Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

U. S. Department of
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service

NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

August 12, 1955 | Washington 25, D. C. | Vol. 4, No, 31

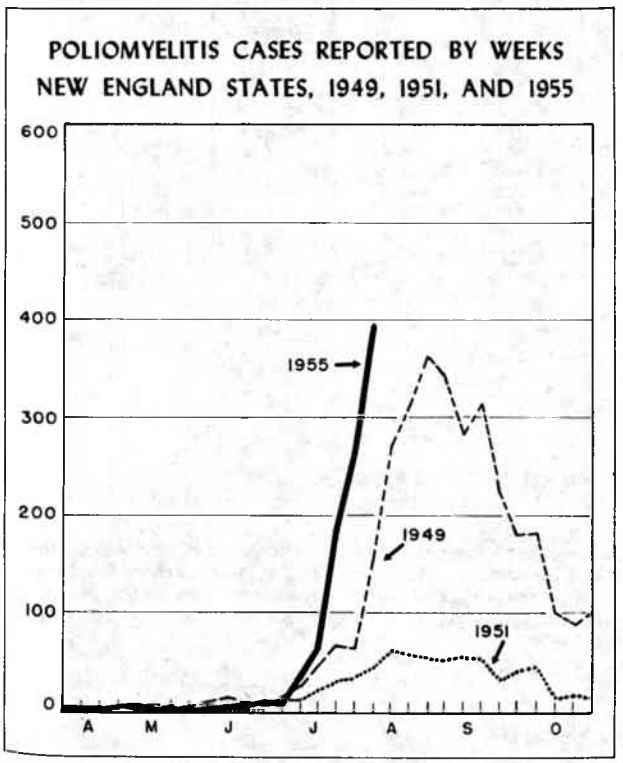
Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended August 6, 1955

Sixteen of the 33 cases of diphtheria reported for the current week occurred in Alabama.

The number of poliomyelitis cases reported for the current week (1,409) is about 36 percent in excess of the number (1,037) for the previous week. About 60 percent of the total occurred in the New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central Divisions, where the increase amounted to about 50 percent in each division. The few States reporting decreases were principally in the South and the western parts of the country.

The number of cases for the current week (1,409) is lower than that for 1952, 1953, and 1954 when 2,306, 1,870, and 1,608 cases, respectively, were reported, but is in excess of the 1,185 reported in 1950 and the 1,200 in 1951.

Poliomyelitis cases increased by 50 percent for the current week as compared with the previous week, in Massachusetts. A smaller proportion of cases occurred in Boston. Eighty-four cases as compared with 79 for the previous week would appear to indicate that the peak is or is about to be reached. Incidence is reported to have built up in the communities surrounding Boston and as far away as 30 miles. A further increase also occurred in the Connecticut and Merrimack valley areas of the State. Occurrence of the disease in Rhode Island is reported to be widespread with a greater concentration in the Woonsocket area (8 cases). About 42 percent of the cases reported are in children in the 5- to 9-year age groups. There have been 2 deaths to date. In Maine, 11 of the 27 cases reported to date have been in persons under 5 years of age, and all have been paralytic.



The Poliomyelitis Surveillance Unit, Public Health Service Communicable Disease Center, reports that the number of accepted cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in persons who previously had received vaccine is 150, and the nonparalytic cases total 127 (corrected totals). Cases accepted in the past week had onset of symptoms in the period from July 3 to 27, inclusive. No conclusions can be drawn from these case reports with respect to the efficacy of poliomyelitis vaccine. Complete information on the occurrence of the disease among vaccinated and nonvaccinated children of comparable age is necessary for such an evaluation, and this information will not be available for some time. The 1954 field trials showed that the vaccine was effective in preventing paralytic poliomyelitis. Some paralytic cases in vaccinated children can be expected, however, because the vaccine is not 100 percent effective.

Excess mortality

This is the fifth successive week that the number of deaths reported in the major cities exceeded the 3-year median for the corresponding week, 1952-54. (See the chart on p. 6). For the 5-week period ended August 6, a total of 50,584 deaths was reported, about 6 percent more than the total of 47,527 deaths for the 5 corresponding weekly medians. The excess for the current week ended August 6 was about 7 percent. This increase in deaths during July and the first week in August is believed to be associated with the prolonged hot spell experienced by a large section of the United States. For this 5-week period, the largest percentage excess of deaths has been reported by the cities in the East North Central Division (10.7 percent), followed next by the cities in the Middle Atlantic (9.3 percent), and in the New England (8.8 percent). For the current week, the excess reported by the cities in the West North Central Division was especially high, 46 percent.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Rabies in a bat

A case of rabies in a bat has been reported by the Montana State Board of Health. The bat was reported sick in a yard near Hamilton but died before it could be caught. Negri bodies were observed in stained smears after tissue transfer at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton. This is the second bat in the State in the past year proven to be rabid by laboratory study.

Psittacosis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia Department of Health, reports a case of psittacosis in a 42-year-old woman. The diagnosis was confirmed by complement fixation test. The patient was in contact with 3 parakeets since Christmas 1954. One of these birds died shortly after purchase, and was not available for laboratory tests. The other 2 birds, neither of which had shown any

signs of illness, were sent to the Viral and Rickettsial Laboratory, Montgomery, Alabama, for viral study. To date, no report on these birds has been received from the laboratory.

Encephalitis

During June and July of this year, 37 cases of central nervous system disease have been reported in the 4 study areas in California. Most of these have been diagnosed as suspect poliomyelitis or post-infectious encephalitis. However, laboratory tests are not yet complete. Very few cases of clinical illness suggestive of arthropod-borne encephalitis have been observed. For the corresponding 2 months of 1954, there were 135 similar cases reported in the 4 study areas. To date, no western or St. Louis types of infection have been reported in the State. Since the first of May, 498 pools of mosquitoes have been collected. Of these, western equine encephalitis has been isolated from 8 pools collected during the weeks ended July 9 and 16 in 3 of the 4 study areas.

Infectious hepatitis

Dr. G. H. Agate, Michigan Department of Health, reports an outbreak of infectious hepatitis among approximately 2,000 persons in an institution. The infection was confined to a small group of 68 inmates and the employees of one section of the institution. A total of 22 cases was reported, 1 of which was in an employee who was hospitalized for the disease prior to the outbreak. No known cases have occurred since the last of April.

The California Department of Public Health reports an outbreak of infectious hepatitis in an institution. During the first 6 months of 1955 there have been 38 recognized cases. One additional case was reported in December of 1954. It is assumed that the infection was introduced by a nurse who had transferred from another similar institution, and who became ill with infectious hepatitis 10 days after the transfer. This nurse worked in several of the wards where cases appeared. When

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	31st WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
				First 31 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
	Ended August 6 1955	Ended August 7, 1954	Median 1950-54	1955	1954	Median 1950-54	1954-55	1953-54	Median 1949-50 to 1953-54	
Anthrax----------062	-	-	-	20	13	20	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Botulism----------049.1	-	-	---	5	6	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Brucellosis (undulant fever)------044	28	41	---	[2]758	995	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria----------055	33	27	27	794	1,020	1,594	85	148	148	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious----------082	23	44	42	[3]842	938	628	[3]311	382	233	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum----------092,N998.5 pt.	472	741	---	22,136	34,763	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria----------110-117	16	36	---	259	391	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Measles----------085	1,930	3,247	2,261	513,582	622,032	463,392	569,332	658,124	492,782	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections----------057	46	43	50	2,385	2,858	2,858	3,477	4,180	4,180	Sept. 1
Poliomyelitis----------080	1,409	1,608	1,608	[4]7,937	10,791	10,707	[4]6,874	9,238	9,238	Apr. 1
Psittacosis----------096.2	[5]6	7	---	184	413	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Rabies in man----------094	-	1	1	4	4	4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Rocky Mountain spotted fever-----104A	16	17	20	183	185	213	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat----------050,051	1,488	1,427	1,110	106,745	109,168	77,394	1,488	1,427	1,110	Aug. 1
Smallpox----------084	-	-	-	-	-	9	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Trichiniasis----------128	3	5	---	179	167	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Tularemia----------059	5	8	10	345	367	405	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Typhoid fever----------040	44	73	80	931	1,188	1,259	624	782	884	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic----------101	10	6	---	85	117	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Whooping cough----------056	1,418	1,248	1,248	[6]43,819	34,212	34,212	[6]61,101	43,969	45,545	Oct. 1
Rabies in animals----------	83	80	111	[7]3,434	4,641	4,638	[7]4,787	6,425	---	Oct. 1

[1]Frequencies are too small.
[2]Deduction: Ohio, week ended July 30, 6 cases.
[3]Deduction: Ohio, week ended July 30, 6 cases.
[4]Deductions: Utah, week ended July 15, 1 case; Indiana, week ended June 4, 1 case.
[5]Wisconsin, 1; Minnesota, 3; and California, 2.
[6]Addition: Nebraska, week ended July 30, 9 cases.
[7]Addition: Delaware, week ended July 30, 2 cases.

SOURCE AND NATURE OF MORBIDITY DATA

These provisional data are based on reports to the Public Health Service from health departments of each State and Territory and of one possession. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, psittacosis, rabies in man, and smallpox are not shown in table 2, but a footnote to table 1 shows the States making the reports. In addition, when diseases of rare occurrence (cholera, dengue, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted at the end of table 1.

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

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO FOR WEEKS ENDED AUGUST 7, 1954 AND AUGUST 6, 1955

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

AREA	BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER) (044)		DIPHTHERIA (055)		ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS (082)		HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM (092,N998.5 pt.)		MALARIA (110-117)			
									Civilian[1]		Military	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES	28	41	33	27	23	44	472	741	10	10	6	26
NEW ENGLAND	-	1	-	-	-	2	31	57	-	1	-	-
Maine	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	24	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	-	1	-	-	-	2	7	19	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	7	-	1	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	-	1	-	1	7	10	138	146	-	1	-	7
New York	-	-	-	-	5	9	79	109	-	-	-	2
New Jersey	-	1	-	-	2	1	6	5	-	1	-	5
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	1	-	-	53	32	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	2	9	1	1	4	6	48	86	-	-	-	1
Ohio	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	19	-	-	-	-
Indiana	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	8	-	-	-	-
Illinois	1	2	-	-	-	2	15	30	-	-	-	1
Michigan	1	1	1	1	-	2	15	19	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	-	6	-	-	1	-	5	10	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	9	17	1	1	1	5	54	124	-	2	-	-
Minnesota	2	6	-	-	-	1	10	33	-	-	-	-
Iowa	1	9	-	1	-	1	10	56	-	-	-	-
Missouri	2	-	-	-	1	-	5	8	-	1	-	-
North Dakota	1	-	-	-	-	2	10	7	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	3	1	1	-	-	-	17	5	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	8	-	-	-	-
Kansas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	6	2	6	4	-	4	42	83	1	-	1	1
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	15	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	2	1	-	-	-	15	39	-	-	1	1
West Virginia	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Georgia	3	-	3	1	-	1	2	7	-	-	-	-
Florida	2	-	1	1	-	2	-	7	1	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	5	2	17	16	3	2	28	62	-	-	-	11
Kentucky	1	-	-	1	-	-	6	14	-	-	-	11
Tennessee	1	-	1	-	2	1	9	15	-	-	-	-
Alabama	2	-	16	14	1	1	7	8	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	1	2	-	1	-	-	6	25	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	1	7	5	4	2	3	34	73	7	6	1	2
Arkansas	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	1	-
Louisiana	-	2	3	2	-	-	5	16	1	-	-	2
Oklahoma	-	2	-	-	-	2	5	4	-	1	-	-
Texas	-	1	2	2	2	1	21	41	6	5	-	-
MOUNTAIN	2	-	3	-	-	-	28	43	1	-	-	-
Montana	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-
Idaho	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Colorado	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	25	-	-	-	-
Utah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Nevada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	3	2	-	-	6	12	69	67	1	-	4	4
Washington	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	13	-	-	-	-
Oregon	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	18	-	-	-	-
California	3	2	-	-	6	11	28	36	1	-	4	4
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

[1]Includes cases not specified as civilian or military.

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED AUGUST 7, 1954 AND AUGUST 6, 1955—Continued

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

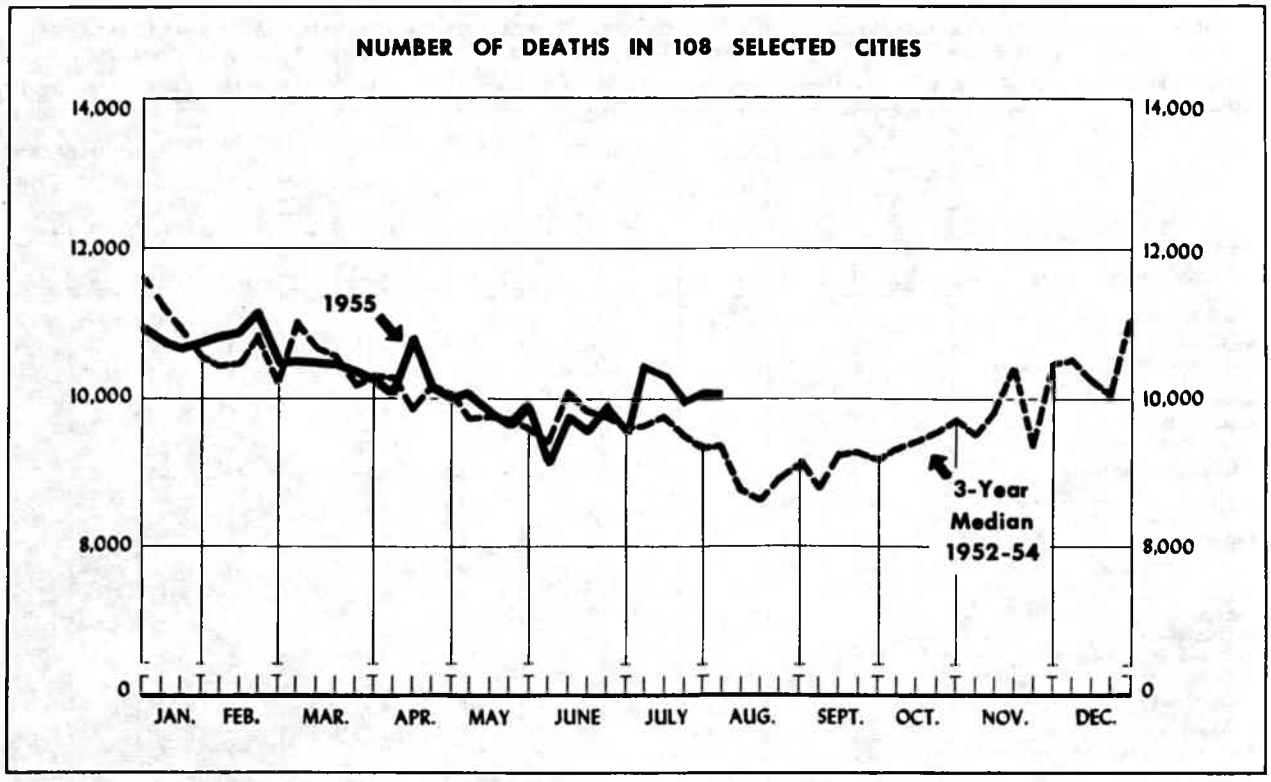
AREA	MEASLES (085)		MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS (057)		POLIOMYELITIS (080)						ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (104A)	
					Total[2]		Paralytic (080.0,080.1)		Nonparalytic (080.2)			
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES	1,930	3,247	46	43	1,409	1,608	521	585	538	551	16	17
NEW ENGLAND	77	417	6	2	395	40	183	7	137	23	-	-
Maine	9	25	1	-	11	4	9	2	2	2	-	-
New Hampshire	-	5	-	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont	13	83	4	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	38	240	1	1	309	14	156	4	117	9	-	-
Rhode Island	3	19	-	-	19	4	2	-	1	4	-	-
Connecticut	14	45	-	-	38	18	14	1	17	8	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	331	915	8	9	153	126	35	35	37	30	2	3
New York	222	474	1	2	102	50	35	13	37	21	-	1
New Jersey	49	280	2	2	21	36	-	22	-	9	1	-
Pennsylvania	60	161	5	5	30	40	-	-	-	-	1	2
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	597	544	7	4	322	335	104	121	132	91	1	3
Ohio	129	95	2	1	42	104	9	30	9	14	1	1
Indiana	7	22	2	1	29	39	9	18	14	5	-	2
Illinois	205	116	2	1	68	78	18	41	30	27	-	-
Michigan	92	145	1	1	78	95	18	30	47	40	-	-
Wisconsin	164	166	-	-	105	19	50	2	32	5	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	61	113	3	5	139	208	42	76	68	79	-	-
Minnesota	8	16	1	3	28	28	6	8	22	13	-	-
Iowa	25	27	-	-	45	83	12	25	28	50	-	-
Missouri	7	34	1	-	9	30	5	16	1	7	-	-
North Dakota	6	26	1	-	2	5	-	1	1	-	-	-
South Dakota	2	2	-	-	8	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Nebraska	2	2	-	1	28	32	14	22	10	7	-	-
Kansas	11	6	-	1	19	29	5	4	4	2	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	84	303	5	9	122	233	41	89	59	84	5	5
Delaware	-	4	-	1	7	4	2	3	5	1	-	-
Maryland	7	22	-	-	8	8	4	5	4	3	-	1
District of Columbia	3	7	-	-	5	3	1	2	4	1	-	-
Virginia	19	95	1	1	25	39	8	22	17	17	2	3
West Virginia	36	89	-	1	6	10	4	6	2	3	-	-
North Carolina	10	10	1	-	23	54	5	15	17	24	2	-
South Carolina	4	6	1	1	21	15	6	4	4	4	1	1
Georgia	-	18	2	4	15	40	8	16	1	3	-	-
Florida	5	52	-	1	12	60	3	16	5	28	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	73	96	5	3	58	151	27	41	21	47	6	4
Kentucky	15	12	-	-	38	48	21	15	15	23	2	2
Tennessee	29	46	4	1	6	54	1	5	1	16	2	1
Alabama	10	15	1	2	4	19	1	13	2	5	-	-
Mississippi	19	23	-	-	10	30	4	8	3	3	2	1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	184	265	7	6	122	213	49	78	41	84	1	-
Arkansas	-	4	1	-	9	9	2	4	6	4	1	-
Louisiana	2	2	1	-	14	18	8	10	6	8	-	-
Oklahoma	20	11	1	1	21	34	4	11	3	12	-	-
Texas	162	248	4	5	78	152	35	53	26	60	-	-
MOUNTAIN	138	115	2	-	42	68	16	11	12	17	1	2
Montana	20	25	1	-	4	3	2	1	2	2	-	-
Idaho	4	7	-	-	16	4	9	-	3	-	-	-
Wyoming	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	2	-	1	-	-
Colorado	48	7	1	-	9	15	3	6	5	8	-	1
New Mexico	15	26	-	-	6	11	2	2	2	4	-	-
Arizona	28	22	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	2	-	-
Utah	23	17	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nevada	-	10	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	385	479	3	5	56	234	24	127	31	96	-	-
Washington	73	61	1	-	13	14	6	5	6	4	-	-
Oregon	45	39	1	-	10	9	7	4	3	3	-	-
California	267	379	1	5	33	211	11	118	22	89	-	-
Alaska	2	20	1	-	2	18	1	8	1	9	-	-
Hawaii	25	31	-	1	8	3	6	1	2	2	-	-
Puerto Rico	31	66	-	1	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-

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

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED AUGUST 7, 1954 AND AUGUST 6, 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)		TRICHINIASIS (128)	TULAREMIA (059)		TYPHOID FEVER (040)		TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC (101)	WHOOPING COUGH (056)		RABIES IN ANIMALS	
	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES	1,488	1,427	3	5	8	44	73	10	1,418	1,248	83	80
NEW ENGLAND	32	41	1	-	-	1	2	-	48	49	-	-
Maine	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
New Hampshire	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Vermont	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Massachusetts	19	20	-	-	-	1	1	-	21	22	-	-
Rhode Island	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Connecticut	7	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	18	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	51	58	1	-	-	3	9	-	115	240	15	1
New York	37	34	1	-	-	-	4	-	43	91	13	1
New Jersey	7	7	-	-	-	1	2	-	19	49	-	-
Pennsylvania	7	17	-	-	-	2	3	-	53	100	2	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	96	78	-	-	-	6	11	-	333	295	-	15
Ohio	20	9	-	-	-	3	6	-	72	49	-	2
Indiana	17	24	-	-	-	1	-	-	70	15	-	8
Illinois	17	18	-	-	-	1	2	-	58	41	-	1
Michigan	34	17	-	-	-	1	2	-	95	148	-	-
Wisconsin	8	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	38	42	-	4
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	27	41	-	-	-	2	4	-	52	87	5	18
Minnesota	8	15	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	20	1	6
Iowa	2	7	-	-	-	1	2	-	15	12	-	5
Missouri	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	14	17	1	7
North Dakota	14	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	1	-
South Dakota	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-
Nebraska	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Kansas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	20	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	219	87	-	2	2	8	9	5	140	154	20	15
Delaware	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	4	5	-	-	-	3	1	-	7	25	-	-
District of Columbia	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-
Virginia	161	62	-	-	1	1	1	-	27	36	6	4
West Virginia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	19	4	7
North Carolina	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	23	28	2	-
South Carolina	15	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	14	4	3
Georgia	24	2	-	2	1	2	4	3	12	21	3	1
Florida	5	5	-	-	-	1	1	2	23	5	1	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	39	30	-	-	1	10	16	1	184	111	15	15
Kentucky	25	17	-	-	-	3	6	-	83	31	3	5
Tennessee	10	11	-	-	-	5	3	-	52	34	4	2
Alabama	4	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	48	36	5	5
Mississippi	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	10	3	3
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	667	692	-	3	1	7	17	3	364	132	9	13
Arkansas	39	23	-	2	-	2	6	-	54	12	-	2
Louisiana	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	-	-
Oklahoma	21	33	-	-	-	-	4	1	23	13	-	-
Texas	605	634	-	1	1	5	6	2	285	102	9	11
MOUNTAIN	260	306	-	-	3	3	2	-	68	26	2	-
Montana	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-
Idaho	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Wyoming	15	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Colorado	33	36	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	4	-	-
New Mexico	27	6	-	-	-	2	1	-	5	2	2	-
Arizona	172	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	9	-	-
Utah	6	20	-	-	1	1	-	-	20	7	-	-
Nevada	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
PACIFIC	97	94	1	-	1	4	3	1	114	154	17	3
Washington	26	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	5	-	-
Oregon	21	23	-	-	1	1	-	-	6	10	-	-
California	50	64	1	-	-	3	3	1	97	139	17	3
Alaska	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	15	30	-	-



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 to 64 ($d \pm 2\sqrt{d}$, where d represents the average number of deaths per week).

The number of deaths in cities of the same size may also differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations, and because some cities are hospital centers serving the surrounding areas. Changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due in part to population increases or decreases.

Table 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

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

AREA	31st week ended August 6, 1955	30th week ended July 30, 1955	31st week median 1952-54	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 31 WEEKS		
					1955	1954	Percent change
TOTAL: 106 REPORTING CITIES	9,964	9,975	9,274	+7.4	313,747	306,145	+2.5
New England (14 cities)	614	660	545	+12.7	21,630	20,426	+5.9
Middle Atlantic (17 cities)	2,777	3,166	2,757	+0.7	94,550	90,762	+4.2
East North Central (18 cities)	2,361	2,163	2,048	+15.3	69,322	67,710	+2.4
West North Central (8 cities)	1,019	656	700	+45.6	21,374	22,523	-5.1
South Atlantic (9 cities)	739	820	810	-8.8	23,951	23,722	+1.0
East South Central (8 cities)	465	481	462	+0.6	14,617	14,403	+1.5
West South Central (12 cities)	635	665	688	-7.7	21,520	21,182	+1.6
Mountain (8 cities)	227	232	226	+0.4	7,501	7,140	+5.1
Pacific (12 cities)	1,127	1,132	1,068	+5.5	39,282	38,277	+2.6

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 6, 1955

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

CITY	31st week ended August 6, 1955	30th week ended July 30, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 31 WEEKS	
			1955	1954
NEW ENGLAND				
Boston	236	187	7,397	6,838
Bridgeport	34	49	1,189	1,101
Cambridge	28	29	902	866
Fall River	16	29	868	872
Hartford	37	43	1,437	1,394
Lowell	21	32	791	855
Lynn	27	23	723	680
New Bedford	17	23	768	699
New Haven	34	44	1,390	1,344
Providence	56	54	2,006	1,837
Somerville	10	14	489	434
Springfield, Mass.	34	47	1,280	1,204
Waterbury	12	31	784	758
Worcester	52	55	1,606	1,544
MIDDLE ATLANTIC				
Albany	53	44	1,496	1,378
Allentown	(37)	(40)	(1,153)	(1,047)
Buffalo	139	138	4,257	4,277
Camden	39	39	1,168	1,146
Elizabeth	20	35	857	872
Erie	41	20	1,096	1,068
Jersey City	60	56	2,193	2,146
Newark, N. J.	83	110	3,196	3,045
New York City	1,404	1,610	49,510	47,720
Paterson	38	39	1,195	1,193
Philadelphia	448	652	15,363	14,482
Pittsburgh	186	171	5,564	5,011
Reading	(17)	(33)	(724)	(639)
Rochester, N. Y.	88	80	2,893	2,809
Schenectady	28	26	716	744
Scranton	(34)	(33)	(1,045)	(1,061)
Syracuse	60	47	1,726	1,690
Trenton	42	49	1,495	1,392
Utica	19	22	923	950
Yonkers	29	28	902	839
EAST NORTH CENTRAL				
Akron	40	50	1,637	1,726
Canton	33	25	836	892
Chicago	885	719	22,600	22,475
Cincinnati	155	120	4,620	4,364
Cleveland	199	218	6,102	6,231
Columbus	121	94	3,365	3,139
Dayton	67	70	2,034	1,968
Detroit	295	325	10,195	9,662
Evansville	26	30	982	944
Flint	34	34	1,138	1,160
Fort Wayne	24	47	1,065	806
Gary	(23)	(26)	(846)	(765)
Grand Rapids	40	37	1,315	1,197
Indianapolis	130	94	3,397	3,451
Milwaukee	119	114	3,875	3,798
Peoria	43	22	909	938
South Bend	17	27	765	709
Toledo	80	81	2,892	2,767
Youngstown	53	56	1,595	1,483
WEST NORTH CENTRAL				
Des Moines	97	48	1,585	1,562
Duluth	24	28	783	841
Kansas City, Kans.	---	(24)	---	(1,083)
Kansas City, Mo.	176	121	3,391	3,852
Minneapolis	155	102	3,611	3,573
Omaha	146	58	2,006	1,931
WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
St. Louis	288	199	6,790	7,372
St. Paul	83	56	2,021	2,002
Wichita	50	44	1,187	1,390
SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Atlanta	115	98	3,191	3,270
Baltimore	211	244	7,049	6,770
Charlotte	27	23	878	929
Jacksonville	(51)	(33)	(1,460)	(1,558)
Miami	43	74	1,660	2,031
Norfolk	23	42	986	935
Richmond	76	55	2,013	1,956
Savannah	(20)	---	---	(889)
Tampa	55	51	1,734	1,658
Washington, D. C.	165	193	5,322	5,158
Wilmington, Del.	24	40	1,118	1,015
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Birmingham	70	85	2,373	2,345
Chattanooga	42	45	1,379	1,379
Knoxville	41	55	1,041	1,059
Louisville	101	74	3,268	3,338
Memphis	92	84	3,062	2,969
Mobile	23	27	906	970
Montgomery	19	33	813	798
Nashville	77	78	1,775	1,545
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Austin	23	25	776	802
Baton Rouge	16	18	665	675
Corpus Christi	18	16	553	528
Dallas	---	(105)	---	(3,093)
El Paso	29	32	898	851
Fort Worth	39	64	1,682	1,706
Houston	106	122	3,884	3,766
Little Rock	46	47	1,384	1,309
New Orleans	135	119	4,635	4,588
Oklahoma City	69	43	1,773	1,871
San Antonio	99	76	2,688	2,418
Shreveport	24	45	1,205	1,211
Tulsa	31	58	1,377	1,457
MOUNTAIN				
Albuquerque	14	17	716	811
Colorado Springs	11	18	419	369
Denver	104	105	3,409	3,182
Ogden	15	18	342	333
Phoenix	19	18	746	662
Pueblo	11	11	403	417
Salt Lake City	47	38	1,322	1,244
Tucson	6	7	144	122
PACIFIC				
Berkeley	14	15	561	547
Long Beach	33	38	1,521	1,512
Los Angeles	430	433	14,086	13,649
Oakland	75	77	2,699	2,857
Pasadena	34	33	1,104	1,048
Portland, Oreg.	101	73	3,002	3,073
Sacramento	45	42	1,525	1,448
San Diego	51	65	2,302	2,242
San Francisco	145	162	5,798	5,677
Seattle	115	116	4,056	3,777
Spokane	49	44	1,434	1,374
Tacoma	35	34	1,194	1,073
Honolulu	(38)	(39)	(1,128)	(1,048)

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

the outbreak was recognized, gamma globulin was administered to all persons including employees in the wards with cases and to all new admissions to the institution. New admissions were not assigned to wards where cases were occurring, and transfers within the institution were curtailed.

Salmonellosis

The California Department of Public Health reports that a 4-year-old child was hospitalized as a suspect case of typhoid fever, but Salmonella chester was isolated from a stool specimen. Upon routine investigation, the same organism was isolated from 8 of the other 9 members of the family, none of whom was ill. It was found that this family had eaten shrimp which was purchased in bulk. This product was obtained locally, but is believed to have originated in another State. Apparently no laboratory studies were made on the shrimp which would definitely incriminate it as the vehicle of infection.

Gastro-enteritis

The Los Angeles City Health Department reports 2 outbreaks of gastro-enteritis among persons eating in food establishments. One outbreak occurred among approximately 200 persons who ate a noon meal in a cafeteria. Of these, 15 are known to have become ill with cramps and diarrhea from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 hours later. It was estimated that at least 50 persons were affected. Bacteriological examination of enchiladas (ground beef, cheese, and tomato sauce added to tortilla) showed that it contained a large number of bacteria most of which were streptococci. The source of infection was not found. The other outbreak occurred among approximately 700 persons who ate an evening meal. Of these, 140 are known to have become ill with cramps and diarrhea from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 hours later. Bacteriological examination of food items available was negative for known food poisoning bacteria.

The California Department of Public Health reports that 5 persons became ill from 3 to 7 hours after eating ham in a public eating place. The meat was left over from a banquet and was inadequately refrigerated for several days. Laboratory examination of a sample of the ham revealed the presence of hemolytic staphylococci. An investigation revealed that one of the cooks in the kitchen had received a severe burn on his hands from the use of bleach.

Three other outbreaks of gastro-enteritis were reported—one each in Maine, New Mexico, and New York. Dr. Dean Fisher states that 2 of 7 women who had lunch in a restaurant in Maine became ill from 13 to 16 hours later. Crab meat salad was suspected to be the vehicle of infection but none was available for laboratory examination. According to information received from Dr. P. J. Rafle, Health Commissioner in Suffolk County, New York, 17 of 26 persons who attended a birthday party became ill suddenly (2 hours) after the meal. The symptoms consisted of nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Potato salad was suspected to be the vehicle of infection. Dr. G. R. Clark has given information on an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in New Mexico. Of more than 100 persons who attended a buffet supper, 88 became ill with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and prostration from 24 to 56 hours after the supper. Foods served were not available for bacteriological examination, but epidemiologic information indicates that lemonade, probably contaminated during the preparation process, was the vehicle of infection.

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