

Questions

NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF SPECIFIED AGES RECEIVING 2 OR MORE DOSES OF VACCINE BY JULY 1, 1955, AND NUMBER OF REPORTED PARALYTIC CASES AND ATTACK RATES IN VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS, JULY 1-NOVEMBER 30, 1955

Province	Ages considered ¹	Number vaccinated 2 or more doses	Observed paralytic cases in vaccinated	Rate per 100,000 population in vaccinated	Number not vaccinated ²	Observed paralytic cases in non vaccinated	Rate per 100,000 population in non vaccinated
Newfoundland.....	5	3,412	0	0.00	8,700	0	0.00
Prince Edward Island.....	5-8	4,855	0	0.00	5,400	3	55.55
Nova Scotia.....	5-8	15,551	0	0.00	46,600	10	21.45
New Brunswick.....	5-10	24,000	0	0.00	58,400	1	1.71
Quebec.....	5-9	62,850	1	1.59	476,700	20	4.19
Ontario.....	5-10	306,311	2	0.65	200,100	4	1.99
Manitoba.....	5-9	51,333	0	0.00	31,900	0	0.00
Saskatchewan.....	5-6	27,528	0	0.00	11,700	0	0.00
Alberta.....	1-4*	48,809	2	4.09	33,000	3	9.09
British Columbia.....	5-7	45,067	0	0.00	12,500	10	80.00
CANADA.....		589,716	5	0.84	885,000	51	5.76

¹ For purposes of comparison, children of the ages specified only have been included. For example a substantial number of children in the province of Quebec under 5 years of age who received 2 doses of the vaccine have not been included.

² Since some figures are based on age group estimates, all have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

* Grades

It will be noted that for all Canada, among 589,716 children ranging in age from five to ten who received two or more doses of vaccine, five cases of paralytic polio occurred during the period of study, or a rate of 0.84 per 100,000. Among some 885,000 unvaccinated children in comparable age groups, 51 cases of paralytic polio were reported, or an observed rate of 5.76 per 100,000. On the basis of these figures, an observed reduction in rate of about 85 per cent may be calculated.

To assess the significance of these findings, it is necessary to examine the results from the individual provinces. In three provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland—there were no cases reported among either the vaccinated or unvaccinated children in the age groups specified. This is probably explained by the generally low incidence in these three provinces where there were only 5 paralytic cases in the entire population as against a five-year average of 624.

The most significant feature of the entire study is the result reported from British Columbia. Despite the fact that more cases were reported in British Columbia than any

other province, there was not a single case of paralytic polio among 45,067 vaccinated children in the study group. As opposed to this, ten cases were reported among the 12,488 unvaccinated children, for a rate of 80 per 100,000 as against zero in the vaccinated group. On the basis of these figures, if the rate among the unvaccinated children were applied to the number of vaccinated children in the study group, it might be calculated that some 36 cases would have occurred; instead, there was not a single case among the children receiving the vaccine.

Because of the small number of cases reported among the study group, the results of the evaluation are not considered statistically significant in provinces other than British Columbia, when examined individually. The figures for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, if taken together, however, are statistically significant. Considering these two provinces together on the basis of geographic proximity and the relatively high incidence of polio in each in relation to the five-year average, it will be observed that, among 20,406 vaccinated children, there were