

In his WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR dated October 29, 1971, the Commissioner of Health wrote:

Dear Mayor:

The City Health Department's Bureau of Industrial Hygiene has just received 2 newly developed lightweight, portable X-ray lead analyzers which should greatly speed the detection of lead paint in Baltimore homes. Mr. Elkins W. Dahle, Jr., director of the bureau, reports that the machines, which cost \$4,750 each, can determine during a sanitarian's inspection if the paint in a home has dangerous amounts of lead in it. Although trained sanitarians will begin using the new analyzers immediately, the usual method of scraping paint samples for later laboratory analysis will be continued for awhile in studies correlating the machines' readings with laboratory determinations.

If sanitarians find there is more than one per cent of lead in paint in a home, they notify the owner to remove within 10 days all paint on chewing surfaces which a child can reach and all peeling paint elsewhere in the house. Although an effective law was passed in 1958 that virtually stopped all interior painting with paint containing lead, many houses built before that date still have lead paint in them. Such houses represent a constant danger to young teething age children who eat peeling paint or chew on painted surfaces.

To date in 1971 a total of 11 children have been diagnosed with lead paint poisoning while 28 children have been found with elevated blood lead levels indicating that eating paint had taken place.

By purchasing the new digital lead analyzers, Baltimore continues in the forefront of the nation's attack on the child lead paint danger. The investment should soon pay dividends in a speedier identification of dangerous dwellings, in paint removal, and in protecting our young.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Robert E. Farber, M.D.

Commissioner of Health

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BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WK. 43

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 28, 1971

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFANT MORTALITY

	Week Ending Oct. 28, 1971			Week Ending Oct. 29, 1970		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE
BIRTHS	N U M B E R					
Total recorded	407	270	137	499	267	232
Residents only	264	137	127	362	142	220
DEATHS						
Total recorded	219	155	64	235	164	71
Residents only	168	112	56	217	150	67
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	8	5	3	10	3	7
Residents only	4	2	2	10	3	7
BIRTHS	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE					
Total recorded	18,614	10,355	8,259	19,536	11,337	8,199
Residents only	12,743	5,028	7,715	13,236	5,565	7,671
DEATHS						
Total recorded	10,175	6,741	3,434	10,805	7,305	3,500
Residents only	8,221	4,975	3,246	8,747	5,409	3,338
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	433	188	245	474	236	238
Residents only	339	109	230	386	118	218
	RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE					
BIRTHS	17.1	12.7	22.0	17.7	13.8	22.2
DEATHS	11.0	12.6	9.3	11.7	13.4	9.7
INFANT MORTALITY	26.6	21.7	29.8	25.4	21.2	28.4

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

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WEEKLY STATISTICAL REPORT
CASES OF REPORTABLE DISEASES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED

WEEK ENDING October 28, 1971

D I S E A S E	C A S E S			YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES	
	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		1971	1970
		HIGH	LOW		
Tuberculosis, active.....	9	32	1	383	403
Syphilis, primary and secondary.....	0	13	1	300	233
Gonococcal infections.....	173	238	9	9,051	9,352
Infectious hepatitis.....	5	17	0	267	237
Meningococcal infections.....	0	1	0	14	12
Meningitis, other.....	0	2	0	54	111
Encephalitis, infectious.....	0	9	0	1	2
Measles.....	0	4	0	15	722
German measles.....	0	4	0	49	196
Mumps.....	1	10	0	300	585
Chickenpox.....	0	4	0	278	434
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough.....	0	0	0	11	14
Streptococcal infections.....	5	11	1	237	123
Poliomyelitis (paralytic cases).....	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever.....	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis.....	8	15	0	415	359
Dysentery.....	4	20	0	510	128
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	0	1	0	8	8
Lead poisoning.....	0	1	0	10	20
Influenza.....	0	0	0	2	5
Other reportable diseases.....	20	-	-	1,007	1,084

MORTALITY BY MAJOR CAUSES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED

CAUSE OF DEATH	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF DEATHS	
		HIGH	LOW	1971	1970
	TOTAL				
All Causes.....	168	226	179	8,221	8,747
Diseases of the heart.....	65	89	60	3,050	3,371
Cancer, all forms.....	34	44	33	1,533	1,638
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	12	18	9	561	593
Diseases of the arteries and veins.....	3	10	4	234	278
Influenza and pneumonia.....	5	7	2	172	200
Diabetes.....	3	10	2	257	284
Cirrhosis of liver.....	3	10	2	262	266
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	0	2	0	61	75
Nephritis.....	1	4	0	36	37
Puerperal causes.....	0	1	0	3	5
Malformations and diseases of early infancy.....	3	19	4	266	247
Suicides.....	4	3	0	70	74
Homicides.....	2	6	1	238	191
Accidents					
Home.....	2	5	2	88	111
Industrial	0	1	0	25	11
Automobile.....	2	7	2	107	105
Other public.....	1	3	0	37	50
Other external causes.....	2	-	-	41	
Other specified causes.....	26	-	-	1,180	

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* THE HIGH AND LOW FIGURES SHOWN ARE DERIVED FROM THE NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS FOR THE COMPARABLE WEEK FOR THE PERIOD 1964-1970.

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