

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **OCTOBER, 1970**

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

MEASLES

The incidence of measles and its most serious complication, encephalitis, which had been declining dramatically and steadily since 1964, may be making a comeback. By 1968, the number of cases of measles reported in the United States had fallen to 22,331, or less than 5% of the 1964 figure of 458,083. However, in 1969, the number of cases increased slightly to 25,826 and in 1970 the increase accelerated to where there have been 40,717 cases to date (October 24) as compared with 21,183 this time last year, a rise of 92%. This increase is also reflected in the Louisiana figures where 148 physician documented cases have occurred in 1970 to date as compared with 125 for all of 1969. The "true" number of Louisiana cases may be considerably higher (Continued on Page 3)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED NOVEMBER 6, 1970	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHThERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	RUBELLA *	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 19 69	48	15	33	2	744	124	90	10	0	32	13	37	37	3	114	7	635	8313	610
TOTAL TO DATE 19 70	118	26	15	15	556	148	65	30	0	63	10	156	26	10	72	4	643	9799	660
TOTAL THIS MONTH	12	5	0	1	48	41	3	4	0	7	1	0	0	7	13	1	74	1010	75
ACADIA															1		1	7	
ALLEN					1										3			1	
ASCENSION																		2	
ASSUMPTION					1												1	1	
AVOUELLES																		1	
BEAUREGARD																			
BIENVILLE										1									
BOSSIER																	1	37	
CADDO					6												7	140	17
CALCASIEU					2										1		5	23	
CALDWELL					1														
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																	1		
CLAIBORNE	1									1								3	
CONCORDIA															1		1		
DESOTO							1							1			1	15	3
EAST BATON ROUGE					1		1								3		2	49	6
EAST CARROLL																			7
EAST FELICIANA																	1	3	3
EVANGELINE																	3	1	
FRANKLIN																	1		1
GRANT																			
IBERIA																	1	2	
IBERVILLE																			

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome

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JACKSON									2									1	
JEFFERSON		1			3	3		1									1	79	6
JEFFERSON DAVIS																	3	1	
LAFAYETTE	4				1												2	18	
LAFORCHE				1													1	11	
LASALLE					1												2		
LINCOLN									2									1	1
LIVINGSTON																	1		
MADISON					1												4	31	1
MOREHOUSE	1																4	31	1
NATCHITOCHEs					1												1	1	1
ORLEANS	3	4			22	2		3			1			6	2	1	11	313	22
OUACHITA						1											1	63	3
PLAQUEMINES					1													3	
POINTE COUPEE																	2		
RAPIDES	2						1											19	1
RED RIVER																	3		
RICHLAND																		2	1
SABINE																		7	
ST. BERNARD																		3	1
ST. CHARLES					1													1	
ST. HELENA																		10	
ST. JAMES																	1		
ST. JOHN																	1	3	
ST. LANDRY	1					35											1	20	
ST. MARTIN					1										1			3	
ST. MARY																	3	2	2
ST. TAMMANY					1													20	
TANGIPAHOA																	5	17	
TENSAS																	1		3
TERREBONNE																		4	
UNION									1									2	1
VERMILION					2												1		
VERNON					1												2	36	1
WASHINGTON																	1	17	
WEBSTER																		6	
WEST BATON ROUGE															1				
WEST CARROLL																		1	
WEST FELICIANA																		16	
WINN																		1	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through October 31 of 1970, the following cases were also reported:

1 Brucellosis, 5 Leprosy, 2 Leptospirosis, 37 Malaria (Contracted outside U.S.A.) and 2 Trichinosis.

since only physician-documented cases of measles are counted in morbidity reporting whereas school-reported cases, especially during outbreaks, are often five to ten times this number. Also, frequently, only the first case of measles in a family reaches the physician's attention. Although no data is yet available, the number of cases of measles encephalitis may be presumed to be having a parallel increase, since the ratio of encephalitis to total measles cases has remained fairly constant over the last 10 years at about 75 to 100 per 100,000.

There has been an outbreak of measles this past month in St. Landry parish involving 35 children, and with the approach of cold weather we may well see more outbreaks. Interestingly, despite the fact that a 1968 Louisiana law requires "immunization of children entering the public schools of the state" against measles, almost all the children involved in these outbreaks have been of school age. The greater potential exposure of a child among many other children at school compared to his sib at home may contribute to this.

The increase in measles cases may be due to a decreased sense of urgency to immunize children on the part of some pediatricians, general practitioners and public health officials after the results of nationwide mass immunization campaigns of the second half of the 1960's made it seem that measles was following the route of smallpox and polio towards virtual extinction in the United States. The events of the last 18 months have shown otherwise, and have been a cause of concern for the Immunization Branch, Center for Disease Control in Atlanta which assists the states in conducting immunization programs. A congressional bill which authorized 75 million dollars for the Immunization Branch to use in its various programs, including measles, has recently been signed into law by the President, and should help Louisiana to achieve its objective of eliminating measles as a public health problem.

Currently two live "further attenuated" measles virus vaccines are licensed for use in the United States, the Schwartz strain, marketed under the trade name Lirugen by Pittman Moore, and the Moraten vaccine of Merck, Sharp and Dohme. They induce antibodies in 95 - 98% of susceptible children with a single injection. Since most experienced investigators have not observed clinical measles in any child who developed antibodies following measles immunization, these vaccines must be concluded to be highly effective. Their continued use by physicians in Louisiana is recommended.