

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended December 22, 1956

The incidence of poliomyelitis in 1956 continues to be lower than in 1955, and also lower than for any other year since 1947. The 47.5 percent reduction in number of cases for the first 50 weeks in 1956 as compared with the same period in 1955 is about twice as great as the reduction between 1954 and 1955. The proportions of paralytic, nonparalytic, and unspecified cases of the disease shown in the provisional weekly reports were quite different in 1956 as compared with 1955. For 1956, the percentages were 43.5, 38.3, and 18.2, respectively; and for 1955, they were 36.2, 38.1 and 25.8, respectively. The smaller proportions of nonparalytic and unspecified cases for the present year probably are due in part to differences in reporting by physicians, that is, more accurate judgment of the type of disease when the report was made. Not all States reported a reduction in number of cases in 1956 as compared with 1955. Nine States reported increases varying from about 5 to 174 percent. The nine were distributed equally among the north central, southern, and far western sections of the country. The estimated death rate for poliomyelitis in the first 9 months of 1956 based on a 10-percent sample of all deaths is approximately 30 percent below that for the same period of 1955. Since the number of deaths in the sample is relatively small, the amount of reduction in the death rate from one year to another must be viewed with caution.

The numbers of reported cases of poliomyelitis by type for the United States for the current week, disease year, and calendar year are:

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK		DISEASE YEAR		CALENDAR YEAR	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
TOTAL-----	66	154	13,308	26,896	14,313	27,809
Paralytic-----	33	88	5,742	9,715	6,298	10,105
Nonparalytic-----	16	33	5,202	10,233	5,471	10,486
Unspecified-----	17	33	2,364	6,948	2,544	7,218

NOTE.—Data exclude reports for Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky.

NOTICE: The relatively frequent occurrence of gastroenteritis in recent weeks in which cooked or roasted turkeys apparently are associated with the illness has been noted. This has suggested the desirability of testing for *Colostridium welchii* in the laboratory examinations of specimens collected following such outbreaks of gastro-enteritis. Outbreaks caused by this organism are usually characterized by cramps and diarrhea with little or no vomiting, and a short recovery period. The incubation period of the organism is approximately 10 to 12 hours.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Influenza

The World Health Organization states that reports up to December 20 show no evidence of influenza epidemics in the

northern hemisphere except in Japan. A mild but widespread epidemic began early in December in Japan, affecting mainly school children. Influenza viruses of both type A and B have been isolated.

Suspect smallpox

Dr. A. L. Marshall, Indiana State Board of Health, has supplied information found in the investigation of a suspect case of smallpox. The patient, a female 40 years of age, developed a "skin rash" on November 7, which was reported as smallpox. At the time of investigation, the woman was recovering rapidly, all lesions were dry and scabs could be brushed off easily. No materials could be obtained for laboratory examination. The patient had visited with friends in Kentucky 3 weeks prior to her illness. One member of the group visited developed herpes zoster at about the same time that the rash appeared in the suspect case of smallpox. When the latter was vaccinated on December 5 there was a vaccinoid reaction to smallpox vaccine. The last previous vaccination of the patient was when she started to school as a child. In view of the concurrent illness of herpes zoster in a contact and a vaccinoid reaction to vaccination in the patient, the Indiana health authorities have concluded that this was a case of chickenpox.

Diarrhea of the newborn

The Illinois Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of diarrhea in a hospital nursery for premature infants. There were 16 cases of mild diarrhea with no deaths. Recovery was usually rapid. No carriers have been found nor has the mode of spread been determined. Investigation is still in progress.

Anthrax

The California State Department of Public Health has supplied epidemiological information on the 2 cases of anthrax reported for the week ended November 24, 1956. The cases were in a veterinarian and his helper. While laboratory tests on lesions of both men were negative, there was sufficient evidence to substantiate a diagnosis of anthrax. It is believed that medication received prior to the tests accounted for the negative results.

Of 311 head of cattle transported by truck to a ranch, 4 have died. When the first 2 cows died, anthrax was not suspected. The third was autopsied by the veterinarian who developed a skin lesion the following day. The findings of this autopsy apparently were inconclusive. However, autopsy specimens from the fourth cow were reported positive for anthrax. The source of infection was not found, but the truck in which the cattle were transported is considered to have been contaminated.

Malaria

Dr. D. N. Wysham, Washington State Department of Health, has provided information on a case of malaria in which two types of plasmodia were found in blood smears. The patient, a merchant seaman, had been in various areas of the South Pacific, Borneo, Indonesia, and Singapore. Symptoms which appeared several weeks prior to admission to a hospital in Seattle were daily chills, fever, and profuse sweating. Diarrhea developed 5 days prior to admission to the hospital. Both

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liver and spleen were enlarged. Typical malaria organisms of *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum* were noted in original blood smears. Treatment consisted of 1 gram of chloroquine followed by an additional course of chloroquine and primaquine. Chills continued for 2 days after initiation of treatment.

Tularemia

Dr. E. J. Witte, Pennsylvania Department of Health, has reported a case of tularemia in an adult male who had shot and cleaned a wild rabbit. Onset of symptoms occurred 4 days after exposure. An ulcer developed on one of his fingers and his axillary glands became enlarged. Diagnosis was confirmed by agglutination tests on the patient's blood serum, the titer rising from zero to 1:320. Treatment with tetracycline compounds was followed by a gradual improvement in his condition.

Gastro-enteritis

The California State Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in a school. Of 250 persons eating a meal in the cafeteria, 65 became ill with nausea,

vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea from 2½ to 5 hours later. Turkey and dressing were suspected to be the vehicles of infection but none was available for bacteriologic examination. The meat had been stored in a refrigerated box which was opened frequently.

The California State Department of Public Health also has reported 4 cases of gastro-enteritis among persons eating in a public dining room. All developed nausea and vomiting from 3 to 5 hours after eating. This was followed by diarrhea. One patient, an 84-year-old woman, reportedly had a cardiovascular disease and died about 18 hours after onset of her illness. An investigation revealed that baked ham and rice custard were common to all 4. There appeared to be little opportunity for contamination of the ham. Thus, the most probable vehicle was the rice custard which was made early in the day. It had been placed in serving dishes and kept on the counter next to the steam table. None of the food served that day was available for laboratory tests.

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	51st WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended Dec. 22, 1956 ¹	Ended Dec. 24, 1955 ¹	Median 1951-55	First 51 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1956 ¹	1955 ¹	Median 1951-55	1955-56 ¹	1954-55 ¹	Median 1950-51 to 1954-55	
Anthrax-----062	21	-	-	37	27	32	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	12	9	---	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	19	15	---	1,040	1,178	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-----055	24	53	55	1,341	1,818	2,346	652	1,202	1,294	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-----082	16	13	17	1,941	1,280	1,460	1,340	752	900	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	316	403	---	17,808	29,746	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-----110-117	3	4	---	215	454	---	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Measles-----085	3,927	3,757	3,854	569,792	535,966	543,772	29,725	24,454	30,534	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	43	56	70	2,469	3,047	4,038	647	734	1,067	Sept. 1
Meningitis, other-----340	23	---	---	1,395	---	---	---	---	---	---
Poliomyelitis-----080	66	154	208.	14,313	27,809	35,770	13,308	26,896	34,189	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	14	2	---	497	265	---	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Rabies in man-----094	4	1	-	8	5	13	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	-	5	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Typhoid fever-----040	15	24	27	1,605	1,518	2,251	1,312	1,245	1,845	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	-	1	---	98	119	---	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)	(^s)
Rabies in animals-----	65	71	89	4,035	4,541	7,071	766	883	1,419	Oct. 1

¹Data exclude reports for Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky.
²Reported in Pennsylvania.
³Frequencies are too small.
⁴Reported in Arkansas.

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; parentheses [()]: data not included in totals.

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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 DECEMBER 24, 1955 AND DECEMBER 22, 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 OSS				ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS		HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM 092,N998.5 pt.			
	044		51st week		Cumulative first 51 weeks		082		51st week		Cumulative first 51 weeks	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES ¹ -----	19	15	24	53	1,341	1,818	16	13	316	403	17,808	29,746
NEW ENGLAND-----	2	-	1	-	17	23	-	-	22	26	1,184	2,701
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	299	377
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	33	85
Vermont-----	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	3	166	255
Massachusetts-----	1	-	1	-	16	21	-	-	2	6	299	895
Rhode Island-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	141	375
Connecticut-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	246	714
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	-	1	1	-	66	60	4	-	106	70	4,038	7,625
New York-----	-	1	1	-	21	39	3	-	90	39	2,211	4,160
New Jersey-----	-	-	-	-	24	6	1	-	5	4	372	486
Pennsylvania-----	-	-	-	-	21	15	-	-	11	27	1,455	2,979
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	6	2	7	8	243	111	5	7	55	59	2,523	3,765
Ohio-----	-	-	-	4	18	43	1	-	10	6	705	767
Indiana-----	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(35)	-	(-)	-	(4)	-	(587)
Illinois-----	5	-	-	-	8	11	1	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	-	1	7	4	215	54	3	2	11	24	686	1,025
Wisconsin-----	1	1	-	-	2	3	-	1	7	8	327	743
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	8	4	4	13	135	219	-	2	25	43	1,488	3,515
Minnesota-----	1	3	1	-	27	56	-	-	13	21	493	1,263
Iowa-----	4	-	-	9	18	19	-	-	-	6	368	938
Missouri-----	1	1	-	1	14	15	-	-	2	-	97	334
North Dakota-----	-	-	2	-	12	2	-	-	9	-	145	307
South Dakota-----	-	-	1	-	12	45	-	1	1	14	178	368
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	3	34	79	-	-	-	-	97	82
Kansas-----	2	-	-	-	18	3	-	1	-	1	110	223
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	1	-	2	19	279	600	-	-	20	21	1,049	2,306
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	31	48
Maryland-----	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	3	4	93	358
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	21	41
Virginia-----	-	-	1	4	32	42	-	-	8	5	480	1,038
West Virginia-----	1	-	-	-	8	19	-	-	-	-	67	239
North Carolina-----	-	-	-	3	68	88	-	-	3	4	126	328
South Carolina-----	-	-	-	1	85	193	-	-	6	4	71	83
Georgia-----	-	-	1	11	83	241	-	-	-	2	160	171
Florida-----	-	(1)	-	(2)	-	(86)	-	(1)	-	(-)	-	(252)
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	-	1	2	6	193	381	1	-	15	13	1,130	1,345
Kentucky-----	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(46)	-	(-)	-	(12)	-	(355)
Tennessee-----	-	1	-	-	23	40	1	-	10	7	699	855
Alabama-----	-	-	2	6	113	291	-	-	2	5	206	304
Mississippi-----	-	-	-	-	57	50	-	-	3	1	225	386
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1	4	3	4	294	338	1	1	16	34	1,339	1,830
Arkansas-----	1	-	-	-	22	11	-	-	1	1	146	222
Louisiana-----	-	3	1	2	38	48	-	-	-	1	138	128
Oklahoma-----	-	-	-	-	59	29	1	-	8	-	115	189
Texas-----	-	1	2	2	175	250	-	1	7	32	940	1,291
MOUNTAIN-----	-	2	4	1	60	23	1	-	33	67	1,647	2,596
Montana-----	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	8	26	389	481
Idaho-----	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	201	264
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	3	115	155
Colorado-----	-	-	-	1	3	3	-	-	16	17	372	519
New Mexico-----	-	-	4	-	36	4	-	-	-	4	163	342
Arizona-----	-	-	-	-	6	8	1	-	5	17	321	738
Utah-----	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	77	74
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	9	23
PACIFIC-----	1	1	-	2	54	63	4	3	24	70	3,410	4,063
Washington-----	-	1	-	1	12	26	-	-	6	20	617	874
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	9	10	683	1,072
California-----	1	-	-	1	31	37	4	3	9	40	2,110	2,117
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	22	1	210	362
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	55	45
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	5	-	86	68	-	-	4	1	233	84

¹Data exclude reports for Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky.

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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 DECEMBER 24, 1955 AND DECEMBER 22, 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 ²				Paralytic		Nonparalytic		110-117		085	
	51st week		Cumulative first 51 weeks		080.0,080.1		080.2					
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES ¹ -----	66	154	14,313	27,809	33	88	16	33	3	4	3,927	3,757
NEW ENGLAND-----	-	25	251	5,544	-	19	-	2	-	-	167	30
Maine-----	-	1	22	205	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
New Hampshire-----	-	-	3	224	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Vermont-----	-	1	21	125	-	1	-	-	-	-	46	15
Massachusetts-----	-	19	110	3,917	-	16	-	2	-	-	64	11
Rhode Island-----	-	3	9	420	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	1	86	653	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	3
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	4	19	1,209	4,232	2	6	-	3	-	-	890	308
New York-----	3	13	792	2,796	2	5	-	1	-	-	399	213
New Jersey-----	-	5	210	687	-	1	-	2	-	-	175	29
Pennsylvania-----	1	1	207	749	-	-	-	-	-	-	318	66
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	11	26	3,692	6,379	4	10	4	8	-	-	566	952
Ohio-----	3	3	625	1,280	1	-	-	1	-	-	80	51
Indiana-----	-	(1)	-	(449)	-	(1)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(11)
Illinois-----	1	5	1,834	1,394	-	2	-	1	-	-	100	477
Michigan-----	5	7	679	1,192	1	3	4	3	-	-	165	307
Wisconsin-----	2	11	654	2,513	2	5	-	3	-	-	221	117
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	3	7	1,706	2,137	-	4	-	1	-	1	276	485
Minnesota-----	-	3	204	598	-	2	-	1	-	-	59	3
Iowa-----	-	3	628	555	-	1	-	-	-	-	65	15
Missouri-----	-	-	421	273	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	10
North Dakota-----	-	-	38	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	73
South Dakota-----	-	1	38	81	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Nebraska-----	3	-	190	283	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Kansas-----	-	-	187	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	383
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	10	11	1,138	1,944	7	8	1	1	1	-	218	388
Delaware-----	-	1	27	58	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1
Maryland-----	3	1	111	279	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	152
District of Columbia-----	-	1	11	53	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Virginia-----	1	2	231	325	1	2	-	-	-	-	62	134
West Virginia-----	2	2	113	186	1	1	-	1	-	-	103	47
North Carolina-----	3	1	336	461	3	1	-	-	-	-	18	10
South Carolina-----	1	2	112	311	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	17
Georgia-----	-	1	197	271	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	18
Florida-----	-	(2)	-	(468)	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	(-)
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	8	3	548	608	2	3	2	-	-	-	627	18
Kentucky-----	-	(-)	-	(425)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(86)
Tennessee-----	3	1	154	243	1	1	2	-	-	-	426	6
Alabama-----	4	2	100	182	-	2	-	-	-	-	189	9
Mississippi-----	1	-	294	183	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	3
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	16	11	2,411	2,783	12	7	4	1	1	2	519	493
Arkansas-----	1	-	217	186	-	-	1	-	-	-	66	100
Louisiana-----	4	2	622	381	3	2	1	-	-	-	9	-
Oklahoma-----	1	-	224	298	1	-	-	-	1	-	15	135
Texas-----	10	9	1,348	1,918	8	5	2	1	-	2	429	258
MOUNTAIN-----	3	5	831	1,099	1	1	-	2	-	-	351	529
Montana-----	1	-	55	155	1	-	-	-	-	-	66	180
Idaho-----	-	2	110	237	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	18
Wyoming-----	-	-	37	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Colorado-----	-	1	160	225	-	1	-	-	-	-	39	144
New Mexico-----	-	-	82	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	6
Arizona-----	-	1	129	131	-	-	-	1	-	-	36	112
Utah-----	2	1	224	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	11
Nevada-----	-	-	34	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
PACIFIC-----	11	47	2,527	3,083	5	30	5	15	1	1	313	554
Washington-----	2	4	188	537	1	4	-	-	-	-	145	68
Oregon-----	1	5	172	445	1	1	-	2	-	-	33	7
California-----	8	38	2,167	2,101	3	25	5	13	1	1	135	479
Alaska-----	-	-	12	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1
Hawaii-----	-	5	68	180	-	4	-	1	-	-	328	4
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	51	443	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	60

¹Data exclude reports for Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky.²Includes cases not specified by type, category number 080.3.

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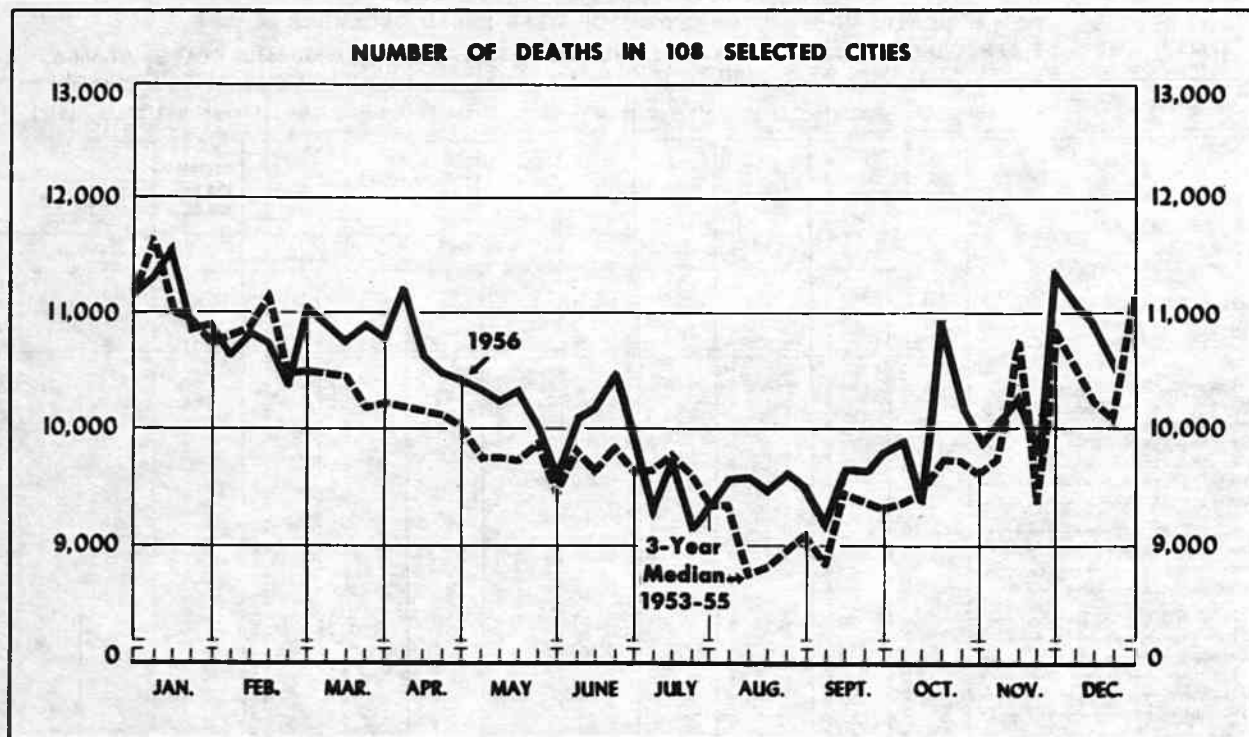
Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 24, 1955 AND DECEMBER 22, 1956—Continued

(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		51st week		Cumulative first 51 weeks		101		
	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES ¹ -----	43	56	23	14	2	15	24	1,605	1,518	-	65	71
NEW ENGLAND-----	2	5	5	3	-	1	3	57	38	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	6	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	2	4	5	1	-	1	2	18	16	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	6	4	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	13	11	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	5	9	-	1	-	-	5	205	185	-	3	6
New York-----	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	58	46	-	3	5
New Jersey-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	32	28	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	2	4	-	1	-	-	3	115	111	-	-	1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	10	10	4	4	2	3	-	200	139	-	3	1
Ohio-----	2	3	-	-	2	3	-	63	71	-	-	1
Indiana-----	-	(1)	-	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(23)	-	-	(2)
Illinois-----	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	37	33	-	-	-
Michigan-----	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	55	27	-	1	-
Wisconsin-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	45	8	-	2	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	203	106	-	19	3
Minnesota-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	7	-	5	-
Iowa-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	61	27	-	9	-
Missouri-----	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	70	58	-	5	3
North Dakota-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	13	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	4	-	-	-
Kansas-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	6	4	2	5	-	2	3	230	253	-	14	19
Delaware-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-
Maryland-----	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	21	21	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	-	-	-
Virginia-----	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	56	46	-	1	4
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	24	43	-	-	4
North Carolina-----	3	2	-	5	-	-	1	29	36	-	-	2
South Carolina-----	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	31	50	-	3	5
Georgia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	49	-	10	4
Florida-----	-	(-)	-	-	(-)	-	(2)	-	(58)	-	-	(-)
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	6	2	8	-	-	-	2	179	141	-	5	7
Kentucky-----	-	(-)	-	-	(-)	-	(1)	-	(104)	-	-	(3)
Tennessee-----	2	1	6	-	-	-	-	82	78	-	-	2
Alabama-----	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	40	-	5	4
Mississippi-----	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	67	23	-	-	1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	3	5	-	-	-	8	9	336	419	-	17	29
Arkansas-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	71	88	-	2	3
Louisiana-----	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	55	88	-	15	17
Oklahoma-----	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	53	53	-	-	-
Texas-----	2	5	-	-	-	1	7	157	190	-	-	9
MOUNTAIN-----	2	5	2	1	-	1	-	77	127	-	-	-
Montana-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-
Colorado-----	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	21	16	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	57	-	-	-
Arizona-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	24	22	-	-	-
Utah-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	7	10	1	-	-	-	2	118	110	-	4	6
Washington-----	3	2	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	-
Oregon-----	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	14	13	-	-	-
California-----	3	8	-	-	-	-	1	101	93	-	4	6
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	86	49	-	-	-

¹Data exclude reports for Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky.

²Report for November.



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	51st week ended Dec. 22, 1956	50th week ended Dec. 15, 1956	51st week median 1953-55	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 51 WEEKS		
					1956	1955	Percent change
TOTAL: 99 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,257	10,656	9,735	+5.4	508,115	499,709	+1.7
New England----- (13 cities)	686	721	645	+6.4	32,930	33,326	-1.2
Middle Atlantic----- (18 cities)	2,956	3,126	2,964	-0.3	150,227	150,462	-0.2
East North Central----- (16 cities)	2,203	2,157	2,186	+0.8	107,532	106,033	+1.4
West North Central----- (8 cities)	696	830	649	+7.2	36,101	35,125	+2.8
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	812	786	785	+3.4	40,535	39,060	+3.8
East South Central----- (8 cities)	413	520	371	+11.3	23,977	23,692	+1.2
West South Central----- (11 cities)	858	853	668	+28.4	40,488	37,790	+7.1
Mountain----- (8 cities)	230	204	204	+12.7	10,873	10,542	+3.1
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,403	1,459	1,257	+11.6	65,450	63,679	+2.8

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Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 22, 1956

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

CITY	51st week ended Dec. 22, 1956	50th week ended Dec. 15, 1956	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 51 WEEKS		CITY	51st week ended Dec. 22, 1956	50th week ended Dec. 15, 1956	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FIRST 51 WEEKS	
			1956	1955				1956	1955
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston, Mass.-----	244	252	11,613	11,780	St. Louis, Mo.-----	202	299	11,840	11,197
Bridgeport, Conn.-----	29	43	1,860	1,884	St. Paul, Minn.-----	64	50	3,321	3,248
Cambridge, Mass.-----	28	39	1,496	1,517	Wichita, Kans.-----	25	80	2,127	1,964
Fall River, Mass.-----	---	(29)	---	(1,404)	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford, Conn.-----	51	53	2,392	2,305	Atlanta, Ga.-----	113	100	5,502	5,349
Lowell, Mass.-----	32	19	1,193	1,294	Baltimore, Md.-----	253	222	11,754	11,449
Lynn, Mass.-----	22	19	1,069	1,139	Charlotte, N. C.-----	26	42	1,515	1,400
New Bedford, Mass.-----	20	20	1,148	1,214	Jacksonville, Fla.-----	(57)	(60)	(2,614)	(2,470)
New Haven, Conn.-----	50	57	2,321	2,177	Miami, Fla.-----	51	63	2,617	2,637
Providence, R. I.-----	75	77	3,139	3,222	Norfolk, Va.-----	31	28	1,660	1,588
Somerville, Mass.-----	18	11	763	763	Richmond, Va.-----	95	59	3,562	3,278
Springfield, Mass.-----	33	48	2,090	2,135	Savannah, Ga.-----	---	---	---	(1,450)
Waterbury, Conn.-----	28	26	1,288	1,279	Tampa, Fla.-----	46	55	2,924	2,782
Worcester, Mass.-----	56	57	2,558	2,617	Washington, D. C.-----	171	179	9,236	8,815
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Willington, Del.-----	26	38	1,765	1,762
Albany, N. Y.-----	55	42	2,477	2,426	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Allentown, Pa.-----	(46)	(25)	(1,894)	(1,825)	Birmingham, Ala.-----	73	87	3,900	3,897
Buffalo, N. Y.-----	113	138	7,215	6,905	Chattanooga, Tenn.-----	30	48	2,116	2,238
Camden, N. J.-----	34	39	1,978	1,827	Knoxville, Tenn.-----	18	32	1,635	1,699
Elizabeth, N. J.-----	---	(25)	---	(1,320)	Louisville, Ky.-----	98	97	5,346	5,239
Erie, Pa.-----	22	35	1,650	1,746	Memphis, Tenn.-----	94	137	5,033	4,987
Jersey City, N. J.-----	71	82	3,527	3,505	Mobile, Ala.-----	43	32	1,769	1,507
Newark, N. J.-----	76	120	4,886	5,093	Montgomery, Ala.-----	17	24	1,445	1,322
New York City, N. Y.-----	1,582	1,682	79,002	79,625	Nashville, Tenn.-----	40	63	2,733	2,803
Paterson, N. J.-----	48	38	1,933	1,882	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Philadelphia, Pa.-----	486	496	24,058	24,222	Austin, Tex.-----	---	(25)	---	1,306)
Pittsburgh, Pa.-----	182	174	9,253	9,010	Baton Rouge, La.-----	---	(22)	---	(1,089)
Reading, Pa.-----	(22)	(24)	(1,095)	(1,156)	Corpus Christi, Tex.-----	27	25	1,018	874
Rochester, N. Y.-----	92	99	4,819	4,835	Dallas, Tex.-----	129	112	5,521	5,005
Schenectady, N. Y.-----	25	22	1,136	1,134	El Paso, Tex.-----	25	28	1,374	1,419
Scranton, Pa.-----	(31)	(32)	(1,726)	(1,724)	Fort Worth, Tex.-----	60	69	2,975	2,788
Syracuse, N. Y.-----	77	58	3,015	2,825	Houston, Tex.-----	163	161	6,931	6,392
Trenton, N. J.-----	34	45	2,209	2,403	Little Rock, Ark.-----	51	50	2,357	2,219
Utica, N. Y.-----	30	32	1,564	1,574	New Orleans, La.-----	165	156	8,048	7,673
Yonkers, N. Y.-----	29	24	1,503	1,450	Oklahoma City, Okla.-----	74	75	3,207	2,828
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio, Tex.-----	106	83	4,502	4,329
Akron, Ohio-----	62	49	2,702	2,660	Shreveport, La.-----	38	42	2,272	2,011
Canton, Ohio-----	20	35	1,449	1,400	Tulsa, Okla.-----	20	52	2,283	2,252
Chicago, Ill.-----	778	767	37,239	36,990	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati, Ohio-----	123	134	7,645	7,457	Albuquerque, N. Mex.-----	27	18	1,172	1,172
Cleveland, Ohio-----	238	224	10,464	9,995	Colorado Springs, Colo.-----	13	12	661	652
Columbus, Ohio-----	---	(121)	---	(5,404)	Denver, Colo.-----	127	96	5,487	5,407
Dayton, Ohio-----	70	70	3,379	3,293	Ogden, Utah-----	12	14	644	575
Detroit, Mich.-----	343	323	16,082	16,357	Phoenix, Ariz.-----	---	(30)	---	(1,227)
Evansville, Ind.-----	31	39	1,693	1,598	Pueblo, Colo.-----	15	16	641	627
Flint, Mich.-----	44	38	1,950	1,911	Salt Lake City, Utah-----	36	48	2,268	2,109
Fort Wayne, Ind.-----	35	33	1,811	1,683	Tucson, Ariz.-----	---	(11)	---	(2,228)
Gary, Ind.-----	(34)	(33)	(1,461)	(1,394)	PACIFIC				
Grand Rapids, Mich.-----	37	42	2,063	2,108	Berkeley, Calif.-----	20	25	857	926
Indianapolis, Ind.-----	147	109	5,966	5,690	Long Beach, Calif.-----	55	56	2,721	2,491
Milwaukee, Wis.-----	124	124	6,321	6,327	Los Angeles, Calif.-----	540	516	23,961	23,144
Peoria, Ill.-----	---	(31)	---	(1,477)	Oakland, Calif.-----	120	125	4,645	4,399
South Bend, Ind.-----	22	23	1,249	1,282	Passadena, Calif.-----	32	36	1,777	1,806
Toledo, Ohio-----	86	91	4,791	4,693	Portland, Oreg.-----	69	90	4,781	4,706
Youngstown, Ohio-----	43	56	2,728	2,589	Sacramento, Calif.-----	48	65	2,482	2,469
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					San Diego, Calif.-----	77	99	3,831	3,734
Des Moines, Iowa-----	61	57	2,568	2,601	San Francisco, Calif.-----	214	215	9,706	9,339
Duluth, Minn.-----	27	23	1,318	1,277	Seattle, Wash.-----	140	135	6,420	6,454
Kansas City, Kans.-----	---	---	---	(1,704)	Spokane, Wash.-----	49	49	2,337	2,317
Kansas City, Mo.-----	117	118	5,518	5,602	Tacoma, Wash.-----	39	48	1,932	1,894
Minneapolis, Minn.-----	136	138	6,092	6,016	HONOLULU, HAWAII				
Omaha, Nebr.-----	64	65	3,317	3,220	Honolulu, Hawaii-----	(39)	(47)	(1,776)	(1,806)

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

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

Histoplasmosis

Dr. D. S. Fleming, Minnesota Department of Health, has reported an outbreak of histoplasmosis in a group of 40 men who worked around a church in the southwestern part of the State. Of these, 5 became ill with symptoms compatible with histoplasmosis. Histoplasmin skin tests were positive for each, and blood specimens were positive in titers of 1:32 or greater. An investigation revealed these 5 were the only ones who cleaned windows and put in new window wells on the southeast side of the church. The other men hauled dirt and sodded the lawn. It was reported that the window sills were heavily contaminated with pigeon droppings. At the time of the project the weather was warm and dry.

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