

Baltimore City Health Department
WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR

Wk. 32

In his WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR dated 15 August 1975, the Commissioner of Health wrote:

Dear Mayor Schaefer:

The Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Program has been refunded at \$239,200 for the current fiscal year by the federal government. This will enable the program to expand its screening activities from a minimum of 5,000 children per year to 18,000. Further, screening will be offered at 32 child health clinic sites throughout the city--an increase of 20 sites over the previous year. We expect that 5% of the children will be found with elevated blood protoporphyrin levels.

The current screening techniques are being converted to a new type of testing. This primary screening method measures protoporphyrin, a natural substance in the blood which increases in proportion of the amount of lead in the body. It is less expensive and eliminates the need for venipunctures, a procedure frightening for children. The decision to convert has resulted from a cooperative endeavor between the City Health Department and the Kennedy Institute in evaluating the protoporphyrin method.

Plans have been completed for an automated data retrieval system by the Bureau of Biostatistics. According to Dr. Susan Guarnieri, Director of the Bureau of Children and Youth Services, this will increase the efficiency of the reporting system and permit the Health Department to begin to identify populations which are most susceptible to lead poisoning. With this information, the Bureau of Health Education and Information will be able to design its educational programs to specifically reach those populations at risk before lead poisoning occurs. Currently, the educational program is directed mostly at families whose children have elevated blood lead levels.

The Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratories is cooperating with the City in analyzing the protoporphyrin tests. Children identified as having absorbed high levels of lead are followed and evaluated at the John F. Kennedy Institute or the University of Maryland Hospital. Sanitarians from the Health Department inspect the homes of these children and oversee the removal of the sources of lead whether it be in the paint, plaster or other places.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) John B. De Hoff, M. D., M. P. H.

Commissioner of Health

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LIA-76110

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WK. 32

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 13 August 1975

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFANT MORTALITY

	Week Ending 13 August 1975			Week Ending 7 August 1974		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE
BIRTHS	N U M B E R					
Total recorded	306	162	144	257	118	139
Residents only	227	105	122	194	67	127
DEATHS						
Total recorded	251	164	87	226	142	84
Residents only	196	113	83	194	108	86
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	10	5	5	8	6	2
Residents only	6	2	4	5	3	2
BIRTHS	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE					
Total recorded	9,925	5,135	4,790	10,355	5,558	4,797
Residents only	6,678	2,346	4,332	6,926	2,548	4,378
DEATHS						
Total recorded	7,323	4,697	2,626	7,741	5,146	2,595
Residents only	6,052	3,542	2,510	6,412	3,899	2,513
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	289	139	150	244	148	96
Residents only	184	52	132	126	45	81
	RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE					
BIRTHS	11.9	9.0	14.4	12.1	9.4	14.6
DEATHS	10.8	13.6	8.4	11.2	14.4	8.4
INFANT MORTALITY	27.6	22.2	30.5	18.2	17.7	18.5

* BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION. INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.
ALL RATES COMPUTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

LIA-76111

WEEKLY STATISTICAL REPORT - WEEK ENDING 13 August 1975
REPORTED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, NONRESIDENTS EXCLUDED

DISEASE	CURRENT WEEK			YEAR TO DATE	
	TOTAL CASES	7 YEAR RANGE*		CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES	
		HIGH	LOW	1975	1974
Chickenpox.....	0	3	0	69	50
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis, all forms.....	0	0	0	2	2
Gonococcal infections.....	577	330	201	13,248	10,385
Hepatitis, infectious.....	1	9	1	76	71
Hepatitis, serum.....	4	4	0	74	29
Lead poisoning.....	0	1	0	18	14
Measles (rubeola).....	0	1	0	0	2
Meningococcal infections.....	0	1	0	12	6
Meningitis, aseptic.....	1	6	0	9	8
Meningitis, other forms.....	1	2	0	39	20
Mumps.....	1	10	1	131	21
Poliomyelitis, paralytic.....	0	0	0	0	0
Rubella (German measles).....	0	5	0	0	0
Salmonellosis.....	3	28	1	217	282
Shigellosis.....	2	16	1	77	87
Streptococcal infections.....	2	15	1	637	484
Syphilis, primary and secondary.....	8	13	1	245	301
Tuberculosis, total.....	15	NA	NA	442	NA
Newly diagnosed cases.....	11	21	3	354	266
Previously diagnosed - retreated.....	4	NA	NA	88	NA
Typhoid fever.....	1	0	0	1	0
Whooping cough.....	0	1	0	2	0
Other notifiable diseases.....	18	NA	NA	804	854

NUMBER OF DEATHS BY CAUSE, NONRESIDENTS EXCLUDED

CAUSE OF DEATH	CURRENT WEEK			YEAR TO DATE	
	TOTAL DEATHS	7 YEAR RANGE*		CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF DEATHS	
		HIGH	LOW	1975	1974
All Causes.....	196	225	155	6,052	6,412
Heart disease.....	75	79	63	2,238	2,490
Cancer.....	46	49	30	1,263	1,265
Cerebrovascular disease.....	5	19	9	408	459
Diseases of the arteries and veins....	1	13	1	204	185
Cirrhosis of the liver.....	5	11	2	129	218
Diabetes.....	3	9	1	172	185
Influenza and pneumonia.....	9	6	1	143	166
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.....	3	6	0	44	56
Tuberculosis.....	1	3	0	14	20
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	3	2	0	39	47
Certain diseases of early infancy.....	5	4	1	114	75
Congenital anomalies.....	1	3	0	31	29
Sudden death in infancy.....	0	NA	NA	19	13
Maternal mortality.....	0	1	0	0	0
Other diseases.....	23	NA	NA	785	742
Accidents, total.....	11	8	3	179	190
Motor vehicle.....	3	4	0	45	60
Home.....	2	5	0	71	54
Industrial.....	0	1	0	5	7
Other.....	6	2	0	58	69
Homicide.....	2	13	3	178	188
Suicide.....	1	5	0	55	50
Other external causes.....	2	NA	NA	37	34

* THE HIGH AND LOW FIGURES SHOWN ARE DERIVED FROM THE NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS FOR THE COMPARABLE WEEK FOR THE PERIOD 1968-1974

NA - Not available

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