

Baltimore City Health Department
WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR

Wk. 33

In his WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR dated August 20, 1971, the Commissioner of Health wrote:

Dear Mayor:

The City Health Department's Bureau of School Hygiene has completed a statistical study of hearing and vision screening tests conducted by Health Department personnel in the city's public and parochial elementary schools during the school year September 1970 to June 1971.

Hearing Tests

Hearing tests are conducted routinely on all children enrolled in kindergarten, 1st and 4th grades, children new to the school system, and those children referred by teachers; also tested were children in Special Education, Early Admissions, Follow-through, and the Model Early Learning Project, the latter three chiefly concerned with children three to four years old.

The total number of children receiving hearing tests was 48,987. Of these 4,006 or 8.1 per cent failed the test and were referred either to City Health Department hearing clinics, to hearing clinics at the Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland hospitals or to private physicians. The defect most commonly found was hearing loss due to ear infections, infections of the tonsils and adenoids or impacted cerumen.

Vision Tests

Vision tests are administered to every child enrolled in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th grades and to children in the special projects mentioned above.

The number of children screened was 69,709. Of these, 5,149 or 7.3 per cent failed the test. Major eye defects found were near-sightedness, astigmatism, and muscle imbalance causing cross-eyedness.

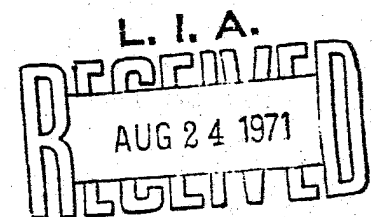
According to Dr. John B. Saratsiotis, Director of the Bureau of School Hygiene, many cases of hearing loss can be prevented if parents see to it that their children's ear infections and impacted cerumen are diagnosed and treated early by a physician. Insofar as eye defects are concerned, parents should be alert to eye troubles, especially cross-eyes, and have them corrected as early as possible. Cross-eyes left untreated causes lazy-eye blindness. Three to four are the critical years for the detection and treatment of cross-eyes. Detection at a later age may be too late to correct the damage to vision that has been done.

Very truly yours,

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

Commissioner of Health

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BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 19, 1971

WK. 33

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFANT MORTALITY

	Week Ending August 19, 1971			Week Ending August 20, 1970		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE
BIRTHS	N U M B E R					
Total recorded	410	212	198	410	241	169
Residents only	319	123	196	277	117	160
DEATHS						
Total recorded	214	136	78	205	131	74
Residents only	173	102	71	180	107	73
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	8	3	5	3	1	2
Residents only	7	3	4	1	0	1
BIRTHS	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE					
Total recorded	14,066	7,892	6,174	14,762	8,631	6,131
Residents only	9,639	3,866	5,773	9,961	4,243	5,718
DEATHS						
Total recorded	8,023	5,367	2,656	8,499	5,735	2,764
Residents only	6,487	3,963	2,524	6,873	4,238	2,638
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	334	149	185	377	190	187
Residents only	261	86	175	262	89	173
BIRTHS	RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE					
	16.9	12.8	21.5	17.3	13.7	21.6
DEATHS	11.3	13.1	9.4	11.9	13.7	9.9
INFANT MORTALITY	27.1	22.2	30.3	26.3	21.0	30.3

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

LIA-76089

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

WEEK ENDING August 19, 1971

DISEASE	CASES			YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES	
	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		1971	1970
		HIGH	LOW		
Tuberculosis, active.....	5	22	9	289	315
Syphilis, primary and secondary.....	3	10	1	220	181
Gonococcal infections.....	282	208	51	6,953	6,918
Infectious hepatitis.....	3	17	1	200	184
Meningococcal infections.....	0	2	0	13	11
Meningitis, other.....	2	15	0	33	69
Encephalitis, infectious.....	0	9	0	1	2
Measles.....	0	11	0	15	722
German measles.....	1	2	0	45	189
Mumps.....	0	12	2	283	538
Chickenpox.....	3	4	1	263	419
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough.....	0	3	0	7	7
Streptococcal infections.....	5	4	0	182	76
Poliomyelitis (paralytic cases).....	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever.....	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis.....	9	18	0	312	238
Dysentery.....	6	9	0	411	59
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	0	1	0	5	8
Lead poisoning.....	0	2	0	9	12
Influenza.....	0	0	0	2	5
Other reportable diseases.....	20	-	-	802	893

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.....	173	199	177	6,487	6,876
Diseases of the heart.....	64	74	55	2,423	2,708
Cancer, all forms.....	29	43	29	1,178	1,233
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	10	16	9	457	452
Diseases of the arteries and veins.....	7	10	3	190	221
Influenza and pneumonia.....	1	10	1	138	161
Diabetes.....	4	9	2	196	288
Cirrhosis of liver.....	5	6	3	209	208
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	4	3	0	49	56
Nephritis.....	3	3	0	25	35
Puerperal causes.....	0	1	0	3	4
Malformations and diseases of early infancy.....	4	18	2	205	195
Suicides.....	2	5	0	51	60
Homicides.....	6	9	1	185	145
Accidents					
Home.....	2	5	0	76	90
Industrial.....	0	1	0	23	7
Automobile.....	1	4	0		
Other public.....	0	3	1		
Other external causes.....	1	-	-		
Other specified causes.....	30	-	-	929	926

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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