
Oklahoma-----	46	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2
Texas-----	1,148	743	-	2	-	4	1	-	155	105	21	44
MOUNTAIN-----	569	339	-	2	-	2	2	-	91	29	2	-
Montana-----	12	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Idaho-----	39	17	-	-	-	1	2	-	5	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	70	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	111	49	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	6	-	-
New Mexico-----	115	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	4	2	-
Arizona-----	172	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	16	-	-
Utah-----	50	26	-	-	-	1	-	-	22	2	-	-
Nevada-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	550	438	-	-	-	5	1	-	154	79	3	-
Washington-----	167	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	20	-	-
Oregon-----	90	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	21	-	-
California-----	293	233	-	-	-	5	1	-	112	38	3	-
Alaska-----	5	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	3	14	-	1



The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 108 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 3 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 with a weekly average of 50 deaths, the number of deaths occurring in a week may be expected to vary by chance alone from $36 \pm 2\sqrt{d}$, 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 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

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

AREA	8th week ended Feb. 26, 1955	7th week ended Feb. 19, 1955	8th week median 1952-54	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 8 WEEKS		
					1955	1954	Percent change
TOTAL: 106 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,393	11,073	10,101	+2.9	85,918	84,611	+1.5
New England----- (14 cities)	702	763	701	+0.1	5,984	5,781	+3.5
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	3,022	3,315	3,025	-0.1	25,672	25,130	+2.2
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,306	2,440	2,180	+5.8	18,559	18,300	+1.4
West North Central----- (8 cities)	708	769	677	+4.6	5,657	5,848	-3.3
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	859	829	840	+2.3	6,562	6,429	+2.1
East South Central----- (8 cities)	495	523	482	+2.7	4,046	4,048	-0.0
West South Central----- (13 cities)	826	841	790	+4.6	6,736	6,683	+0.8
Mountain----- (7 cities)	213	225	214	-0.5	1,868	1,705	+9.6
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,262	1,368	1,282	-1.6	10,834	10,687	+1.4

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

TABLE 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 26, 1955

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

CITY	8th week ended Feb. 26, 1955	7th week ended Feb. 19, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 8 WEEKS		CITY	8th week ended Feb. 26, 1955	7th week ended Feb. 19, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 8 WEEKS	
			1955	1954				1955	1954
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL--Con.				
Boston-----	252	262	2,047	1,851	St. Louis-----	242	277	1,783	1,922
Bridgeport-----	35	38	321	292	St. Paul-----	52	54	536	577
Cambridge-----	22	35	245	240	Wichita-----	44	43	326	348
Fall River-----	23	34	236	243	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford-----	45	51	439	398	Atlanta-----	106	95	859	887
Lowell-----	16	22	192	253	Baltimore-----	259	242	1,927	1,925
Lynn-----	23	14	191	205	Charlotte-----	42	29	277	242
New Bedford-----	24	22	196	204	Jacksonville-----	(40)	(63)	(416)	(427)
New Haven-----	51	50	404	407	Miami-----	50	61	461	506
Providence-----	70	79	554	548	Norfolk-----	39	25	288	251
Somerville-----	16	17	130	127	Richmond-----	66	84	597	540
Springfield, Mass.-----	33	47	363	355	Savannah-----	---	(33)	---	(241)
Waterbury-----	36	32	241	216	Tampa-----	63	62	493	480
Worcester-----	56	60	426	442	Washington, D. C.-----	192	190	1,341	1,328
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Wilmington, Del.-----	42	41	319	270
Albany-----	52	62	393	384	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Allentown-----	(31)	(27)	(285)	(284)	Birmingham-----	104	94	719	686
Buffalo-----	131	104	1,159	1,270	Chattanooga-----	37	46	364	425
Camden-----	39	48	332	326	Knoxville-----	30	36	287	303
Elizabeth-----	26	37	242	252	Louisville-----	122	136	925	899
Erie-----	39	31	281	262	Memphis-----	97	99	843	828
Jersey City-----	76	79	600	649	Mobile-----	33	33	268	268
Newark, N. J.-----	112	115	946	873	Montgomery-----	26	26	243	240
New York City-----	1,571	1,765	13,522	13,255	Nashville-----	46	53	433	409
Paterson-----	35	43	307	331	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Philadelphia-----	497	491	4,034	3,782	Austin-----	24	26	233	207
Pittsburgh-----	184	207	1,525	1,369	Baton Rouge-----	17	27	191	205
Reading-----	(17)	(23)	(193)	(173)	Corpus Christi-----	12	28	146	123
Rochester, N. Y.-----	78	116	805	804	Dallas-----	101	106	792	848
Schenectady-----	23	22	184	224	El Paso-----	23	31	237	232
Scranton-----	(38)	(31)	(298)	(291)	Fort Worth-----	43	51	450	450
Syracuse-----	56	61	461	475	Houston-----	149	125	1,068	1,104
Trenton-----	45	58	398	400	Little Rock-----	56	25	344	356
Utica-----	28	39	251	242	New Orleans-----	184	171	1,330	1,294
Yonkers-----	30	37	232	232	Oklahoma City-----	62	66	473	501
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	85	98	746	653
Akron-----	46	48	442	456	Shreveport-----	35	40	348	312
Canton-----	24	31	227	272	Tulsa-----	37	47	378	398
Chicago-----	769	781	6,029	5,878	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	159	161	1,286	1,148	Albuquerque-----	---	(35)	---	(235)
Cleveland-----	219	228	1,658	1,719	Colorado Springs-----	16	14	113	101
Columbus-----	106	108	896	890	Denver-----	107	110	967	833
Dayton-----	68	72	560	541	Ogden-----	9	12	90	79
Detroit-----	328	345	2,729	2,655	Phoenix-----	24	32	218	209
Evansville-----	38	37	250	259	Pueblo-----	16	17	114	118
Flint-----	28	38	287	308	Salt Lake City-----	35	35	329	334
Fort Wayne-----	32	26	260	202	Tucson-----	6	5	37	31
Gary-----	(29)	(26)	(227)	(201)	PACIFIC				
Grand Rapids-----	47	58	327	341	Berkeley-----	22	21	145	167
Indianapolis-----	105	146	926	998	Long Beach-----	54	68	434	401
Milwaukee-----	111	138	986	1,029	Los Angeles-----	463	519	4,087	3,899
Peoria-----	28	36	242	269	Oakland-----	90	80	774	822
South Bend-----	25	17	204	180	Pasadena-----	33	52	304	259
Toledo-----	105	96	797	746	Portland, Oreg.-----	68	94	765	807
Youngstown-----	68	74	453	409	Sacramento-----	46	51	410	413
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					San Diego-----	76	81	658	606
Des Moines-----	59	47	401	375	San Francisco-----	186	211	1,588	1,610
Duluth-----	25	29	218	211	Seattle-----	122	113	1,016	1,039
Kansas City, Kans.-----	---	---	---	(248)	Spokane-----	52	43	344	385
Kansas City, Mo.-----	110	128	884	915	Tacoma-----	50	35	309	279
Minneapolis-----	110	119	966	982	Honolulu-----	(38)	(35)	(289)	(268)
Omaha-----	66	72	543	518					

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

change with necrosis. Routine agglutinations of blood serum were negative. Spinal punctures were made and at times revealed a bloody spinal fluid. A diagnosis of cryptococcus meningitis was made in October. Sulfadiazine, actidione, polymyxin, and hydroxystilbomidine were used in treatment. The patient's condition became worse and she died in December.

Psittacosis

Dr. M. D. Keller, Ohio Department of Health, reports a case of psittacosis in a 33-year-old man who was admitted to a hospital for an acute respiratory illness. This man works in a department store where birds are sold and he had exposure to parakeets. Blood specimens collected on the 5th, 16th, and 27th days of illness were negative, positive in dilutions of 1:10 and 1:40, respectively, by the complement fixation tests.

Dr. R. F. McAteer, Rhode Island Department of Health, reports a case of psittacosis in an adult female. The patient became ill with general malaise, dry cough, and fever. Chest X-rays revealed pneumonitis and paired blood specimens were positive for psittacosis in dilutions of 1:32.

A case of psittacosis has been reported in Kentucky's Weekly Morbidity report for the week ended February 19. This is the first proven case of psittacosis in the State during the past 3 years. The patient, a 40-year-old woman, developed fever, headache, muscle aches, and a severe nonproductive cough about a week after she received a parakeet as a gift. Chest X-ray revealed abnormal infiltration of both lung fields. The complement fixation test was positive for psittacosis.

The California Department of Public Health reports that psittacosis virus has been isolated from a parakeet associated with the case reported February 5.

Gastro-enteritis

The New York State Department of Health reports 4 cases of gastro-enteritis in a family of 5. They became ill with chills, followed by dizziness, nausea, and repeated vomiting about 14 hours after eating a meal. The menu consisted of chicken (frozen), canned spinach, canned corn, boiled potatoes, and pasteurized milk. Stool specimens of 2 patients were negative for pathogens. None of the chicken was available for laboratory tests, but a sample of spinach yielded a moderate amount of staphylococci.

Gastro-enteritis of unknown etiology

Dr. M. D. Keller reports that thousands of cases of acute gastro-enteritis have occurred in and around Toledo, Ohio. The illnesses were characterized by sudden onsets of abdominal cramps followed by diarrhea and weakness. The outbreak began early in February, and by the middle of March it apparently had passed its peak. The water supply was found to be satisfactory. Stool specimens failed to yield pathogens upon laboratory examination, and blood specimens showed no significant titers for influenza A or B. Throat washings gave no viral growth in eggs.

Fish poisoning

Dr. A. C. Hollister, California Department of Public Health, has supplied data on 2 outbreaks of poisoning following the ingestion of smoked bonito. These outbreaks were reported under gastro-enteritis for the week ended January 29. Information from Dr. B. W. Halstead, College of Medical Evangelists, stated that symptoms in the 2 outbreaks are typical of what has been termed "scambroid fish poisoning." This particular type of intoxication is due to the production of a histamine-like substance as the result of bacteriological action on the flesh of the fish which was inadequately refrigerated or preserved. Causative agents of this particular type of outbreak are usually mackerel, bonito, tuna, or similar types of fish. Fish kept at a temperature of 70 degrees are likely to develop a toxin within a period of approximately 16 hours.

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