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# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## OTTAWA - CANADA

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Memorandum

### POLIOMYELITIS TRENDS, 1956

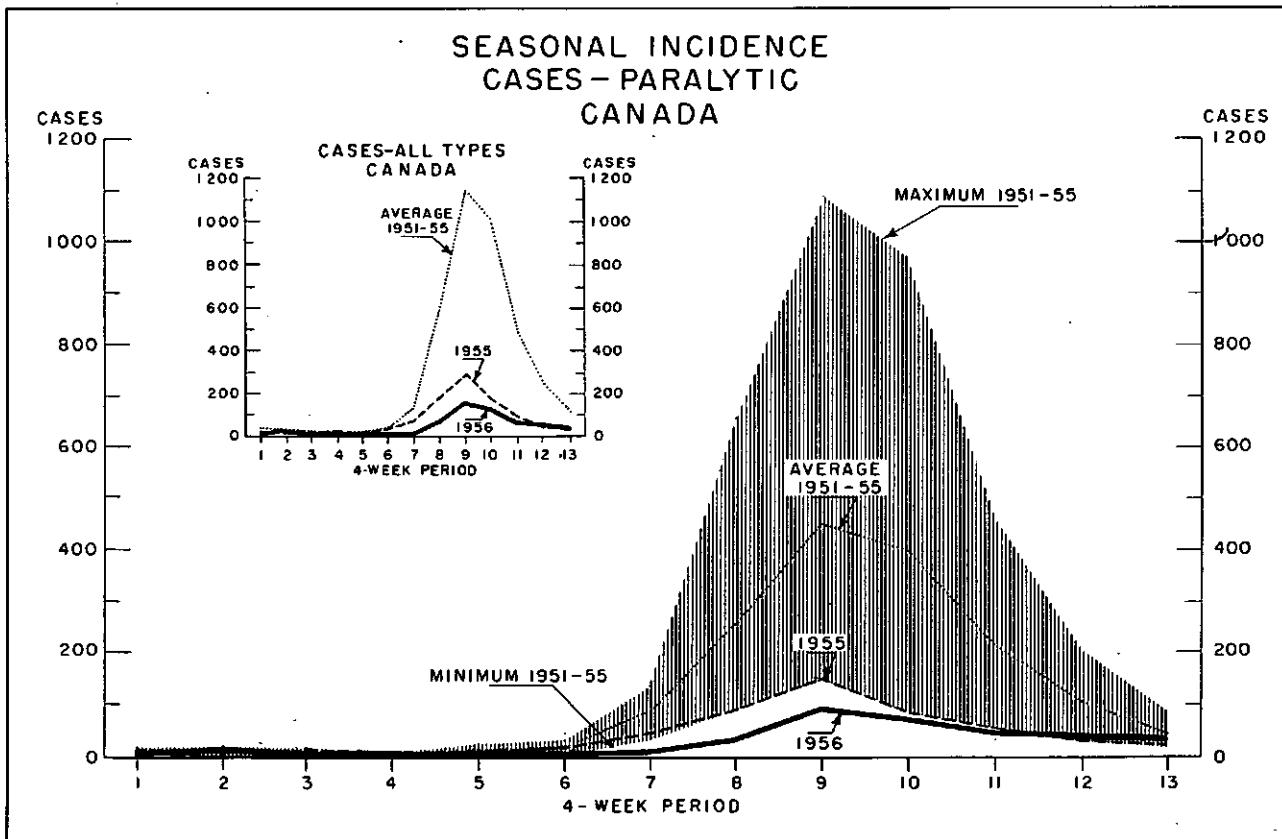
The incidence rate of poliomyelitis, all types, in 1956 for Canada (3.7 per 100,000 population) was the lowest recorded since 1945, when a rate of 3.2 was shown.

The incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis for Canada (2.3 per 100,000 population) was the lowest since 1950, when 2.1 was recorded.

In most Provinces the incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis was lower in 1956 than in 1955; only in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario was it slightly higher.

The proportion of cases in the age group 20 years and over was the highest on record (41.3 per cent) for the six provinces reporting age. This proportional increase, however, was due to the lower incidence at younger ages rather than an actual increase in the 20 years and over group.

This bulletin is intended to present, at the beginning of the new poliomyelitis year, the 1956 figures for reported cases of poliomyelitis against the background of data for previous years. No attempt is made here to evaluate the expanding vaccination program and the extent to which it may have influenced the incidence of the disease in 1956.



Prepared in the Health and Welfare Division  
Public Health Section

**Cases and Rates, all Types, 1931-56**

Year	Canada <sup>1</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Number of cases											
1931 .....	1,342		—	13	6	1,077	161	15	5	23	42
1932 .....	956		2	4	13	709	175	7	6	35	5
1933 .....	255		—	2	5	124	53	7	28	31	5
1934 .....	520		1	10	3	115	326	10	12	11	32
1935 .....	363		1	2	3	32	108	24	21	152	20
1936 .....	978		—	—	3	122	208	525	77	16	27
1937 .....	3,905		1	43	164	172	2,546	267	519	167	26
1938 .....	577		—	5	17	54	160	160	34	104	43
1939 .....	359		—	20	2	59	216	26	11	24	1
1940 .....	192		—	2	1	64	91	18	9	2	5
1941 .....	1,881		—	19	419	48	143	969	59	166	58
1942 .....	687		3	163	135	152	92	72	15	8	47
1943 .....	327		3	9	18	113	81	38	37	20	8
1944 .....	722		1	20	85	47	337	99	17	97	19
1945 .....	384		—	26	7	57	184	24	20	14	52
1946 .....	2,527		80	49	94	1,612	518	48	37	68	21
1947 .....	2,291		2	71	20	144	796	587	277	82	312
1948 .....	1,168		1	29	10	46	372	142	84	359	125
1949 .....	2,458	20	—	85	40	587	1,138	119	111	129	229
1950 .....	911	3	67	17	15	77	376	22	120	138	76
1951 .....	2,568	5	23	216	51	274	1,701	55	92	59	92
1952 .....	4,755	4	57	57	427	125	705	839	1,205	740	596
1953 .....	8,878	233	11	31	88	488	2,239	2,317	1,202	1,472	797
1954 .....	2,390	22	83	137	61	786	250	114	197	523	217
1955 .....	1,021	15	11	115	39	122	169	33	72	215	230
1956 .....	600	4	4	20	24	152	193	22	21	76	84
Rates per 100,000 population											
1931 .....	12.9		—	2.5	1.5	37.5	4.7	2.1	0.5	3.1	6.0
1932 .....	9.1		2.2	0.8	3.1	24.2	5.0	1.0	0.6	4.7	0.7
1933 .....	2.4		—	0.4	1.2	4.2	1.5	1.0	3.0	4.1	0.7
1934 .....	4.8		1.1	1.9	0.7	3.8	9.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	4.4
1935 .....	3.4		1.1	0.4	0.7	1.0	3.0	3.4	2.3	19.9	2.7
1936 .....	8.9		—	—	0.7	3.9	5.8	73.8	8.3	2.1	3.6
1937 .....	35.4		1.1	7.8	37.5	5.5	70.0	37.3	56.3	21.5	3.4
1938 .....	5.2		—	0.9	3.8	1.7	4.4	22.2	3.7	13.3	5.5
1939 .....	3.2		—	3.6	0.4	1.8	5.8	3.6	1.2	3.1	0.1
1940 .....	1.7		—	0.4	0.2	2.0	2.4	2.5	1.0	0.3	0.6
1941 .....	16.4		—	3.3	91.6	1.4	3.8	132.8	6.6	20.8	7.1
1942 .....	5.9		3.3	27.6	29.1	4.5	2.4	9.9	1.8	1.0	5.4
1943 .....	2.8		3.3	1.5	3.9	3.3	2.1	5.3	4.4	2.5	0.9
1944 .....	6.1		1.1	3.3	18.4	1.3	8.5	13.6	2.0	12.0	2.0
1945 .....	3.2		—	4.2	1.5	1.6	4.6	3.3	2.4	1.7	5.5
1946 .....	20.6		85.1	8.1	19.7	44.4	12.7	6.6	4.4	8.5	2.1
1947 .....	18.3		2.1	11.5	4.1	3.9	19.1	79.4	33.1	9.9	29.9
1948 .....	9.1		1.1	4.6	2.0	1.2	8.7	19.0	10.0	42.0	11.6
1949 .....	18.3	5.8	—	13.5	7.9	15.1	26.0	15.7	13.3	14.6	20.6
1950 .....	6.7	0.9	69.8	2.7	2.9	1.9	8.4	2.9	14.4	15.1	6.7
1951 .....	18.4	1.4	23.4	33.6	9.9	6.8	37.0	7.1	11.1	6.3	7.9
1952 .....	32.9	1.1	57.0	8.7	81.2	3.0	14.7	105.1	142.9	76.1	49.5
1953 .....	59.9	60.8	10.9	4.7	16.5	11.4	45.3	286.4	139.6	145.5	63.9
1954 .....	15.7	5.6	82.2	20.4	11.3	17.9	4.9	13.9	22.6	49.5	16.8
1955 .....	6.5	3.7	11.0	16.8	7.1	2.7	3.2	3.9	8.2	19.7	17.1
1956 .....	3.7	1.0	4.0	2.9	4.3	3.3	3.6	2.6	2.4	6.8	6.0

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

**Cases by 4-Week Periods, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1955 and 1956**

4-week periods	1956		1955	
	All Types	Paralytic	All Types	Paralytic
	Number of cases			
Total .....	600	368	1,021	551
1 .....	9	5	18	13
2 .....	18	13	12	11
3 .....	9	6	17	11
4 .....	11	7	22	9
5 .....	10	7	17	9
6 .....	11	5	31	18
7 .....	15	10	72	45
8 .....	68	32	183	90
9 .....	155	93	295	148
10 .....	131	74	177	85
11 .....	70	48	92	56
12 .....	57	37	53	33
13 .....	36	31	32	23

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

**Cases and Rates, Paralytic, 1949-56**

Year	Canada <sup>1</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Number of cases			
1949 .....	1,174	14	-	82	40	498	406	1	51	66	16				
1950 .....	284	3	-	10	9	77	113	6	34	32	-				
1951 .....	1,148	4	1	205	15	187	619	37	57	22	1				
1952 .....	1,442	2	3	41	67	23	269	410	447	..	180				
1953 .....	3,691	162	6	25	13	256	985	1,480	357	..	407				
1954 .....	1,163	14	49	63	7	498	94	66	41	221	110				
1955 .....	551	12	11	55	6	86	75	15	20	125	146				
1956 .....	368	3	3	9	7	125	127	15	7	35	37				
												Rates per 100,000 population			
1949 .....	8.7	4.1	-	13.0	7.9	12.8	9.3	0.1	6.1	7.5	1.4				
1950 .....	2.1	0.9	-	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.5	0.8	4.1	3.5	-				
1951 .....	8.2	1.1	1.0	31.9	2.9	4.6	13.5	4.8	6.9	2.3	0.1				
1952 .....	10.7	0.5	3.0	6.3	12.7	0.6	5.6	51.4	53.0	..	14.9				
1953 .....	26.7	42.3	5.9	3.8	2.4	6.0	19.9	182.9	41.5	..	32.6				
1954 .....	7.6	3.5	48.5	9.4	1.3	11.3	1.8	8.0	4.7	20.9	8.5				
1955 .....	3.5	3.0	11.0	8.1	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.8	2.3	11.5	10.9				
1956 .....	2.3	0.7	3.0	1.3	1.3	2.7	2.3	1.8	0.8	3.1	2.6				

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

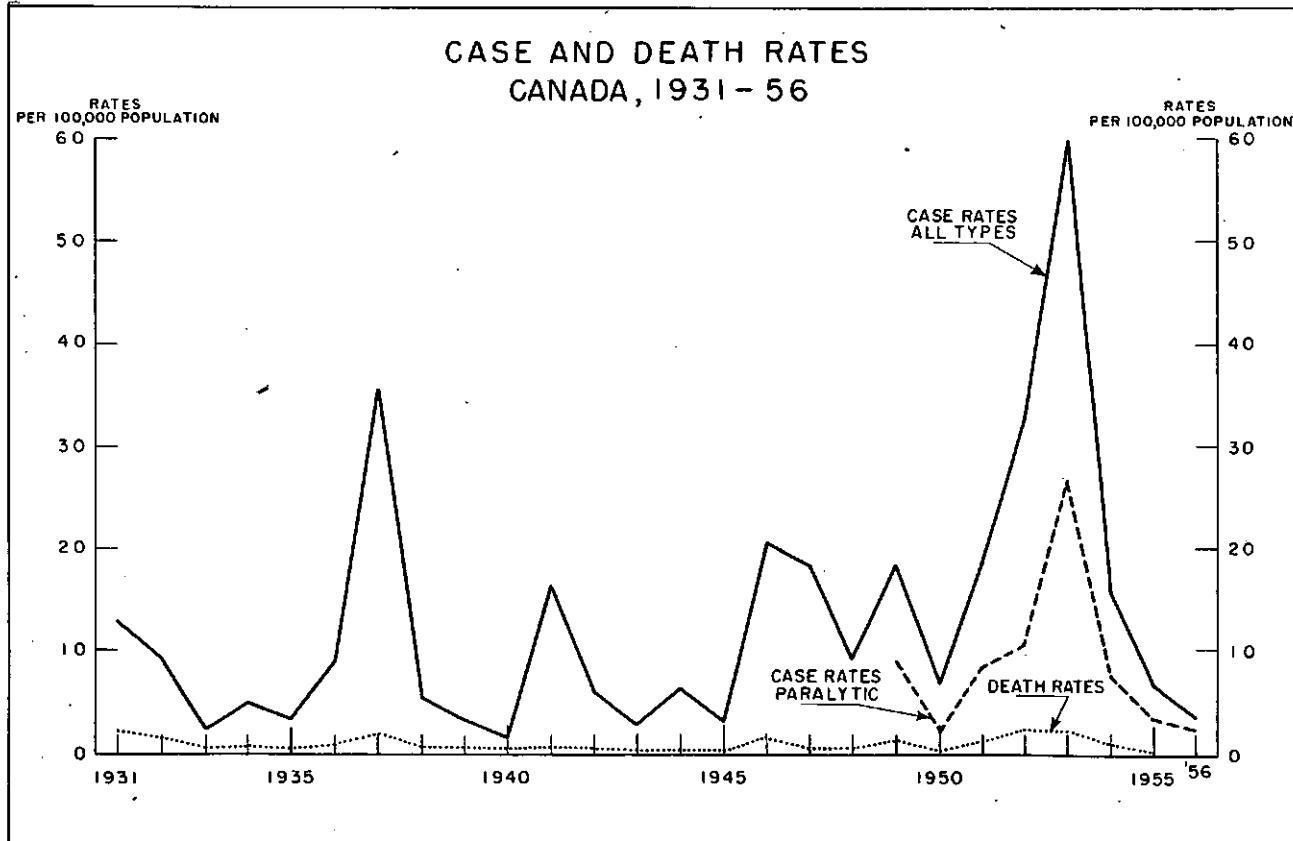
.. Not reportable.

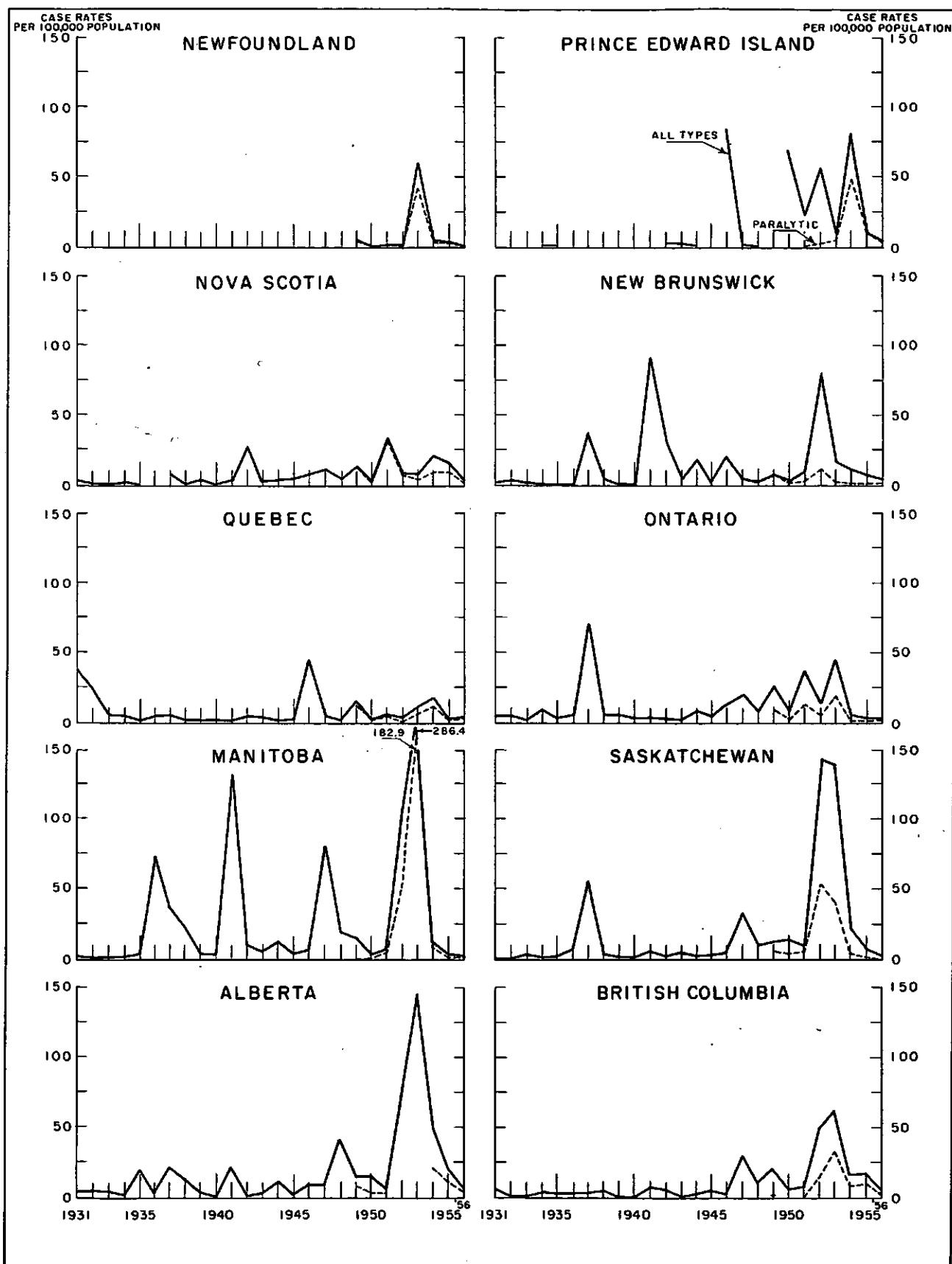
**Death Rates, 1931-55**  
 (Source: Vital Statistics Annual Reports, D.B.S.)

Year	Canada <sup>1</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Rates per 100,000 population											
1931	2.2		1.1	1.9	0.5	5.2	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.6
1932	1.6	—		0.8	0.5	3.8	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.9	0.1
1933	0.7	—		1.1	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.3
1934	0.8	—		0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4
1935	0.6	—	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	2.0	0.1
1936	0.9	—	1.1	0.2	—	0.5	0.6	5.2	1.0	0.5	0.9
1937	1.8	—		1.5	1.1	0.7	3.3	1.7	2.4	1.7	—
1938	0.7	—		0.2	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.5	0.8	1.9	0.5
1939	0.5	—	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.4
1940	0.4	—	1.1	0.5	—	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2
1941	0.6	—		0.7	4.2	0.1	0.3	2.7	0.3	1.0	0.1
1942	0.5	—	4.4	2.9	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	—	—
1943	0.2	—		0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	—	0.1
1944	0.3	—		0.2	0.9	2	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
1945	0.2	—		0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	—	0.1
1946	1.5	—	11.7	0.3	1.0	3.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.1
1947	0.7	—	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.4	0.8	1.1
1948	0.6	—		0.6	—	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	3.3	0.5
1949	1.3	—		2.1	1.4	1.1	1.9	1.5	0.7	1.0	0.3
1950	0.3	—	4.2	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.9	0.2
1951	1.2	—	2.0	3.6	0.4	0.2	2.2	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.5
1952	2.2	—	2.0	0.9	2.1	0.3	1.0	3.1	10.7	8.1	3.3
1953	3.2	2.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.5	11.2	8.4	10.7	2.4
1954	1.0	—	4.0	0.9	—	1.8	0.4	0.6	0.8	2.6	0.5
1955	0.2	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

2. Less than 0.05.





**Case Fatality Rates, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1931-56**

Year	All Types	Paralytic	Year	All Types	Paralytic
Rates per 1,000 notifications			Rates per 1,000 notifications		
1931.....	166.2	2	1944 .....	52.6	2
1932.....	171.5	2	1945 .....	62.5	2
1933.....	286.3	2	1946 .....	70.8	2
1934.....	161.5	2	1947 .....	38.4	2
1935.....	176.3	2	1948 .....	63.4	2
1936.....	99.2	2	1949 <sup>3</sup> .....	71.2	149.1
1937.....	51.2	2	1950 .....	45.0	144.4
1938.....	143.8	2	1951 .....	63.1	141.1
1939.....	156.0	2	1952 .....	65.4	215.7
1940.....	250.0	2	1953 .....	54.1	130.3
1941.....	36.2	2	1954 .....	65.7	135.0
1942.....	93.2	2	1955 .....	35.3	65.3
1943.....	79.5	2	1956 .....	2	2

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

2. Data not available.

3. Including Newfoundland for this and subsequent years.

**Age<sup>1</sup> Specific Case Rates, Paralytic, 1949-56**

Year	Total	Age Group				
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-19	20 years and over
Rates per 100,000 population						
1949.....	4.2	0.9	7.2	0.8	5.3	1.9
1950.....	1.9	2.6	5.4	3.8	2.6	0.6
1951.....	3.0	2.6	6.7	6.8	4.1	1.0
1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	29.6	34.7	62.4	57.6	42.5	13.6
1953 <sup>2</sup> .....	63.3	81.6	152.0	114.4	59.8	32.3
1954.....	9.3	11.6	17.1	17.3	13.9	4.6
1955.....	6.4	4.9	15.5	9.6	7.9	3.6
1956.....	2.0	1.4	5.2	2.6	1.1	1.4

1. Age distribution reported by six provinces only.

2. Cases in Alberta not reportable.

**Percentage of Paralytic Cases by Age Group<sup>1</sup>, 1949-56**

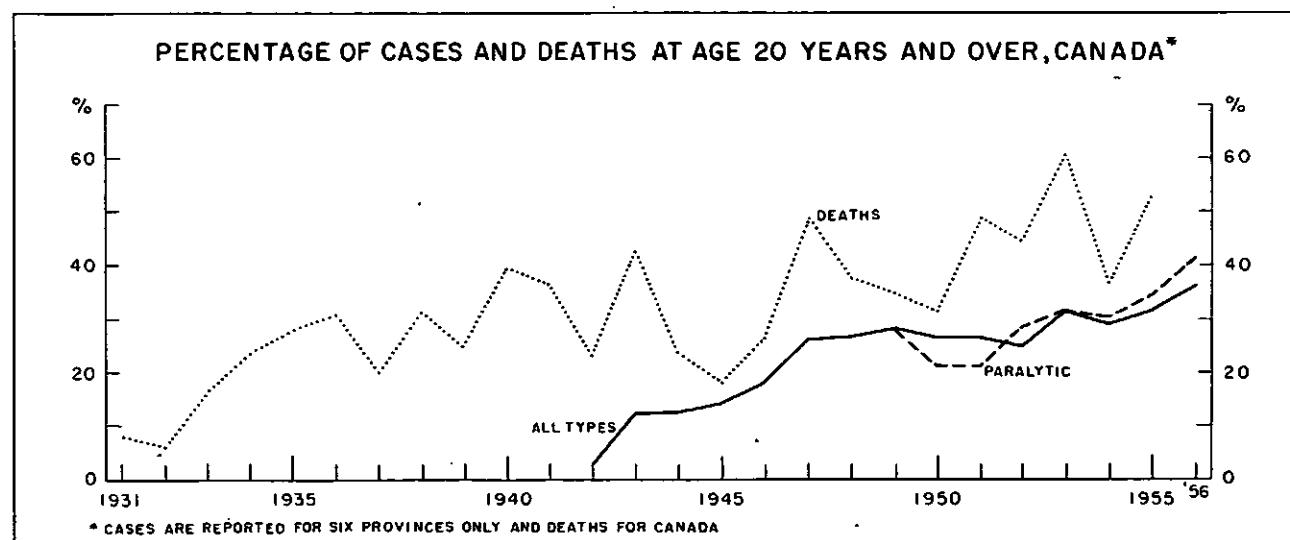
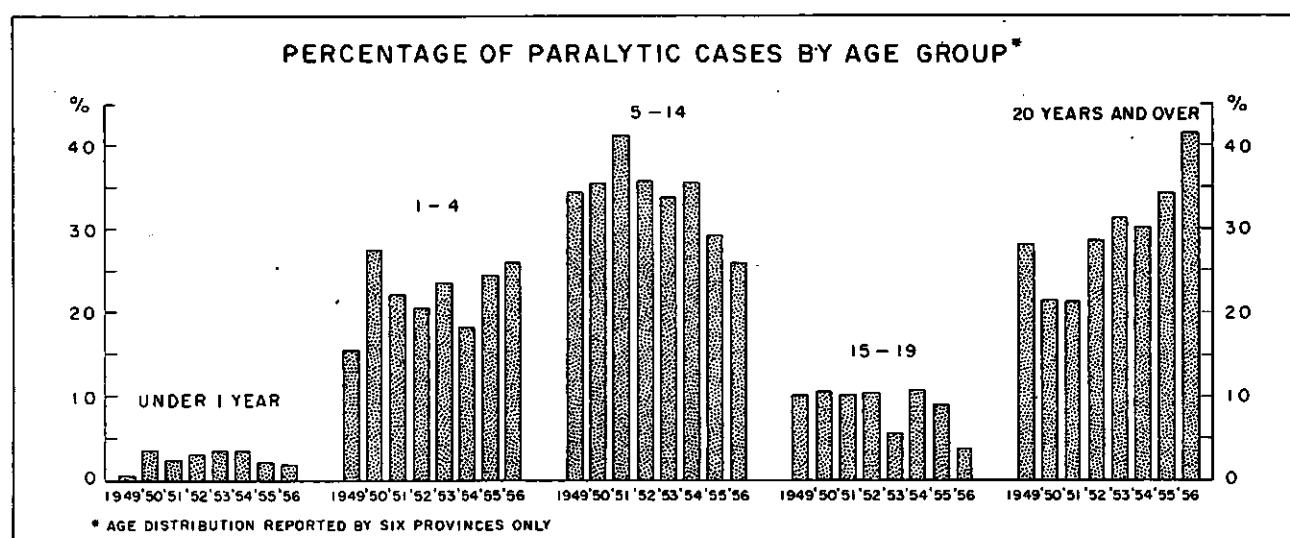
Year	Total	Age Group					
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-19	20 years and over	Not specified
Per cent							
1949 .....	100.0	0.5	15.4	34.6	10.1	28.2	11.2
1950 .....	100.0	3.6	27.4	35.7	10.7	21.4	1.2
1951 .....	100.0	2.2	22.1	41.2	10.3	21.3	2.9
1952 .....	100.0	3.1	20.6	35.8	10.5	28.5	1.5
1953 .....	100.0	3.5	23.5	33.9	6.8	31.3	1.0
1954 .....	100.0	3.5	18.3	35.7	10.9	30.1	1.5
1955 .....	100.0	2.1	24.4	29.3	9.0	34.3	0.9
1956 .....	100.0	1.9	26.0	26.0	3.8	41.3	1.0

1. Age distribution reported by six provinces only.

Percentage of Cases and Deaths at Age 20 Years and Over, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1931-56

Year	Cases <sup>2</sup>			Year	Cases <sup>2</sup>		
	All Types	Paralytic	Deaths		All Types	Paralytic	Deaths
Per cent							
1931 .....	3	3	8.1	1944 .....	12.6	3	23.7
1932 .....	3	3	6.1	1945 .....	14.5	3	25.0
1933 .....	3	3	16.4	1946 .....	18.3	3	28.5
1934 .....	3	3	23.8	1947 .....	26.4	3	48.9
1935 .....	3	3	28.1	1948 .....	26.8	3	37.8
1936 .....	3	3	30.9	1949 <sup>4</sup> .....	28.7	28.2	34.9
1937 .....	3	3	20.0	1950 .....	22.7	21.4	31.7
1938 .....	3	3	31.3	1951 .....	26.6	21.3	48.8
1939 .....	3	3	25.0	1952 .....	25.0	28.5	44.4
1940 .....	3	3	39.6	1953 .....	31.3	31.3	60.9
1941 .....	3	3	36.8	1954 .....	29.2	30.1	36.9
1942 .....	2.9	3	23.4	1955 .....	31.6	34.3	52.8
1943 .....	12.4	3	42.3	1956 .....	36.4	41.3	3

1. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories. 2. Age distribution reported by six provinces only. 3. Data not available. 4. Including Newfoundland for this and subsequent years.





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**List of Publications of Health and Welfare Division  
Health Statistics**

Obtainable from Information Services Division,  
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Notifiable Diseases - A. Bil.	.50
Summary of Notifiable Diseases, 1924-52 - R. No. 45	.75
Tuberculosis Trends, 1956	.10
Poliomyelitis Trends, 1956	.10
Illness in the Civil Service, Statistical Report - A. Bil.	.50
Home Nursing Services - A.	.50
 Canadian Sickness Survey, 1950-51:	
1. Family Expenditures for Health Services (National estimates) E. & F.	.25
2. Family Expenditures for Health Services by Income Groups (National estimates) E. & F.	.25
3. Family Expenditures for Health Services by Expenditure Group (National estimates) E. & F.	.25
4. Family Expenditures for Health Services (Regional estimates) E. & F.	.25
5. Volume of Sickness (National estimates) E. & F.	.25
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Vital Statistics, Preliminary Report - A.	.10
Vital Statistics - Monthly, Bil.	(per year) 1.00
Mortality by Detailed Causes of Death, 1950-55 - R. No. 65	.50
Canadian Life Table, 1951 - R. No. 50	.25
Leading Causes of Death in Major Age Groups, 1955 - R. No. 81	.25
Canadian Vital Statistics Trends, 1921-54 - R. No. 70	.25
Causes of Stillbirths, 1943-55 - R. No. 79	.25
Population Estimates (age and sex), 1921-52 (annual supplements) - R. No. 40	.25

A. - Annual

F. - French

R. - Reference Paper

Bil. - Bilingual

E. - English