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**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**OTTAWA - CANADA**

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**Memorandum**

**POLIOMYELITIS TRENDS, 1957**

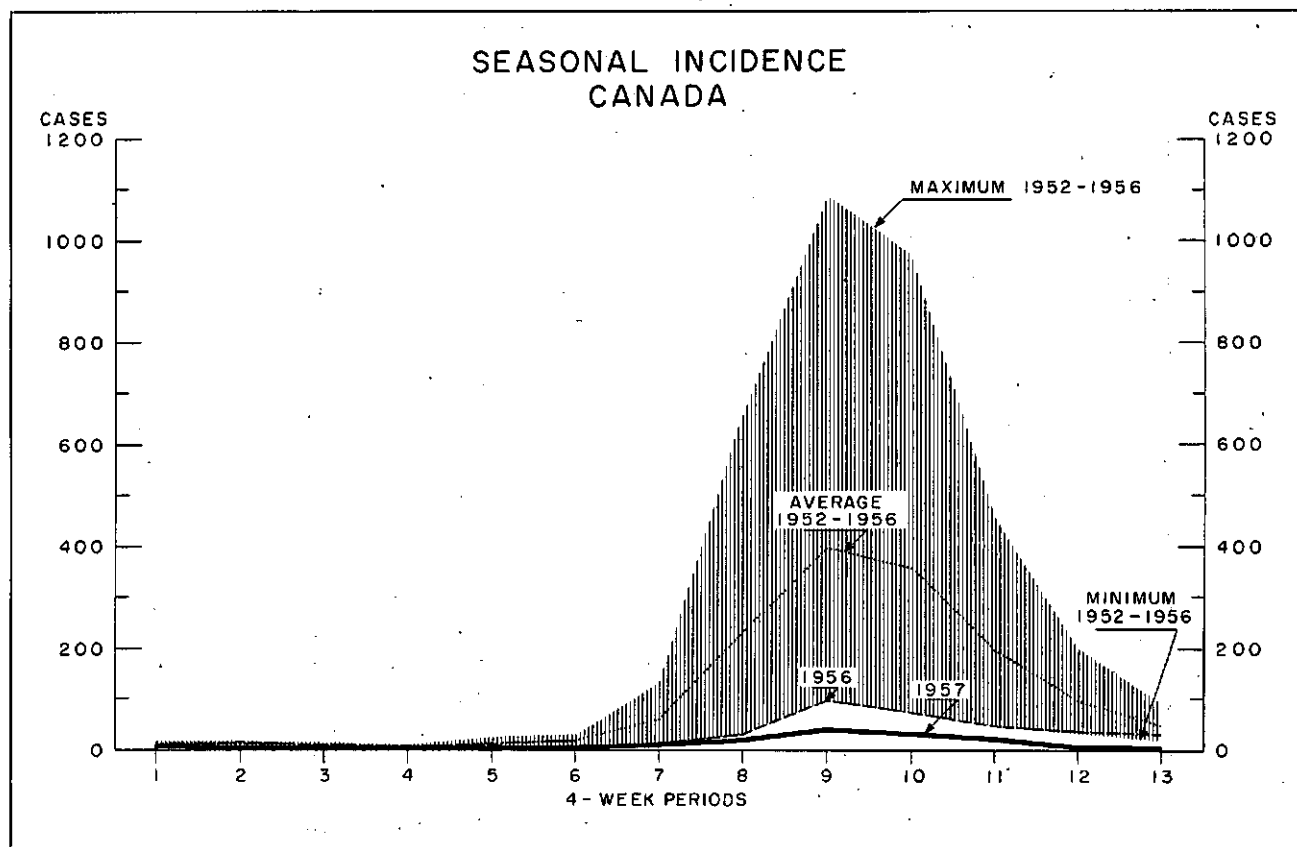
In line with present epidemiological thinking regarding the significance of reporting non-paralytic poliomyelitis cases as part of a disease control program, non-paralytic cases have been omitted from this report. Data shown in this report are confined to paralytic poliomyelitis only.

The incidence of poliomyelitis for Canada (1.0 per 100,000 population) was the lowest since 1950, when 2.1 was recorded.

In all Provinces except Saskatchewan the incidence of poliomyelitis was lower in 1957 than in 1956.

The proportion of cases in the age group 20 years and over was the highest on record (44.0 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 1957 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 1957.



Prepared in the Health and Welfare Division  
Public Health Section

Cases by 4-week periods, Canada<sup>1</sup>, 1955-1957

4-week periods	1955	1956	1957
	Number of cases		
Total .....	551	369	172
1 .....	13	5	6
2 .....	11	13	5
3 .....	11	6	2
4 .....	9	7	6
5 .....	9	7	3
6 .....	18	5	8
7 .....	45	10	14
8 .....	90	33	20
9 .....	148	93	41
10 .....	85	74	35
11 .....	56	48	22
12 .....	33	37	5
13 .....	23	31	5

1. Excluding Northwest Territories.

Cases and rates, 1949-1957

Year	Canada <sup>1</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qué.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon
	Number of cases											
1949 .....	1,174	14	—	82	40	498	406	1 <sup>2</sup>	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 .....	369	3	3	9	7	125	127	15	7	35	37	1
1957 .....	172	1	—	—	5	27	54	8	20	31	26	—
	Rates per 100,000 population											
1949 .....	8.7	4.1	—	13.0	7.9	12.8	9.3	0.1 <sup>2</sup>	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	8.2
1957 .....	1.0	0.2	—	—	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.9	2.3	2.7	1.7	—

1. Excluding Northwest Territories.

2. The 1949 Annual Report of the Department of Health for the Province of Manitoba indicates that 64 (rate of 8.5) out of 114 newly reported cases suffered various degrees of paralysis.

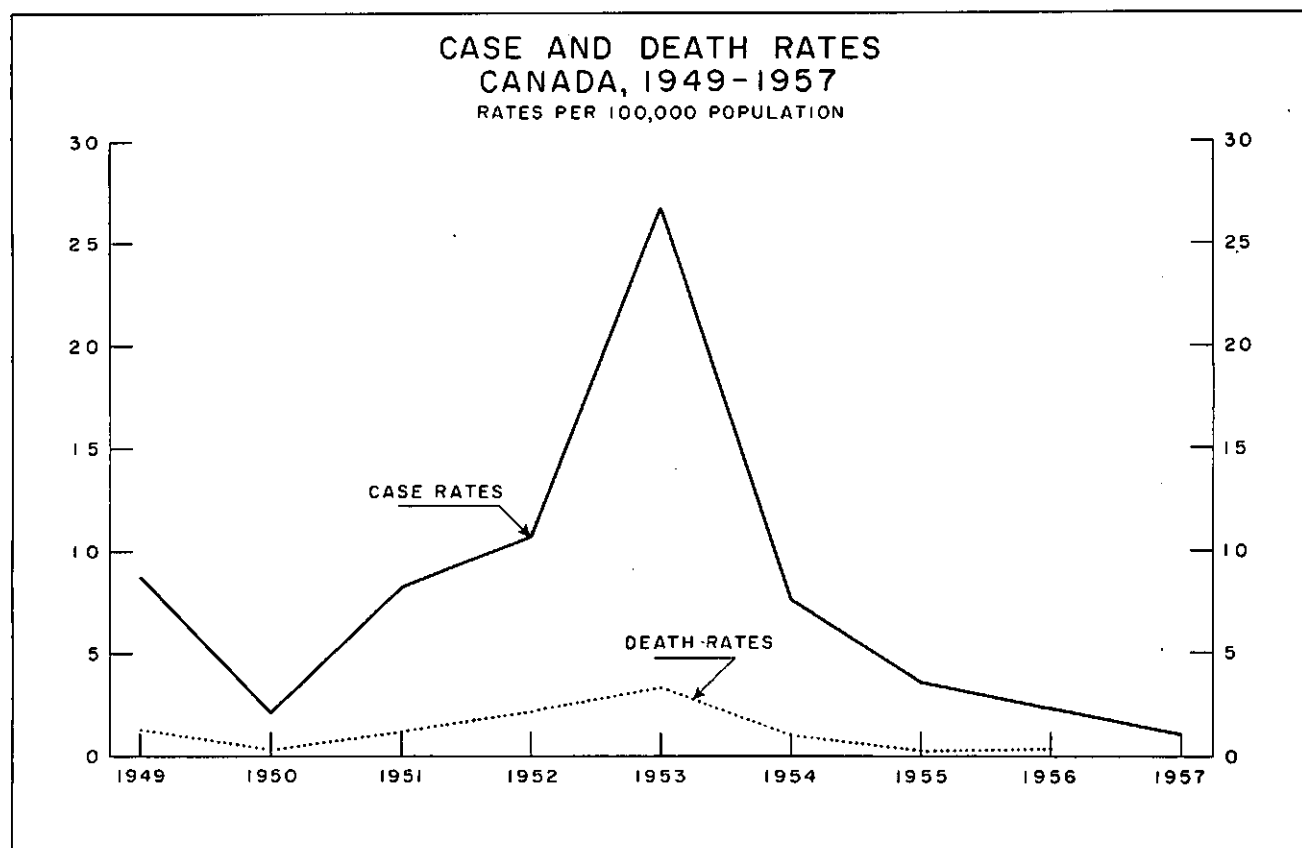
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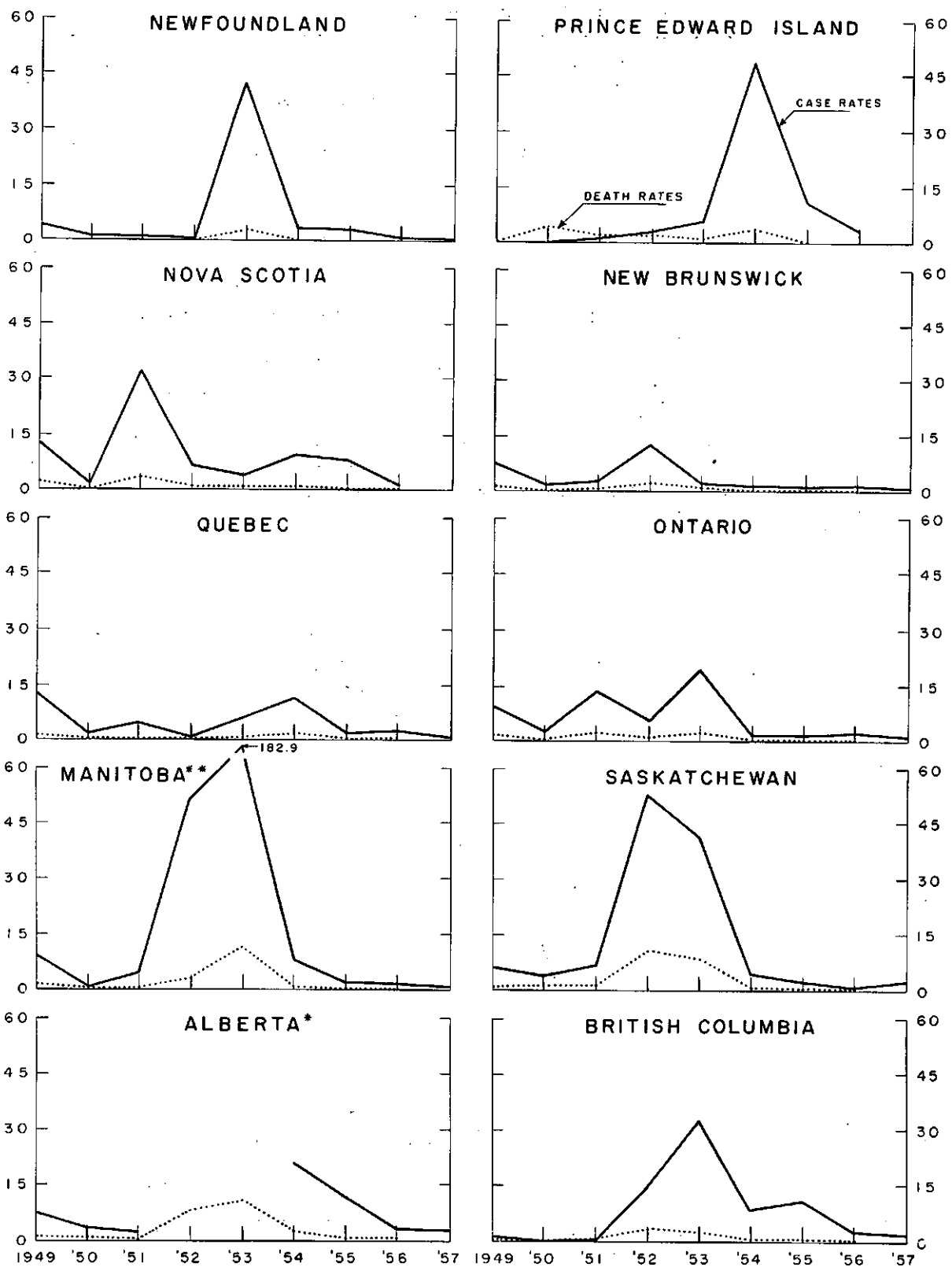
# Death rates<sup>1</sup>, 1949-1956

(Source: Vital Statistics Annual Reports, D.B.S.)

Year	Canada <sup>2</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon
Rates per 100,000 population												
1949 .....	1.3	—	—	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.9	1.5	0.7	1.0	0.3	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 .....	3.3	2.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.5	11.2	8.4	10.7	2.4	100.0
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	0.6	0.4	0.4	—
1956 .....	0.3	—	—	0.1	—	0.6	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	0.3	—

1. Death rates include all poliomyelitis deaths, both paralytic and non-paralytic.
2. Excluding Northwest Territories.
3. Not available.





\* CASES NOT REPORTABLE BY TYPE IN 1952 AND 1953.  
 \*\* SEE FOOTNOTE 2, PAGE 2.

### Case fatality rates, 1949-1956

Year	Canada <sup>1</sup>	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon
Rates per 1,000 notifications												
1949 .....	149.1	2	—	158.5	175.0	88.4	202.0	3	117.6	136.4	187.5	—
1950 .....	144.4	2	4	2	2	103.9	79.6	166.7	264.7	250.0	4	—
1951 .....	141.1	2	3	112.2	133.3	53.5	163.2	108.1	210.5	90.9	3	—
1952 .....	215.7	2	666.7	146.3	164.2	521.7	171.0	61.0	201.3	..	222.2	—
1953 .....	130.3	67.9	166.7	240.0	384.6	128.9	125.9	61.5	201.7	..	73.7	4
1954 .....	135.0	2	81.6	95.2	2	160.6	223.4	75.8	170.7	126.7	54.5	—
1955 .....	65.3	2	2	18.2	166.7	151.2	80.0	66.7	250.0	32.0	34.2	—
1956 .....	138.2	2	2	111.1	2	216.0	102.4	2	428.6	35.7	108.1	2

1. Excluding Northwest Territories.
2. Cases and no deaths.
3. Fewer cases than deaths.
4. Deaths but no cases.
- .. Not reportable.

### Age<sup>1</sup> specific case rates, 1949-1957

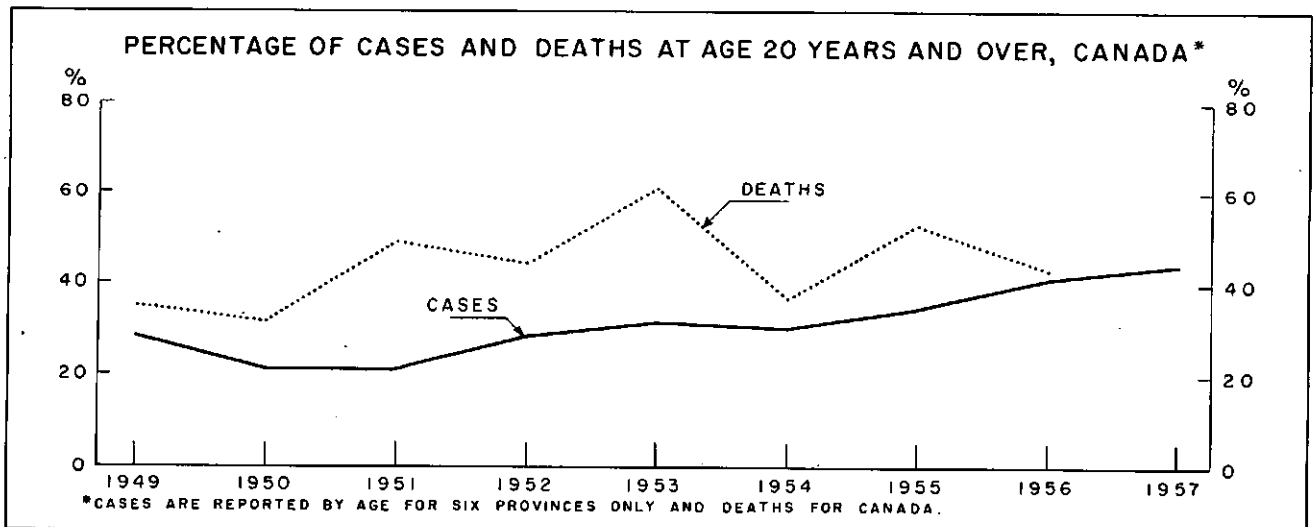
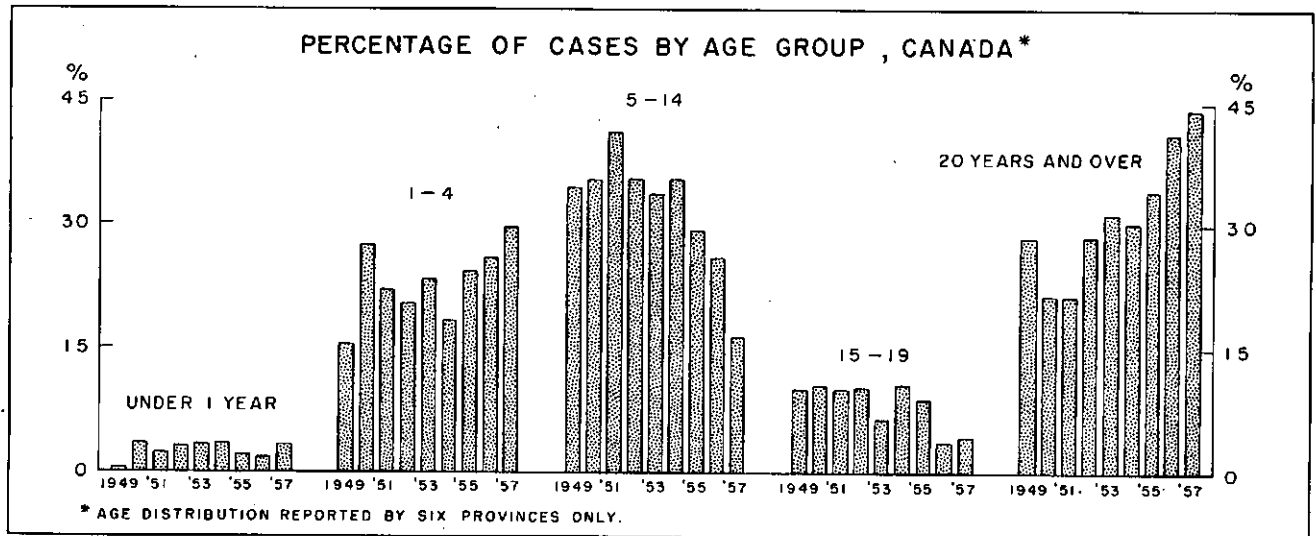
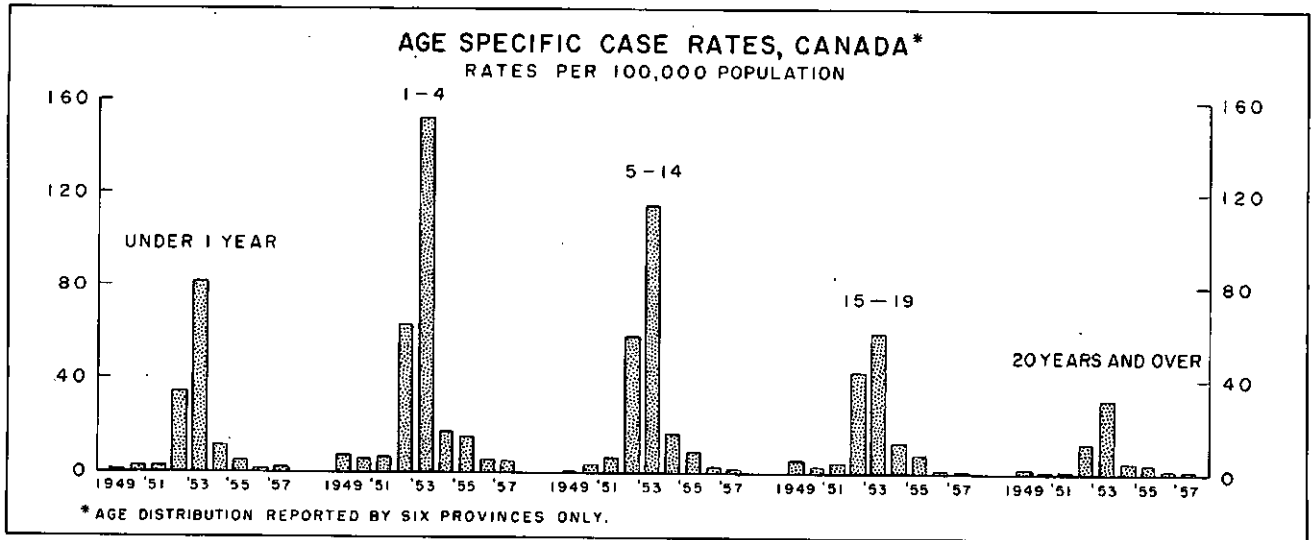
Year	Total	Age group				
		Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-19	20 years and over
		Rates per 100,000 population				
1949 .....	4.2	0.9	7.2	0.8	5.3	1.9
1950 .....	1.9	2.6	5.4	3.8	2.6	0.6
1951 .....	3.0	2.6	6.7	6.8	4.1	1.0
1952 <sup>2</sup> .....	29.6	34.7	62.4	57.6	42.5	13.6
1953 <sup>2</sup> .....	63.3	81.6	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
1957 .....	1.7	2.1	5.0	1.4	1.0	1.2

1. Age distribution reported by six provinces only.
2. Cases in Alberta not reportable.

### Percentage of cases by age group<sup>1</sup>, 1949-1957

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
1957 .....	100.0	3.3	29.7	16.5	4.4	44.0	2.1

1. Age distribution reported by six provinces only.







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## MORBIDITY

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M. - Memorandum  
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