

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly Report



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

Public Health Service

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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended May 26, 1956

A suspect case of smallpox is under investigation in Colorado.

The increase in the incidence of poliomyelitis this week is seasonal. It was not confined to any area or State.

The number of poliomyelitis cases reported for the current week, disease year, and calendar year are shown below:

	Current week		Disease year		Calendar year	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Total -----	112	240	676	1,223	1,744	2,286
Paralytic -----	53	85	351	490	935	954
Nonparalytic ---	38	81	219	395	504	685
Unspecified ---	21	74	106	338	305	647

Data on the age distribution of poliomyelitis cases reported in several States since January 1, 1956, for specified periods, are shown below. April 1 is considered the beginning of the poliomyelitis disease year.

FLORIDA

AGE	Paralytic		Nonparalytic		Unspecified	
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr. 1-May 11	Jan.-Mar.	Apr. 1-May 11	Jan.-Mar.	Apr. 1-May 11
	0-4 years ---	8	3	3	3	7
5-9 years ---	2	-	2	5	3	-
10-14 years ---	1	-	-	1	1	7
15-19 years ---	-	2	2	1	1	-
20 years and over ---	3	-	3	-	1	-

LOUISIANA

AGE	Paralytic		Nonparalytic	
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr. 1-May 18	Jan.-Mar.	Apr. 1-May 18
	0-4 years ---	12	24	2
5-9 years ---	2	7	2	3
10-14 years ---	2	1	2	1
15-19 years ---	-	1	-	-
20 years and over ---	4	2	2	-

STATE OF WASHINGTON - ALL CASES

AGE	Jan.-Apr.
0-4 years -----	1
5-9 years -----	7
10-14 years -----	7
15-19 years -----	2
20 years and over -----	5

The figures merely indicate the occurrence of poliomyelitis in specified age groups of the 3 States. Since the vaccination status of the reported cases was not stated, no conclusions can be drawn with respect to efficacy of vaccination in the various age groups.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Botulism

Dr. H. T. Fuerst, New York City Health Department, has forwarded additional information on the suspect case of botulism reported last week. The patient, a 60-year-old man, complained of diarrhea and weakness which he attributed to "sour spinach" eaten May 10th. Two days later he had double vision, ptosis of the eyelids, and progressive difficulty in phonation and swallowing. He was admitted to a hospital where a tentative diagnosis of botulism was made. The patient was transferred to another hospital where examination disclosed oculomotor, facial, and bulbar paralysis. Death occurred suddenly after a short stay at the second hospital.

An investigation revealed that the patient lived alone and usually ate homegrown vegetables. A neighbor stated that this produce was cooked in an open vessel, cooled at room temperature, packed into mason jars or cellophane bags and placed in a deep freeze. An inspection of the premises disclosed a number of jars of food. A freezer was present but not in operation. A pressure cooker was found in the kitchen but there were indications that it had not been used recently. Food has been collected for laboratory examination for botulinus toxin. Laboratory results are not yet available.

Rabies in skunks

The California State Department of Public Health reports that during the first 2 weeks of March, 5 individuals were bitten by skunks in Lake County. Subsequent investigation showed 3 persons were bitten by skunks proven by animal inoculation to have been rabid. The other 2 cases were in children bitten while at school. A skunk had entered the playground and one child petted it but the second child was actually attacked by the animal after the other children had run away. This skunk was never found. All the children received antirabic vaccine treatment and in addition 4 received hyperimmune serum.

During the period January 1 through May 22, 62 rabid skunks have been found in 21 counties of California. Skunks accounted for about a third of the total (189) rabid animals found during this period. The others were dogs (99), cattle (23), and miscellaneous animals (4).

Psittacosis

Dr. E. J. Witte, Pennsylvania Department of Health, has reported a case of psittacosis in a 64-year-old woman. The patient became ill with clinical symptoms typical of psittacosis. Blood specimens collected 2 weeks apart gave a fourfold rise in complement fixation titer for psittacosis. Her illness followed by 6 days the purchase of a parakeet. This bird died within 4 days; the carcass was discarded and was not available for laboratory tests.

Malaria

Dr. J. D. Martin, Louisiana State Department of Health, has reported a case of vivax malaria in an individual who had foreign service in Korea. He became ill about 6 months after his return, and Plasmodium vivax was identified in a blood smear.

Typhoid fever

Dr. Dean Fisher, Maine Department of Health and Welfare, has reported 4 cases of typhoid fever in siblings, ages 6 to 12. Stool specimens from 2 patients were positive for *Salmonella typhi*, phage type degraded Vi. For the other 2, the Widal test showed a very strong agglutination in O antigen. The children's home was of substandard structure, and the water supply was from a well in the front yard. Water from this well yielded *Bacillus coli*. Their parents have submitted several stool specimens, all of which tested negative. The source of these cases has not been found, and the investigation is still in progress.

Salmonellosis

Dr. J. E. McCroan, Georgia Department of Public Health, has reported an outbreak of *Salmonella blockley* involving 123 laboratory confirmed cases. The patients experienced serious illness characterized by nausea, chills, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and severe abdominal pain. About half of the patients were hospitalized for an average stay of 5 days. No fatalities have been identified with this infection. There were about 200 additional presumptive cases, and an estimated 3,000 persons with symptomatic infections have been investigated. Over a

period of 4 weeks, 28,000 individual cartons of packaged chicken salad were distributed among approximately 100,000 persons. *S. blockley* was isolated from salad in cartons returned because of expired "shelf-life."

Five carriers were found among 18 food handlers. This high carrier rate is believed to have resulted from liberal eating of chicken salad by the employees. This infection apparently was introduced through raw chicken or by an infected individual and spread by bare-hand boning of cooked chicken. Routine recocking of boned chicken, repeated sterilization of equipment, and elimination of carriers were effective in eliminating pathogens from the salad.

Gastro-enteritis

The Los Angeles County Health Department has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 104 persons following a banquet in a restaurant. Of these, 80 became ill with sudden onset of abdominal cramps and diarrhea from 12 to 15 hours later. At the time of investigation no food was available for laboratory examination. The establishment was exceptionally clean and well equipped. However, the preparation of a cheese

Continued on page 5

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	21st WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended May 26, 1956	Ended May 28, 1955	Median 1951-55	First 21 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1956	1955	Median 1951-55	1955-56	1954-55	Median 1950-51 to 1954-55	
Anthrax-----062	¹ 1	1	1	26	14	17	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	-	5	---	(²)	(²)	(²)	---
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	24	33	---	396	474	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-----055	15	20	34	710	617	901	2,040	1,834	2,550	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-----082	40	31	33	594	531	521	1,545	1,883	1,283	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	398	525	---	10,088	17,507	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-----110-117	9	10	---	78	103	---	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Measles-----085	32,771	19,491	22,285	443,130	421,228	421,228	472,228	475,697	475,697	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	56	67	83	1,436	1,872	2,265	2,359	2,921	3,534	Sept. 1
Meningitis, other-----340	27	---	---	615	---	---	---	---	---	---
Polioyelitis-----080	112	240	197	1,744	2,286	2,286	676	1,223	988	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	8	2	---	177	139	---	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	-	5	3	3	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	-	4	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Typhoid fever-----040	49	27	35	622	551	622	309	244	244	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	1	6	---	33	39	---	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Rabies in animals-----	102	94	127	2,446	2,599	3,449	3,473	3,952	4,993	Oct. 1

¹Reported in New Hampshire.

²Frequencies are too small.

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 of Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, 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 MAY 28, 1955 AND MAY 26, 1956

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

AREA	BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER)		DIPHTHERIA 055				ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTION		HEPATITIS, INFECTION, AND SERUM 092,N998.5 pt.			
	044		21st week		Cumulative first 21 weeks		082		21st week		Cumulative first 21 weeks	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	24	33	15	20	710	617	40	31	398	525	10,088	17,507
NEW ENGLAND-----	-	1	2	-	7	16	-	-	34	36	656	1,595
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3	159	155
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	24	56
Vermont-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	6	92	118
Massachusetts-----	-	1	2	-	6	15	-	-	6	12	147	591
Rhode Island-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	76	221
Connecticut-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	158	454
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	1	1	4	2	32	29	19	7	90	123	2,142	4,438
New York-----	-	1	-	-	10	18	19	6	47	91	1,103	2,402
New Jersey-----	-	-	2	2	10	4	-	1	8	6	184	285
Pennsylvania-----	1	-	2	-	12	7	-	-	35	26	855	1,751
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	7	8	2	-	139	81	5	7	73	80	1,585	2,603
Ohio-----	-	-	1	-	13	22	1	-	16	23	390	444
Indiana-----	1	-	1	-	72	29	1	2	12	11	253	384
Illinois-----	5	5	-	-	3	3	1	-	17	5	381	671
Michigan-----	1	1	-	-	50	25	2	4	22	20	394	739
Wisconsin-----	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	6	21	167	365
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	6	14	1	1	76	80	-	4	20	51	872	2,314
Minnesota-----	-	7	1	-	25	27	-	-	4	13	253	799
Iowa-----	2	4	-	-	16	5	-	-	11	17	226	713
Missouri-----	1	-	1	1	8	8	-	-	1	8	46	262
North Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	5	74	135
South Dakota-----	2	1	-	-	1	29	-	-	1	6	110	228
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	-	24	10	-	-	1	-	73	48
Kansas-----	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	90	129
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	3	4	2	4	140	159	4	-	31	55	598	1,535
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	31
Maryland-----	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	2	20	55	201
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	8	29
Virginia-----	1	2	1	-	21	11	-	-	13	17	256	679
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	1	4	11	-	-	-	5	25	177
North Carolina-----	1	-	-	2	17	25	3	-	2	5	54	183
South Carolina-----	-	-	1	-	28	32	-	-	-	-	27	32
Georgia-----	1	2	-	-	25	55	-	-	4	3	77	91
Florida-----	-	-	-	-	44	19	1	-	9	2	77	112
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	4	-	1	10	96	93	1	1	27	34	872	887
Kentucky-----	1	-	-	8	5	27	-	-	6	7	262	146
Tennessee-----	1	-	1	-	18	15	-	-	13	12	405	373
Alabama-----	1	-	-	2	48	33	1	-	4	4	90	156
Mississippi-----	1	-	-	-	25	18	-	1	4	11	115	212
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	2	1	3	1	179	127	1	2	30	36	753	874
Arkansas-----	-	-	-	-	17	7	-	-	2	3	74	120
Louisiana-----	-	-	1	-	18	18	-	-	6	-	47	56
Oklahoma-----	1	-	-	-	51	15	-	-	1	4	49	88
Texas-----	1	1	2	1	93	87	1	2	21	29	583	610
MOUNTAIN-----	1	3	-	-	14	6	-	-	27	33	1,012	1,329
Montana-----	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	6	265	164
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	2	132	150
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	56	50
Colorado-----	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	10	12	214	267
New Mexico-----	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	89	244
Arizona-----	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	-	4	8	205	392
Utah-----	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	-	49	42
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	20
PACIFIC-----	-	1	-	2	27	26	10	10	66	77	1,598	1,932
Washington-----	-	-	-	2	3	13	-	-	7	18	342	437
Oregon-----	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	22	26	308	562
California-----	-	-	-	-	16	13	10	10	37	33	948	933
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	56	158
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	27
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	-	2	22	39	-	-	3	-	107	34

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED MAY 28, 1955 AND MAY 26, 1956—Continued

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

AREA	POLIOMYELITIS 080								MALARIA		MEASLES	
	Total ¹				Paralytic		Nonparalytic		110-117		085	
	21st week		Cumulative first 21 weeks		080.0,080.1		080.2					
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	112	240	1,744	2,286	53	85	38	81	9	10	32,771	19,491
NEW ENGLAND-----	-	-	45	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	264	1,748
Maine-----	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	82
New Hampshire-----	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12
Vermont-----	-	-	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	293
Massachusetts-----	-	-	20	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	606
Rhode Island-----	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	42
Connecticut-----	-	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	713
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	7	23	112	240	2	4	-	6	-	1	6,928	3,952
New York-----	3	18	79	149	2	4	-	6	-	1	2,971	1,377
New Jersey-----	-	2	10	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,370	1,945
Pennsylvania-----	4	3	23	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,587	630
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	14	24	143	242	3	9	7	5	-	-	11,214	5,601
Ohio-----	3	5	29	53	-	2	-	-	-	-	4,278	596
Indiana-----	-	1	8	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,013	147
Illinois-----	7	9	35	71	3	3	3	2	-	-	2,293	728
Michigan-----	3	4	42	68	-	2	3	1	-	-	2,254	743
Wisconsin-----	1	5	29	27	-	2	1	2	-	-	1,376	3,387
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	8	22	89	171	4	6	3	9	2	1	668	676
Minnesota-----	-	3	14	31	-	2	-	1	-	-	69	121
Iowa-----	4	6	25	39	2	1	1	4	-	1	242	207
Missouri-----	2	1	22	20	-	-	-	2	1	1	161	156
North Dakota-----	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	59
South Dakota-----	-	6	8	19	-	2	-	1	-	-	9	9
Nebraska-----	2	3	10	29	2	1	-	1	-	-	67	9
Kansas-----	-	3	8	29	-	-	-	1	1	-	31	115
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	4	34	138	371	2	19	2	12	-	2	3,519	616
Delaware-----	1	5	2	15	-	3	1	2	-	-	66	2
Maryland-----	-	7	4	16	-	6	-	1	-	-	180	66
District of Columbia-----	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	28	7
Virginia-----	-	4	6	23	-	-	-	4	-	-	1,310	218
West Virginia-----	-	2	10	21	-	2	-	-	-	-	532	125
North Carolina-----	1	4	28	43	-	3	1	1	-	-	589	58
South Carolina-----	1	1	12	21	1	-	-	1	-	-	495	26
Georgia-----	-	3	13	55	-	2	-	1	-	-	109	50
Florida-----	1	6	63	2175	1	1	-	2	-	2	210	64
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	10	16	82	117	3	5	4	5	-	1	3,296	409
Kentucky-----	2	6	27	44	2	4	-	1	-	1	1,301	56
Tennessee-----	3	3	17	18	1	-	1	1	-	-	1,378	269
Alabama-----	2	3	5	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	491	57
Mississippi-----	3	4	33	37	-	1	3	3	-	-	126	47
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	41	51	434	416	19	22	15	21	5	3	7,317	1,436
Arkansas-----	-	2	13	26	-	1	-	1	-	-	507	77
Louisiana-----	7	11	78	81	7	9	-	2	-	-	41	16
Oklahoma-----	2	1	19	28	-	1	1	-	-	-	311	149
Texas-----	32	37	324	281	12	11	14	18	5	3	2,458	1,194
MOUNTAIN-----	1	31	96	204	-	3	-	3	1	-	1,352	1,068
Montana-----	-	1	6	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	265	64
Idaho-----	-	22	12	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	209	30
Wyoming-----	-	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	15	329
Colorado-----	-	5	10	37	-	1	-	3	-	-	476	239
New Mexico-----	1	1	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	212	373
Arizona-----	-	1	39	22	-	1	-	-	-	-	160	33
Utah-----	-	1	8	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
Nevada-----	-	-	11	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	27	39	605	488	20	17	7	20	1	2	2,213	3,985
Washington-----	-	5	24	40	-	1	-	3	-	-	582	333
Oregon-----	2	6	40	49	1	5	1	-	-	-	114	186
California-----	25	28	541	399	19	11	6	17	1	2	1,517	3,456
Alaska-----	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	16
Hawaii-----	-	-	47	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	164
Puerto Rico-----	1	11	16	383	1	11	-	-	-	-	39	79

¹Includes cases not specified by type, category number 080.3.²Includes delayed cases with onset late in 1954.

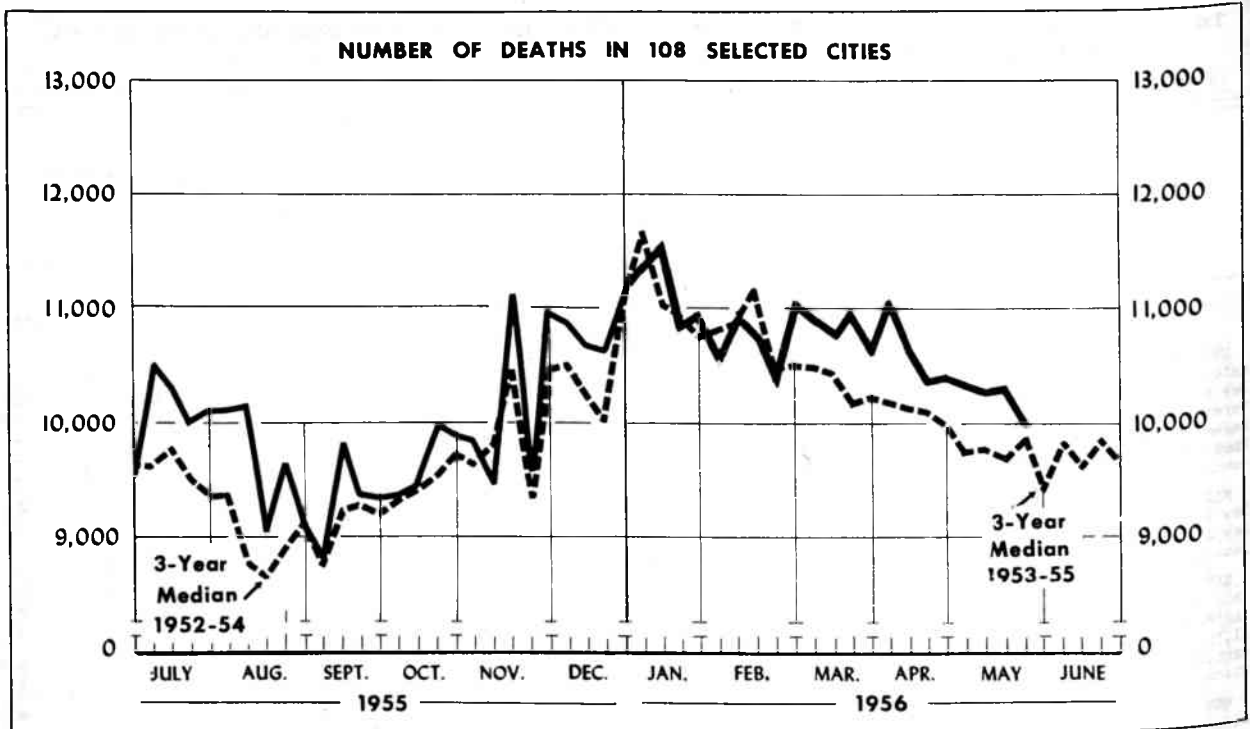
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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED MAY 28, 1955 AND MAY 26, 1956—Continued

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

AREA	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS		MENINGITIS, OTHER	PSITTACOSIS		TYPHOID FEVER 040				TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	
	057		340	096.2		21st week		Cumulative first 21 weeks		101		
	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	56	67	27	8	2	49	27	622	551	1	102	94
NEW ENGLAND-----	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	24	11	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	2	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	7	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	12	9	-	-	-	5	2	79	71	-	13	12
New York-----	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	23	13	-	9	12
New Jersey-----	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	5	8	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	9	2	-	-	-	3	1	51	50	-	4	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	9	23	9	1	-	12	5	100	54	-	12	15
Ohio-----	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	21	25	-	3	5
Indiana-----	1	6	1	1	-	1	-	11	-	-	6	1
Illinois-----	2	7	7	-	-	3	3	14	15	-	3	-
Michigan-----	6	3	1	-	-	5	1	23	11	-	-	8
Wisconsin-----	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	31	3	-	-	1
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	4	1	2	5	1	-	-	75	35	-	9	6
Minnesota-----	2	-	-	4	1	-	-	30	3	-	2	1
Iowa-----	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	12	10	-	4	-
Missouri-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	15	-	-	5
North Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	3	-
Kansas-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	4	7	9	-	-	13	3	104	108	-	24	26
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Maryland-----	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	6	3	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	-	-	-
Virginia-----	1	1	3	-	-	3	-	15	18	-	7	4
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	12	-	2	10
North Carolina-----	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	16	8	-	1	1
South Carolina-----	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	11	14	-	11	2
Georgia-----	1	-	6	-	-	4	-	22	24	-	-	5
Florida-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	26	-	2	4
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	6	9	4	1	-	5	3	69	65	-	10	9
Kentucky-----	3	3	-	-	-	2	2	15	38	-	5	3
Tennessee-----	1	2	3	1	-	2	-	37	14	-	-	1
Alabama-----	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	4	11	-	4	5
Mississippi-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	15	2	-	1	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	8	4	1	-	-	9	7	108	125	1	28	24
Arkansas-----	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	19	27	-	5	5
Louisiana-----	2	-	-	-	-	3	2	22	34	-	13	10
Oklahoma-----	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	17	21	-	-	-
Texas-----	3	3	-	-	-	5	-	50	43	1	10	9
MOUNTAIN-----	1	2	-	-	-	1	6	17	40	-	-	-
Montana-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Colorado-----	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	21	-	-	-
Arizona-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-
Utah-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	9	9	-	1	1	3	1	46	42	-	6	2
Washington-----	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-
California-----	7	7	-	1	-	3	1	40	37	-	6	2
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	20	24	-	1	1

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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	21st week ended May 26, 1956	20th week ended May 19, 1956	21st week median 1953-55	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 21 WEEKS		
					1956	1955	Percent change
TOTAL: 106 REPORTING CITIES-----	9,927	10,233	9,822	+1.1	223,484	217,289	+2.9
New England----- (14 cities)	634	673	632	+0.3	14,966	15,226	-1.7
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	2,923	2,983	2,997	-2.5	65,779	65,187	+0.9
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,177	2,308	2,193	-0.7	49,149	47,425	+3.6
West North Central----- (9 cities)	730	738	711	+2.8	16,115	15,195	+6.1
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	804	794	753	+6.8	17,452	16,370	+6.6
East South Central----- (8 cities)	464	532	445	+4.3	10,325	9,969	+3.6
West South Central----- (12 cities)	733	754	693	+5.8	17,327	16,363	+5.9
Mountain----- (8 cities)	263	240	224	+17.4	5,352	5,204	+2.8
Pacific----- (11 cities)	1,199	1,211	1,132	+5.9	27,019	26,349	+2.5

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TABLE 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 26, 1956

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

CITY	21st week ended	20th week ended	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 21 WEEKS		CITY	21st week ended	20th week ended	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 21 WEEKS	
	May 26, 1956	May 19, 1956	1956	1955		May 26, 1956	May 19, 1956	1956	1955
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston, Mass.-----	207	247	5,146	5,245	St. Louis, Mo.-----	211	243	5,190	4,636
Bridgeport, Conn.-----	32	45	781	833	St. Paul, Minn.-----	79	72	1,419	1,375
Cambridge, Mass.-----	31	25	665	630	Wichita, Kans.-----	24	36	853	792
Fall River, Mass.-----	29	27	622	614	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford, Conn.-----	40	37	1,017	1,013	Atlanta, Ga.-----	124	125	2,395	2,208
Lowell, Mass.-----	23	20	535	529	Baltimore, Md.-----	232	211	4,961	4,845
Lynn, Mass.-----	27	20	461	515	Charlotte, N. C.-----	29	27	671	627
New Bedford, Mass.-----	30	17	515	520	Jacksonville, Fla.-----	(55)	(51)	(1,143)	(1,035)
New Haven, Conn.-----	33	47	1,010	969	Miami, Fla.-----	52	44	1,123	1,076
Providence, R. I.-----	58	42	1,337	1,432	Norfolk, Va.-----	33	26	705	690
Somerville, Mass.-----	15	17	356	344	Richmond, Va.-----	56	69	1,497	1,365
Springfield, Mass.-----	34	51	900	903	Savannah, Ga.-----	(24)	(27)	(614)	(608)
Waterbury, Conn.-----	27	38	557	542	Tampa, Fla.-----	46	60	1,305	1,218
Worcester, Mass.-----	48	40	1,064	1,137	Washington, D. C.-----	200	193	4,037	3,564
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Albany, N. Y.-----	33	50	1,066	1,015	Birmingham, Ala.-----	85	87	1,674	1,646
Allentown, Pa.-----	(48)	(35)	(820)	(792)	Chattanooga, Tenn.-----	56	39	919	953
Buffalo, N. Y.-----	180	104	3,069	2,920	Knoxville, Tenn.-----	32	34	767	707
Camden, N. J.-----	37	39	841	793	Louisville, Ky.-----	93	131	2,327	2,300
Elizabeth, N. J.-----	25	29	628	590	Memphis, Tenn.-----	86	118	2,150	2,069
Erie, Pa.-----	23	37	717	775	Mobile, Ala.-----	31	33	705	622
Jersey City, N. J.-----	80	66	1,588	1,563	Montgomery, Ala.-----	36	36	630	569
Newark, N. J.-----	100	107	2,125	2,198	Nashville, Tenn.-----	45	54	1,153	1,103
New York City, N. Y.-----	1,549	1,578	34,154	34,295	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Paterson, N. J.-----	36	29	783	848	Austin, Tex.-----	---	(29)	---	(539)
Philadelphia, Pa.-----	424	481	10,613	10,452	Baton Rouge, La.-----	24	19	476	466
Pittsburgh, Pa.-----	180	189	4,033	3,819	Corpus Christi, Tex.-----	16	18	393	394
Reading, Pa.-----	(11)	(22)	(482)	(483)	Dallas, Tex.-----	99	107	2,210	2,060
Rochester, N. Y.-----	92	81	2,053	2,009	El Paso, Tex.-----	21	23	568	596
Schenectady, N. Y.-----	14	24	483	488	Fort Worth, Tex.-----	56	51	1,240	1,151
Scranton, Pa.-----	(41)	(38)	(753)	(736)	Houston, Tex.-----	127	121	2,853	2,716
Syracuse, N. Y.-----	65	63	1,300	1,171	Little Rock, Ark.-----	28	55	996	922
Trenton, N. J.-----	36	47	976	1,012	New Orleans, La.-----	159	134	3,520	3,207
Utica, N. Y.-----	25	34	679	641	Oklahoma City, Okla.-----	52	61	1,333	1,200
Yonkers, N. Y.-----	24	25	671	598	San Antonio, Tex.-----	78	89	1,815	1,853
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Akron, Ohio-----	60	47	1,147	1,150	Austin, Tex.-----	---	(29)	---	(539)
Canton, Ohio-----	36	21	627	552	Baton Rouge, La.-----	24	19	476	466
Chicago, Ill.-----	696	729	16,061	15,365	Corpus Christi, Tex.-----	16	18	393	394
Cincinnati, Ohio-----	125	153	3,351	3,186	Dallas, Tex.-----	99	107	2,210	2,060
Cleveland, Ohio-----	203	213	4,460	4,251	El Paso, Tex.-----	21	23	568	596
Columbus, Ohio-----	90	122	2,342	2,338	Fort Worth, Tex.-----	56	51	1,240	1,151
Dayton, Ohio-----	68	68	1,420	1,400	Houston, Tex.-----	127	121	2,853	2,716
Detroit, Mich.-----	308	320	6,928	6,936	Little Rock, Ark.-----	28	55	996	922
Evansville, Ind.-----	35	29	762	673	New Orleans, La.-----	159	134	3,520	3,207
Flint, Mich.-----	45	41	825	761	Oklahoma City, Okla.-----	52	61	1,333	1,200
Port Wayne, Ind.-----	29	48	771	704	San Antonio, Tex.-----	78	89	1,815	1,853
Gary, Ind.-----	(35)	(26)	(621)	(571)	Shreveport, La.-----	32	49	965	853
Grand Rapids, Mich.-----	38	42	916	890	Tulsa, Okla.-----	41	27	958	955
Indianapolis, Ind.-----	114	149	2,524	2,321	MOUNTAIN				
Milwaukee, Wis.-----	133	115	2,653	2,608	Albuquerque, N. Mex.-----	21	16	480	508
Peoria, Ill.-----	23	30	591	622	Colorado Springs, Colo.-----	8	11	282	295
South Bend, Ind.-----	21	21	519	519	Denver, Colo.-----	116	108	2,350	2,395
Toledo, Ohio-----	100	97	2,056	2,050	Ogden, Utah-----	16	13	276	217
Youngstown, Ohio-----	53	63	1,196	1,099	Phoenix, Ariz.-----	28	20	582	531
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					PACIFIC				
Des Moines, Iowa-----	38	50	1,079	1,043	Berkeley, Calif.-----	18	18	392	394
Duluth, Minn.-----	28	26	571	539	Long Beach, Calif.-----	---	(55)	---	(1,078)
Kansas City, Kans.-----	29	26	654	749	Los Angeles, Calif.-----	421	474	10,376	9,826
Kansas City, Mo.-----	147	113	2,358	2,310	Oakland, Calif.-----	100	90	2,016	1,914
Minneapolis, Minn.-----	104	109	2,596	2,466	Pasadena, Calif.-----	29	33	770	746
Omaha, Nebr.-----	70	63	1,395	1,285	Portland, Oreg.-----	103	97	2,057	2,038
					Sacramento, Calif.-----	37	53	1,042	1,065
					San Diego, Calif.-----	94	64	11,629	1,637
					San Francisco, Calif.-----	172	178	4,227	4,098
					Seattle, Wash.-----	140	116	2,713	2,835
					Spokane, Wash.-----	45	49	1,001	967
					Tacoma, Wash.-----	40	39	796	829
					Honolulu, Hawaii-----	(37)	(23)	(761)	(769)

¹Includes revised report for week ended May 12.

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

sauce offered ample opportunity for incubation of pathogenic organisms.

The California State Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 44 persons in a labor camp. Fifteen persons became ill with gastric discomfort (diarrhea and weakness) immediately after breakfast. The very short incubation period, a few minutes to 1 hour, suggested a chemical type of poisoning, but the investigation revealed no probable source. None of the food was available for laboratory tests. A review of the meals served the preceding day indicated that the outbreak was most likely related to the morning meal.

The California State Department of Public Health reports an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among persons who ate in a restaurant. About 150 individuals became ill with vomiting, diarrhea, chills, fever, and cramping from 1 to 24 hours after eating food served at various times. None of the food was available for bacteriological examination, but stomach washings yielded staphylococci.

Dr. J. E. McCroan, Georgia Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis involving 6 persons who ate lemon-cheese coconut cake. The cake was from a local bakery but probably was infected when first cut. Staphylococcus aureus, coagulase-positive, was found in a remaining piece of cake.

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