

INCIDENCE.

TABLE 11.—SHOWING, BY RACE AND SEX, THE POPULATION IN EACH AGE-GROUP, THE NUMBER OF PARALYTIC CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS, AND THE RATE PER 10,000 OF SUCH CASES IN EACH GROUP.

Age-group.	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	Popula- tion.	Cases.	Rate per 10,000.	Popula- tion.	Cases.	Rate per 10,000.	Population.	Cases.	Rate per 10,000.
<i>Europeans.</i>									
Under 1 year	12,200	6	4.9	11,900	3	2.5	24,100	9	3.7
1 year	11,600	7	6.0	11,100	13	11.7	22,700	20	8.8
2 years	11,800	31	26.3	11,200	23	20.5	23,000	54	23.5
3 years	11,800	31	26.3	11,300	26	23.0	23,100	57	24.7
4 years	12,100	25	20.7	11,500	20	17.4	23,600	45	19.1
Under 5 years	59,500	100	16.8	57,000	85	15.0	116,500	185	15.9
5-9 years	65,100	88	13.5	62,100	96	15.5	127,200	184	14.5
10-14 years	68,700	66	9.6	65,600	50	7.6	134,300	116	8.6
15-19 years	67,800	32	4.7	65,100	25	3.8	132,900	57	4.3
20-24 years	68,100	21	3.1	66,000	11	1.7	134,100	32	2.4
25 years and over ..	432,911	22	0.5	424,826	14	0.3	857,737	36	0.4
All ages	762,111	329	4.3	740,626	281	3.8	1,502,737	610	4.1
<i>Maoris.</i>									
Under 1 year	1,650	2	12.1	1,700	1	5.9	3,350	3	9.0
1 year	1,300	2	15.4	1,250	..	..	2,550	2	7.8
2 years	1,350	4	29.6	1,200	2	16.7	2,550	6	23.5
3 years	1,500	5	33.3	1,400	2	14.3	2,900	7	24.1
4 years	1,450	2	13.8	1,450	..	..	2,900	2	6.9
Under 5 years	7,250	15	20.7	7,000	5	7.1	14,250	20	14.0
5-9 years	6,650	2	3.0	6,500	9	13.8	13,150	11	8.4
10-14 years	5,400	2	3.7	5,200	..	..	10,600	2	1.9
15-19 years	4,300	1	2.3	4,050	1	2.5	8,350	2	2.4
20-24 years	4,000	3	7.5	3,850	3	7.8	7,850	6	7.6
25 years and over ..	16,300	3	1.8	13,974	2	1.4	30,274	5	1.7
All ages	43,900	26	5.9	405,574	20	4.9	84,474	46	5.4

It will be seen that, for Europeans in all age-groups, except one year and five to nine years, the male rate exceeded the female rate, and that for Maoris the male rate was in excess in all but three of the age-groups. The heaviest incidence fell on the two- and three-year-old groups.

The attack-rate for the various age-groups differed markedly in the recent epidemic from the experience in the two major epidemics of 1916 and 1925. Whereas in 1924-25 the rate for children under five was 51.1 per 10,000 and for those from five to ten years was 21.9—less than half that in the younger age-group—in 1936-37 the position was reversed, the heaviest incidence falling in the older age-group. The following table shows for the five-yearly age-groups under twenty years of age and for one group twenty years of age and over the incidence of all notified cases whether paralytic or not : (a) In the Wellington District, 1916 (337 cases which occurred during the first four months of the year), (b) in New Zealand for the period 1924-25, and (c) in New Zealand for the recent epidemic, and (d) the incidence of paralytic cases in each age-group during the recent epidemic. The latter shows that the incidence of paralytic cases was greatest in the lowest age-group.

TABLE 12.—SHOWING INCIDENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS, BY AGE-GROUPS, IN THREE MAJOR EPIDEMICS.

				(a) 1916.	(b) 1924-25.	(c) 1936-37.	(d) 1936-37.
Under 5 years	..	..	..	43.1	51.1	18.7	15.7
5-10 years	..	..	..	15.8	21.9	20.7	13.9
10-15 years	..	..	..	7.6	8.9	12.2	8.1
15-20 years	..	..	..	4.8	5.3	5.6	4.2
20 years and over ..	..	..	..	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.8