

*Red Lead Pans - Baltimore*

*JC*

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.

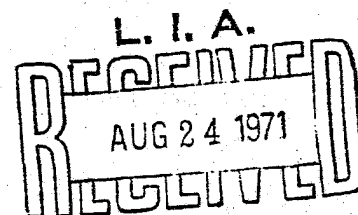
According to Dr. John B. Saratsiotis, Director of the Bureau of School Hygiene, many cases of hearing loss can be prevented if parents see to it that their children's ear infections and impacted cerumen are diagnosed and treated early by a physician. Insofar as eye defects are concerned, parents should 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 |
| <b>BIRTHS</b>           | <b>N U M B E R</b>                        |       |          |                             |       |          |
| Total recorded          | 410                                       | 212   | 198      | 410                         | 241   | 169      |
| Residents only          | 319                                       | 123   | 196      | 277                         | 117   | 160      |
| <b>DEATHS</b>           |                                           |       |          |                             |       |          |
| Total recorded          | 214                                       | 136   | 78       | 205                         | 131   | 74       |
| Residents only          | 173                                       | 102   | 71       | 180                         | 107   | 73       |
| <b>INFANT DEATHS</b>    |                                           |       |          |                             |       |          |
| Total recorded          | 8                                         | 3     | 5        | 3                           | 1     | 2        |
| Residents only          | 7                                         | 3     | 4        | 1                           | 0     | 1        |
| <b>BIRTHS</b>           | <b>CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE</b> |       |          |                             |       |          |
| 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    |
| <b>DEATHS</b>           |                                           |       |          |                             |       |          |
| 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 | 2,635    |
| <b>INFANT DEATHS</b>    |                                           |       |          |                             |       |          |
| Total recorded          | 334                                       | 149   | 185      | 377                         | 190   | 187      |
| Residents only          | 261                                       | 86    | 175      | 262                         | 89    | 173      |
| <b>BIRTHS</b>           | <b>RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE</b>   |       |          |                             |       |          |
|                         | 16.9                                      | 12.8  | 21.5     | 17.3                        | 13.7  | 21.6     |
| <b>DEATHS</b>           | 11.3                                      | 13.1  | 9.4      | 11.9                        | 13.7  | 9.9      |
| <b>INFANT MORTALITY</b> | 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<br>CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                      | CURRENT<br>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<br>WEEK | 7 YEAR RANGE* |     | YEAR TO DATE<br>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<br>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