

SPECIAL ARTICLES

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS

1942 - 57

Infectious hepatitis has proven itself a threat to military populations. It is of particular interest to military medicine because of its epidemic potential because of the relatively long lengths of hospitalization required by the average case. Since outbreaks of infectious hepatitis are commonly associated with poor sanitation and overcrowding, it is not surprising that incidence rates in the Navy have been

highest during periods of combat when large numbers of personnel have had to live under conditions favorable for transmission of virus.

Incidence, deaths, invalidings, and sick days resulting from infectious hepatitis among Navy and Marine Corps personnel are shown in table A for the last 16 years (1942-57)—a period which embraces both World War II and the Korean conflict. It is evident

Table A.—INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS—A 16-YEAR REVIEW—NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

YEAR	INCIDENCE		SICK DAYS PER NEW CASE	INVALIDINGS		DEATHS	
	Number	Rate per 100,000		Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000
57	741	84.3	58	4	0.4	5	0.6
1956	906	102.6	60	3	0.3	2	0.2
1955	1,337	151.0	68	3	0.3	2	0.2
54	1,969	204.4	69	13	1.4	1	0.1
1953	2,423	230.3	67	8	0.8	3	0.3
1952	2,050	194.8	68	17	1.6	4	0.4
1951	2,214	242.0	60	7	0.8	3	0.3
1950	1,128	209.6	59	2	0.4	-	0
49	1,054	196.8	55	-	0	2	0.4
1948	826	162.6	43	-	0	-	0
1947	1,066	181.5	42	1	0.2	-	0
46	2,740	206.7	44	-	0	3	0.2
1945	6,385	173.8	29	9	0.2	4	0.1
1944	5,158	154.0	23	3	0.1	2	0.1
1943	4,537	215.2	28	-	0	1	0
1942	681	81.6	22	-	0	-	0