

# Tuberculosis Mortality by State, 1950

**F**INAL 1950 tuberculosis mortality statistics (by residence) are now available from the National Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Service, for each State and the District of Columbia. The tuberculosis death rates (all forms) ranged from a low of 6.2 per 100,000 population for Wyoming to a high of 59.6 per 100,000 for Arizona. Four States—Wyoming, Utah, Iowa and Nebraska—had less than 10 deaths per 100,000 population while 6 States—Arkansas, Tennessee, Maryland, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Arizona, and the District of Columbia—had death rates greater than 30 per 100,000.

The overall geographic pattern of tuberculosis mortality for 1950 resembled that for 1949. As shown on the map, the States having highest mortality were confined largely to the south, southwest, and east while the States with the lowest rates were generally those in the northwestern and north central parts of the country.

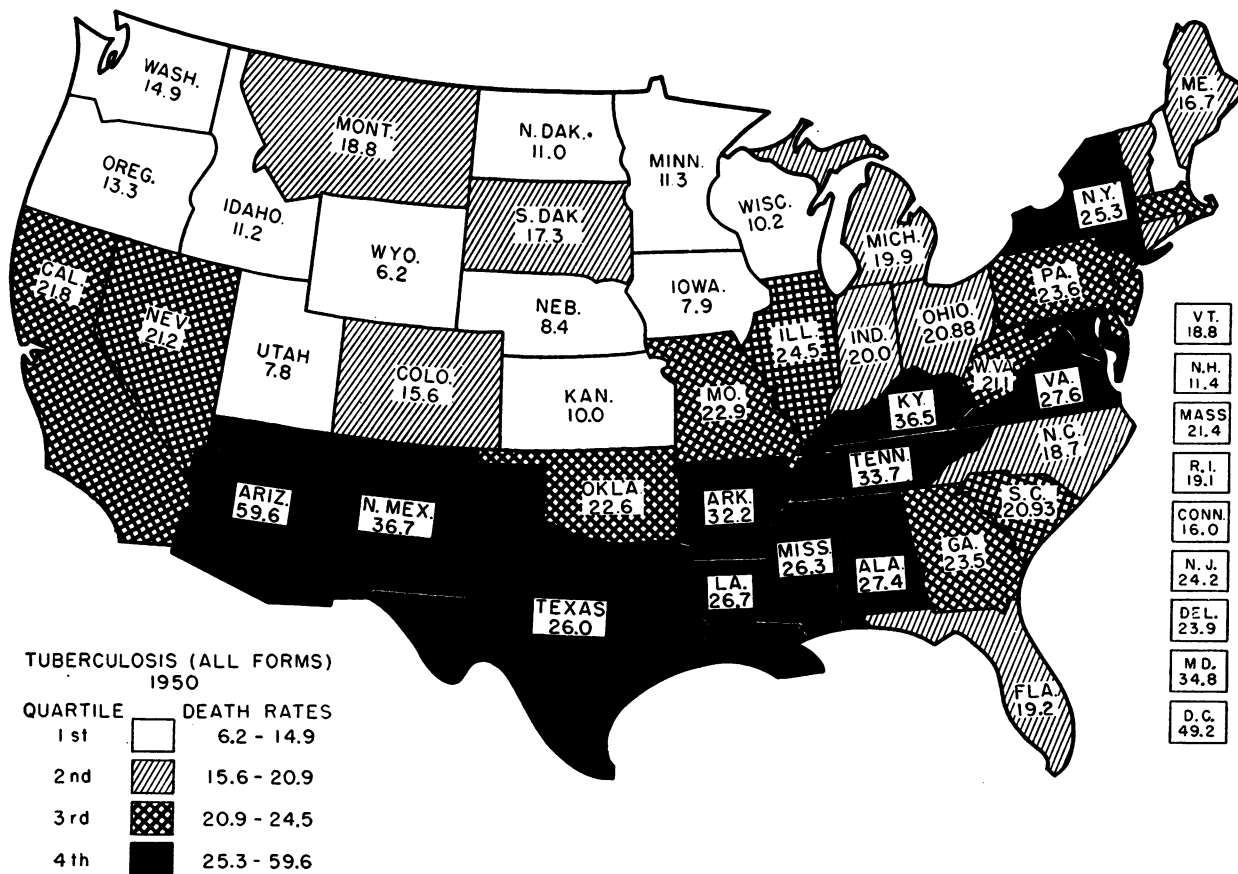
The year 1950 completes a decade of striking reductions in our tuberculosis death rate. For the continental United States, the death rate dropped from an average of 45.8 per 100,000 population for the 3-year period 1939-41 to 22.5 in 1950, a decline of 50.9 percent, whereas in the preceding decade the tuberculosis death rate declined 35.6 percent. All States and the Dis-

## Tuberculosis deaths (all forms) and death rates: United States and each State, 1950

(States ranked by death rate)

Rank	State	Number of tuberculosis deaths	Rate per 100,000 population <sup>1</sup>	Rank	State	Number of tuberculosis deaths	Rate per 100,000 population <sup>1</sup>
	United States.....	33, 959	22. 5	25	South Carolina.....	443	20. 9
1	Wyoming.....	18	6. 2	26	West Virginia.....	424	21. 1
2	Utah.....	54	7. 8	27	Nevada.....	34	21. 2
3	Iowa.....	207	7. 9	28	Massachusetts.....	1, 005	21. 4
4	Nebraska.....	111	8. 4	29	California.....	2, 312	21. 8
5	Kansas.....	190	10. 0	30	Oklahoma.....	505	22. 6
6	Wisconsin.....	350	10. 2	31	Missouri.....	907	22. 9
7	North Dakota.....	68	11. 0	32	Georgia.....	808	23. 5
8	Idaho.....	66	11. 2	33	Pennsylvania.....	2, 474	23. 6
9	Minnesota.....	336	11. 3	34	Delaware.....	76	23. 9
10	New Hampshire.....	61	11. 4	35	New Jersey.....	1, 171	24. 2
11	Oregon.....	202	13. 3	36	Illinois.....	2, 135	24. 5
12	Washington.....	355	14. 9	37	New York.....	3, 759	25. 3
13	Colorado.....	207	15. 6	38	Texas.....	2, 006	26. 0
14	Connecticut.....	322	16. 0	39	Mississippi.....	573	26. 3
15	Maine.....	153	16. 7	40	Louisiana.....	717	26. 7
16	South Dakota.....	113	17. 3	41	Alabama.....	838	27. 4
17	North Carolina.....	758	18. 7	42	Virginia.....	917	27. 6
18	Montana.....	111	18. 8	43	Arkansas.....	615	32. 2
19	Vermont.....	71	18. 8	44	Tennessee.....	1, 110	33. 7
20	Rhode Island.....	151	19. 1	45	Maryland.....	815	34. 8
21	Florida.....	531	19. 2	46	Kentucky.....	1, 075	36. 5
22	Michigan.....	1, 268	19. 9	47	New Mexico.....	250	36. 7
23	Indiana.....	786	20. 0	48	District of Columbia.....	395	49. 2
24	Ohio.....	1, 659	20. 9	49	Arizona.....	447	59. 6

<sup>1</sup> Enumerated population Apr. 1, 1950.



trict of Columbia shared in the general decline, with 7 States—California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming—having declines of 60 percent or better. In Arkansas and the District of Columbia the tuberculosis death rate dropped less than 40 percent.

Although these declines are impressive, the numbers of deaths remain high for a disease whose cause and manner of prevention have been well known for over a half a century.

Furthermore, the decline in the annual num-

ber of new cases of tuberculosis reported during recent years has been slight compared with the decline in mortality. That the number of newly reported cases remains high, despite the rapid decline in death rates, underscores the fact that efforts to wipe out tuberculosis must continue to have high priority among public health problems.

*This report was prepared by the Division of Chronic Disease and Tuberculosis, Public Health Service.*

