# Public Health Reports 

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## PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS OF MEMBERS OF LOW-INCOME FARM FAMILIES-11,490 PERSONS IN 2,477 FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION BORROWER FAMILIES, $1940{ }^{1}$

## VI. EXTENT OF IMMUNIZATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, DIPHTHERIA, AND TYPHOID FEVER

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Immunizations against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever have been in use for a considerable period and have been practiced on a relatively large proportion of the population. Immunizations against scarlet fever and whooping cough are of more recent development, and their use is not so universally urged by health authorities. Collins (4) reports about 4 percent of all children 10 years of age to have had artificial immunization against scarlet fever (1930); no quantitative statement regarding whooping cough vaccine is available. Although immunization against typhoid fever is infrequent in northern States it has been used extensively in southern rural areas.

This study is a quantitative statement of the extent of immunization procedures against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever among low-income farm families in the United States. The data are cumulative at specific ages, that is, they relate to the entire time prior to examination and are not a record of current annual immunizations. It is possible, however, to subtract successive cumulated rates and so obtain an estimated average annual rate of immunization for specific age groups.

The examined population, described in the first report of this series (6), resided in rural sections of eastern, central, and southern States and consisted of families of farmers in selected areas who had been

[^0]granted rehabilitation loans by the Farm Security Administration. During the course of a general physical examination each person was asked whether he or she had ever been immunized against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever. No inquiry was made concerning the number of times immunized or the number of years since the last immunization.

Earlier studies made by this office on the frequency of immunization procedures specific for size of city and family income provide data for comparison with the frequency of immunization in low-income farm families. These studies were made from two sources: (a) A record of illness and medical services obtained by the Committee on the Costs of Medical care (1,2,8) and (b) a health record secured by the Communicable Disease Survey in a 1 -day canvass in large cities (5). The survey made by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care was a record of illness, immunization, physical examination, and medical services received during an observed 12 -month period, 1928-31. The family roster and certain past history items were obtained on the initial visit to each family. The observed population consisted of the members of 9,000 white families in 130 localities in 18 States representing every size of community. The records were obtained by visiting nurses through the cooperation of local health organizations. The Communicable Disease Survey was conducted in the spring of 1936 and was a bouse-to-house canvass of 213,931 families in 28 cities of 100,000 population or more located in 19 States. A single visit was made to each household and information on illness and medical services was obtained usually from the housewife.

## IMMUNIZATION AND LOCALITY

Table 1 shows in each of 19 localities the percentage of white children under 15 years of age in Farm Security Administration borrower families that had been immunized at any time against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever. Thirty percent of all children had been vaccinated against smallpox, 46 percent had been immunized against diphtheria, and 24 percent against typhoid fever. There is a wide range in the percentage of children immunized in the separate localities; from 5 to 63 percent for smallpox, from 30 to 74 percent for diphtheria; and from practically zero to 75 percent for typhoid fever. In this connection, column 4 of table 1 shows health organization facilities in counties as of June 1941 (7); "full time" indicates that the county had a local health officer or the services of a State or local district unit. Among the six northern counties there is no apparent association between organization of a county health department and extent of immunization found on examination of these farm children. However, among southern counties there is probably: some slight
association which can scarcely account for the total variability． In southern counties，with and without organized health services， 35 and 22 percent of white children had been immunized against smallpox at some time since birth，and 50 and 36 percent against diphtheria，respectively．

Table 1．－Percentage of white children under 15 years of age that had been im－ munized ${ }^{1}$ against smallpox，diphtheria，and typhoid fever－members of Farm Security Administration borrower families in 19 localities， 1940.

| Geographic area | State | County | Health depart－ ment services ${ }^{2}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { Known } \\ \text { as to } \\ \text { immu- } \\ \text { niza- } \\ \text { tion } \end{gathered}\right.$ | With prior immuniza－ tion against－ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Small－ pox | Diph－ theria | Ty－ phoid fever |
| Northeast <br> East North Central． | Maine．．．．．．．．．． | Champaign．．．－ | Full time－．－－ | Number | 14.0 | $\begin{array}{\|} \text { Percents } \\ 33.4 \end{array}$ | 0.2 |
|  |  |  |  | 447 |  |  |  |
|  | Ohio．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．－ |  |  | 176 | 19.9 | 37.5 | ． 6 |
|  | Indiana | Montgomery．－ | －．．－do．．．．．．．．． | 130 | 55.4 | 69.2 | 3.8 |
| West North Central． | Missouri．．．．－．－． | Callaway－．．－－ | Full time．－．－－ | 281 | 10.7 | 42.7 | 6.8 |
|  | Nebraska．－．．．．．－ | Howard．．．．．．－ | Unorganized．－ | 252 | 21.8 63 | 33.3 6.5 | ．88 |
| Mountain－－－－－－－－－－－ | Colorado．．． | Phillips | －．．．do．－－．．．－．－ | 165 | 63.0 | 65.5 | 1.8 |
| South Atlantic．．．．．．．－ | Virginia | Spotsylvania．－ | do－－．．．－－－－ | 74 | 37.8 | 33.8 | 4.1 |
|  | North Carolina－ | A very．．．．．．．．－－ | Full time．．．．． | 99 | 43.4 | 48.5 | 34.3 |
|  | South Carolina．－ | Kershaw | ．．．－do．－．－．．．－－－ | 311 | 55.3 | 30.5 | 19.3 |
|  | Georgis．．．．．．．． | Worth． | －do | 278 | 31.3 | 40.3 | 35.6 |
|  | Florida－－．．．．．－．－ | Levy | do | 205 | 17.6 | 63.9 | 29.3 |
| East South Central．－ | Tennessee－．．．．．．．－ | Henderson | －－do－ | 240 | 10.0 | 40.0 | 75.8 |
|  | Mississippi．．．． | $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { Carroll．．} \\ \text { Lefiore．．}\end{array}\right.$ | Fuorganized．－ | 192 | 44.8 | 68.7 | 53.1 |
| West South Central． | Arkansas．．．．．．．．－ | Humphreys | －do．－ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Pope | do | 324 | 43.8 | 32.4 | 30.6 |
|  | Oklahoma．．．．．．－ | Okfuskee．．．．．－ | Unorganized．－ | 252 | 43.3 | 48.4 | 33.3 |
|  | Louisians．．．．．．－－ | Franklin． | Full time－－－．－ | 497 | 31.6 | 74.2 | 48.3 |
|  |  | Panola－－－ | Unorganized．－ | 117 | 5.1 | 31.6 | 9.4 |
|  | －－－－do－．－－－．－－－．－ | Williamson | －－do． | 146 | 10．3 | 29.5 | 3.4 |
|  |  | Runnels | －－do． | 123 | 13.0 | 38.2 | 5.7 |
| 19 localities． |  |  |  | 4，309 | 29.7 | 45.9 | 23.6 |

${ }^{1}$ Immunization at any time since birth．
2 From Kratz（7）．Health Department services as of June 1941.
${ }^{2}$ The range of the probable error of the percentage immunized against smallpox is from 1.1 to 3.8 percent； against diphtheria from 1.3 to 3.7 percent；against typhoid fever from 0.1 to 3.2 percent．

A slightly higher percentage of children in the South had been immunized than in the North；${ }^{2}$ the small differences in the percentage

[^1]Immunizations administered by State Health Departments，1939－41

| Immunization against－ |  | 喿 | 品 |  | 葢 |  |  |  |  | 咢 |  | 鹪 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Annual rate per 1，000 population |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Smallpox | 10.3 | 5.7 | 18.1 | 2.1 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 8.5 | 17.2 | 21.9 | 16.3 | 16.7 | 6.0 |
| Diphtheria | 8.7 | 5.7 | 13.4 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 8.2 | 14.2 | 15.8 | 10.4 | 14.8 | 7.0 |
| Typhoid fever． | 13.8 | ． 9 | 36.6 | ． 3 | ． 2 | ． 1 | 3.5 | 32.6 | 52.4 | 28.9 | 7.6 | ． 6 |

immunized in North and South against both smallpox and diphtheria are statistically significant (table 2). The percentage of preschool children that had been immunized is higher in the North for smallpox and higher in the South for diphtheria. Immunization against typhoid fever is markedly higher in the South, particularly in areas where floods occur as in Tennessee (table 1).

Table 2.-Percentage of white children under 15 years of age that had been immunized ${ }^{1}$ against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever in Northern and Southern localities 2-members of Farm Security Administration borrower families, 1940

| Age | Known as to immunization |  | With prior immunization against- |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Smallpox |  | Diphtheria |  | Typhoid fever |  |
|  | North | South | North | South | North | South | North | South |
|  | Number |  | Percent |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 15 | 1,447 | 2,862 | 24.7 | 32.2 | 42.6 | 47.7 | 2.1 | 34.5 |
| Under 5 | 419 495 | 796 980 | 66.9 25.9 | 1.0 30.0 | 15.3 48.1 | 32.3 49.3 | .2 1.6 | 7.9 34.5 |
| 10-14. | 533 | 1,086 | 37.7 | 30.1 | 46.8 | 49.3 57.4 | 1.6 4.1 | 34.5 54.0 |

${ }^{1}$ Immunization at any time since birth.
${ }^{2}$ The localities included are:
North: Aroostook County, Maine; Champaign County, Ohio; Montgomery County, Ind.; Callaway County, Mo.; Howard County, Nebr.; and Phillips County, Colo.
South: Spotsylvania County, Va.; Avery County, N. C.; Kershaw County, S. C.; Worth County, Ga.; Levy County, Fla.; Henderson County, Tenn.; parts of Carroll, Leflore, and Humphreys Counties, Miss.; Pope County, Ark.; Okfuskee County, Okla.; Franklin Parish, La.; and Panola, Williamson, and Runnels Counties, Tex.

## TREND IN IMMUNIZATION

A trend in the immunization rate is of necessity reflected in the frequency of immunization based on the prior history of persons examined. From a comparison of survey data Collins (5) concluded that there had been no marked change in the rate of vaccination against smallpox between 1929 and 1935; while "the proportion of children immunized against diphtheria appears to have increased rather markedly" although "diphtheria immunizations administered by State Health Departments do not indicate large increases since 1937."

The Annual Report of the Department of Health of New York State (9) gives an interesting tabulation of immunizations against diphtheria performed by the department. The immunization rate for all ages combined declines, from 1926 to 1940, from approximately 2.5 to 1.2 percent for the State exclusive of New York City; urban rates are slightly higher than rural, and both show approximately the same rate of decline. Specific for age, however, the annual rate at which immunizations were performed has been increasing at ages
under 5 years and decreasing over 5 years of age in both urban and rural areas. In other words, the percentage of total immunizations done under 5 years of age has increased; from approximately 20 to 70 percent in urban areas, and from 20 to 60 percent in rural areas, 1926 to 1940. This is in agreement with the recommendation of health organizations that immunization, particularly against diphtheria, be performed at early ages when the death rate is relatively high. In recent years the most conspicuous change in immunization against diphtheria has been this shift to younger ages, although some areas would probably still show an increase in the rates for all ages.

Mississippi State Health Department reports (8) also give the annual number of immunizations performed by the State and county health departments. The annual rate of immunization against diphtheria during the last decade was approximately 2 to 3 percent of the total population with about 70 percent of immunizations performed under 5 years of age in counties with organized health services. The rate of vaccination against smallpox shows an association with the establishment of local health departments. Approximately one-third of Mississippi counties have had the services of full-time health officers since 1930 or earlier; another one-third of the counties have had organized health departments since 1930; and the remaining one-third are unorganized counties. In unorganized counties the vaccination rate is approximately 1 percent or less except in epidemic years; while in counties with well-established health departments and in those with recently organized health services the vaccination rate is approximately 3 to 4 percent of the total population annually.

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Figure 1 shows the percentage of children of specific ages that had been vaccinated against smallpox as obtained in three comparable surveys; rates are plotted on semilogarithmic paper for the Farm Security Administration examinations, the Communicable Disease Survey (exclusive of the West) and the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care survey. For all three curves (fig. 1) the percentage vaccinated increases rapidly under 2 years of age, and continues to increase at a slightly less rapid rate until the age of school entrance, 6 to 7 years. The farm children examined by the Farm Security Administration differ from the children of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care (urban and rural) and Communicable Disease (urban) surveys in having a relatively smaller percentage vaccinated under 1 year of age and an increasing percentage vaccinated during school ages, 7 to 15 years. At 15 years of age approximately 60 percent of Farm Security Administration children and 65 percent of children reported upon by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care have been vaccinated against smallpox at some time since birth; the Communicable Disease

Survey of children in large cities shows approximately 90 percent had been vaccinated by the time they had reached 15 years of age.


Figure 1.-Percantage of children of specificages that had been immunized against smallpox and diphtheria | at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration physical examinations, 1940, and comparable data ( $1,8,6$ ). (The Communicable Disease Survey data are exclusive of the West.)

The frequency of vaccination against smallpox varies markedly with size of city and slightly with income and section of the country (1). In


Figure 2a.-Percentage of children of specific ages in urban and rural areas that had been vaccinated against smallpox at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration physical examinations, 1940, and Committee on the Costs of Medical Care (1).

Figure 2b.-Percentage of urban children of specific ages by family income and of rural children of rehabilitation borrower families that had been immunized against smallpox at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration physical exAdministration physical ex-
aminations, 1940, and Communicable Disease Survey (b), exclusive of the West. been immunized against small-

SMALLPOX



Ftauri 2c-Percentage of urban children of specificages by family income and of rural children of rehabilitation borrower families that had been immunized against diphtheria at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration physical examinations, 1940, and Communicable Disease Survey (5), exclusive of the West.
the Costs of Medical Care study smallpox vaccination is approximately twice as frequent in large cities as in rural areas, 84 and 42 percent,
respectively, at 15 years of age. Figure 2 shows the percentage of children in specific age groups that had been vaccinated against smallpox for children of Farm Security Administration borrower families compared with children of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care Survey in rural areas and three size-of-city groups. Smallpox vaccination is obviously less frequent among the Farm Security Administration farm families than among canvassed families living in cities of 5,000 or more population; and is about the same as among canvassed families in small towns and rurals areas. The somewhat higher percentage vaccinated for Farm Security Administration farm. children than for the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care rural children may be largely accounted for by the greater representation of


Figure 3.-Percentage of children of specific ages in urban and rural areas of North and South that had been vaccinated against smallpox at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration physical examinations, 1940, and Committee on the Costs of Medical Care (1).
the South among the rural rehabilitation families, where the percentage vaccinated is slightly higher (table 2 and fig. 3 ).

Figure 2 also shows the percentage of children in specific age groups that had been vaccinated against smallpox for children of Farm Security Administration families compared with children in families of 4 income groups in cities of 100,000 or more population. The only significant difference among the city curves is the higher percentage of children vaccinated under 5 years of age in families of $\$ 3,000$ or more family income. Children of rural farm families have a lower percentage vaccinated than children of families of any income level among city populations.

Except for cities of 100,000 and over in population the South shows a higher percentage vaccinated than the North (1) (fig. 3). For each of three age groups the frequency of vaccination among children of

Farm Security Administration borrower families in the North is about equivalent to that of children in rural areas or small towns as recorded in the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care Survey for the North and about equal to that in rural areas for the South（fig．3）．

Boys and girls（table 3）show practically identical age－specific per－ centages vaccinated against smallpox．Under 6 years of age，the

Table 3．－Percentage of white children at specific ages that had been immunized ${ }^{1}$ against smallpox，diphtheria，and typhoid fever－members of Farm Security Administration borrower families in a total of 19 localities，${ }^{2} 1940$

| Age | Known as to immunization |  |  | With prior immunization against－ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Smallpox |  |  | Diphtheria |  |  | Typhoid fever |  |  |
|  |  | 芯 | 䍖 |  | 茞 | 岕 |  | 䍖 | 買 | 気號 | 䍖 | 哭 |
|  | Number |  |  | Percent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 15 | 4，309 | 2，194 | 2， 115 | 29.7 | 30.1 | 29.2 | 45.8 | 46.6 | 45.0 | 23.6 | 24.9 | 22.3 |
| Under 1. | 224 | 100 | 124 | ． 4 |  | ． 8 | 4.9 | 3.0 | 6.5 | ： 9 | 1.0 | ． 8 |
| Do－－ | 202 | ${ }_{193}^{93}$ | 109 | ${ }^{.} 5$ |  | 4 | 17.8 | 16． 1 | 19.3 | .$^{5}$ |  | ． 8 |
| Under 2 | 253 | 127 | 126 | 3． 2 | 2.4 | 4.0 | 33．2 | 34.6 | 31.7 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Under 3 | 260 278 | 130 | 130 138 | 3.5 6.5 | 2.3 | 4.6 | 30.8 | 31.5 | 30.0 | 4.2 14 | 4.6 14.5 | 3.8 14.5 |
| Under 4 | 2278 | 138 | 138 136 | 6.5 9.7 | 6.5 10.6 | 6．5 | 38．8 | 43.5 32.6 | 34.1 43.4 | 14.5 | 14．5 | 14．5 |
| Under 6 | 285 | 154 | 131 | 14.4 | 14.9 | 13.7 | 46.0 | 46.8 | 45.0 | 17.9 | 16.9 | 19.1 |
| Tinder 7. | 313 | 178 | 135 | 33.9 | 33.7 | 34.1 | 47.6 | 48.9 | 45.9 | 25.6 | 27.5 | 23.0 |
| Under 8 | 303 | 144 | 159 | 37.3 | 40.3 | 34.6 | 52.1 | 57． 6 | 47.2 | 27.7 | 25.7 | 29.6 |
| Under 9. | 297 | 150 | 147 | 42.1 | 44.0 | 40.1 | 54.9 | 56.7 | 53.1 | 31.6 | 31.3 | 32.0 |
| Under 10 | 328 | 153 | 175 | 50.3 | 50.3 | 50.3 | 57.6 | 58.2 | 57.1 | 34.1 | 34.6 | 33.7 |
| Under 11 | 326 | 151 | 175 | 46.6 | 49.0 | 44.6 | 61.0 | 62.9 | 59.4 | 34.4 | 43.7 | 26.3 |
| Under 12 | 325 | 188 | 137 | 50.8 | 48.4 | 54.0 | 55.7 | 54.8 | 56．9 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41.6 |
| Under 13 | 319 | 171 | 148 | 51.7 | 50.3 | 53.4 | 61.4 | 60.2 | 62.8 | 36.7 | 40.9 | 31.8 |
| Under 14. | 321 | 176 | 145 | 57.0 | 54.5 | 60.0 | 57.9 | 55.1 | 61.4 | 41.1 | 41.5 | 40.7 |

${ }^{1}$ Immunization at any time since birth．
${ }^{2}$ The 19 localities are listed in table 1.
percentages of Negro and white children that have been vaccinated are the same；at 6 years of age and over，however，there are approxi－ mately 35 percent more white children who have been vaccinated than Negro（table 4 and fig．4）．


Figure 4．－Percentage of Negro and white children of specific ages that had been immunived against small－ pox，diphtheria，and typhoid fever at any time prior to examination．．Farm Security Administration physical axaminations， 1940 ，in southern localities where both Negroes and whites were examined．

Table 4．－Percentage of Negro and white children in specific age groups that had been immunized ${ }^{1}$ against smallpox，diphtheria，and typhoid fever－members of Farm Security Administration borrower families in a total of 9 localities，${ }^{2} 1940$

| Age | Known as to immunization |  |  | With prior immunization against－ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Smallpox |  |  | Diphtheria |  |  | Typhoid fever |  |  |
|  |  | 范 |  | 呂荡 | 志 | 品 |  | 䍖 | 先 |  | 范 | 豊 |
|  | Number |  |  | Percent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Negro |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 15. | 795 | 397 | 398 | 26.5 | 27.2 | 25.9 | 28.2 | 24.2 | 32.2 | 15.7 | 16.6 | 14.8 |
| 0－1． | 69 93 | 39 34 | 30 59 |  |  |  | 5.8 20.4 | 10.3 |  |  |  |  |
| 2－3． | ${ }^{93}$ | 34 50 | 59 52 | 3.2 7.8 | 2．9 | 3.4 9.6 | 20.4 27.5 | 11.8 | 25.4 36.5 | 5.4 5.9 | 2.9 4.0 | 6.8 7.7 |
| 6－7． | 124 | 61 | 63 | 16．1 | 14.8 | 17.5 | 25.8 | 26.2 | 25.4 | 14.5 | 18.0 | 11.1 |
| 8－9 | 106 | 52 | 54 | 40.6 | 38.5 | 42.6 | 32.1 | 25.0 | 38.9 | 19.8 | 25.0 | 14.8 |
| 10－11 | 113 | 62 | 51 | 42.5 | 43.5 | 41.2 | 36.3 | 29.0 | 45.1 | 24.8 | 19.4 | 31.4 |
| 12－14． | 188 | 99 | 89 | 47.3 | 48.5 | 46.1 | 35.1 | 32.3 | 38.2 | 25.0 | 27.3 | 22.5 |
| － | White |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 15. | 2， 250 | 1，143 | ， 107 | 36.6 | 37.1 | 36.0 | 50.1 | 50.6 | 49.7 | 33.7 | 35.1 | 32.2 |
| $0-1$ | 217 | 97 | 120 |  |  |  | 14.7 | 12.4 | 16.7 |  |  |  |
| 2－3． | 258 | 121 | 137 | 1.2 |  | 2.2 | 42.6 | 45.5 | 40.1 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| 4－5 | 296 | 154 | 142 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 5.6 | 44.6 | 40.9 | 48.6 | 14.2 | 11.7 | 16.9 |
| 6－7． | 323 | 181 | 142 | 30.7 | 29.8 | 31.7 | 50.2 | 49.2 | 51.4 | 29.7 | 30.9 | 28.2 |
| 8－9 | 304 | 144 | 160 | 51.3 | 56.9 | 46.3 | 55.6 | 59.0 | 52.5 | 44.1 | 42.4 | 45.6 |
| 10－11 | 319 | 149 | 170 | 62.1 | 61.7 | 62.4 | 63.0 | 63.8 | 62.4 | 54.2 | 59.1 | 50.0 |
| 12－14． | 533 | 297 | 236 | 65.5 | 62.6 | 69.1 | 60.4 | 60.3 | 60.6 | 57.0 | 58.6 | 55.1 |

${ }^{1}$ Immunization at any time since birth．
${ }^{2}$ The 9 localities are：Spotsylvania County，Va．；Kershaw County，S．C．；Worth County，Ga．；Levy County，Fla．；parts of Carroll，Lefiore，and Humphreys Counties，Miss．；Pope County，Ark．；Okfuskee County，Okla．；Franklin Parish，La．；and Panola County，Tex．

## IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Figure 1 shows the frequency of diphtheria immunization for specific ages under 15 years as obtained in three comparable surveys， plotted on semilogarithmic paper．The rate of increase in the per－ centage immunized is most rapid under 2 years of age；after 2 years of age it continues to increase at a less rapid and practically constant rate until 15 years of age．In both the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care and Communicable Disease Surveys the percentage immunized against diphtheria declines somewhat after approximately 9 or 10 years of age，while in the Farm Security Administration data the percentage immunized continues to increase．The decline in the rate in the two former surveys is probably due partly to the fact that practically all of the children were reported upon and frequently not by their parents，whereas the children examined by the Farm Security Administration either reported upon themselves or were reported upon by their parents．The percentage of children ever immunized also reflects a changing immunization rate；that is， 10 －year－old children，
particularly in cities, may have lived their first years at a time when immunization was performed less frequently than 5 years later, for example.

The frequency of immunization against diphtheria has been shown to vary somewhat with section of the country but to be the same in rural and urban areas (2). For ages under 15 years the frequency of immunization against diphtheria shows a definite relationship with income ( 2,5 ). Figure 2 gives the percentage of children of lowincome tarm families that had been immunized compared with the percentages of children immunized in four income groups as obtained by the Communicable Disease Survey in large cities. The West


Figure 5.-Percentage of urban children of specific ages by family income in North and South and of rural children of rehabilitation borrower families in North and South that had been immunized a gainst diphtheria at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration ph ysical examinations, 1840, and Communicable Disease Survey (5). Data by section and income are unpublished.
section has been omitted from the urban survey since western States are not represented in the Farm Security Administration examinations. The frequency of immunization among children of the Farm Security Administration borrower families is about equal to that in the two lower income groups (relief, and nonrelief under $\$ 1,500$ ) in large cities. At 9 years of age, or prior to the decline in the urban percentages, 55 percent of children of rural borrower families had been immunized against diphtheria; while 53 and 55 percent of the children in low-income levels (relief, and nonrelief under \$1,500) in large cities had been immunized. In northern areas (fig. 5) children of Farm Security Administration borrower families show a somewhat lower percentage immunized against diphtheria in the age groups $0-4$ and $5-9$ years than urban children in low-income groups; in southern areas (fig. 5) they show a slightly higher percentage immunized in all three age groups under 15 years.

Tables 3 and 4 and figure 4 give the percentages of boys and girls and of Negro and white children that had been immunized against diphtheria. Boys and girls show the same percentage immunized in specific age groups; white children show a higher percentage immunized than Negro children for the nine southern localities in which Negroes were examined. Under 4 years of age more than twice as many white as Negro children have been immunized against diphtheria; while from 4 to $\mathbf{1 5}$ years of age approximately 70 percent more white than Negro children have been immunized at some time.

## TMMUNIZATION AGAINST TYPHOID FEVER

Typhoid fever immunization has been performed, on the whole, in areas where the typhoid problem is the greatest, that is, in small


Figure 6.- Percantage of children of specific ages in urban and rural areas of North and South that had been immunized against typhoid fever at any time prior to examination. Farm Security Administration | physical examinations, 1940, and Committee on the Costs of Medical Care (s).
towns and rural areas of the South (3). The Committee on the Costs of Medical Care survey shows that "the South, with the highest percentage of persons with a history of typhoid fever, has resorted to immunization far more than any other section. In cities over 100,000, immunizations are not much more frequent in the South than elsewhere; the excess for the South is particularly large for small towns and rural areas." At 10-14 years of age approximately 50 percent of children in southern localities have been immunized against typhoid fever among both the rural Farm Security Administration families and families in small towns and rural areas surveyed by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care (fig. 6). The Communicable Disease Survey in large cities (4) shows a direct relationship between immunization for typhoid fever and size of family income; at 10-14 years, however, slightly less than 6 percent of urban children had been immunized in the $\$ 3,000$ and over income group.

Table 3 shows an equal percentage of boys and girls immunized against typhoid fever at specific ages. Among Negroes and whites,
however (table 4 and fig. 4), twice as many white children have been immunized as Negro, or 25 and 57 percent immunized, respectively, at 12-14 years of age in localities where Negroes were examined.

## SUMMARY

The frequency of immunization at any time since birth against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever for children of Farm Security Administration borrower families residing in 19 localities was obtained during the course of general physical examination of rehabilitation farm families. There is marked variability in the percentage of children immunized in the several localities which, in the South at least, may be associated to some extent with the organization of local health departments.

Smallpox vaccination varies slightly with income and section of the country and markedly with size of city, vaccination rates being higher. in large cities. At 10-14 years of age 57 percent of children of Farm Security Administration rural borrower families in southern areas had been vaccinated against smallpox, which agrees roughly with the percentage vaccinated in rural areas as reported in the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care survey, namely, 51 percent in rural areas, 72 percent in small towns, 84 percent in towns of 5,000 to 100,000 population, and 79 percent in towns of 100,000 or more population, in surveyed southern areas.

Immunization against diphtheria is not associated with size of city, but varies slightly with geographic section and markedly with size of family income. At $5-9$ years of age 49 percent of children of rural borrower families in southern areas had been immunized as compared with $41,48,59$, and 71 percent of children in families on relief and with incomes under $\$ 1,500, \$ 1,500-\$ 3,000$, and $\$ 3,000$ and over, respectively, in large cities of the South canvassed by the Communicable Disease Survey.

Typhoid fever immunization has been performed mainly in areas where typhoid fever is a real problem, that is, in small towns and rural areas of the South. At 10-14 years of age approximately 50 percent of children in southern localities have been immunized against typhoid fever among both rural Farm Security Administration borrower families and families in small towns and rural areas surveyed by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care.

The three immunization procedures considered were performed as frequently on boys as girls in these data. The percentage of Negro childsen immunized is less than the white. At 12-14 years of age approximately 40,70 , and 125 percent more white than Negro children had been immunized at some time since birth against smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever, respectively.

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## PREVALENCE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES

## December 2-29, 1945

The accompanying table 1 summarizes the prevalence of nine important communicable diseases, based on weekly telegraphic reports from State health departments. The reports from each State for each week are published in the Public Health Reports under the section "Prevalence of disease." The table gives the number of cases of these diseases for the 4 weeks ended December 29, 1945, the number reported for the corresponding period in 1944, and the median number for the years 1940-44.

## DISEASES ABOVE MEDIAN PREVALENCE

Influenza.-For the 4 weeks ended December 29 there was a total of 319,576 cases reported in the 46 States, the District of Columbia, and New York City reporting influenza to the Public Health Service. A comparison of this figure with prior years indicates that it is far above the corresponding period of 1942 and 1944 but roughly the same as in December of 1943 when the last preceding epidemic occurred. Influenza virus $B$ has been identified in a number of laboratories during and preceding the present epidemic.

Table 1.-Number of reported cases of 9 communicable diseases in the United States during the 4-week period December 2-29, 1945, the number for the corresponding period in 1944, and the median number of cases reported for the corresponding period, 1940-44

| Division |  | 1944 | 5-year median | Current period | 1944 | 5-year median |  | 1944 | 5-year median |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Diphtheria |  |  | Influensa ${ }^{1}$ |  |  | Measles ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |
| United States <br> New England <br> Middle Atlantic. <br> East North Central <br> West North Central. <br> South Atlantic. <br> East South Central <br> West South Central. <br> Mountain. <br> Pacifle. <br> ............. | $\begin{array}{r} 1,819 \\ 50 \\ 95 \\ 282 \\ 146 \\ 416 \\ 205 \\ 415 \\ 147 \\ 63 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,517 \\ 33 \\ 111 \\ 181 \\ 214 \\ 206 \\ 166 \\ 332 \\ 51 \\ 223 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \hline 1,369 \\ 33 \\ 131 \\ 181 \\ 94 \\ 248 \\ 146 \\ 304 \\ 51 \\ 116 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 319,576 \\ 498 \\ 729 \\ 7,122 \\ 33,904 \\ 49,663 \\ 12,382 \\ 59,697 \\ 42,055 \\ 1,526 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11,556 \\ 102 \\ 32 \\ 135 \\ 84 \\ 2,588 \\ 389 \\ 7,444 \\ 6832 \\ 150 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11,556 \\ 50 \end{array}$ |  |  | 18,868 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 115 |  | 349 | 5,8491,655 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 341 157 | $\begin{aligned} & 2,030 \\ & 1,969 \end{aligned}$ | 295 293 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 157 3,755 | 435 | 253 216 | 1,409 822 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 3,755 662 | 563 | 216 | 922 603 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 7,444 | 316 | 253 | 458 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,016 | 685 | 1111 | 1,300 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 418 | 2, 052 | 1,164 | 1,164 |
|  | Meningococcus meningitis |  |  | Poliomyelitis |  |  | Scarlet fever |  |  |
| United States....-.-.-...- | $\begin{array}{r} 498 \\ 20 \\ 115 \\ 99 \\ 34 \\ 56 \\ 54 \\ 43 \\ 13 \\ 64 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 761 \\ 39 \\ 195 \\ 159 \\ 46 \\ 87 \\ 55 \\ 69 \\ 25 \\ 25 \\ 86 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 4903910954218719232571 | $\begin{array}{r} 458 \\ 23 \\ 52 \\ 100 \\ 45 \\ 43 \\ 23 \\ 34 \\ 21 \\ 117 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 382 \\ 12 \\ 153 \\ 50 \\ 41 \\ 29 \\ 11 \\ 15 \\ 11 \\ 60 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 260 | 10,391 14,749 |  | 11,821 |
| New England .-. |  |  |  |  |  | 12 | $\begin{array}{r}10,344 \\ 1,902 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 14,749 1,601 | 1,250 |
| Middle Atlantic... |  |  |  |  |  | 33 |  | 2,641 | 2,3873,351 |
| East North Central |  |  |  |  |  | 32 19 | 1,902 | 3,704 |  |
| West North Central |  |  |  |  |  | 19 | 898 | 1,386 | 1,352 |
| South Atlantic.-- |  |  |  |  |  | 26 |  | 1,550 | 1,148 |
| East South Central |  |  |  |  |  | 11 | 504 677 |  |  |
| West South Central |  |  |  |  |  | 20 | 713 664 |  | 388 |
| Mountain. |  |  |  |  |  | 11 39 | 530 1,128 | 837 1,689 | 640 650 |
| Pacific. | Smallpox |  |  | Typhoid and paratyphoid fever |  |  | Whooping cough ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |
| United States | 23 <br> 0 <br> 0 <br> 4 <br> 5 <br> 0 <br> 0 <br> 5 <br> 4 <br> 4 <br> 1 | 280010912420 |  | $\begin{array}{r} 207 \\ 11 \\ 29 \\ 30 \\ 4 \\ 32 \\ 20 \\ 57 \\ 12 \\ 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 217 \\ 17 \\ 36 \\ 23 \\ 8 \\ 49 \\ 14 \\ 36 \\ 13 \\ 21 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 324 | $\begin{array}{r} 7,297 \\ 1,109 \\ 2,024 \\ 1,671 \\ 189 \\ 825 \\ 187 \\ 529 \\ 225 \\ 538 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 7,0001,0681,8201,218306932148691251566 | $\begin{array}{r} 12,019 \\ 1,326 \\ 3,266 \\ 3,076 \\ 541 \\ 1,126 \\ 401 \\ 691 \\ 331 \\ 892 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| New England. |  |  | 0 |  |  | 16 |  |  |  |
| Middle Atlantic. |  |  | 0 |  |  | 36 |  |  |  |
| East North Central |  |  | 18 |  |  | 30 |  |  |  |
| West North Central. |  |  | 10 |  |  | 14 |  |  |  |
| South Atlantic. |  |  | 1 |  |  | 49 |  |  |  |
| Fast South Central |  |  | 3 |  |  | 32 |  |  |  |
| West South Central |  |  | 13 |  |  | 48 |  |  |  |
| Mountain........ |  |  | 2 |  |  | 14 |  |  |  |
| Pacific.- |  |  | 0 |  |  | 21 |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ Mississippi and New York excluded; New York City included. In a number of States the reports seem torgpresentestimates or the results of artificial stimulation to obtain more complete reports during the epidemic.

2 Mississippi excluded.
Influenza is so incompletely reported that many States send to the Public Health Service estimates based on various types of supplementary information, rather than actual cases reported by attending physicians. Other States send letters to physicians or by published appeals stimulate the reporting of cases. Thus in one week roughly two-thirds of all reported cases were reported by one State and this one report has an overwhelming influence on locating the peak week for the country as a whole. To avoid such situations, table 2 of reported cases by weeks is based on 37 States, the District of Columbia, and New York City in which reporting has been reasonably consistent in the various weeks before and during the epidemic. It will be noted that totals are far below those quoted above; the table is shown solely for judging the progress of the epidemic in different geographic sections.

Table 2 indicates that for the country as a whole the rise began around the middle of November with a peak for the week ending December 22, the two succeeding weeks being definitely below the peak.

The peak of reported cases comes rather definitely in the week ending December 22 in nearly all geographic sections except the East South Central and the Pacific in which the cases are almost the same in the week ending December 29 as in the preceding week. So few cases have been reported in the New England States that the indicated peak in the week of December 15 is not reliable.

Table 2.-Influenza cases reported by geographic sections by weeks in 1945-46 and in corresponding weeks of preceding years-including only States reporting consistently before and during the epidemic

| Geographic section | Week ended- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1945 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\frac{1946}{\underset{\substack{5 a n}}{ }}$ |
|  | $\underset{3}{\mathrm{Nov.}}$ | Nov. 10 | Nov. <br> 17 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Nov. } \\ 24 \end{gathered}$ | Dec. 1 | $\underset{8}{\text { Dec. }}$ | $\underset{15}{\text { Dec. }}$ | Dec. $22$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Dec. } \\ 29 . \end{gathered}$ |  |
| 37 States, ${ }^{1}$ District of Columbia, and New York City: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1945-46....-................ | 2,611 | 2,720 | 4,022 | 4,957 | 11,329 | 22, 650 | 29,332 | 42, 828 | 33,460 | 33, 893 |
| 1944-45 | 1,608 | 1,290 | 1,829 | 1,748 | 2,117 | 2, 423 | 2, 893 | 2,689 | 3,439 | 4,545 |
| 1943-44 | 1, 414 | 1,537 | 1,700 | 2,441 | 4,395 | 11, 321 | 38, 982 | 55, 015 | 84, 701 | 86, 784 |
| 1942-43--. | 1,549 | 1,567 | 1,742 | 1,822 | 1,890 | 2, 552 | 2, 382 | 2,182 | 3,325 | 3,709 |
| New England: 1945-46 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 37 | 24 | 24 | 560 |
| - 1944-45. | 21 | 33 | 14 | 24 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 21 | 58 |
| 1943-44 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 54 | 121 | 342 | 929 | 830 | 457 |
| Middle Atlantic: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1944-45 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 1943-44 | 14 | 7 | 24 | 11 | 36 | 133 | 564 | 889 | 526 | 225 |
| 1942-43 | 22 | 37 | 20 | 25 | 31 | 31 | 23 | 25 | 42 | 51 |
| East North Central: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1944-45 | 12 | 29 | 19 | 15 | 1,36 |  |  |  |  | 1,67 |
| 1943-44- | 30 | 159 | 33 | 29 | 121 | 926 | 2,995 | 3, 250 | 3,095 | 3,594 |
| 1942-43 | 52 | 45 | 65 | 50 | 41 | 52 | 105 | 48 | 94 | 107 |
| West North Central: 1945-46 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 29 | 142 | 623 | 159 | 561 | 200 | 850 |
| 1944-45 | 1 | 16 | 19 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 11 | 13 | 14. |
| 1943-44. | 1 | 8 | 8 | 422 | 382 | 533 | 708 | 206 | 480 | 312 |
| 1942-43 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 23 | 36 | 0 | 2 | 68 |
| South Atlantic: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1944-45 | 505 | 444 | 1, 551 | 1,623 | 3, 514 | 10, 578 | 12, 264 | 15, 142 | 12, 110 | 11, 194 |
| 1943-44 | 428 | 446 | 507 | 649 | 1,227 | 4, 035 | 15,920 | 16, 425 | 35,978 | 1,216 |
| 1942-43 | 539 | 637 | 674 | 811 | 559 | 1,042 | 798 | 691 | 1,224 | 1,561 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1945-46. | 48 | 47 | 323 | 246 | 477 | 661 | 853 | 1,599 | 1,661 | 3,178 |
| 1944-45 | 28 | 40 | 34 | 31 | 82 | 78 | 80 | 102 | , 118 | 430 |
| 1943-44 | 91 | 67 | 85 | 110 | 425 | 591 | 1,277 | 2, 555 | 8,775 | 6,160 |
| West South Central:--------1. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 17, 687 | 13, 760 | 14,191 |
| 1944-45 | 1,908 | ${ }^{6} 604$ | 1,064 | 945 | 1,280 | 1,541 | 1,896 | 1, 668 | 2,318 | 2,544 |
| 1943-44 | 666 | 694 | 800 | 970 | 1,511 | 3,549 | 8,971 | 15, 504 | 21, 550 | 33, 226 |
| 1942-43. | 655 | 623 | 671 | 628 | 902 | 1,004 | 993 | 958 | 1,455 | 1,410 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1944-45. | 97 | 97 | 82 | 101 | 132 | 1, 107 | 2,162 | 4, 198 | 3, 154 | 1,288 |
| 1943-44. | 142 | 137 | 218 | 179 | 578 | 1,337 | 4,770 | 6,188 | 6,007 | 5,139 |
| Pacific: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1945-46... | 14 | 13 22 | 17 39 | 30 34 | 49 3 | 95 46 | 147 40 | 692 35 | 592 29 | 705 49 |
| 1943-44 | 39 | 18 | 22 | 39 | 61 | 96 | 3,435 | 9, 069 | 7, 460 | 5,036 |
| 1942-43 | 47 | 52 | 63 | 63 | 51 | 71 | 68 | 47 | 51 | $5]$ |

${ }^{1}$ States excluded are those reporting such unusually large numbers of cases as to indicate estimates or large sudden changes in the completeness of reporting.

Reported cases indicate that the incidence started to rise during the second or third week of November in Indiana, South Carolina, and

Texas; the two latter States commonly report many more cases than other States but the rise mentioned refers to cases in excess of the usual level of reporting. If the epidemic did start in the middle sections of the country and almost simultaneously in several States, its rapid spread to other sections would be expected, so the single peak in nearly all regions is not unreasonable. The 1920 epidemic started in the Great Lakes region and very quickly spread to all parts of the country. During the week ended January 5, the latest data available, there were 33,893 cases reported.

Thus far there has been very little mortality. Data are not available on deaths credited to influenza and pneumonia, but deaths from all causes in 93 large cities as released by the United States Bureau of the Census indicates an excess over the average for the same period in 1942 and 1944 of 9.9 percent during the 4 weeks ending December 29, and 13.6 percent during the 2 weeks ending December 29, 1945. There is nearly always some excess mortality during an influenza epidemic, no matter how mild the cases. In December of 1943 influenza was epidemic and the number of deaths was greater than in the current 4-week period.

Diphtheria.-For the 4 weeks ended December 29 there were 1,819 cases of diphtheria reported, as compared with 1,517 in 1944 and a 5 -year median of 1,369 cases. For the country as a whole the current incidence was the highest for this period since 1941 when 1,830 cases were reported. Each section of the country except the Middle Atlantic and Pacific reported excesses over the normal (median) seasonal expectancy, the increases ranging from 1.4 times the median in the East South Central section to 2.9 times the median in the Mountain section.

Meningococcus meningitis.-The number of cases of meningococcus meningitis rose from 397 during the preceding 4 weeks to 498 for the 4 weeks ended December 29. The number of cases was, however, only about 65 percent of the 1944 figure for these weeks and was about the same as the 1940-44 median ( 490 cases). Each section of the country reported a decline from the 1944 figures, but only $\dot{4}$ of the 9 sections showed a decline from the preceding 5 -year median.

Poliomyelitis.-The number of cases of poliomyelitis dropped from 932 during the 4 weeks ended December 1 to 458 during the current 4 -week period. The incidence was, however, 20 percent above the 1944 figure and about 80 percent above the 1940-44 median. Each section of the country contributed to the relatively high incidence of this disease, the largest excesses over the normal seasonal incidence occurring in the East North Central and Pacific sections.

## diseases below median prevalence

Measles.-For the 4 weeks ended December 29 there were 10,381 cases of measles reported, as compared with 3,092 for the corresponding
period in 1944 and a 5 -year median of 18,868 cases. The incidence was higher in all sections of the country than in 1944, but only 3 sections, the East North Central, East South Central, and Pacific, reported excesses over the preceding 5 -year medians. The greatest declines from the normal seasonal incidence were reported from the North Atlantic and West North Central sections, and the greatest increase over the median was reported from the Pacific section.

Scarlet fever.-The incidence of this disease was the lowest on record for this period. The number of cases $(10,391)$ was about 70 percent of the number reported in 1944, and less than 90 percent of the 1940-44 median. The West South Central and Pacific sections reported increases over the normal seasonal expectancy, but in all other sections the incidence was relatively low.

Smallpox.-The smallpox incidence was also the lowest on record for this period. The 23 cases reported for the current 4 weeks was below even the low level of 1944 and was less than 35 percent of the preceding 5 -year median. Significant decreases in the incidence were reported from areas normally reporting a high incidence.

Typhoid and paratyphoid fever.-The number of cases (207) of typhoid fever was slightly below the 1944 figure for this period, but it was only about 65 percent of the 1940-44 median. In the West South Central section the number of cases (57) was higher than the normal seasonal expectancy and in the East North Central and Mountain sections the incidence was about normal but in all other sections the disease was less prevalent than in preceding years.

Whooping cough.-For the 4 weeks ended December 29 there were 7,297 cases of whooping cough reported as compared with a seasonal expectancy of approximately 12,000 cases. The North Atlantic, East North Central, and East South Central sections reported more cases than occurred during the corresponding period in 1944, but none of the 9 geographic sections reported any excess over the 1940-44 median. The greatest declines from the seasonal expectancy were reported from the Middle Atlantic and East North Central sections.

## MORTALITY, ALL CAUSES

For the 4 weeks ended December 29 there were 41,896 deaths from all causes reported to the Bureau of the Census by 93 large cities. In the years 1944, 1943, and 1942 the deaths for the corresponding period totaled $37,947,49,108$, and 38,280 , respectively. The current number of deaths represented an increase of about 10 percent over the number reported for this period in 1944, but it was only about 0.2 percent above the 1942-44 average, which includes the 1943 influenza epidemic. A further discussion of mortality in large cities is found under the subject of influenza.

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 29, 1945
[From the Weekly Mortality index, issued by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce]


## PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

No health department, State or local, can effectively prevent or control disease without knowledge of when, where, and under what conditions cases are occurring

## UNITED STATES

## REPORTS FROM STATES FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 5, 1946

## Summary

A total of 48,041 cases of influenza was reported, as compared with 52,947 last week, 4,587 and 126,610 for the corresponding weeks, respectively, of 1945 and 1944. Increases occurred in the New England, North Central, West South Central, and Pacific areas. States showing the largest increases are Alabama (1,279), Kansas (1,119), Texas (850), Utah (745), Nebraska (675), and Connecticut (545). Current reports for Nebraska, Texas, and Utah, however, are less than for the week ended December 22. Decreases occurred in 5 of the 12 States reporting currently more than 1,000 cases each, as follows (last week's figures in parentheses): Increases-Wisconsin 1,494 ( 1,034 ), Kansas 3,705 (2,586), West Virginia 2,356 (2,302), Alabama $2,497(1,218)$, Oklahoma $2,245(1,176)$, Texas 11,510 ( 10,660 ), Utah 1,114 (369); decreases-Virginia 5,323 ( 5,907 ), South Carolina 3,017 (3,243), Kentucky 1,953 (8,071), Arkansas 1,204 ( 1,924 ), Louisiana $6,314(7,225)$.

Since September 29 a total of 401,982 cases has been reported, as compared with 29,985 and 461,940 , respectively, for the corresponding periods ended with the first weeks of January 1945 and 1944.

Of the total of 189 cases of meningococcus meningitis reported, as compared with 162 last week and 238 for the corresponding week last year, 73 occurred in 5 States, as follows (last week's figures in parentheses): New York 14 (13), New Jersey 15 (10), Ohio 10 (8), Texas 13 (13), California 21 (14).

Deaths registered in 93 large cities of the United States during the week totaled 11,928 , as compared with 11,399 for the preceding week, 9,786 for the corresponding week last year, and a 3 -year (1943-45) average of 11,353 .

Telegraphic morbidity reports from State health officers for the week ended January 5, 1946, and comparison with corresponding week of 1945 and 5-year median

In these tables a zero indieates a definite report, while leaders imply that, although none was reported, cases may have occurred.


[^2]Telegraphic morbidity reports from State health officers for the week ended January 5, 1946, and comparison with corresponding week of 1945 and 5-year median-Con.


[^3]Telegraphic morbidity reports from State health officers for the week ended January 5 , 1946, and comparison with corresponding week of 1945 and 5-year median-Con.


[^4]
## WEEKLY REPORTS PROM CITIES

City reports for week ended December 29, 1945
This table lists the reports from 87 olties of more than 10,000 population distributed throughout the United States, and represents a cross section of the current urban incidence of the diseases included in the table.


City reports for woek ended December 29, 1945-Continued


City reports for week ended December 29，1945—Continued

|  | 䍚 | 家罗 | Influ | nenza |  | 这品 | $\stackrel{\infty}{=}$ | $\stackrel{\infty}{ \pm}$ | $\stackrel{\text { L }}{\stackrel{1}{\circ}}$ |  | $0$ | 镸 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \not ్ む \\ & \text { \% } \\ & \text { U゙ } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\boxed{H}}{\ddot{\omega}} \\ & \text { A } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 日 } \\ & \text { 蔦 } \\ & 0 \\ & \text { a } \\ & \text { A } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | 쓸 合 品 |  | Whooping |
| Pactic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Washington： |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sesttlo．－－ | 0 | 0 |  |  | 43 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sporane | 0 | 0 | ${ }_{5}^{1}$ | 0 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 0 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| California： |  | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Los Angeles． | 3 | 0 | 128 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Sacramento．－ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| San Francisco．． | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 86 | 4 | 1，203 | 110 | 1，041 | 57 | 734 | 10 | 568 | 0 | 12 | 372 |
| Corresponding week， 1944. | ${ }_{53}^{57}$ |  | 2.101 | 39 113 | ${ }_{21} 301$ | －－．．－－ | 1476 | ．－．． | 1，081 | 0 | ${ }^{5}$ | 391 814 |
| A verage，1940－44－．．－－－－－－ | 73 |  | 2，756 | 1134 | 21，728 | －．．－－－ | 1706 |  | 998 | 2 | 12 | 814 |

13－year average，1942－44．
2 5－year median，1940－44．
Dysentery，amebic．－Cases：Buffalo 2；New York 4.
Dysentery，bacillary．－Cases：New York 2；St．Louis 1；Charleston，S．C．1．
Dysentery，unspecified．－Cases：San Antonio 11.
Tularemia．－Cases：Baltimore 1；Nashville 2.
Typhus fever，endemic．－Cases：Charleston，8．C．1；Atlanta 1；Nashville 1；Mobile 4；New Orleans 1； Houston 3；Los Angeles 1.

Rates（annual basis）per 100，000 population，by geographic groups，for the 87 cities in the preceding table（estimated population，1948， $34,010,100$ ）

|  |  |  | Influenza |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New England． | 10.5 | 2.6 | 15.7 | 5.2 | 63 | 7.8 | 133.3 | 2.6 | 165 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 183 |
| Middle Atlantic． | 4.6 | 0.5 | 62.5 | 14.3 | 166 | 7.9 | 111.1 | 0.0 | 76 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 62 |
| East North Central | 12.8 | 0.0 | 29.8 | 14.0 | 262 | 7.3 | 102.8 | 1.2 | 95 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 62 |
| West North Central | 24.8 | 2.3 | 117.2 | 29.3 | 140 | 2.3 | 126.2 | 2.3 | 110 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 9 |
| South Atlantic．．．． | 21.8 | 1.7 | 954.5 | 23.4 | 33 | 10.0 | 149.0 | 1.7 | 72 | 0.0 | 3.3 | 54 |
| East South Central | 29.5 | 0.0 | 548.9 | 47.2 | 59 | 17.7 | 183.0 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.0 | 5.9 |  |
| West South Centra | 43.0 | 0.0 | 83.2 | 23.0 | 11 | 23.0 | 134.9 | 0.0 | 52 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 6 |
| Mountain． | 15.9 | 0.0 | 1，048． 4 | 23.8 | 40 | 0.0 | 150.9 | 7． 9 | 175 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 71 30 |
| Pacific | 7.9 | 0.0 | 216.7 | 12.7 | 201 | 11.1 | 50.6 | 6.3 | 70 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 30 |
| Total． | 13.2 | 0.6 | 184.9 | 16.9 | 160 | 8.8 | 112.8 | 1.5 | 87 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 57 |

## TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS

## Panama Canal Zone

Notifiable diseases-October 1945.-During the month of October 1945, certain notifiable diseases were reported in the Panama Canal Zone and terminal cities as follows:


[^5]
## FOREIGN REPORTS

## ANGOLA

Notifiable diseases-July-September 1945.-During the months of July, August, and September 1945, certain notifiable diseases were reported in Angola as follows:


## CANADA

Provinces-Communicable diseases—Week ended December 8, 1945.During the week ended December 8, 1945, cases of certain communicable diseases were reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of Canada as follows:

| Disease | Prince <br> Edward <br> Island | Nova Scotis | New Brunswick | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Que- } \\ & \text { bec } \end{aligned}$ | On- tario | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mani- } \\ & \text { toba } \end{aligned}$ | Sas-katchewan | $\underset{\text { berta }}{\text { Al- }}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{l} \text { British } \\ \text { Colum- } \\ \text { bia } \end{array}\right\|$ | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chickenpox |  | 7 |  | 222 | 381 | 74 | 88 | 76 | 185 | 1,033 |
| Diphtheria. |  | 3 | 7 | 57 | 12 | 8 |  |  | 2 | 89 |
| Dysentery, bacillary |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |
| German measles. |  |  |  | 11 | 22 |  | 2 | 6 | 12 | 53 |
| Influenza |  | 2 |  |  | 43 |  |  |  | 2 | 47 |
| Measles. |  | 3 |  | 162 | 415 | 4 | 21 | 19 | 65 | 689 |
| Meningitis, meningo- |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  | 1 |  | 3 |
| Mumps. |  |  | 4 | 112 | 80 | 13 | 12 | 142 | 77 | 440 |
| Poliomyelitis |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 2 |  |  | 4 |
| Scarlet fever- | 1 | 15 | 34 | 86 | 91 | 17 | 5 | 19 | ${ }_{66}^{28}$ | 296 |
| Tuberculosis (all forms).- |  | , | 9 | 91 | 83 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 66 | 303 |
| Typhoid and para- |  |  |  | 21 | 2 |  |  |  |  | ${ }_{3} 3$ |
| Undulant fever.. |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  | 1 | 3 |
| Venereal diseases: Gonorrhes |  | 25 | 18 | 58 | 143 | 59 | 43 | 51 | 81 | 478 |
| Syphilis.. |  | 31 | 8 | 101 | 120 | 28 | 16 | 19 | 34 | 357 |
| Whooping cough. |  | 15 | 19 | 125 | 42 | 17 | 1 | 3 |  | 222 |

## NORWAY

Notifiable diseases-June-August 1945.-During the months of June, July, and August 1945, cases of certain notifiable diseases were reported in Norway as follows:

|  | Disease | June | July | August |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cerebrospinal meningitis |  | 10 | 24 | 10 |
| Diphtheria. |  | 486 | 573 | 533 |
| Dysentery, unspecified |  | 141 | 57 | 190 |
| Encephalitis, epidemic. |  | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Erysipelas. |  | 429 | 402 | 446 |
| Gastroenteritis. |  | 5,613 | 6,671 | 10,436 |
| Gonorrhea |  | 417 | 472 | 641 |
| Hepatitis, epidemic. |  | 1,002 | 629 | 780 |
| Impetigo contagiosa |  | 3,179 | 3,378 | 4,947 |
| Infinenza |  | 1,296 | 761 | 1,020 |
| Laryngitis...... |  | 9, 256 | 5,709 | 5,580 |
| Lymphogranuloma inguin |  |  |  |  |
| Measles |  | 6,035 | 4,088 | 2,953 |
| Mumps |  | 113 | 60 | 95 |
| Paratyphoid fever |  | 3 | 12 | 22 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) |  | 1,619 | 901 | 751 |
| Poliomyelitis. |  | 19 | 59 | 142 |
| Rheumatism. |  | 185 | 166 | 153 |
| Scabies. |  | 3,998 | 3, 580 | 4; 556 |
| Scarlet fever |  | 410 | 336 | 318 |
| Syphilis. |  | 87 | 87 | 97 |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) |  | 401 | 368 | 360 3 |
| Typhoid fever- |  | 8 | 5 3 | 3 3 |
| Whooping cough |  | 1,421 | 1,600 | 2,434 |

Population, estimated, 1940-2,937,000.

## WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF CHOLERA, PLAGUE, SMALLPOX, TYPHUS FEVER, AND YELLOW FEVER

From medical officers of the Public Health Service, American consuls, International Office of Public Health, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, health section of the League of Nations, and other sources. The reports contained in the following tables must not be considered as complete or final as regards either the list of countries included or the figures for the particular countries for which reports are given.

## CHOLERA

[C indicates cases; $P$, present]
Nore.-Since many of the figures in the following tables are from weekly reports, the accumulated totals are for approximate dates.


[^6] Hunan, and Kansu.

## PLAGUE

[C indicates cases; D, deaths]

| Place |  | November 1945 | December 1945-week ended- |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Africa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 113 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Bechuanaland.......................................-. $\mathbf{C}$ | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 224 | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| British East Africa: <br> Kenya................................................. $\mathbf{C}$ | ${ }^{3} 88$ | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 220 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |
|  | 83 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 83 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  | 23 5 |  |  |  |  | 1 | --. |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 134 | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 811 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 54 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| China: ASIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| .- Kwangtung Province.................................. | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 22,917 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 22, 34 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 26 | 17 | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |
| - Plague-infected rats | 42 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| muBOPE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great Britain: Malta ........................................... ${ }_{\text {C }}$ | 162 | 10 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  | 25 | 2 |  |  | 1 |  |  |
|  | 50 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | ----.-- |  |  |  |  |  |
| NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada: Alberta Province: 5 $\cdot$ Plague-infected squirrels. | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SOUTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Argentina: ${ }_{\text {Buenos }}$ Aires Province-Plague-infected |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Buenos Aires Province-Plague-infected |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bolivia: Santa Cruz Department.-....-.......-. $\mathbf{C}$ | - 79 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brazil: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 51 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ecuador: Province.................................. $\mathbf{C}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Peru: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 14 | --.--.- |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lima Department........................................ ${ }^{\text {C }}$ | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tumbes Province................................-- | 5 | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |

[^7]
## PLAGUE-Continued

[C indicates cases; $\mathbf{D}$, deaths]

| Place | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { January- } \\ \text { October } \\ 1945 \end{gathered}\right.$ | Novem. ber 1945 | December 1945-week ended- |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Hawail Territory Oceanla D |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plague-infected rats | 13 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Caledonia: Loyalty Islands-Mare Island. C | ${ }^{10} 60$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{8}$ Previously reported as a case, death occurring on June 2, 1945.

- Plague infection was also proved positive in a pool of 5 mice on Jan. 4, in a pool of fleas on Feb. 14, and in a pool of 40 fleas on Mar. 14, 1945.
${ }^{6}$ Pneumonic plague.
SMALLPOX
[C indicates cases; $\mathbf{P}$, present]

${ }^{1}$ Includes cases of alastrim.
2 for the period Dec. 1-20, 1945.
${ }^{3}$ Imported.
4 For the week ended June 30, 1945, cases ofvirulent smallpox were reported in the Union of South Africa.
- Includes some cases of chickenpox.


## SMALLPOX-Continued

[ O indicates cases; $P$, present]


## 1 Includes cases of alastrim.

## TYPEDS FEVER*

[C indicates cases; $\mathbf{P}$, present]


See footnotes at and of table.

## TYPEUS FEVER-Continued

[C indicates cases; P present]

| Place | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { January- } \\ \text { Octobor } \\ 1945 \end{gathered}\right.$ | Novem-ber 1945 | December 1945-week ended- |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 13 | J |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2,343 | -.------ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jamajca ${ }^{1}-.$. | 43 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1,542 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 172 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Puerto Rico i | 172 | 5 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| SOUTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 641 | 76 | - |  |  |  | - |
|  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 544 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 422 | .-.-...- |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 516 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 558 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 130 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| oceania |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 108 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 85 | 5 | ----- |  |  |  |  |

*Reports from some areas are probably murine type, while others probably include both murine and louse-borne types.
${ }^{1}$ Reports cases as murine type. ${ }^{2}$ For the period Dec. 1-20, $1945 . \quad{ }^{3}$ Includes imported cases.
${ }^{4}$ For the period Jan. 1 to Sept. 1, 1945, between 8,000 and 10,000 cases of typhus fever were reported in Hungary.
${ }^{8}$ For the period Jan. 1-20, 1945.
YELLOW FEVER
[C indicates cases; $\mathbf{D}$, deaths]



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ From the Division of Public Health Methods, U. S. Public Health Service, in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration, Department of Agriculture. Mr. Yaukey is detailed to the Farm Security Administration.

    This is the sixth in a series of papers dealing with physical defects found on examination of members of low-income farm families residing in 19 localities in the United States. The physical indings of the examinations were coded and transfarred to punchcards by the Farm soiurity-Adminiatration under the diract supervision of Mr. Jesse B. Yaukey: The dats were subsequently made avallable to the U. S. Public.
     out the proparetion of the stretios.

[^1]:    2 Rates based on the annual number of immunizations performed by State or county health departments and reported to the Public Health Service by State health departments are given in the following table． The rates do not represent the percentage of the population immunized；they are annual rates and，more－ over，include immunizations done for the second time on the same individual and exclude all immuniza－ tions by private physicians．

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ New York City only.
    1 Period ended earlier than Saturday.

[^3]:    2 Period ended earlier than Saturdsy.
    3 Including paratyphoid fever reported separately as follows: Connecticut 1; New Jersey 1; South Carolina 2; Tennessee 3; Teras 1.

[^4]:    ${ }^{2}$ Period ended earlier than Saturday.
    4-year median 1941-45.

[^5]:    121 recurrent cases.
    :Reported in the Canal Zone only

[^6]:    ${ }^{1}$ Cholera was also reported present during Augustin the following_Provinces of China: Chekiang, Honan,

[^7]:    1 Includes 4 suspected cases.
    ${ }^{2}$ Includes 7 suspected cases.
    ${ }^{2}$ Includes 5 suspected cases.
    4 Information dated July 5, 1945, stated that from April 1944 to May 1945, 85 deaths from plague had occurred in the mountainous region south of Kunming, China.
    6 During the month of June 1945, plague infection in fleas was reported in Alberta Province. For the week ended July 28, 1945, plague infection was also reported in 6 pools of fleas in Alberta Province. For the week ended Aug. 11, 1945, 2 pools of plague-infected fleas were reported in Alberta Province, Canada.

    - Includes 6 suspected cases.

    Includes 1 suspected case.

