

Based on recorded numbers of cases reported since 1924 the incidence of poliomyelitis has been very erratic and is unpredictable from one year to another. The Chart below shows the trend of reported incidence of poliomyelitis during recent years. The year 1955 shows the lowest rate since 1945 but this cannot entirely be ascribed to the widespread introduction of vaccine for the first time in all provinces. Four provinces—Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—accounted for 7,230 cases, or 81 p.c. of all reported cases in Canada during the epidemic of 1953, the alltime peak year since national figures were first recorded. The Province of Manitoba bore the brunt of this epidemic as indicated by an attack rate of 286·4 per 100,000 compared with the national rate of 60·2 per 100,000. In 1954 the Manitoba rate showed a drop to 13·8 per 100,000. (See also, Special Article, Poliomyelitis Vaccine, pp. 258-60.)

