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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended December 3, 1955

For the current week, large numbers of diphtheria cases were reported in Georgia (21), Alabama (20), and Texas (19). South Carolina reported 5 cases and no other State reported more than 3.

Of the 283 cases of poliomyelitis reported for the current week, 53 were in California, where 41 cases were reported last week. New York and Wisconsin reported 23 cases each compared with 22 and 18 cases, respectively, for the previous week. In Massachusetts, the number (17) of cases was less than half the 37 reported for the previous week.

Cumulative poliomyelitis figures for the United States are:

	Calendar year		Disease year	
	1955	1954	1955	1954
Total	28,588	37,771	27,525	36,218
Paralytic	10,287	14,041	9,825	13,435
Nonparalytic	10,921	11,073	10,630	10,692
Unspecified	7,380	12,657	7,070	12,091

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Suspect case of melioidosis

Dr. John Mason, New Mexico Department of Public Health, has supplied information on a case reported as melioidosis. The patient, a 25-year-old white male, had sudden onset of symptoms early in September 1955. There was severe constitutional reaction with high "spiking" fever and mental confusion for 6 or 7 days. There were no lesions of the skin. A routine culture of the urine showed a motile, gram-negative, slender rod which on the basis of cultural characteristics resembled the causative agent of melioidosis or Malleomyces pseudomallei (Whitmore's bacillus). Rapid improvement of the patient occurred following treatment with chloromycetin and terramycin.

The source of infection has not been determined, but since the patient is an upholsterer by trade and handles furniture belonging to military personnel who have lived in Korea or other parts of the Far East, this possible source is being considered. There has been no obvious contact with rats or other rodents.

The disease is mainly limited to countries in the Far East. As the disease occurs in wild rats, it is presumed that these animals are a natural reservoir of infection. Epizootics of the infections have been reported in guinea pigs and rabbits in laboratories.

Further study of the organism isolated from the above patient is under way, and a more extensive epidemiologic investigation will be made if the identity of the organism is confirmed.

Histoplasmosis

Dr. P. S. Brachman, Public Health Service Officer, University of Pennsylvania, has supplied information on a case of acute histoplasmosis. The patient, a 26-year-old male, became ill early in October with sore throat and a "grippy" feeling. Chills, fever, and drenching sweats developed soon after onset of symptoms. Shortness of breath became pronounced. An X-ray examination of the chest 10 days after onset showed a "dense diffuse miliary disease" which was thought at first to be tuberculosis. Specimens of sputum and gastric secretions were negative for tubercle bacilli. A tuberculin skin test was negative but a histoplasmin test was markedly positive. A histoplasmin collodion agglutination was positive at a dilution of 1:32, which is highly suggestive of histoplasmosis. The complement fixation test was strongly positive at 1:256 dilution. Histoplasma capsulatum has been recovered from specimens of sputum and gastric washings.

The patient has always lived in urban areas including New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Delaware. He moved in January 1955 to a small tenant farmer's home in southeastern Pennsylvania. He worked as a research chemist in Wilmington, Delaware, where he helped develop analytical methods of analysis of organic antifungal agents. No other person working in the same laboratory has been ill recently. The patient's new home is located in a rural area on a farming estate. Agricultural activities in the area include dairying and some chicken raising. The house occupied by the patient and his wife is of stone construction, part of which is over 200 years old. A stone and wooden chicken coop had been torn down in the spring of 1955, and soil from the coop was distributed to a neighboring field. The patient worked in the yard of his new home frequently, and about a week prior to onset of his illness, he had removed rocks and trash from the vicinity of the place where the chicken coop had been located. He does not recall that it was a particularly dusty job. The persons who tore down the coop and spread the fertilizer material from the coop have shown no clinical evidence of having had histoplasmosis. Soil samples from the area of the chicken coop, and other areas about the patient's house and the estate are being tested.

The patient's wife was skin tested and had a markedly positive reaction to histoplasmin, but an X-ray examination of her chest taken when her husband first became ill is reported to have been normal.

More extensive histoplasmin skin testing and chest X-ray surveys are planned to include others in the area of the patient's home and place of work.

Anthrax

Dr. J. D. Martin, Louisiana Department of Health, reports a human case of cutaneous anthrax in a veterinarian. A lesion appeared on the patient's left forearm approximately 5 days after he had autopsied a cow that had died of anthrax. Bacillus anthracis was isolated from a specimen taken from the cow and also from the lesion on the arm of the veterinarian.

Encephalitis

The California Department of Public Health has given information on encephalitis for the first 10 months of 1955. The incidence of acute encephalitis has been markedly lower this year than in 1954. The cases admitted during the summer months to county hospitals in the 4 study areas (Fresno, Kern, San Joaquin, and Sutter-Yuba Counties) indicated a low occurrence

of the syndrome of central nervous system involvement. The incidence of arthropod-borne encephalitis in 1955 is the lowest on record since 1945, except for 1948, when only 1 case was diagnosed. Only 8 cases—6 western equine infections and 2 St. Louis—were reported this year. Epidemiologic data indicate the latter 2 cases were contracted outside the State. In 1954, 151 cases were reported, 99 of which were St. Louis type.

The incidence of western equine encephalomyelitis in horses has been low this year, 36 cases compared with 51 for 1954. During the 10-month period, 74 squirrel brains were submitted to the State laboratory as suspected cases of rabies. Western equine encephalitis virus has been isolated from 4 of these.

Since the first week of May 1955, 1,114 pools of mosquitoes have been submitted to the laboratory from the 4 study areas. To date, reports on 911 of these pools show: 63 positive for western equine virus, 2 positive for St. Louis virus, 13 isolations of unidentified virus, and 821 have been reported negative.

The over-all seasonal occurrence of C. tarsalis, as measured by adult indices, did not reach as high a level in 1955 as in 1954. Development of the immature stages was slow during the spring months, and widespread occurrence was not encountered until the middle of the summer. The slow build up of the adult C. tarsalis population was particularly noticeable in the central valley and coastal regions. A contributing factor to the slow build up in the central valley was the below normal temperatures recorded from March 1 to May 15, and again, from June 15 through the entire month of July. Also of importance was the below normal precipitation in this area during the spring months.

Psittacosis

The California Department of Public Health has given information on 7 cases of psittacosis which have occurred in the State over a period of several months. The diagnosis of 5 of these

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	48th WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
				First 48 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
	Ended Dec. 3, 1955	Ended Dec. 4, 1954	Median 1950-54	1955	1954	Median 1950-54	1954-55	1953-54	Median 1949-50 to 1953-54	
Anthrax-062	-	-	-	26	19	36	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Botulism-049.1	[2]2	-	---	8	13	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-044	15	31	---	1,170	1,565	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-055	88	97	97	[3]1,760	1,925	2,798	[3]1,051	1,053	1,352	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-082	12	24	22	1,408	1,819	1,059	877	1,263	659	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-092,N998.5 pt.	427	902	---	[4]29,590	46,790	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-110-117	4	10	---	459	692	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Measles-085	2,275	5,258	3,216	[5]534,353	656,910	494,229	[5]15,954	27,801	19,261	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-057	71	78	84	3,227	3,823	3,823	656	764	819	Sept. 1
Poliomyelitis-080	283	462	462	28,588	37,771	34,919	27,525	36,218	33,338	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-096.2	[6]5	2	---	259	475	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Rabies in man-094	-	-	-	5	8	10	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Rocky Mountain spotted fever-104A	3	1	-	272	284	312	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-050,051	2,307	2,619	2,201	134,908	135,708	98,810	29,651	27,967	22,537	Aug. 1
Smallpox-084	-	-	-	-	-	12	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Trichiniasis-128	1	7	---	250	235	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Tularemia-059	9	13	13	481	548	584	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Typhoid fever-040	35	33	34	1,617	2,167	2,170	1,310	1,761	1,865	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-101	2	7	---	126	177	---	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Whooping cough-056	913	1,776	1,307	[7]59,704	55,980	55,980	[7]7,602	12,219	9,786	Oct. 1
Rabies in animals	89	97	104	4,751	6,335	6,710	713	939	---	Oct. 1

[1]Frequencies are too small.
[2]Reported in California. (Source, home-canned olives.)
[3]Deduction: Mississippi, week ended November 19, 3 cases.
[4]Deduction: California, week ended November 26, 4 cases.
[5]Addition: Kansas, week ended November 26, 12 cases.
[6]Illinois, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, 1 case each; New York, 2 cases.
[7]Addition: Virginia, week ended November 26, 13 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 DECEMBER 4, 1954 AND DECEMBER 3, 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	15	31	88	97	12	24	427	902	3	6	1	4
NEW ENGLAND	1	-	-	2	-	-	38	146	-	-	-	-
Maine	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	54	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	-	-	-
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	1	-	-	2	-	-	8	28	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	32	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	21	-	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	-	-	2	4	3	9	75	215	-	-	-	-
New York	-	-	2	2	3	8	36	104	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	-	-	-	2	-	1	8	15	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	96	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	1	12	3	6	-	1	61	111	-	-	-	-
Ohio	-	-	2	3	-	-	10	17	-	-	-	-
Indiana	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	12	-	-	-	-
Illinois	1	4	1	1	-	-	10	60	-	-	-	-
Michigan	-	6	-	1	-	-	17	18	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	-	2	-	-	-	1	17	4	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	8	11	5	8	4	2	26	103	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	2	5	1	2	-	-	3	43	-	-	-	-
Iowa	4	4	3	3	-	-	4	42	-	-	-	-
Missouri	1	-	1	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	5	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Kansas	1	1	-	1	4	2	1	5	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	-	-	30	32	-	5	15	66	-	-	-	2
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	26	-	-	-	1
West Virginia	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	6	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Georgia	-	-	21	26	-	3	3	15	-	-	-	-
Florida	-	-	1	2	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	-	2	23	13	1	1	16	48	-	1	-	2
Kentucky	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	-	-	2
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	23	-	-	-	-
Alabama	-	-	20	5	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	-	2	3	8	-	-	2	10	-	1	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	2	4	21	26	1	2	25	50	3	1	-	-
Arkansas	2	1	2	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	7	-	1	-	-
Texas	-	-	19	17	1	2	20	30	3	-	-	-
MOUNTAIN	2	1	1	4	-	-	63	76	-	1	-	-
Montana	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	15	-	-	-	-
Idaho	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-
Colorado	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-
Arizona	-	-	-	1	-	-	32	12	-	-	-	-
Utah	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Nevada	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	1	1	3	2	3	4	108	87	-	3	1	-
Washington	-	-	-	1	-	-	34	11	-	-	-	-
Oregon	-	-	-	-	1	-	16	20	-	-	-	-
California	1	1	3	1	2	4	58	56	-	3	1	-
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

[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 DECEMBER 4, 1954 AND DECEMBER 3, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948[1])

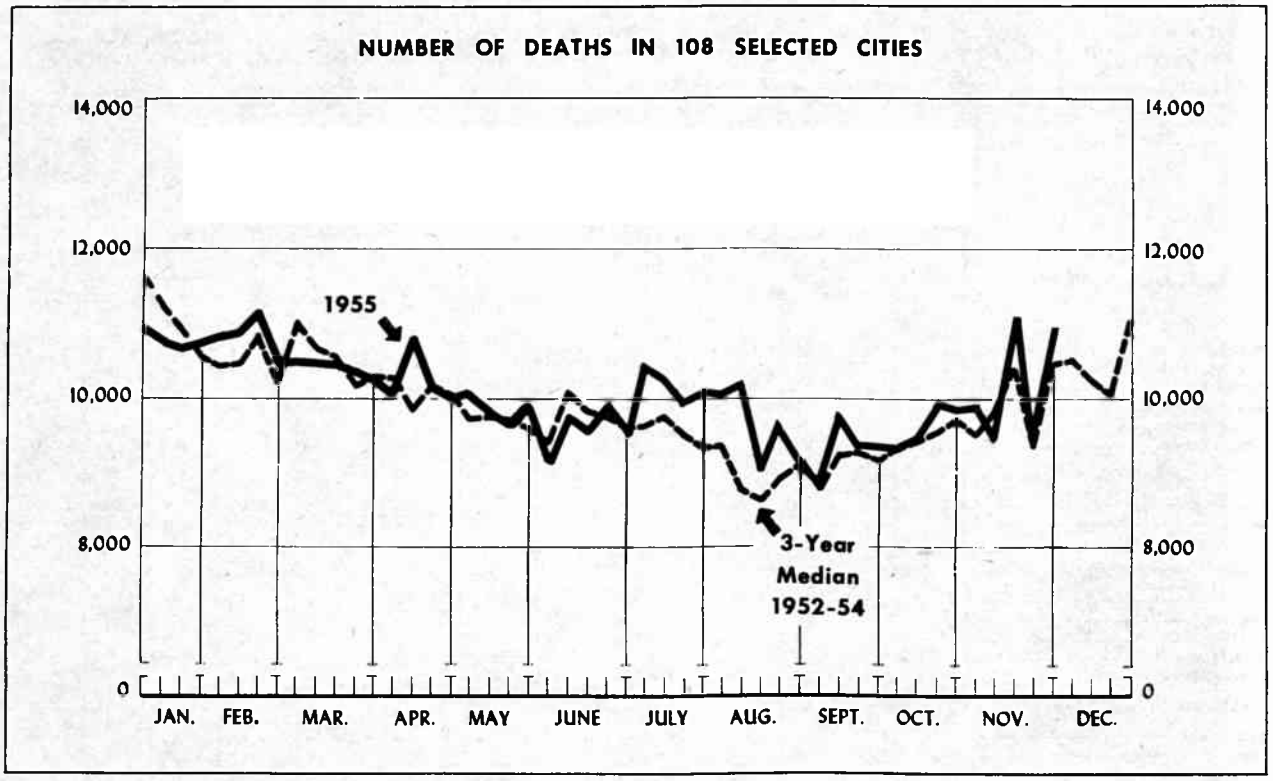
AREA	MEASLES (085)		MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS (057)		POLIOMYELITIS (080)						ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (104A)	
					Total[2]		Paralytic (080.0,080.1)		Nonparalytic (080.2)			
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES	2,275	5,258	71	78	283	462	135	222	76	99	3	1
NEW ENGLAND	29	1,700	2	5	36	24	16	8	4	10	-	-
Maine	-	136	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire	-	119	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont	15	60	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
Massachusetts	11	1,054	2	3	17	11	10	5	-	6	-	-
Rhode Island	-	36	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	3	295	-	1	5	12	1	2	3	4	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	332	1,704	18	13	39	125	17	44	6	18	-	-
New York	151	672	10	6	23	74	13	26	5	11	-	-
New Jersey	20	446	2	3	8	27	4	18	1	7	-	-
Pennsylvania	161	586	6	4	8	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	517	710	20	11	55	93	32	43	13	22	-	-
Ohio	50	108	4	3	4	17	3	7	-	3	-	-
Indiana	22	28	4	3	12	7	8	2	2	1	-	-
Illinois	244	119	5	2	10	23	5	12	2	8	-	-
Michigan	168	421	7	2	6	32	4	15	1	8	-	-
Wisconsin	33	34	-	1	23	14	12	7	8	2	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	91	221	3	7	17	26	3	10	10	5	-	-
Minnesota	5	101	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	-	-	-
Iowa	26	49	-	1	4	10	-	4	-	3	-	-
Missouri	9	12	1	1	5	3	1	3	4	-	-	-
North Dakota	38	38	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
South Dakota	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Nebraska	4	7	-	2	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Kansas	9	12	-	2	1	8	-	1	1	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	357	162	10	21	25	53	11	32	7	13	2	1
Delaware	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Maryland	157	8	-	4	5	4	2	2	3	2	-	-
District of Columbia	9	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Virginia	116	61	3	5	1	11	-	8	1	2	1	-
West Virginia	12	49	-	-	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	20	9	3	5	6	7	5	4	-	1	1	1
South Carolina	11	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	-	-	-
Georgia	27	18	-	2	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Florida	5	16	2	3	2	22	-	14	-	6	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	61	104	1	7	7	24	6	13	1	4	1	-
Kentucky	34	26	-	4	1	6	1	4	-	2	-	-
Tennessee	12	48	-	2	2	8	2	3	-	2	-	-
Alabama	15	23	1	1	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	-
Mississippi	-	7	-	-	3	8	3	4	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	226	210	10	5	12	33	6	23	2	5	-	-
Arkansas	12	25	1	-	1	7	1	7	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	4	-	1	1	2	6	2	4	-	2	-	-
Oklahoma	39	6	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	171	179	7	3	7	20	3	12	2	3	-	-
MOUNTAIN	268	144	1	4	10	21	3	10	3	2	-	-
Montana	82	2	-	3	2	5	1	4	-	-	-	-
Idaho	2	8	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	13	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Colorado	87	4	1	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
New Mexico	15	72	-	-	3	4	1	3	2	1	-	-
Arizona	63	43	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Utah	6	15	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	394	303	6	5	82	63	41	39	30	20	-	-
Washington	78	74	2	-	14	6	5	1	2	3	-	-
Oregon	34	39	1	2	15	7	7	6	4	-	-	-
California	282	190	3	3	53	50	29	32	24	17	-	-
Alaska	35	4	2	2	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	-
Hawaii	7	29	1	-	12	1	9	1	3	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	66	78	-	1	-	15	-	15	-	-	-	-

[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 DECEMBER 4, 1954 AND DECEMBER 3, 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	2,307	2,619	1	9	13	35	33	2	913	1,776	89	97
NEW ENGLAND	109	147	-	-	-	1	-	-	53	359	-	-
Maine	17	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	26	-	-
New Hampshire	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-
Vermont	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	15	-	-
Massachusetts	53	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	105	-	-
Rhode Island	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	69	-	-
Connecticut	16	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	100	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	198	139	1	-	-	5	7	-	179	318	19	11
New York	115	72	1	-	-	1	5	-	60	94	10	11
New Jersey	22	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	94	-	-
Pennsylvania	61	39	-	-	-	4	2	-	71	130	9	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	249	303	-	3	2	3	6	-	220	374	3	11
Ohio	51	63	-	-	-	2	4	-	27	66	2	7
Indiana	34	64	-	1	-	-	-	-	28	24	1	1
Illinois	61	65	-	2	2	1	2	-	44	38	-	1
Michigan	80	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	183	-	-
Wisconsin	23	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	63	-	2
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	64	103	-	-	2	8	1	-	15	96	6	18
Minnesota	24	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	40	1	6
Iowa	13	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	1	6
Missouri	9	6	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	13	2	6
North Dakota	7	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	2	-
South Dakota	-	10	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	5	-	-
Nebraska	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kansas	11	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	169	262	-	2	3	5	3	-	147	180	15	21
Delaware	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Maryland	10	28	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	13	-	-
District of Columbia	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-
Virginia	63	103	-	1	-	-	1	-	64	69	7	8
West Virginia	9	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	64	1	4
North Carolina	24	30	-	-	1	1	-	-	17	12	2	-
South Carolina	12	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	6	3	4
Georgia	43	58	-	1	1	2	-	-	16	5	2	4
Florida	6	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	-	1
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	131	81	-	1	4	-	5	-	74	133	16	13
Kentucky	89	24	-	-	2	-	-	-	36	52	7	4
Tennessee	9	29	-	1	1	-	-	-	13	34	-	-
Alabama	9	20	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	45	6	8
Mississippi	24	8	-	-	1	-	3	-	16	2	3	1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	791	837	-	3	-	5	5	2	113	94	12	21
Arkansas	49	47	-	2	-	1	1	-	22	1	-	1
Louisiana	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	4	-	-
Oklahoma	23	14	-	-	-	1	1	-	11	4	-	-
Texas	719	768	-	1	-	3	1	2	79	85	12	20
MOUNTAIN	374	447	-	-	2	6	5	-	33	38	1	2
Montana	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Idaho	10	26	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wyoming	42	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Colorado	69	73	-	-	-	1	3	-	8	1	-	-
New Mexico	113	77	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	4	-	-
Arizona	116	104	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	27	1	2
Utah	14	51	-	-	2	-	1	-	5	4	-	-
Nevada	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	222	300	-	-	-	2	1	-	79	184	17	-
Washington	50	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	36	-	-
Oregon	56	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	17	-	-
California	116	174	-	-	-	2	1	-	48	131	17	-
Alaska	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	71	-	-



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	48th week ended Dec. 3, 1955	47th week ended Nov. 26, 1955	48th week median 1952-54	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 48 WEEKS		
					1955	1954	Percent change
TOTAL: 104 REPORTING CITIES	10,826	9,428	10,327	+4.8	476,086	463,238	+2.8
New England (14 cities)	721	693	704	+2.4	32,584	31,272	+4.2
Middle Atlantic (17 cities)	3,177	2,819	3,038	+4.6	142,199	137,527	+3.4
East North Central (18 cities)	2,409	2,025	2,218	+8.6	105,774	102,552	+3.1
West North Central (7 cities)	726	637	676	+7.4	30,524	31,281	-2.4
South Atlantic (9 cities)	811	753	817	-0.7	36,560	35,751	+2.3
East South Central (7 cities)	489	362	479	+2.1	20,611	20,244	+1.8
West South Central (12 cities)	858	709	823	+4.3	36,655	35,862	+2.2
Mountain (8 cities)	266	215	233	+14.2	11,279	10,860	+3.9
Pacific (12 cities)	1,369	1,215	1,231	+11.2	59,900	57,889	+3.5

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Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 3, 1955

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

CITY	48th week ended Dec. 3, 1955	47th week ended Nov. 26, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 48 WEEKS	
			1955	1954
NEW ENGLAND				
Boston	218	245	11,058	10,512
Bridgeport	43	36	1,763	1,657
Cambridge	39	34	1,418	1,290
Fall River	26	25	1,311	1,273
Hartford	52	40	2,155	2,208
Lowell	34	20	1,221	1,284
Lynn	31	29	1,068	1,019
New Bedford	23	20	1,141	1,071
New Haven	38	38	2,029	2,028
Providence	65	65	3,032	2,883
Somerville	17	13	717	687
Springfield, Mass.	41	48	2,007	1,857
Waterbury	35	25	1,209	1,122
Worcester	59	55	2,455	2,381
MIDDLE ATLANTIC				
Albany	44	50	2,271	2,157
Allentown	(44)	(33)	(1,726)	(1,596)
Buffalo	153	115	6,462	6,418
Camden	25	37	1,723	1,748
Elizabeth	26	25	1,248	1,342
Erie	41	22	1,639	1,577
Jersey City	70	67	3,291	3,260
Newark, N. J.	117	90	4,766	4,599
New York City	1,697	1,469	74,623	72,250
Paterson	47	29	1,759	1,787
Philadelphia	438	487	22,659	21,836
Pittsburgh	218	149	8,447	7,618
Reading	(25)	(21)	(1,084)	(965)
Rochester, N. Y.	102	112	4,505	4,318
Schenectady	23	21	1,064	1,153
Scranton	(43)	(31)	(1,611)	(1,610)
Syracuse	58	56	2,633	2,595
Trenton	63	37	2,279	2,144
Utica	30	26	1,473	1,440
Yonkers	25	27	1,357	1,285
EAST NORTH CENTRAL				
Akron	70	38	2,485	2,560
Canton	28	26	1,298	1,334
Chicago	788	700	34,640	33,988
Cincinnati	156	143	7,034	6,592
Cleveland	193	183	9,387	9,382
Columbus	119	81	5,058	4,784
Dayton	69	57	3,085	2,961
Detroit	328	289	15,337	14,652
Evansville	24	34	1,512	1,399
Flint	48	31	1,778	1,772
Fort Wayne	37	27	1,588	1,226
Gary	(30)	(23)	(1,316)	(1,232)
Grand Rapids	38	38	1,982	1,870
Indianapolis	154	108	5,280	5,229
Milwaukee	142	93	5,903	5,757
Peoria	16	26	1,388	1,407
South Bend	25	29	1,188	1,106
Toledo	101	79	4,391	4,224
Youngstown	73	43	2,440	2,311
WEST NORTH CENTRAL				
Des Moines	---	(45)	---	(2,393)
Duluth	33	22	1,214	1,246
Kansas City, Kans.	---	(35)	---	(1,578)
Kansas City, Mo.	107	141	5,243	5,575
Minneapolis	128	118	5,617	5,431
Omaha	67	62	3,047	2,878
WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
St. Louis	272	210	10,489	11,089
St. Paul	60	57	3,059	3,054
Wichita	59	27	1,855	2,008
SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Atlanta	118	106	4,984	4,962
Baltimore	244	208	10,704	10,245
Charlotte	24	15	1,302	1,417
Jacksonville	(59)	(57)	(2,304)	(2,309)
Miami	51	42	2,486	2,871
Norfolk	32	21	1,494	1,365
Richmond	75	75	3,070	2,988
Savannah	(32)	(16)	(1,355)	(1,323)
Tampa	65	69	2,599	2,491
Washington, D. C.	167	193	8,247	7,877
Wilmington, Del.	35	24	1,674	1,535
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Birmingham	81	49	3,643	3,505
Chattanooga	60	45	2,103	2,021
Knoxville	---	(39)	---	(1,624)
Louisville	107	107	4,920	5,020
Memphis	120	77	4,691	4,576
Mobile	30	19	1,374	1,531
Montgomery	37	21	1,237	1,247
Nashville	54	44	2,643	2,344
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Austin	25	25	1,223	1,209
Baton Rouge	---	(20)	---	(1,045)
Corpus Christi	14	19	821	823
Dallas	108	98	4,669	4,718
El Paso	27	31	1,341	1,250
Fort Worth	70	41	2,608	2,665
Houston	132	125	5,969	5,725
Little Rock	46	51	2,116	1,952
New Orleans	172	150	7,179	7,064
Oklahoma City	61	29	2,674	2,778
San Antonio	91	79	4,059	3,709
Shreveport	47	36	1,885	1,859
Tulsa	65	25	2,111	2,110
MOUNTAIN				
Albuquerque	27	24	1,103	1,269
Colorado Springs	16	10	617	573
Denver	116	94	5,068	4,800
Ogden	15	20	543	531
Phoenix	27	28	1,150	990
Pueblo	14	7	592	632
Salt Lake City	50	29	1,996	1,870
Tucson	1	3	210	195
PACIFIC				
Berkeley	36	16	869	833
Long Beach	62	50	2,336	2,300
Los Angeles	484	436	21,777	20,615
Oakland	95	90	4,134	4,322
Pasadena	28	30	1,714	1,568
Portland, Oreg.	92	96	4,430	4,563
Sacramento	38	51	2,324	2,183
San Diego	83	53	3,507	3,426
San Francisco	231	162	8,776	8,692
Seattle	138	129	6,070	5,702
Spokane	50	52	2,185	2,098
Tacoma	32	50	1,778	1,587
Honolulu	(25)	(34)	(1,697)	(1,606)

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

was confirmed by a fourfold or greater rise in complement fixing titers. A blood specimen of one patient, exposed to a sick parakeet, was positive for psittacosis in a titer of 1:16, and that of the sixth patient was positive in a dilution of 1:128. A parakeet associated with the latter patient was positive for psittacosis upon animal inoculation. This is the only bird, among those associated with the above cases, tested for psittacosis.

Infectious hepatitis

The California Department of Public Health has supplied final information on an outbreak of infectious hepatitis reported for the week ended July 23, 1955. Nine cases were reported among 25 students and 4 teachers who went on a picnic near a lake. The picnic lunch consisted of potato salad, hamburgers, hot dogs, olives, pickles, potato chips, and a fruit-base punch. Water from a small stream adjoining the picnic area was used in making the punch. The evidence found upon investigation indicates that the outbreak probably resulted from use of contaminated water in the punch and/or for drinking purposes. The most likely source of contamination was human feces found in the area. Another possible source is a farmhouse cesspool overflow, which probably enters the stream when the ground is wet.

Gastro-enteritis

Dr. J. H. McCutchen, Missouri Department of Public Health and Welfare, reports an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among persons who ate turkey dinners in a public eating place. Seventeen college students who had eaten the dinners became ill from 13 to 18 hours later. The turkeys, in a frozen state, were purchased from a local produce company. They were left unrefrigerated overnight to thaw before cooking. After being cooked, they were cooled and refrigerated. The following day the meat was sliced and "warmed up" before serving. Dressing was made the usual way, but none was left. The remaining meat was served later as creamed turkey. At the time of the investigation, only gravy and green beans were available for bacteriological examination. No pathogenic organisms were found in these. The poor sanitary condition found in the kitchen probably was a contributing factor in this outbreak.

The California Department of Public Health reports a moderately severe outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 130 persons in a farm-labor camp. Of these, 31 became ill possibly from eating unrefrigerated sandwiches, prepared from 3 to 5 hours in advance of consumption. Various food items, including tacos and enchilladas, were served during a 3 day-period, but none were available for laboratory tests. Stool specimens from food-handlers (5 cooks) were negative for pathogens. Specimens were collected from 2 patients, one was positive for salmonellosis and the other was positive for Shigella flexner 4A.