

No Typhoid Deaths in 5 Big Cities

Public Health

Modern Precautions Have Brought New Health Record

OF 81 cities in the United States with over 100,000 population, five had no deaths from typhoid fever during the past year, the American Medical Association has just reported as a result of its annual survey. The five cities were Duluth, Minn., Hartford, Conn., New Bedford, Mass., Reading, Pa., and Spokane, Wash. Of these Duluth is the only one having had a clean slate the year before.

Cities in the east north-central states, which include Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, had for the second time in five years the lowest death rate for typhoid fever of any group in the country. The three largest cities of this group, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, all reported rates under one death per hundred thousand of population.

"Probably in few city groups anywhere with a population as large and heterogeneous as represented here has so low a typhoid rate ever been reported," stated the report.

Higher death rates from typhoid are reported from the southern cities, but notable progress in reducing the high rate is evident over several years. Atlanta, Memphis, Birmingham, Tulsa, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio have made big strides in reducing typhoid deaths.

Their progress is largely due to persistent efforts toward safeguarding the milk and water supplies and controlling other factors responsible for the development of the disease. Their experience should be encouraging to other southern cities, particularly as it shows that a warm climate is not an insurmountable barrier to reduction in the death rate from typhoid fever.

Typhoid is spread very largely through contaminated water, milk or other food. Flies carry the disease and for this reason screens are an important factor in its control, as is adequate sanitation.

Honor Roll

Cities having fewer than one death per hundred thousand from typhoid

Duluth	0.0
Hartford	0.0
New Bedford	0.0
Reading	0.0
Spokane	0.0
Jersey City	0.3
Toledo	0.3
Milwaukee	0.4
Omaha	0.4
Cleveland	0.5
Norfolk	0.5
Syracuse	0.5
Bridgeport	0.6
Chicago	0.6
Grand Rapids	0.6
Minneapolis	0.6
Newark	0.6
Rochester, N. Y.	0.6
Erie	0.7
Fall River	0.7
Jacksonville	0.7
Philadelphia	0.7
Salt Lake City	0.7
Springfield, Mass.	0.7
Canton	0.8
Wilmington	0.8
Detroit	0.9
Utica	0.9

TELEGRAPHIC reports received at the U. S. Public Health Service show an increase in the number of cases of typhoid fever throughout the country during recent weeks. The figures are about parallel with those reported last year at this time, and the rise is merely the expected seasonal increase. For the entire country 260 cases were reported for the week of May 18.

Typhoid is no longer the universal menace that it was in the days before sanitary control of water, milk and other food supplies, before carriers were recognized and held under surveillance of health authorities, and before "swat the fly" had become a national household phrase and activity.

However, enough cases and deaths from this cause are reported each year to make health officers renew their efforts and warnings at this season. Typhoid has been called the vacation disease because it so often was the unhappy successor of the summer holiday trip.

The disease may be guarded against by investigating the food, milk and water supply of the vacation site beforehand. In case of doubt, milk and water should be

boiled and no raw food eaten.

Another protective measure that is gaining in popularity is the protective inoculation against the disease. These inoculations were used very successfully in the army during the World War. The inoculations are given at intervals of a week until three have been administered.

Typhoid is a germ disease. The organisms causing it may be spread in a number of ways. They are excreted by persons suffering from the disease and also by well persons, known as "carriers," who harbor the germs in their bodies. From either of these sources drinking water, milk, ice cream, oysters, and other foods may become contaminated. Flies also may carry the germs, and food must be protected from them.

The efforts of health officers and sanitary authorities have reduced the typhoid hazard in larger cities materially, but in some cities and many rural areas the danger still exists. Many states now inspect and mark roadside water supplies for the protection of motorists.

A specific cure for the disease has not yet been developed. It is more fatal to older people. It develops about two weeks after infection and lasts for about four weeks. The onset is gradual with fever, headache and chills.

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