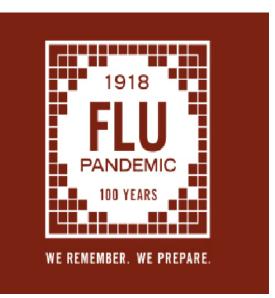
# Impact of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Connecticut

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May 21, 2018





## STATISTICS OF THE 1918 EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA IN CONNECTICUT

WITH A CONSIDERATION OF THE FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED THE PREVALENCE OF THIS DISEASE IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES

C.-E. A. WINSLOW AND J. F. ROGERS

From the Department of Public Health, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE EPIDEMIC IN CONNECTICUT

According to the information courteously furnished to us by Dr. T. E. Reeks, epidemiologist of the State Department of Health:

"Influenza first appeared as an epidemic in Connecticut in New London, in the eastern part of the State, on or about September 1, 1918, when several cases of the disease were reported by the naval hospital at New London. These cases came primarily from the Experimental Station and Fort Trumbull where vessels from foreign ports had discharged patients. Within a day or two several cases were brought to the hospital from the submarine base located two miles above New London. About one hundred cases were sent to the New London naval hospital within the first ten days of September. The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Mar., 1920), pp. 185-216

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<ul> <li>Search Chronicling America</li> <li>LibGuide</li> </ul>	The newspapers currently being digitized by CDNP are expected to contribute greatly to research into the ways that the First World War was experienced in Connecticut. A talk on this subject was	FOLLOW CONNECTICUT DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROJECT
<ul> <li>Newspapers of Connecticut</li> </ul>	delivered on January 15, 2015 by Project Coordinator Christine Gauvreau at the Connecticut State Library. You can view it here.	Get every new post delivered to your Inbox Join other followers
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Newspapers and the Connecticut Home
 Front in the First World War

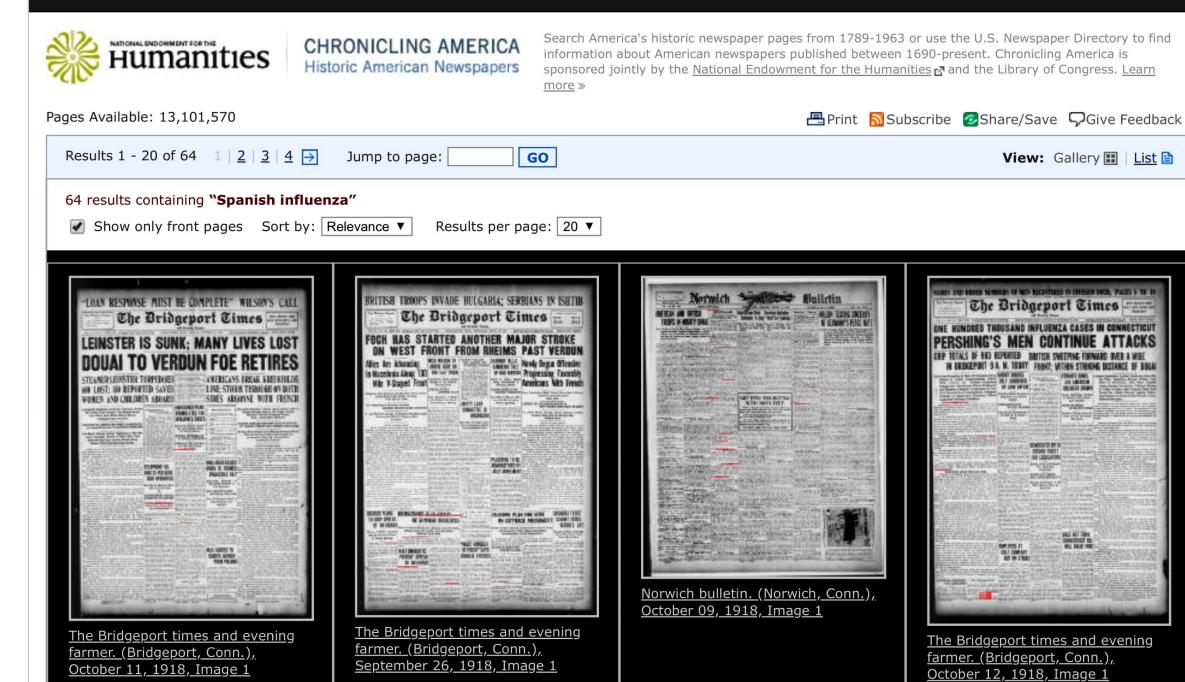
Press Releases

- Can You Help?



Additional information may be found in "Newspaper Digitization Project to Illuminate Social History of World War 1 Era Homefront," The Connector, July 2014.

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	Connecticut Department of Public Health History
	Connecticut Board of Health established, with power to supervise vital statistics and make investigations.
1894	Sanitary regulation requires contagious diseases to be reported promptly.
1917	Board of Health reorganized into State Department of Health, with a Commissioner and a six-member Public Health Council. John T. Black, M.D., was named Commissioner.
1917	Bureaus of Preventable Diseases, Sanitary Engineering, and Laboratories created; State Sanitary Code formed.
1917	Daily reporting of disease by health officers.

SPANISH GRIP IS SPREADING FAST, influenza cases develop into pneumos ating visit bidden."

#### State Health Department Reports Spread of Mysterious Disease.

Spanish influenza, that mysterious two. and rapidly spreading illness, has Because of the rapid spreading of started an offensive in Connecticut. and the State Board of Health of- impossible, but Dr. Black declared ficials think it quite possible that the that it is the patriotic duty of everydisease will become epidemic through- one who is taken with the disease to out the state within a few days. The isolate himself or herself at once. disease first occurred on this state at Public gatherings held indoors should the Naval Training stations in New be avoided, as well as contact with London, and within three days the suspected cases. The disease usually number of cases has grown to several makes itself known very suddenly, the hundred, and is said still to be spread. victim often being taken ill with chills ing rapidly.

gested provided that people take similar to those of ordinary grip, and proper precautions to avoid the dis- the health officials regard the disease ease and to care for it when it de- as grip in epidemic form. The health velops. The great danger is the de- officials especially desire to emphasize velopment of pneumonia after pre- the point that the greatest danger mature returning to work.

lous, a very large percentage of those exposed to the disease becoming ill. The incubation period is about from sued instructions to all local health one to two days. The rapidity of officials as follows: the development of Spanish influenza is shown by the fact that after only about ten days of prevalence the disease has reached thousands of people in the United States.

patients become prostrated with the under quarantine but shall be isodisease a second time when they have lated.

THE TIMES: SEPTEMBER 18, 1918

practically recovered from the first at-

from the recurrent cases. In New London one death has been reported from pneumonia which developed from this disease. A few cases have been reported from other Connecticut localities, including New Haven and Manchester, and Mr. Black said yesterday that other towns would probably report cases in the next day or

the disease quarantine is practically and a violent headache on the street

No occasion for alarm was sug- or at work. The symptoms are very from the epidemic comes from at-The malady is peculiarly contag- tempts to worry along with it instead of going to bed.

The State Board of Health has is-

"1-Epidemic influenza is hereby declared a reportable communicable disease until further notice.

"2-All cases or suspected cases should be reported in accordance with

Dr. John T. Black of the State Regulation 4 of the sanitary code and Health Department said yesterday shall be controlled in accordance with wfil be no pensions for the people who that the disease is usually of about Section C. Regulation 20, which pro- get sore throat telling how the war three days' duration, although many vides that patients shall not be put ought to be run.

"3-No definite restrictions can be tack. About 2 per cent of Spanish placed on contacts, but indiscrimininfluenza cases develop into pneumo. ating visits to patients must be for-



British subjects will not receive questionnaires at the same time as the other registered men, as the treaty with Great Britain goes into effect Sept. 28.

Draft Board 2 mailed 160 questionnaires yesterday which represents about 10 per cent. of the total enrollment of the 19 to 36 men. There are about 30 more in this class, then will begin the mailing to the 20 year old class. Assistance will be given by attorneys in the filling out of the questionnaires by the legal advisors of the boards if it is desired.

In an interesting address yesterday a representative of Provost Marshal Crowder stated to representatives of Connecticut draft boards that the men of this state who registered Sept. 12 will soon be called to military service.

Fourteen registration cards were received by Board 2 yesterday from the Barnum & Bailey circus which is now showing at Los Angeles.

There is a possibility that local draft boards may have to use the last registration list in the two calls which are pending. One is for Camp Greenleaf, Ga., and the other is for Camp Dix., and are for the month of October.

One thing is fairly sure, that there



**Princess Satin** 

times and

evening farmer. (Bridgeport,

Conn.) 1918-

1924,

September <u>18</u>

1918, Image 3

We are showing in a full range Princess Satin, 36 inches wide, good including all the latest shades of blue



Press, which is quoted in despatches reaching here.

lovalty to the Quadruple Amance, according to t

Paris, Sept. 30-Bulgarian repre- | of her entrance into the ranks of the sentatives agreed to an armistice- belligerents, the Bulgarian governprobably the first step in Bulgaria's ment declared that her trade interests withdrawal from the Alliance with and economic rights "were inseparathe central powers-a few days less bly bound up with Turkey, Germany than three years affer she entered the and Austria." Germany had offered war. It was on October 8, 1915, that Bulgaria for her neutrality the whole Bulgaria issued a manifesto an- of Macedonia including Uskub Monnouncing her decision to cast her lot istir and Ochrida.

against the entente alliance. She A still greater territorial expansion had been fiftee nmonths in deciding at the expense of Serbia was said to her course. . In the manifesto issued at the time

have been offered as a condition of

(Continued on Page 6.)

# **INFLUENZA TAKES TOLL OF FOUR CASES IN CITY**

### Total Number of Cases Reported to Date 144 With 32 New HUNS CAPTURE Ones For Saturday and Sunday-No Occasion for Alarm Here,

The increase of reported cases of influenza in the city is 32 for Saturday and Sunday. A total of 144 cases has been brought to the attention of the Health Board, with four deaths. Two occurred at the hospital at the Hillside Home, and the death of Lieutenant Eppes Evans was reported this morning.



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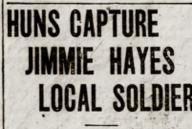
discuss the developments of the epi- missing in action. demic, and the methods of procedure ther spread of the disease.

pressed his satisfaction at the small entirely problematical. number of cases reported, and said that there was no occasion to take dractic measures as yet. "The disease," he said, "has not yet become

ess for the other persons of the real evistence of French uniforms but had Red Cross Doll" Thom- the epidemic, has been dispelled badges on their arms and carried the two men There is not the slightest doubt that stretchers in which were concealed brains work overtime without and

Make Demands To Be Brought Under Award of War Labor Board and Are Said To Be Threatening to Strike.

Serius unrest is reported in the ranks of all, the office forces of the various munition plants throughout Bridgeport today following the announcement by Examiner Winter, local representative of the National War Labor board, that all salaried employes of the plants in this dictrict will be barred from any benefits accruing from the Eidlitz award.



Lawrence Hayes of 369 Gregory street has just received a telegram the various headquarters of the comfrom the Adjutant General's office to the effect that his brother, Private A special meeting of the Health James Hayes, of the famous 69th reg-Commissioners will be held today, to iment has been officially reported as

This means that in all probability to be put in force to prevent the fur- the popular young soldier is a prisoner in the hands of the enemy, but until Dr. W. H. Brown this morning ex- further details are furnished this is

It was only two weeks ago that his brother received a letter from him written in a little churchyard somewhere in France. The letter told of the treachery of the Hun in sending prevalent, although the doubt existing men in French uniforms against the urors has; in the minds of physicians as well as Americans. They not only wore the

In some of the plants, the bookkeepers, accountants, stenographers, timekeepers, shipping clerks and those employed in the purchasing departments, are openly talking strike. They claim their work is just as essential to the output of munitions for the army and navy as the machinists whom they charge with "hogging" everything.

MANY SHOPS RESTLESS REQUESTS MASKS

When the Eidlitz award was first announced the clerks of the various plants felt as though they had been overlooked in the raise of salaries and they immediately sent a delegation to panies for which they work to inquire if it was so. They were one and all told that the award included all workers and that they certainly would benefit by the rulings.

Since then they have patiently awaited the decision of the board and now that the ruling has been interpreted in a manner which would bar! them they feel as though they would be justified in taking drastic steps to secure the increase.

An employe of the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. in speaking of the matter today said: "It does not cost a machinist any more to buy groceries or meats than it does us. We have just as large families to support, we work longer hours, we have to use

New Haven Health Authorities Take Action to Stop Influenza Spread.

PUBLIC PLACES

**BE WORN IN ALL** 

New Haven, Sept. 30-As a measure against the Spanish influenza health authorities here today had a conference and it is expected that recommendation will be made that every person attending a gathering. theatrical performance, or who in course of dutics is brought into close contact with others wear a muslin mask over their mouths,

In furtherance of this all members of the Yale military and naval units were being provided with muslin pieces. A simple device for a mask has been evolved which can be made in a few minutes, and it was stated that tens of thousands of these can be produced by volunteer workers in a short time.

The influenza is showing a marked increase in the city. No effort is being spared to keep the infection from the 2,500 men at Yale who are marking time until the Federal government. takes over the university tomorrow and sets the students at work.







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A record number of new influenza cases were reported to the health authorities today when the figures for the past 24 hours were 368 new cases, bringing the total to 2,604. Four deaths occurred and the falalities are now 66.

SCHOOLS MAY BE SHUT

Data, that is to be submitted to Health Officer Dr. Walter H. Brown, and School Medical Inspector Dr. L. S. Wilkes, by Superintendent of Schools Samuel J. Slawson on the ravages of the Spanish Influenza epidemic in this city, may possibly result in closing the schools or at least a shut down in the ones most affected. It was reported to Dr. Brown this morning that a large percentage of the children and teachers of the Bridgeport schools had been stricken with the dreaded malady and the health offloer immediately arranged a conference between Superintendent Slawson, Dr. Wilkes and himself. The data will be gone over thoroughly, and if it is shown that Dr. Brown's method of individual control through education and supervision is being hampered by school absences, the classes Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the seventh instant in which you transmit a communication of the Imperial and Royal government of Austria-Hungary to the Presient. I am now instructed by the President to request you to be good enough through your government to convey to the Imperial and Royal government the following reply:

\* The President deems it his duty to say to the Austro-Hungarian government that he cannot entertain the present suggestions of that government because of certain events of utmost importance, which occurring since the delivery of his address of the eighth of January last, have necessarily altered the attitude and responsibility of the government of the United States. Among the fourteen terms of peace which the President formulated at that time, occurred the following:

"X-The people of Austro-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of Autonomous development."

"Since that sentence was written and uttered to the congress of the United States the government of the United States has recognized that a state of belligerency exists between the Czecho-Slovaks and the German and the Austro-Hungarian empires and that the Czecho-Slovak National Council is a defacto belligerent government clothed with proper authority to direct the military and political affairs of the Czecho-Slovaks. It has also recognized in the fullest manner the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Jugo-Slava for freedom.

Report Ghent Reached By French Cavalry; Huns Begin To Leave Brussels

The Bridgeport

times and

evening farmer.

(Bridgeport,

Conn.) 1918-

1924, October

19, 1918

German Forces in Brussels R

Than Six Miles on 7

Breach in Enemy I

-140 Airplanes in

Take 15,000 Lille

Six thousand Germans have

German forces in Belgium still-

frontier.

(By the Asso

ard a new defense line while the British, French and Amer

New Defensive Line-





McLENNON HEADS BUILDING BOARD

William McLennan was elected president of the Board of Building Commissioners at the moeting held in city hall at 5 o'clock yesterday af-Mr. McLennan was preternoon. viously treasurer of the board and following his selection to the presidency, William Martin was appointed treasurer. Daniel M. Rowland was re-elected clerk of the board.

Following the meeting, six building permits aggregating \$16,400, were They include three twogranted. family houses on the cast side of Brooks street for William F. Chatlos. The other grants were as follows: Alterations to a brick building on the south side of Fairfield avenue for W. A. Smith; private garage at 67 Alice street for Carl Stelfert and a one-story brick building on the south side of Stratford avenue for Gertrude Sniffen.

SUES CONNECTICUT COMPANY FOR \$15,000

Alleging he is crippled for life Jacob or mosters of this city has filed onnecticut Co. In for damages of The Bridgeport was struck by times and company while evening farmer. knocked down. (Bridgeport, rushed amputa-Conn.) 1918-He claims the 1924, Íanuary 04, 1919 with a fender gong was rung. ALL SCHOOLS BUY

Disease Must Rage Until All Susceptible Persons Have It.

ANOTHER YEAR

Spanish influenza is not expected by the state department of health to dle out in Connecticut before two years. This opinion was expressed yesterday by Commissioner of Health John T. Black and Dr. T. Eben Reeks, director of the bureau of preventable diseases.

To put it plainly, these officials, have concluded that all residents of the state will have to stand the influenza test before the disease wears itself out. A large percentage of the residents have been found to be naturally immune, while others are readily susceptible. Until the greater number of the susceptible ones have come into contact with the disease, it will continue to develop in various districts.

The physicians ascribe the recurrence of the recent epidemic at present in different parts of the state to the fact that these sections escaped the full force of the previous epidemic. Susceptible persons who did. not come into contact with influenza when it was at its height are believed by the health department to have escaped it then morely because they were not exposed to the germ. It be-

IN INFLUENZA WE PAY CASH National Thrift Bonds and Receipts Bought. Hours-5 to 5 Daily. Saturdays 8 A. M. to 12 Noon-Saturday Evenings 7:30 to 8:30 The Rolin Co. **150 ELM STREET** A 4 . tf. many districts have been driven away by the thousands. Grain taken by the Turks was allowed to rot in the rain and starving Armonians were prevented from even touching it under penalty of death, it is said. CONTINUE CASE OF ALTO DEIVED

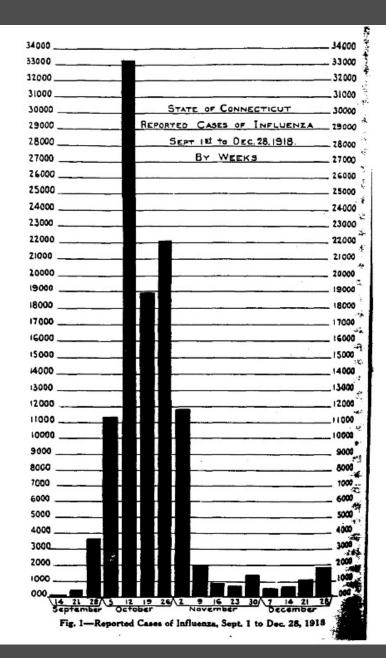
### CONNECTICUT MEALTH BULLETIN A Journal to Promote Public Health Entered in the Post Office at Hartford as second class matter Vol. 33 APRIL, 1919 No. 4

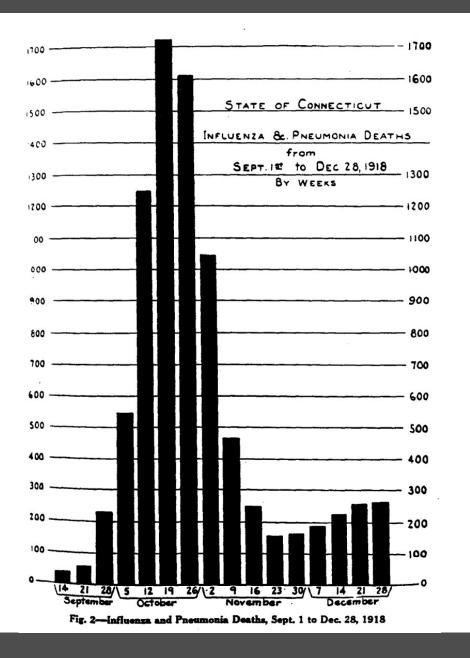
#### The Epidemic of Influenza in Connecticut

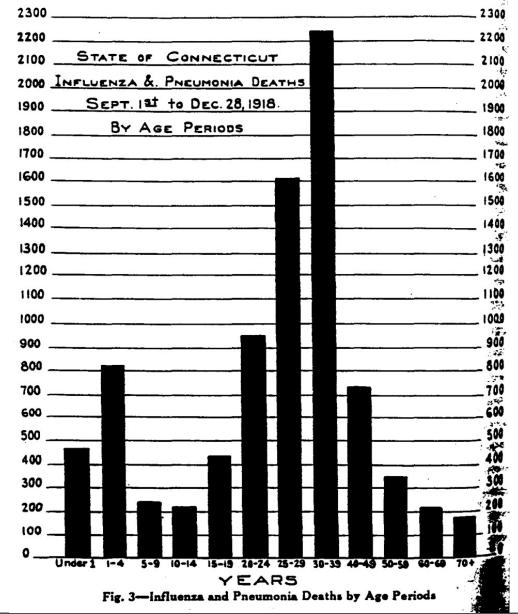
The beginning of the influenza epidemic in Connecticut occurred in New London, in the eastern part of the state, about September 1, 1918, when several cases were reported by the naval hospital located there. These cases originated at the Experimental Station and Fort Trumbull where vessels from foreign ports had discharged patients. Within a day or two several cases were brought to the hospital from the submarine base located two miles above New London. During the first ten days of September about one hundred cases were sent to the New London naval hospital.

On September 9, three cases were reported among the civilian population adjoining Fort Trumbull, all of which were among employees in the Fort. From September 12 onward many cases were reported, especially from the government station on the State Pier, where three hundred men from the Boston Navy Yard had arrived September 10. Nearly seven thousand of the naval men in the New London district were billeted in civilian homes, and the disease became generally prevalent among the civilians before the end of the month. The total number of civilian cases reported in New London for September was 901; for October, 936. No reports or statistics were furnished by the naval department after the first few cases.

Although the disease appears to have been primarily introduced into Connecticut by ships arriving at New London from







## STATISTICS OF THE 1918 EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA IN CONNECTICUT

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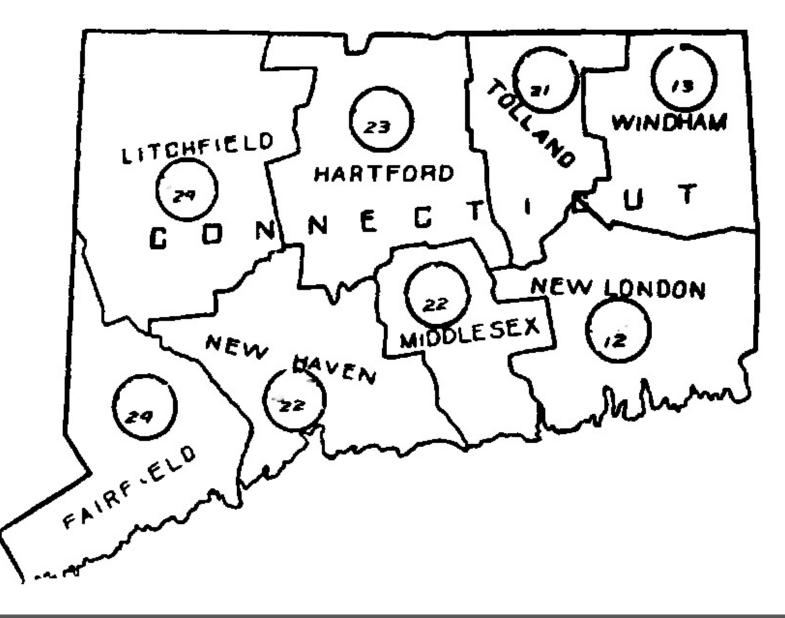
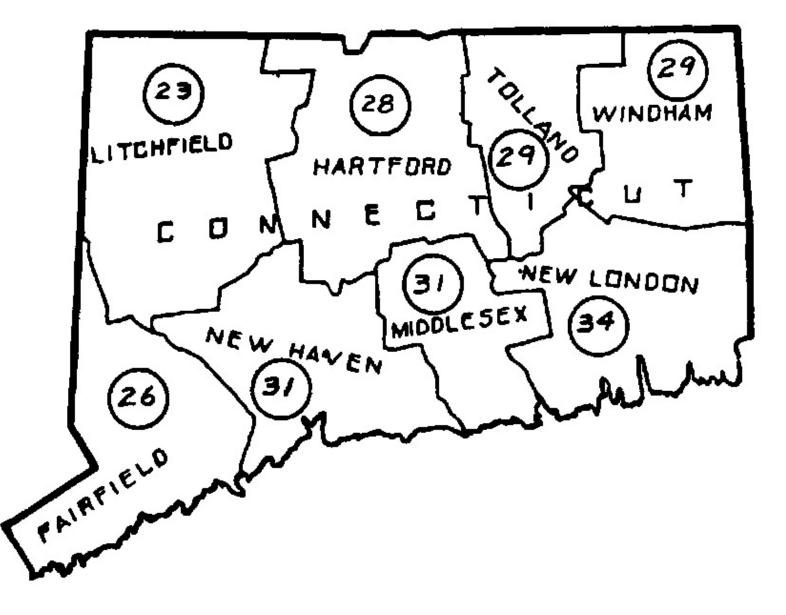


Fig. 7.-Severity of influenza epidemic by counties . Average death rate from all causes, September to December, 1918, on annual basis; deaths per 1,000



	TA	BLE	15	
Death	RATE	FROM	All	CAUSES

 $\sim$ 

Ansonia..... 31

Greenwich..... 31

New Britain.... 31

Groton..... 32 Westport..... 32

Winchester..... 33

Hartford..... 34 Vernon..... 34

W. Hartford.... 34

Group 1 Rate under 15 Darien 10 Milford 13	Group 2 Rates 15–19 Glastonbury 15 Stafford 16 E. Hartford 17 Manchester 17 New Milford 17 Stratford 17 Berlin 18 Plainfield 18	Group 3 Rates 20–24 Hamden 20 Wallingford 20 Fairfield 21 Watertown 22 Windsor 22 Towns under 5,000 22 Branford 24 Killingly 24	Group 4 Rates 25–29 Enfield 25 Bridgeport 26 Bristol 26 Stonington 26 Danbury 27 Plymouth 27 Southington 27 Stamford 27 New Haven 29 Norwalk 29 Orange 29				
Group 5 Rates 30–34	Group 6 Rates 35–39	Group 7 Rates 40-44	Group 8 Rate over 45				

Waterbury..... 35

Naugatuck..... 36

Norwich..... 37

Meriden..... 38

Putnam..... 38

New London.... 40

Seymour..... 40

Middletown..... 42

Windham..... 43

DEATH RATE (TOTAL) PER 1,000 ON ANNUAL BASIS

Derby..... 56



