# THE IMPACT OF CHANGING CRITICAL VALUES OF THE EARLY EPIDEMIC DETECTION SYSTEM FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN JAPAN

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Key words: infectious disease, early warning system, surveillance, critical value

Introduction It is important to examine how critical values for initiation/termination affect the trend and frequency of epidemic/pre-epidemic warnings with the early epidemic detection system in Japan. Here we looked at the number of epidemic warning/pre-warning weeks and the influence of changing the criteria values for infectious diseases surveillance.

Methods An epidemic warning is initiated if the number of cases per week per sentinel medical institution exceeds a critical value. A pre-warning for an epidemic is initiated if cases per week per sentinel medical institution exceed a critical value and there is a non-epidemic warning. To determine effects of the criteria values for epidemics/pre-epidemics for warning onset and termination, we set different values and compared the number of weeks of epidemic warning, the proportion of the total observed weeks. Also, pre-epidemic warning measurements were compared. Data from the infectious diseases surveillance system were analyzed from fiscal years 1999 to 2003.

Results When the critical value for warning onset was lowered, the warning week started sooner and ended later. When the critical value was raised, the opposite occurred: the number of weeks with a warning status decreased. When the critical value was changed within a certain range, the number of weeks with a warning status became 0.5 to 2 times larger than those with the defined value. Similar trends were observed when the pre-warning was examined: the number of warning weeks was 0.4 to 2 times (for influenza and chickenpox) and 0.3 to 3 times (for measles and mumps) larger than those with the defined value. Except for pertussis and rubella, the proportion of warning weeks was approximately 5% for all diseases listed in the early epidemic detection system. In addition, there was no distinct issue with the critical values themselves.

Conclusion The present examination of linkage between trends and frequencies of epidemic warnings/pre-warnings and the critical values in the early epidemic detection system of infectious disease surveillance in Japan confirmed the expected increase with lowering of the threshold. Except for pertussis and rubella, there was no distinct issue with the critical values themselves.

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### 感染症発生動向調査に基づく流行状況の把握

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#### はじめに

感染症の流行状況を把握するために、感染症発生動向調査が1981年に開始された<sup>12</sup>。1999年4月の「感染症の予防及び感染症の患者に対する医療に関する法律」(以下、感染症法と略す)の施行に伴って整備が進められ、現在に至っている<sup>3,4</sup>。同調査は感染症を診断した医師から保健所への報告に基づいている。患者頻度の低い感染症ではすべての医師から、患者頻度の高い感染症では指定された医療施設(以下、定点という)から報告される。報告された患者情報はオンライン・ネットワークシステムを通して、保健所から地方感染症情報センター(都道府県)を経て中央感染症情報センター(国)に集められ、集計・分析された情報が逆の経路をたどって還元される。

定点にはインフルエンザ、小児科、眼科などの種別がある<sup>5</sup>。対象疾患としては、インフルエンザ定点がインフルエンザ(高病原性鳥インフルエンザを除く)、小児科定点が麻疹や風疹などの12疾患(2003年11月からRSウイルス感染症の追加により13疾患)、眼科定点が急性出血性結膜炎と流行性角結膜炎である(表3を参照)<sup>6</sup>。これらの疾患に対して、毎週、定点を受診した患者数(性・年齢階級別)が報告され、定点あたり報告数の動向が観察され、流行状況の把握が図られている<sup>7</sup>。

ここでは、感染症法施行以降の感染症発生動向調査

において、インフルエンザ、小児科と眼科の定点把握対象疾患に対する流行状況の把握に関して、3つの事項を取り上げる。第1に流行把握の基礎として、定点の配置方法と配置状況を述べる。第2に流行発生の把握として、警報・注意報の発生方法と発生状況を示す。第3に流行規模の把握として、全国罹患数の推計方法と推計結果を示す。

#### 定点の配置

定点の配置においては、定点数とその選定方法を 定める必要がある。感染症発生動向調査事業実施要綱 (1999年3月)には「都道府県が次の点に留意し、関 係医師会等の協力を得て、医療機関の中から可能な限 り無作為に患者定点を選定する」と記載されている<sup>5</sup>。 この「次の点」とは「人口及び医療機関の分布等を勘 案して、できるだけ当該都道府県全体の感染症の発生 状況を把握できるよう考慮すること」とともに、管轄 人口に応じて保健所へ配置する定点の基準数である。

表1に、管轄人口に応じた保健所へ配置する定点の 基準数を示す<sup>5</sup>。インフルエンザ定点は内科と小児科, 小児科定点は小児科, 眼科定点は眼科を有する医療施 設から選定され, 小児科定点は原則としてインフルエ ンザ定点の小児科を兼ねる。小児科定点の基準数は感 染症法施行以前の小児科・内科定点(主として小児科) の基準数を基礎として<sup>8</sup>, 管轄人口の少ない保健所に

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表1 定点の基準数

定点種別		管	管轄人口(万人)別の保健所に配置する定点の基準数						
AE / M 1 M / M		~2.9	3.0~7.4	7.5~12.4	12.5~				
インフル	内科	1	1	2	3+10万人増ごとに1追加				
エンザ定点	小児科	1	2	3	4+ 5万人増ごとに1追加				
小児科定点		1	2	3	4+ 5万人増ごとに1追加				
眼科定点		0	0	0	1+15万人増ごとに1追加				

小児科定点は原則としてインフルエンザ定点の小児科を兼ねる。 眼科定点では、都道府県の基準数が3未満のとき3と変更する。

定点種別	病院・ 診療所	診療科目	全医療 施設数	定点数	抽出率 (%)
インフル	病院	内科	8, 130	457	5. 6
エンザ定点		小児科	3, 575	730	20. 4
	診療所	内科・小児科あり	23, 845	1, 793	7. 5
		内科あり・小児科なし	37, 460	470	1. 3
		小児科あり・内科なし	3, 411	1, 155	33. 9
小児科定点	病院	小児科	3, 575	734	20. 5
	診療所	内科・小児科あり	23, 845	1, 145	4. 8
		小児科あり・内科なし	3, 411	1, 125	33. 0
<b>眼科定点</b>	病院	眼科	2, 416	132	5, 8
	診療所	眼科あり	8, 350	496	5. 9

全医療施設数は1999年の医療施設調査に基づく。 定点数は2000年の配置数(年次途中の開始・中止を含む)で、診療科目の不明を除く。 抽出率は定点数/全医療施設数(%)

は以前と同じまたはそれ以上とし、それ以外の保健所には管轄人口に比例して増加させている。眼科定点の基準数は感染症法施行以前の眼科定点の基準数を基礎としており、総数の少なさから管轄人口の少ない保健所では0定点である。インフルエンザ定点の内科は成人期以降におけるインフルエンザの流行状況を把握するために新設されたものであり、その基準数は感染症法施行以前の小児科・内科定点を参考としている。定点の基準数の設計は後述する全国罹患数の推計精度を一定水準に保つことに基づいているが、詳細は文献9)を参照されたい。

定点の配置数としては、感染症法施行前の1997年の小児科・内科定点2,411と眼科定点316から、感染症法施行(1999年4月)に伴って前述の基準数に向けて急速に増加した<sup>10</sup>。2000年における定点の基準数と設置数は、それぞれインフルエンザ定点が5,032と4,656、小児科定点が3,123と3,011、眼科定点が638と634であった(設置数は年次途中の開始・中止を含み、基準数は2000年人口に基づく)。定点の設置数は一部の都道府県で基準数を下回っているものの、全国的にはおおよそ基準数を満たしている。

表2に、病院・診療所と診療科目別の定点数と全医療施設数を示す<sup>10,11</sup>。小児科定点の抽出率は病院の小児科および小児科あり・内科なしの診療所で高く、内科・小児科ありの診療所で低かった。これは、小児科を主な診療科目とする医療施設を定点に選ぶことが多いためである。インフルエンザ定点の小児科はほとんどが小児科定点と一致しており、それ以外の内科では抽出率が病院の内科で高く、内科あり・小児科なしの診療所で低かった。眼科定点の抽出率は病院と診療所でほぼ一致していた。

このように、定点の配置方法としては、全国の各地域での流行発生に対して、できるだけ全体的に漏れのない把握を目指したものと考えられる。流行のより効率的な発見の促進を考慮すると、定点の配置方法には、さらに議論の余地があるかもしれない。また、定点の指定は強制的でなく、医療施設の同意に基づくことから、無作為な選定などを完全に実施できるわけではない。今後とも、定点の配置状況を観察・評価していくことが重要であろう。

#### 警報・注意報の発生

感染症発生動向調査に基づく流行発生の把握においては、全国の保健所・週別の定点あたり報告数の観察が基本となる。表3に、1999~2001年度における総報告数と1週間の定点あたり報告数を示す<sup>12</sup>。なお、年度は第13週から翌年第12週までで、1999年度が53週間、2000と2001年度が52週間である。インフルエンザでは、総報告数は年度によって大きく異なり、1週間の定点あたり報告数は1.10~3.64であった。小児科定点と眼科定点の対象疾患では、総報告数は1.3千人(急性出血性結膜炎の2001年度)~90万人(感染性胃腸炎の2000年度)、1週間の定点あたり報告数は0.01(百日咳の2001年度)~5.76(感染性胃腸炎の2000年度)であり、疾患と年度で大きく異なった。

全国の各保健所において、感染症の報告数に流行現象が疑われることを迅速に注意喚起するために、警報・注意報の発生が実施されている12-14。これは、都道府県衛生主管部局や保健所など第一線の衛生行政機関の専門家に向けたものであり、流行の原因究明や拡大阻止対策の検討を促すことを目指している。警報レベルは大きな流行が発生または継続しつつあると疑われる

表3 1999~2001年度における総報告数と定点あたり報告数

疾患		総報告数		1 週間	の定点あたり	報告数
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1999年度	2000年度	2001年度	1999年度	2000年度	2001年度
インフルエンザ定点						
インフルエンザ	825, 654	263, 324	678, 319	3.64	1. 10	2. 78
小児科定点						
咽頭結膜熱	11, 961	23, 565	23, 520	0. 08	0. 15	0. 15
A群溶血性レンサ球菌咽頭炎	127, 220	172, 969	153, 943	0. 83	1.11	0. 98
感染性胃腸炎	855, 652	899, 650	872, 098	5. 56	5. 76	5. 54
水痘	244, 000	293, 860	253, 057	1. 59	1.88	1.61
手足口病	54, 261	210, 964	124, 512	0. 35	1. 35	0. 79
伝染性紅斑	25, 094	42, 967	69, 947	0. 16	0. 28	0. 44
突発性発疹	124, 276	128, 151	123, 289	0.81	0. 82	0. 78
百日咳	3, 369	3, 532	1, 690	0.02	0. 02	0. 01
風疹	3, 603	3, 144	2, 707	0. 02	0. 02	0. 02
ヘルパンギーナ	156, 236	147, 511	142, 542	1. 02	0. 94	0. 90
麻疹	9, 860	28, 299	28, 105	0.06	0. 18	0. 18
流行性耳下腺炎	89, 697	174, 580	253, 417	0. 58	1. 12	1.61
眼科定点		•				
急性出血性結膜炎	1, 466	1, 396	1, 286	0. 05	0.04	0.04
流行性角結膜炎	31, 583	42, 572	38, 617	0.97	1. 29	1. 17

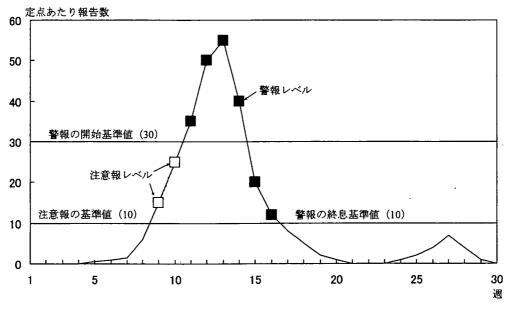
ことを指す。注意報レベルは流行の発生前であれば今後4週間以内に大きな流行が発生する可能性が高いこと,流行の発生後であれば流行が継続していると疑われることを指す。

警報・注意報の発生方法として、警報レベルは1週間の定点あたり報告数がある基準値(開始基準値)以上で開始し、別の基準値(終息基準値)未満で終息する。注意報レベルは1週間の定点あたり報告数がある基準値以上の場合である。図1に、インフルエンザを例として警報・注意報の発生方法の模式図を示す。模式図の保健所では、インフルエンザの1週間の定点あたり報告数は第1~4週で0、第5週から上昇し、第9週ではじめて10(注意報の基準値)を超え、第10週で10以上、第11週ではじめて30(警報の開始基準値)を超えている。第12~16週では10(警報の終息基準値)を超えている。第12~16週では10(警報の終息基準値)を超えており、第17週以降で10未満となっている。これより、第9・10週が注意報レベル、第11~16週が警報レベルとなる。

表4 警報・注意報の基準値

	警	報	注意報
疾患	開始 基準値	終息 基準値	基準値
インフルエンザ	30.0	10. 0	10.0
咽頭結膜熱	2.0	0. 1	-
A群溶血性レンサ球菌咽頭炎	4.0	2. 0	-
感染性胃腸炎	20.0	12. 0	-
水痘	7. 0	4. 0	4.0
手足口病	5. 0	2. 0	-
伝染性紅斑	2. 0	1. 0	-
突発性発疹	-	-	-
百日咳	1.0	0. 1	-
風疹	1.0	0. 1	-
ヘルパンギーナ	6.0	2. 0	-
麻疹	1.5	0. 5	0. 5
流行性耳下腺炎	6.0	2. 0	3. 0
急性出血性結膜炎	1.0	0. 1	-
流行性角結膜炎	8.0	4. 0	
-: 対象外			

表4に,警報・注意報の基準値を示す。警報の対象 疾患はインフルエンザ,小児科定点対象11疾患(突 発性発疹を除く),眼科定点対象2疾患であり,注意 報の対象疾患はインフルエンザ,水痘,麻疹と流行性 耳下腺炎の4疾患である。これらの疾患は,公衆衛生



図? 警報・注意報の発生方法の模式図 (インフルエンザ)

表5 1999~2001年度における警報・注意報の発生状況

	疾患	1999年度	2000年度	2001年度
警報	インフルエンザ	5. 5	0.4	3. 3
	咽頭結膜熱	0. 9	3. 0	3. 5
	A群溶血性レンサ球菌咽頭炎	4.6	7.7	6. 5
	感染性胃腸炎	6. 5	7.0	6. 1
	水痘	2.8	4.3	2. 6
	手足口病	1.6	10.5	5. 2
	伝染性紅斑	1. 7	3. 1	6. 5
	百日咳	0.3	0.4	0. 1
	風疹	0. 7	0.3	0. 3
	ヘルパンギーナ	7.8	6. 2	6. 6
	麻疹	1. 2	3. 8	4. 6
	流行性耳下腺炎	1. 5	4. 3	8. 9
	急性出血性結膜炎	2. 5	2. 3	1.7
	流行性角結膜炎	1. 7	4. 2	3. 3
注意報	インフルエンザ	4. 6	2. 7	5. 8
	水痘	6. 0	7.4	5. 8
	麻疹	2. 2	6. 1	5. 9
	流行性耳下腺炎	2. 2	5. 2	8. 0

上,とくに流行現象の早期把握が必要と判断されたものである。注意報の対象疾患に百日咳と風疹が含まれていないが,最近では,これらの報告数がきわめて少なくなったためである。警報・注意報の基準値はこれまでの定点あたり報告数の分布などに基づいて定められている(詳細は文献12)と13)を参照)。

図2に、1999年度におけるインフルエンザの警報・注意報の発生状況を週別に示す<sup>14</sup>。1999年度当初、いくつかの保健所が注意報レベルであったが、これは前年度流行の最後に当たる。その後は冬季の流行発生まで警報レベルの保健所がなく、注意報レベルもほとんどなかった。冬季の流行発生において、注意報レベルは第47週からはじまり、2000年第2週の297保健所まで急速に広がり、その後は急速に減少して第12週で0となった。警報レベルは第49週からはじまり、2000年第4・5週の338保健所まで急速に広がり、その後は急速に減少して第11週で0となった。

表5に、1999~2001年度における警報・注意報の

発生状況を示す<sup>15</sup>。観察した延べ保健所・週(各年度ともに、インフルエンザと小児科定点対象疾患では約3万、眼科定点対象疾患では約2万)の中で、インフルエンザの警報レベルは1999~2001年度で0.4~5.5%と大きく異なった。小児科定点と眼科定点の対象疾患では、警報レベルは0.1%(百日咳の2001年度)~10.5%(手足口病の2000年度)であり、疾患と年度で大きく異なった。注意報レベルは2.2~8.0%であった。

多くの感染症では、時間の経過とともに流行が地域的に拡大あるいは移動していくと考えられる<sup>16</sup>。前述のインフルエンザの流行状況では、注意報レベルが警報レベルよりも2週程度先行しており、また、地域によって警報・注意報レベルの時期がかなり異なっていた。したがって、警報・注意報の発生状況の推移を広域的に観察することによって、流行拡大を早期に探知できる可能性があると考えられる。

#### 全国罹患数の推計

全国罹患数については、インフルエンザなどの予防 対策立案上、最も重要な基礎資料であるが、定点把握 対象疾患では感染症発生動向調査から直接には得られ ず、また、それ以外から得る方法も提案されていな い<sup>17</sup>。そこで、感染症発生動向調査の定点からの報告 数に基づいて、一定の仮定の下で、全医療施設全体(定 点以外を含む)を受診した患者数を推計することが考 えられる。これを全国罹患数の推計と呼ぶ。

全国罹患数の推計方法では、都道府県と医療施設 特性(病院・診療所、標榜・主たる診療科目)の層ご とに、定点がその選定の元となった医療施設全体から 無作為に抽出されていると仮定する。この仮定は定点

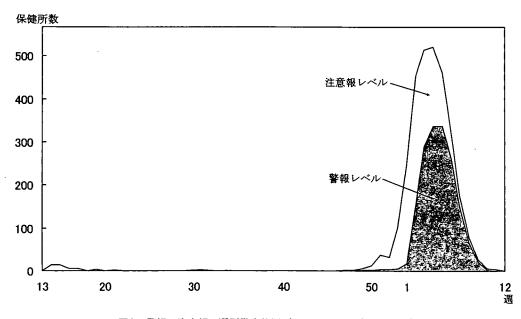


図2 警報・注意報の週別発生状況 (インフルエンザ, 1999年度)

表6 2002~2004年における全国罹患数の推計値 (インフルエンザ、性・年齢階級別)

		2002年				2003年	2003年				2004年				
	推計值	95%信	頼区	間	推計值	95%	頼	区間	推計值	95%信	頼[2	[間]			
総数	736	696	-	775	1, 156	1, 107	_	1, 205	895	857	-	933			
男	374	354	-	394	580	555	-	605	450	431	-	470			
女	362	342	-	382	576	552	-	600	445	426	-	463			
0~4歳	146	132	-	160	202	187	_	216	147	137	-	156			
5~9歳	147	137	-	157	221	208	-	234	129	122		135			
10~14歳	121	113	-	129	175	166	-	183	143	137	-	149			
15~19歳	57	54	-	59	106	101	-	111	112	106	-	118			
20~29歳	82	77	-	87	130	123	-	138	110	103	-	117			
30~39歳	84	80	_	88	121	115	-	128	98	93	-	103			
40~49歳	44	42	-	46	76	73	-	80	61	57	-	64			
50~59歳	27	25	_	28	55	52	-	58	39	37	-	42			
60~69歳	16	15	_	17	35	33	-	37	27	25	-	28			
70歳以上	13	11	_	14	34	31	_	36	30	27	-	32			

表7 2002~2004年における全国罹患数の推計値(小児科定点と眼科定点の対象疾患)

		2002年		2003年		2004年
•	推計値	95%信頼区間	推計値	95%信頼区間	推計值	95%信頼区間
小児科定点						_
咽頭結膜熱	10.7	8.8 - 12.6	26. 9	23.1 - 30.7	39. 5	34.4 - 44.6
A群溶血性レンサ球菌咽頭炎	101.8	92.6 - 110.9	109. 4	99.8 - 119.0	137.4	122. 3 - 152. 5
感染性胃腸炎	676.6	629. 7 - 723. 4	699.6	650.2 - 749.0	746. 9	687. 8 - 805. 9
水痘	162.8	154.5 - 171.1	150.0	141.8 - 158.3	149.5	141.6 - 157.5
手足口病	57.7	54.2 - 61.2	104. 4	98.6 - 110.2	53.4	49.5 - 57.2
伝染性紅斑	38. 2	35.6 - 40.9	21. 1	19.6 - 22.6	31.9	29.2 - 34.5
突発性発疹	68.7	64.5 ~ 72.9	68. 2	63.8 - 72.6	68. 5	63.5 - 73.6
百日咳	1.1	0.8 - 1.3	1.4	1.2 - 1.5	1. 3	1.1 - 1.5
風疹	2. 1	1.7 - 2.6	2. 2	1.8 - 2.6	3. 9	2.7 - 5.1
ヘルパンギーナ	71.0	65.8 - 76.2	92. 4	85.9 - 99.0	66. 8	61. 2 - 72. 4
麻疹	7.9	7.1 - 8.7	5. 5	4.8 - 6.2	1. 2	1.0 - 1.3
流行性耳下腺炎	108.9	102.6 - 115.3	51.5	47.9 - 55.1	82. 1	74.9 - 89.3
眼科定点						
急性出血性結膜炎	1.5	1.1 - 2.0	1.6	1.1 - 2.0	1. 1	0.9 - 1.3
流行性角結膜炎	54.7	48.4 - 60.9	49. 9	45.2 - 54.6	42.3	37.6 - 46.9
単位:万人	04. 1	30.3 00.5	43.3	10. 2 04. 0	12. 0	37. 0 40. 0

を可能な限り無作為に選定するという実施要綱に沿ったものである<sup>5</sup>。この仮定の下では、層ごとに、定点あたり報告数に全医療施設数を乗じることによって全国罹患数の推計値が与えられ、また、全国罹患数の95%信頼区間が算定できる。推計方法の詳細は文献17)と18)を参照されたい。

表6に、2002~2004年におけるインフルエンザの全国罹患数の推計値を示す<sup>18</sup>。全国罹患数の推計値は2002年が736万人(95%信頼区間696~775万人)、2003年が1,156万人(同1,107~1,205万人)、2004年が895万人(同857~933万人)であった。男女はほぼ同数であった。年齢階級別にみると、0~19歳が全体の59~64%を占めていた。60歳以上は2002年が4%であり、2003年と2004年の6%より小さかった。

表7に、2002~2004年における小児科定点と眼科 定点の対象疾患の全国罹患数の推計値を示す<sup>18</sup>。14疾 患の中で、全国罹患数の推計値が10万人未満は百日 咳,風疹,麻疹と急性出血性結膜炎の4疾患であった。 いずれかの年次が100万人以上はA群溶血性レンサ球 菌咽頭炎,感染性胃腸炎,水痘,手足口病と流行性耳 下腺炎の5疾患であった。また、この3年間で増加傾 向は咽頭結膜熱,A群溶血性レンサ球菌咽頭炎,感染 性胃腸炎と風疹の4疾患であり、減少傾向は水痘,麻 疹と流行性角結膜炎の3疾患であった。

このように全国罹患数の推計値から,2002~2004 年において、インフルエンザは2003年の流行が大き かったこと、罹患者は百日咳などが少なく、感染性胃 腸炎などが多かったこと、麻疹などが減少傾向であっ たことが見られた。したがって、全国罹患数の推計 値はおおよそ全国の流行規模の目安となると考えられ る。一方、全国罹患数の推計方法では、前述の通り、 定点が無作為に抽出されていることを仮定している。 この仮定は厳密に成り立っていなくともよいが,現 実との乖離が大きくなるとともに全国罹患数の推計値 が真の罹患数から離れていく。患者数の多い医療施設 からより多くの定点が選定されている傾向が指摘され ている10,17。そのために、全国罹患数の推計値は真の 罹患数を過大評価している可能性が強く、その程度と して真の罹患数の1.07~1.33倍という見積もりがあ る18。また、全国罹患数の推計値には、医療施設を受 診しない患者や定点選定の元となった医療施設(イン フルエンザ定点では小児科と内科,小児科定点では小 児科、眼科定点では眼科を有する医療施設) を受診し ない患者は含まれない。使用・解釈にあたって、全国 罹患数の推計値は一定の仮定の下で計算されたもので あって、厳密なものではないことを念頭におく必要が あろう。

#### おわりに

感染症発生動向調査に基づく、インフルエンザ、小児科と眼科の定点対象疾患に対する流行状況の把握に関して、定点の配置、警報・注意報の発生と全国罹患数の推計を議論した。いずれについても検討すべき課題が残されており、また、全数把握対象疾患に対する流行状況の把握は充分には検討されていない。感染症流行の予防上、今後、感染症発生動向調査からより有用な情報の収集を図るとともに、その情報のより有効な活用を進めることが重要であろう。

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# Supplement to Journal of Epidemiology

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Evidences Observed in the
National Epidemiological Surveillance of
Infectious Diseases in Japan, 1999-2005

Guest Editors

Masaki Nagai, MD, PhD, MSc (Editor-in-Chief)
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#### **Instructions to Authors**

#### **Preface**

Masaki Nagai, 1 Shuji Hashimoto, 2 and Kiyosu Taniguchi. 3

Before the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections (hereafter referred to as the Infectious Diseases Control Law) was enacted in 1999, a research group was organized to make proposals regarding a surveillance system in compliance with the new law. The authors, as the members of the group, had made several recommendations for the surveillance system. The first recommendation was how many sentinel clinics or hospitals were necessary, and how they were to be selected and assigned from all the clinics and hospitals in Japan. As the recommended system was expected to be able to make an acceptable estimation of the total number of patients nationwide based on the number of patients reported from the sentinels, the research group proposed a statistical method to perform the estimation. These accomplishments were published in a report in Japanese (Table 1. No. 1). The second recommendation was for establishing the alert system for the surveillance. The meaning and definition of alert and early warning were established, and the effective critical values for getting on/off the alert/early warning for each infection were suggested. These achievements were also published in another report in Japanese (Table 1. No. 2).

Since the National Epidemiological Surveillance of Infectious Diseases (NESID), one of the main objectives of the new Infectious Diseases Control Law, was implemented in 1999, the research group has been continuously examining and evaluating the efficiency, efficacy and accuracy of the system from the main viewpoints of estimating the total number of patients across Japan and obtaining effective alerts for the target diseases at sentinel clinics and hospitals. The group has also been making recommendations for necessary amendments to the system for these purposes in each report published every year (Table 1. Nos. 3-9) and in several original reports. 1-11 In addition to the principal targets of the study, namely the total number of patients and effective alerts, the group has studied the effective utilization of the information on target diseases which must be reported for all cases and on other target diseases which must be reported by a limited number of sentinel hospitals primarily targeting inpatients in the NESID.

Though the main purpose of the NESID was not changed, the Infectious Diseases Control Law was amended in 2003 and the information process system was improved in 2006. On this occa-

sion, the database accumulated since 1999 can be compiled and utilized. In the first report of this supplement, we will overview the purpose, the history and the structure of the NESID. And the evidences obtained from the analysis of the database are to be introduced in the following articles in this supplement.

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Table 1. Reports published by the research group for the evaluation of The National Epidemiological Surveillance of Infectious Diseases

Preface

		Number	Published
Authors	Title	of pages	уеаг
1 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Taniguchi K, Murakami Y	Report from the research group on the assignment of	•	
	sentinels in The National Epidemiological Surveillance		
	of Infectious Diseases	139	1999
2 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Taniguchi K, Murakami	Report from the research group for the development of		
Y, Tanihara S, Matumoto T, Yokota S, Kashiwagi	alert reporting system in The National Epidemiological		
S, Jou K, Aoki K, Fuchigami H	Surveillance of Infectious Diseases	242	1999
3 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Osaka K,	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
Shindo N, Shingai T, Fuchigami H	patients in whole nation	146	2001
4 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Osaka K,	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
Shindo N, Fuchigami H	patients in whole nation, report 2	195	2002
5 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Taniguchi	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
K, Osaka K, Fuchigami H	patients in whole nation, report 3	217	2003
6 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Taniguchi	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
K, Osaka K, Shigematsu M, Kawado M	patients in whole nation, report 4	176	2004
7 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Taniguchi	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
K, Shigematsu M, Kimura M, Tada Y, Kawado M,	patients in whole nation, report 5		
Izumida M		184	2005
8 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Kawado M,	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
Taniguchi K, Shigematsu M, Kimura M, Tada Y,	patients in whole nation, report 6		
Yasui Y, Izumida M		152	2006
9 Nagai M, Hashimoto S, Murakami Y, Kawado M,	Alert reporting system and estimation of number of		
Taniguchi K, Shigematsu M, Tada Y, Yasui Y,	patients in whole nation, report 7		
Ohta A, Izumida M	- -	154	2007

The research group name is as indicated in the Report title for Nos. 1 and 2, and in the Table title for Nos. 3-9. All the reports are written in Japanese.

#### Overview of Infectious Disease Surveillance System in Japan, 1999-2005

Kiyosu Taniguchi,¹ Shuji Hashimoto,² Miyuki Kawado,² Yoshitaka Murakami,³ Michiko Izumida,⁴ Akiko Ohta,⁴ Yuki Tada,¹ Mika Shigematsu,¹ Yoshinori Yasui,¹ and Masaki Nagai.⁴

BACKGROUND: In 1999 the Communicable Disease Prevention Law of Japan was completely revised into the "New" Infectious Disease Control Law, which reiterated the importance of surveillance and information dissemination and re-organized the surveillance system. This paper is an attempt to illustrate the potential impact of the new surveillance system through a description of the existing surveillance system and data before and after the revision.

**METHODS:** After a historical review of surveillance system in Japan, the current surveillance system is described. Data sets of actual case numbers reported and incidence rate per 1,000,000 population are compared before and after the revision.

RESULTS: Comparison of the data between the 2 periods revealed that most of the diseases have had declining trends after the new law was enacted with several exceptions. However, although no major break in continuity is observed in seriously perceived disease, in milder diseases there are striking gaps between the numbers reported in the mandatory and sentinel reporting framework. Sentinel reporting framework maintained the continuity of data without major gaps.

**CONCLUSIONS:** From this perspective, the new surveillance system with two different frameworks of mandatory reporting for severe diseases and sentinel reporting for milder diseases seems to be working well. But continuous efforts should be made for evaluation and improvement of surveillance system and risk communication through the research on data analysis and effective communication method. *J Epidemiol* 2007; 17: S3-S13.

Key words: Sentinel Surveillance, Communicable Disease, Disease Notification.

Public health surveillance is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the "Systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of data and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken." It is one of the essential components for infectious disease control and no doubt a starting point for them. Timely dissemination would be a key to effective surveillance. Unfortunately in Japan, however, although disease notification triggered the local response, data reported under several notification mechanisms had not been appropriately fedback to medical society and the public for many years. This leads to a decline in the motivation to

report disease. In the meantime, circumstances of infectious diseases have been changing dramatically. Consequently, the infectious disease surveillance in Japan was no longer functioning as a tool for infectious disease control. In 1999, the Communicable Disease Prevention Law was completely revised, and the concept of "surveillance" was legally set forth and encouraged. In this paper, after historical review of infectious disease surveillance in Japan, the current surveillance system and data based on it are described to provide overview of the infectious disease surveillance system in Japan. Through these observations, the potential impact of the new surveillance system is discussed.

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## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN JAPAN

Before 1999, the Communicable Disease Prevention Law which enacted in 1897 was the only legal framework for infectious disease control and gave a legal basis for 26 reportable diseases (Table 1). Legally defined communicable diseases (11) and specially designated communicable diseases (3) are expected to be reported immediately and notifiable communicable diseases (12) within 24 hours after diagnosis by medical practitioners to prefectural or designated/core city municipal public health authorities through local public heath centers. Sexually transmitted disease, Tuberculosis, and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been covered by the Venereal Disease Prevention Law since 1948, the Tuberculosis prevention law since 1951 and the AIDS Prevention Law since 1989, respectively.

In 1981 the national (sentinel) infectious disease surveillance program initiated consisting of (1) sentinel surveillance for 27 common infectious diseases (Table 7), and (2) infectious agents surveillance among local public health institutes, in order to fill the gap and vacuum of the national reportable diseases based on the law. This surveillance program, however, did not have any legal basis.

In April 1999, the Communicable Disease Prevention Law, the Venereal Disease Prevention Law, and the AIDS Prevention Law were abrogated, and the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections (hereafter referred to as the Infectious Disease Control Law) was enacted. In this new law, infectious disease surveillance was designated as one of the important components for disease control, and the sentinel surveillance was revised and incorporated as the national epidemiological surveillance for infectious disease (NESID) in combination with national notifiable diseases. In order to strengthen the surveillance system based on notification from physicians, collection, and analysis of the incidence and the trend of infectious diseases, effective and timely feedback of such information to the general public as well as those working in medical fields are proposed.

Infectious diseases included in this law were categorized into I through IV with specific means for control based upon the public health impact of each disease. The local outbreak of psittacosis and global outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) proved that the law could not provide adequate measures against vectors and animals such as restriction of importing infecting animals, control of infected animals and extermination of vectors like mosquitoes and rats. Therefore in November 2003, the law was revised to create the new category IV including zoonotic and vector-borne diseases.<sup>3</sup> The previous Category IV infectious diseases, except those included in the new Category IV, have been placed under the new Category V.

Finally, target diseases for the law were categorized and listed as shown in Table 2-4 and 8. These were re-organized by another revision in December 2006, but are not referred to in this paper.

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Surveillance flow and function required at each level are shown in the Figure 1. All physicians must report diseases of Categories I-IV immediately and Va within 7 days after identification to local public health centers which are the primary level institution for disease control and prevention strategically located all over the nation. Category Vb disease, which includes sentinel reporting diseases, should be reported by designated sentinel medical institutions weekly or monthly with the number of clinical cases aggregated by sex and age groups. All reports should be compatible with the reporting criteria which were documented in detail for each disease including clinical and laboratory case definitions for categories I-Va and Vb of hospital sentinel reporting disease, and only clinical case definitions for other Vb sentinel reporting diseases.

Local public health centers are expected to enter data into the nationwide electronic surveillance system, which enables data to be shared throughout the system. All reports are analyzed, interpreted and published by various forms of tabulations and graphs with commentary text weekly or monthly at intermediate and national level infectious disease surveillance centers, as stipulated by law. However, since category Vb diseases are reported by designated sentinel medical institutions, not by all physicians, data are displayed by weekly reported number per sentinel so as to provide understanding of the epidemic situation and disease trend. In order to be consistently representative, sentinels are expected to be selected as randomly as possible, and the numbers of sentinels per public health center coverage area are determined in proportion to the population of the area.<sup>5</sup>

#### **National Surveillance system**

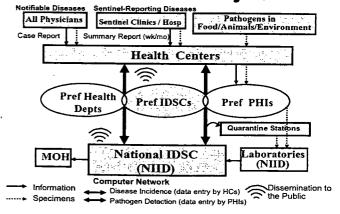


Figure 1. National surveillance structure in the national epidemiological surveillance for infectious disease(NESID).

Table 1. Number of reported cases, mandatory reporting disease, Japan, 1993-1998.

		N	lo. of rep	orted cas	es		
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Incidence rate*
Legally	defined com	municab			-,		
Cholera	92	90	306	40	89	61	0.90
Diphtheria	5	1	1	1	1	3	0.02
Dysentery	1,120	1,042	1,062	1,218	1,301	1,749	9.94
Meningococcal meningitis	. 7	6	3	4	5	6	0.04
Epidemic typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Japanese encephalitis	8	6	4	6	6	4	0.05
Paratyphoid fever	46	49	75	32	37	54	0.39
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Scarlet fever	23	6	5	4	3	0	0.05
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Typhoid fever	129	71	64	81	79	61	0.64
Specially	designated co	mmunic	able dise	ases†			
Acute poliomyelitis	3	1	1	0	0	0	0.01
Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli infection		·		1,287	1,941	2,077	14.08
Lassa fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Noti	fiable commu	micable o	liseases†				
Anthrax	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.00
Filariasis	1	0	1	1	0	1	0.01
Infectious diarrhea	2	1	0	10	140	0	0.20
Influenza	16,655	2,404	22,393	8,774	8,816	14,778	97.98
Malaria	58	74	66	51	69	79	0.53
Measles	2,002	1,766	931	1,640	899	761	10.62
Pertussis	131	145	226	183	42	43	1.02
Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Relapsing fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Scrub typhus	712	652	529	423	487	538	4.43
Tetanus	33	44	45	44	47	47	0.35
Acquired Immu	nodeficiency	Syndron	ne Prevei	ntion Lav	v		
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	- ,	•					•
Asymptomatic	277	298	277	376	397	422	2.72
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	86	136	169	234	250	231	1.47
Vene	ereal Diseases	Preventi	on Law				
Chancroid	9	4	5	6	3	4	0.04
Gonorrhea	1,724	1,448	1,699	2,201	2,355	3,096	16.62
Lymphogranuloma inguinale	1	0	0	1	1	1	0.01
Syphilis	804	666	530	565	448	553	4.73
· Not applicable							

<sup>...:</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>\*:</sup> Incidence rate is per year per 1,000,000 population in 1993-1998

<sup>†:</sup> Defined by the Communicable Disease Prevention Law

Table 2. Number of reported cases of Category I, II and III, mandatory reporting disease, Japan, 1999-2005.

			No	of reported	d cases				
	1999†	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Incid	ence rate
	Category	I (all cases	to be notifi	ed promptly	after diag	nosis)*			
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	
Ebola hemorrhagic fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	
Lassa fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	(0.00)
Marburg disease	0	0	0	. 0	0	0	0	0.00	
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	(0.00)
Severe Acute Respiratory					0	0	^	0.00	
Syndrome (SARS)	•••	•••	•••	•••	0	0	0	0.00	
Smallpox	•••	•••			0	0	0	0.00	(0.00)
	Category I	I (all cases	to be notifi	ied promptly	y after diag	nosis)*			
Acute poliomyelitis	0	1	0	0	. 0	0	0 .	0.00	(0.01)
Che'	39	58	50	51	25	86	56	0.43	(0.90)
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	0	0	. 0	0.00	(0.02)
Paratyphoid fever	30	20	22	35	44	88	20	0.30	(0.39)
Shigellosis	620	843	844	699	473	594	553	5.24	
Typhoid fever	72	86	65	63	62	67	50	0.51	(0.64)
	Category I	(all cases)	to be notif	ied promptl	ly after dias	gnosis)*			
Enterohemorrhagic  Escherichia coli infection	3,117	3,642	4,435	3,183	2,999	3,715	3,589	28.20	(14.08)

<sup>...:</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>\* :</sup> Defined by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections

<sup>†:</sup> From April to December, 1999

<sup>‡:</sup> Incidence rate is per year per 1,000,000 population in 2000-2005, and the rate in 1993-1998 is in parentheses

Table 3. Number of reported cases of Category IV, mandatory reporting disease, Japan, 1999-2005.

				of reported				
	1999†	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Incidence rate
	Category IV			ed promptly	after diagr	osis)*		
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 (0.00)
Avian influenza virus infection				•••	0	. 0	0	0.00
Botulism		•••	•••	•••	0	0	3	0.01
Brucellosis	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.00
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	2	3	1	5	5	0.02
Dengue fever	9	18	50	52	32	49	74	0.36
Echinococcosis								
Granulosus	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	0.01
Multilocularis	6	20	13	8	19	25	18	0.13
Epidemic typhus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 (0.00)
Hantavirus pulmonary	0	0	0	0	^	0	0	0.00
syndrome	U	U	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Hemorrhagic fever with renal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
syndrome	U	U	0	U	0	0	0	0.00
Hepatitis A	761	381	491	502	303	139	170	2.60
Hepatitis E	0	3	0	16	30	37	42	0.17
Herpes B virus infection	. 0	0	0	0	0	0 .	0	0.00
Japanese encephalitis	5	7	5	8	1	5	7	0.04 (0.05)
Japanese spotted fever	39	38	40	36	52	66	62	0.38
Legionellosis	56	154	86	167	146	161	281	1.30
Leptospirosis	•••		•••		1	18	17	0.09
Lyme disease	14	12	15	15	5	5	8	0.08
Lyssavirus infection		•••			0	0	0	0.00
Malaria	112	154	109	83	78	75	67	0.74 (0.53)
Monkeypox			•••		0	0	0	0.00
Nipah virus infection			***		0	0	0	0.00
Psittacosis	23	18	35	54	44	40	34	0.29
Q fever	12	24	42	47	9	7	8	0.18
Rabies	0	0	0	0 .	0	0	0	0.00 (0.00)
Relapsing fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Scrub typhus	551	701	40*	222	402	212	245	
(Tsutsugamushi disease)	556	791	491	338	402 .	313	345	3.51 (4.43)
Tularemia ,	•••				0	0	0	0.00
West Nile fever	•••			0	0	0	1	0.00
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

<sup>...:</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>\*:</sup> Defined by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections

<sup>†:</sup> From April to December, 1999

<sup>‡:</sup> Incidence rate is per year per 1,000,000 population in 2000-2005, and the rate in 1993-1998 is in parentheses

Table 4. Number of reported cases of Category Va, mandatory reporting disease, Japan, 1999-2005.\*

	No. of reported cases							
	1999 <sup>†</sup>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Incidence rate
Category	Va (all cases	to be report	ed by all pl	hysicians w	ithin 7days	after diagr	osis)'	
Acquired immunodeficiency synd	rome (AIDS)							
Asymptomatic	346	413	570	547	564	699	753	4.64 (2.72)
AIDS	215	331	320	312	337	386	360	2.68 (1.47)
Other	27	50	57	57	69	77	90	0.52
Amebiasis	276	378	429	465	520	610	698	4.05
Acute encephalitis	•••		•••	•••	12	166	188	0.48
Congenital rubella syndrome	. 0	1	1	1	1	10	2	0.02
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	92	108	133	147	118	175	152	1.09
Cryptosporidiosis	4	3	11	109	8	92	12	0.31
Giardiasis	42	98	137	113	103	94	86	0.83
Severe invasive streptococcal infections	22	47	47	92	53	52	60	0.46
Syphilis	751	759	585	575	509	533	543	4.58 (4.73)
Meningococcal meningitis	10	15	8	9	18	21	10	0.11 (0.04)
Tetanus	66	91	80	106	73	101	115	0.74 (0.35)
Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus infection	23	36	40	44	59	58	69	0.40
Vancomycin-resistant								
Staphylococcus aureus infection	•••	***	***		0	0 _	. 0	0.00
Viral hepatitis (excluding hepatitis	s A and E)							
Type B	510	425	330	332	245	241	208	2.33
Type C	136	119	65	61	65	43	57	0.54
Type D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other	74	40	29	23	19	7	10	0.17
Unknown	36	22	14	14	4	2	1	0.07

<sup>...:</sup> Not applicable.

Table 5. Number of sentinel medical institutions, Japan, 1993-1998.

Sentinels*	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Pediatric disease	2,425	2,425	2,440	2,412	2,412	2,412
Ophthalmologic disease	315	314	314	316	316	316
Sexually transmitted disease	596	599	604	606	606	606
Hospital	544	540	521	518	518	518

<sup>\*:</sup> Based on the national infectious disease surveillance program

Table 6. Number of sentinel medical institutions, Japan, 1999-2005.

1999†	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
4,128	4,585	4,649	4,698	4,703	4,653	4,729
2,875	2,978	3,019	3,036	3,041	3,019	3,065
589	625	634	634	634	633	649
855	897	911	917	920	916	931
456	459	470	473	471	475	471
445	457	458	465	468	468	471
	4,128 2,875 589 855 456	4,128 4,585 2,875 2,978 589 625 855 897 456 459	4,128     4,585     4,649       2,875     2,978     3,019       589     625     634       855     897     911       456     459     470	4,128     4,585     4,649     4,698       2,875     2,978     3,019     3,036       589     625     634     634       855     897     911     917       456     459     470     473	4,128     4,585     4,649     4,698     4,703       2,875     2,978     3,019     3,036     3,041       589     625     634     634     634       855     897     911     917     920       456     459     470     473     471	4,128     4,585     4,649     4,698     4,703     4,653       2,875     2,978     3,019     3,036     3,041     3,019       589     625     634     634     634     633       855     897     911     917     920     916       456     459     470     473     471     475

<sup>\*:</sup> Defined by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections

<sup>\*:</sup> Defined by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients of Infections

<sup>†:</sup> From April to December, 1999

<sup>‡:</sup> Incidence rate is per year per 1,000,000 population in 2000-2005, and the rate in 1993-1998 is in parentheses

<sup>†:</sup> From April to December, 1999

Table 7. Number of reported cases per sentinel, sentinel reporting disease, Japan, 1993-1998.

	No. of reported cases per sentinel					-	
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Average*
Pediatri	c disease sen	tinel (we	ekly repo	rt)†		* * **	····
Atypical pneumonia	10.95	8.90	9.53	11.09	9.22	8.46	9.69
Chickenpox	77.01	73.36	76.23	78.79	76.75	67.02	74.86
Erythema infectiosum	7.02	5.29	5.69	15.62	22.65	12.72	11.50
Exanthem subitum	35.73	36.76	35.02	34.69	35.66	34.92	35.46
Group A streptococcal pharyngitis	29.02	32.98	24.55	31.00	34.77	33.94	31.04
Hand, foot and mouth disease	38.15	22.59	65.04	10.17	30.98	52.06	36.50
Herpangina	29.87	36.94	32.61	40.03	36.25	32.62	34.72
Infectious gastroenteritis	169.23	165.97	193.20	162.71	173.88	161.40	171.07
Infantile vomiting and diarrhea	36.29	32.48	47.18	31.43	34.96	33.19	35.92
Influenza	262.49	44.77	310.14	146.27	162.91	235.39	193.66
Measles (excluding adult)	14.25	8.89	7.32	9.55	6.49	4.05	8.42
Mumps	38.04	52.65	29.05	46.72	62.22	56.60	47.55
Pertussis	1.51	1.85	2.32	2.36	1.13	0.98	1.69
Pharyngoconjunctival fever	3.85	1.76	4.40	3.43	2.44	2.30	5.09
Rubella	60.97	14.79	6.67	11.10	19.57	9.14	20.37
Kawasaki disease (Clinic sentinel)	0.46	0.57	0.55	0.56	0.59	0.57	0.55
Ophthalmol	ogic disease s	entinel	(weekly	report)†			
Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis	5.67	20.25	3.68	1.39	1.28	1.54	5.63
Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis	41.93	53.19	70.36	63.31	59.84	53.88	57.08
Pharyngoconjunctival fever	2.03	2.54	2.49	2.35	2.15	2.79	2.39
Sexually trans	mitted diseas	e sentine	l (monthl	y report)	t		
Condyloma acuminatum	4.75	4.02	3.55	3.39	3.42	3.81	3.83
Genital chlamydial infection	23.13	23.91	22.74	23.80	25.97	28.50	24.68
Genital herpes	9.65	9.82	9.44	10.15	9.81	9.43	9.72
Gonorrhea	11.28	10.48	11.06	13.04	14.19	16.36	12.73
Syphilis						1.46	1.46
Frichomoniasis	6.52	6.12	4.99	4.51	3.93	3.77	4.97
Sen	inel hospital	(monthly	report)†				
Aseptic meningitis	3.96	5.11	3.11	2.96	6.42	9.86	5.24
Bacterial meningitis	0.42	0.44	0.47	0.50	0.55	0.46	0.48
Encephalitis/Encephalopathy/Myelitis/	0.44	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.30	0.40	0.20
Reye syndrome	0.44	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.39	0.48	0.39
lepatitis A	1.47	1.32	0.67	0.67	0.49	0.26	0.81
Hepatitis B	1.24	0.99	0.80	1.02	0.88	0.89	0.97
Hepatitis C				•••		1.74	1.74
Other hepatitis	4.88	2.86	2.23	2.68	2.84	1.62	2.85
Kawasaki disease (Hospital sentinels)	2.89	3.30	3.52	3.27	3.32	3.52	3.30

<sup>...:</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>\*:</sup> Average of the numbers of reported cases per sentinel in 1993-1998

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{\uparrow}$  : Based on the national infectious disease surveillance program