

Puerperal Death-rates per 1,000 Live Births in New Zealand.
(Prepared by the Census and Statistics Office.)

Cause.	Urban Areas.							Rest of Dominion.						
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	Total.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	Total.
Puerperal septicæmia ..	1·95	2·01	1·02	1·41	1·28	2·99	1·78	1·65	1·73	2·55	1·57	1·45	2·09	1·84
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions	1·35	0·73	0·95	1·02	0·53	0·61	0·86	1·08	1·61	1·57	1·23	1·59	1·21	1·38
Puerperal hæmorrhage ..	0·45	0·65	0·63	1·18	0·07	0·23	0·53	1·02	1·16	0·72	0·58	0·53	0·94	0·83
Accidents of pregnancy ..	0·68	0·64	0·71	0·08	0·82	0·31	0·54	0·25	0·58	0·39	0·58	0·59	0·20	0·44
Other accidents of labour ..	0·22	0·08	0·08	0·08	0·30	0·31	0·18	0·63	0·19	0·32	0·39	0·33	0·41	0·38
Puerperal white-leg, embolus, sudden death	0·15	0·32	0·39	0·08	0·30	0·07	0·22	0·63	0·26	0·39	0·84	0·46	0·34	0·49
Following childbirth, not otherwise defined	..	..	0·08	0·16	0·07	..	0·05	0·13	0·13	..	..	..	0·07	0·05
Total	4·80	4·43	3·86	4·01	3·37	4·62	4·16	5·39	5·66	5·94	5·19	4·95	5·26	5·41

SECTION 2.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

The course of scarlet fever in New Zealand during the last five years is briefly shown in the table below. This disease has been epidemic throughout the year, and has continued so since 31st December, 1927, when the figures were compiled. Fortunately, the virulence is mild, the deaths per 100 cases notified producing a case-mortality rate of only 0·7 per cent. Staffs have been kept busy in effecting isolation measures, and in some districts—particularly Christchurch—all available public-hospital beds for infectious cases have been occupied.

Scarlet Fever in New Zealand, 1923–27.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1923	1,201	9·42	13	0·10
1924	1,176	9·05	13	0·10
1925	1,025	7·71	7	0·05
1926	1,583	11·70	8	0·06
1927	2,185	15·89	16	0·12

DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria in New Zealand, 1923–27.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.*	
	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1923	1,951	15·31	68	0·53
1924	2,717	20·84	82	0·63
1925	1,518	11·42	52	0·40
1926	1,975	14·59	66	0·49
1927	1,446	10·52	58	0·42

* Figures include deaths from croup.

The above table shows reduced incidence and death-rate. Certain American States have attributed reductions in death-rate from this disease to immunization with diphtheria toxin-antitoxin; but an even greater reduction has taken place in New Zealand under the ordinary isolation and