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CHILDREN'S BUREAU

STATISTICAL SERIES

NUMBER **11**

**THE CRIPPLED  
CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAM**

*.....who are the children served ?*

L SECURITY AGENCY • SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION • CHILDREN'S BUREAU • WASH. 25, D. C.

1953

This bulletin is based on statistical reports provided to the Children's Bureau by the 53 official State agencies administering the crippled children's programs under the Social Security Act, including the 48 States, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Some of the charts and tables cover the continental United States only, since data on details of age and other characteristics are not available for 1948 for the child population of the Territories.

**THE CRIPPLED  
CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAM**

*.....who are the children served ?*

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*by Jerry Solon and Lillian R. Freedman*

**Number 10 of this  
Statistical Series—  
One in Three Hundred:  
Children Served by the  
Crippled Children's  
Program in 1948—**

was addressed to  
the question . . . . .

*What Does the Program Do?*

**The present bulletin  
is concerned with . . . .**

*Who Are the Children Served?*

We know that in 1948, 1 child in 300 received diagnostic or treatment services under the State crippled children's programs. This is perhaps a better way of saying that 175,000 children received these services—better because each child is different and comes with a unique problem. With his particular personal characteristics, he needs and receives individual medical attention.

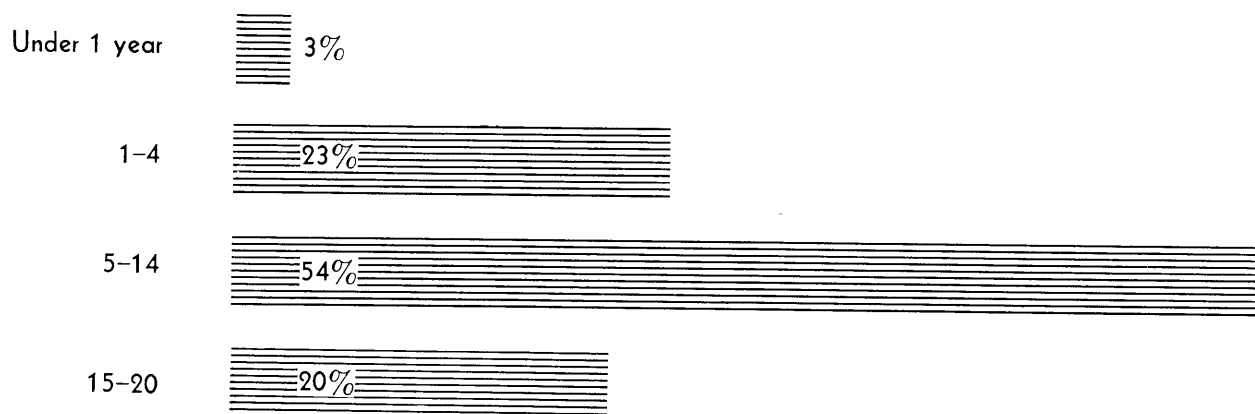
What are the different crippling conditions

and personal characteristics found among these children? How old are they, how many boys and how many girls? What is their race or color? Where do they come from—city or country? How many are new to the program and how many have been receiving care over a longer period?

This series of charts provides some answers to questions such as these by giving a picture of the kinds of children served by the program in 1948.

# SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN PREDOMINATE IN THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM . . .

Both in proportion of children served . . .

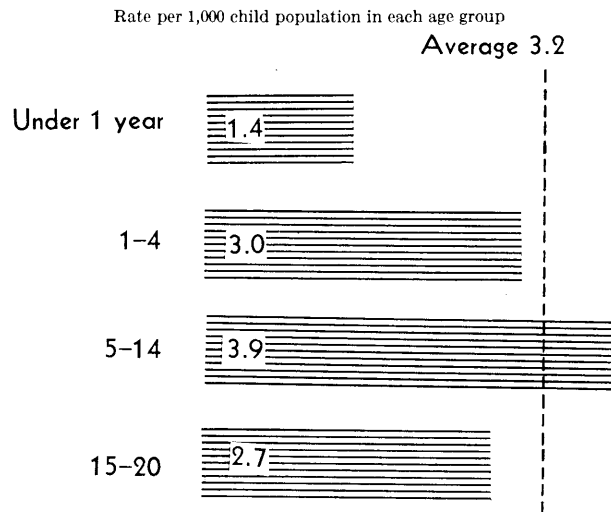


(Data for 53 States)

Of the 175,000 children who received services under the 53 State and Territorial programs in 1948, more than half were between 5 and 14 years old, and only 5,000 were under 1 year:

Total	174,963
Under 1.....	5,382
1-4.....	38,872
5-14.....	93,967
15-20.....	35,236
Age unknown...	1,506

. . . and in relation to the child population

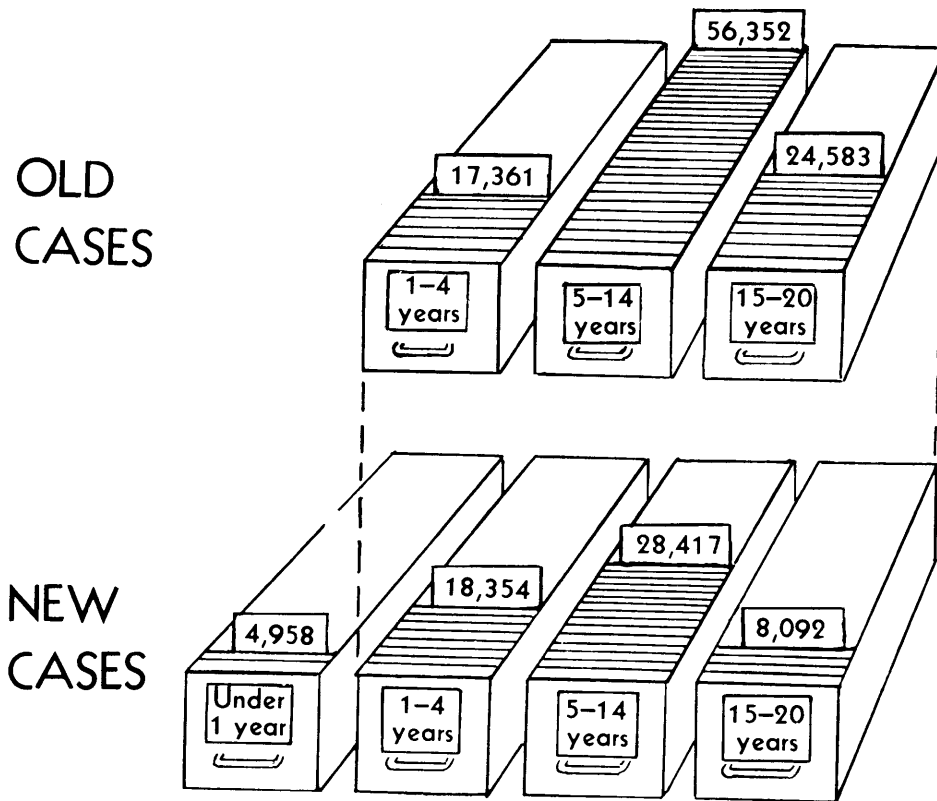


(Continental U. S.)

The 5-14 year olds were the only age group who shared in the services of the program at a higher rate than would be expected from the distribution of the child population:

Age in years	Percentage distribution	
	Children who received services	Total child population
Total	100.0	100.0
Under 1	3.1	6.8
1-4	22.2	23.5
5-14	54.3	45.2
15-20	20.4	24.5

CHILDREN RECEIVING THEIR INITIAL SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM  
 ARE GENERALLY YOUNGER THAN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN  
 UNDER CARE IN PRIOR YEARS . . .



BUT EVEN SO, MANY CHILDREN FIRST COME UNDER THE PROGRAM  
 DURING THE SCHOOL-AGE PERIOD

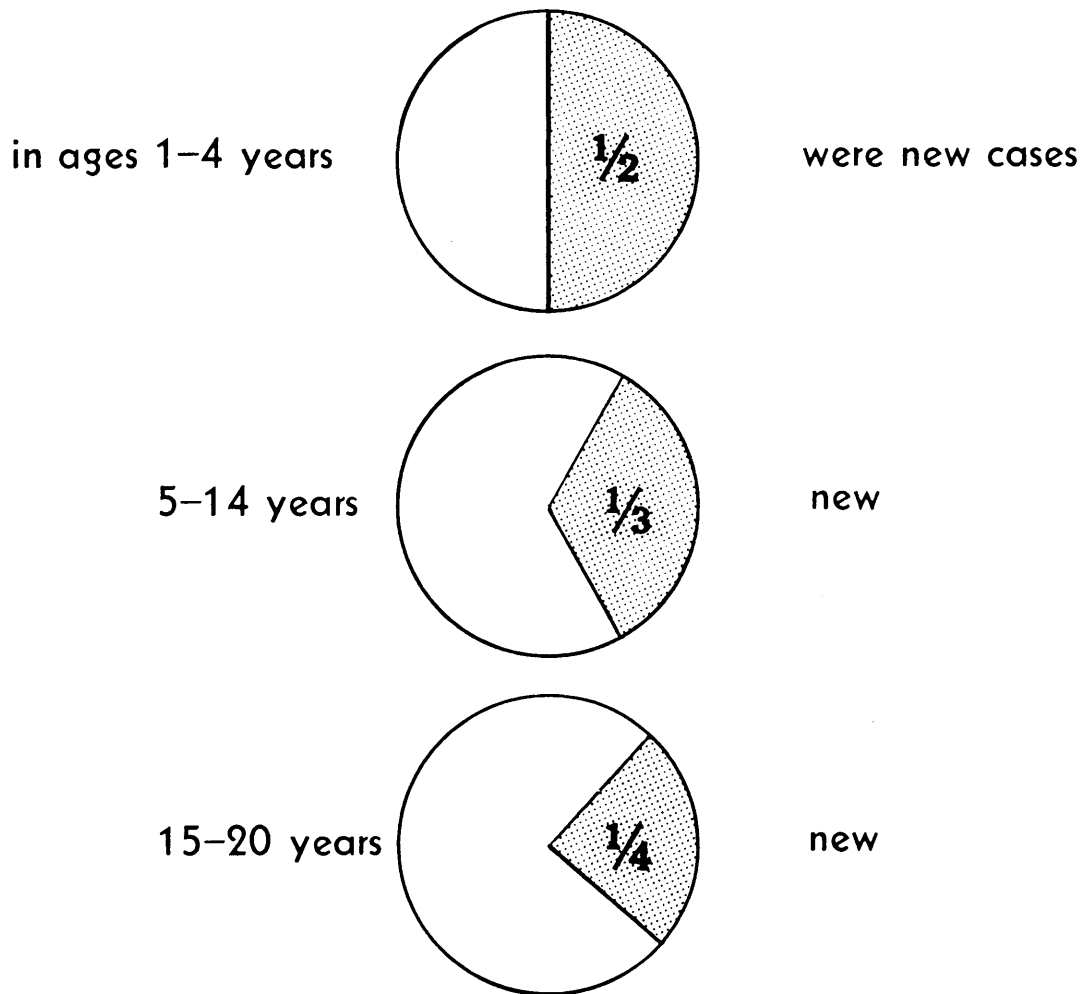
(Data for 51 States)

Viewed percentagewise, children receiving services for the first time in 1948 were concentrated in the younger ages more than the children who had been receiving services over a longer period . . .

Age group	Old cases	New cases
Total number	98,607	60,441
Total percent <sup>a</sup>	100.0	100.0
Under 1	( <sup>b</sup> )	8.3
1-4	17.7	30.7
5-14	57.3	47.5
15-20	25.0	13.5

<sup>a</sup> Excluding 311 old cases and 620 new cases for whom age was not reported.  
<sup>b</sup> By definition, children under 1 are new cases.

MANY CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICES HAVE CONDITIONS WHICH CAN BE TREATED AT AN EARLY AGE . . .



(Data for 51 States)

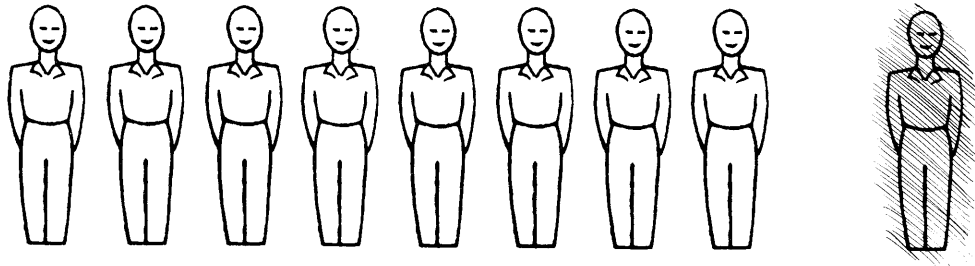
Taking the total group, two out of every five children who received services were new cases. The proportion of children in each age group who were new cases decreased as age increased.

Age in years	Percentage distribution		
	Total	New cases	Old cases
Total.....	100.0	38.0	62.0
Under 1.....	100.0	100.0	(*)
1-4.....	100.0	51.4	48.6
5-14.....	100.0	33.5	66.5
15-20.....	100.0	24.8	75.2

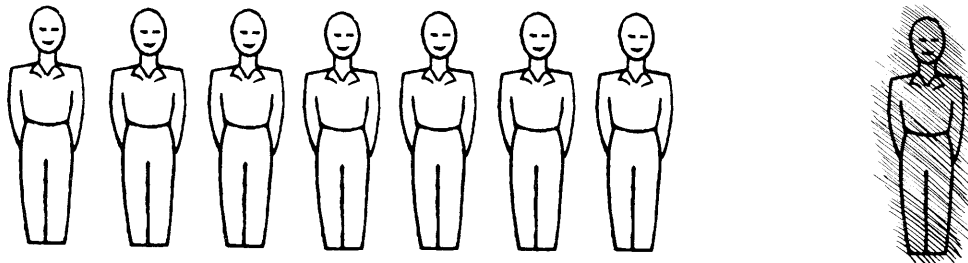
\* By definition, children under 1 are new cases.

COMPARED WITH WHITE CHILDREN, NEGRO AND OTHER CHILDREN  
RECEIVED SERVICES AT A SOMEWHAT LOWER RATE

1 OUT OF 9 WAS NONWHITE AMONG ALL CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICE



1 OUT OF 8 WAS NONWHITE AMONG THE TOTAL CHILD POPULATION



(Continental U. S.; service data for 46 States)

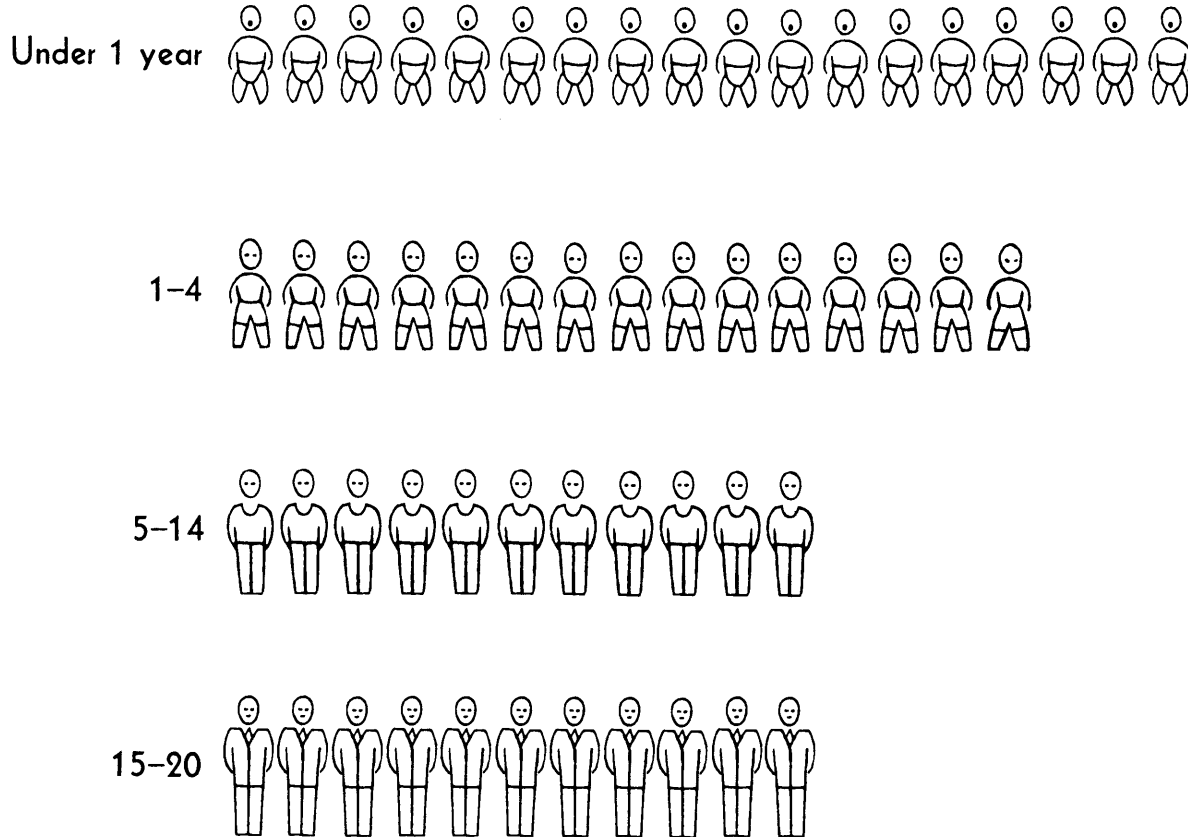
There were relatively more nonwhite children among those who received services for the first time in 1948 than among old cases. For 45 States in the continental United States for which the data are available, the proportions are as follows:

	Total	Old cases	New cases
White-----	88.6	89.7	86.5
Nonwhite-----	11.4	10.3	13.5

The percentage of nonwhite children among the new cases corresponds to their proportion (12.9 percent) in the total child population.

# NONWHITE CHILDREN ARE REPRESENTED MORE AMONG THE YOUNGER AGE GROUPS RECEIVING SERVICES

Out of every 100 children receiving services in each age group, the following number of children were nonwhite:



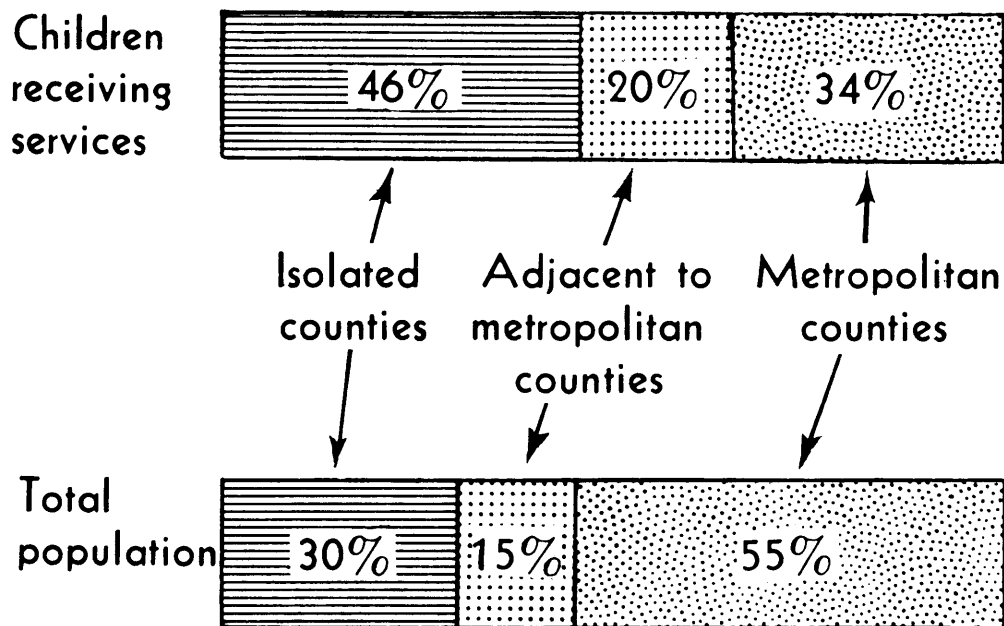
(Data for 49 States)

Within each age group there were relatively more nonwhite children among new cases than old (this information available for 48 States).

Age group	Percentage nonwhite of total	
	Old cases	New cases
Under 1.....	(*)	18.6
1-4.....	14.2	15.4
5-14.....	9.8	12.3
15-20.....	10.4	13.9

\* By definition, children under 1 are new cases.

THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM REACHES RELATIVELY  
MORE CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS



*Metropolitan counties are those including metropolitan districts of cities of 50,000 or more persons.*

(Continental U. S. )

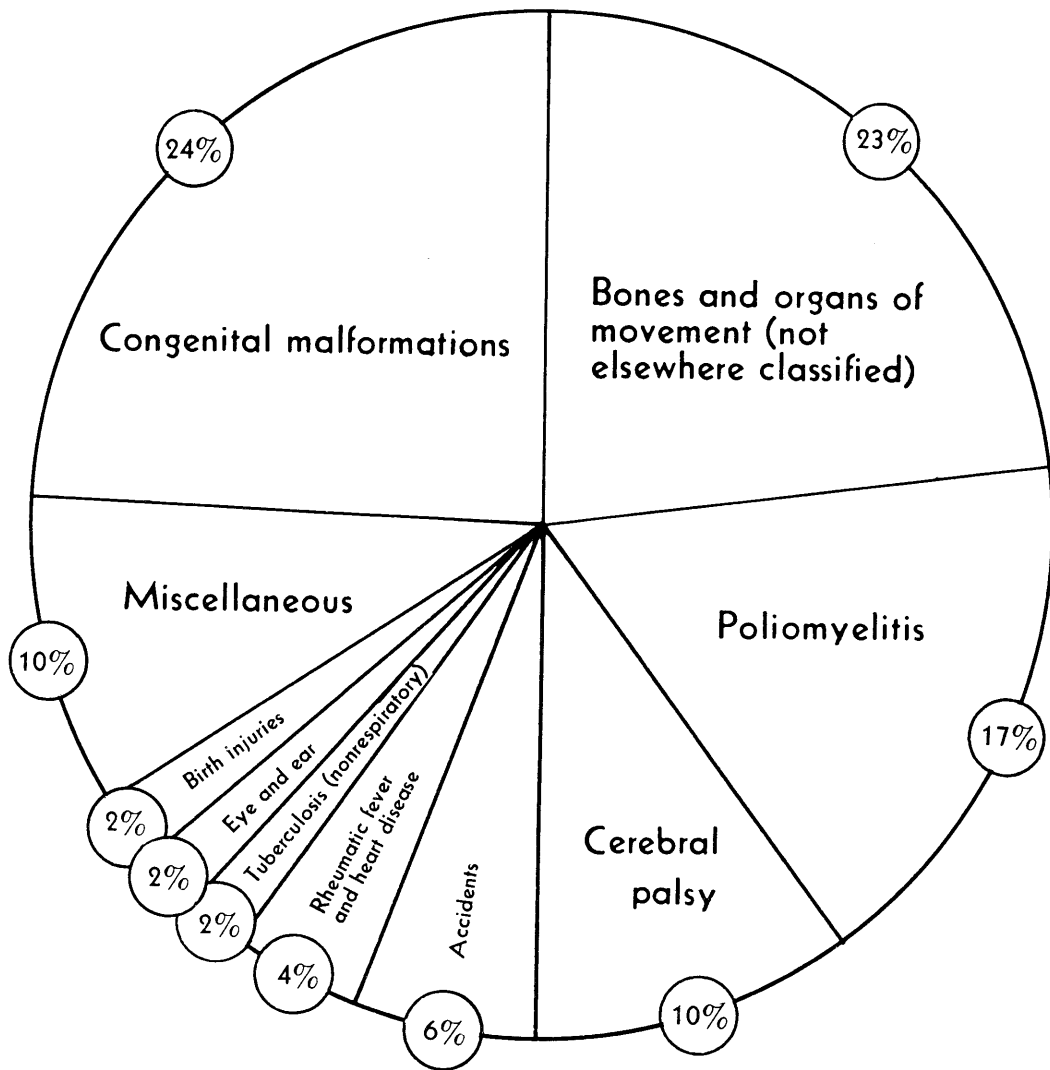
The Social Security Act directs special attention to the extension and improvement of services for crippled children in rural areas and in areas of economic need. The emphasis on rural areas is reflected in the proportionately greater numbers of children who receive services in predominantly rural areas. Translating the comparison into a ratio of children receiving services to 10,000 of the general population, the metropolitan counties showed a ratio of 7, in contrast to a ratio of 18 in the isolated counties.

The comparison against total population is made in the absence of recent data on county distribution of the child population. Population estimates are from the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems.



NOTE.—This chart and the following ones covering the diagnostic distribution of children under the program are based on children who received physician's treatment at clinics, hospitals, or convalescent homes, or through home or office visits. The preceding charts are based on all children receiving service, either diagnostic or treatment.

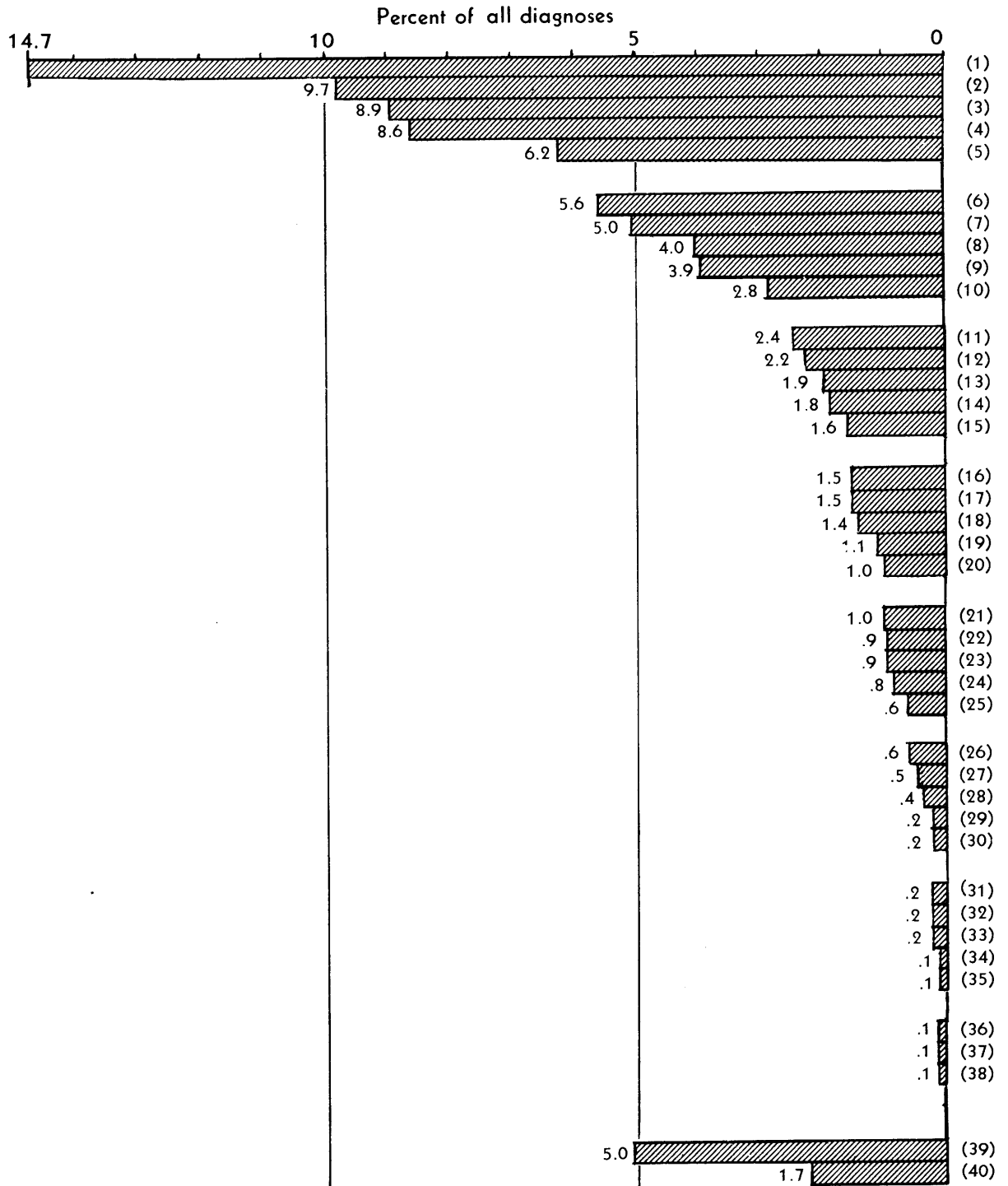
A LARGE VARIETY OF CRIPPLING CONDITIONS  
ARE COVERED UNDER THE PROGRAM



(Data for 39 States)

During the early years of the program care was almost entirely limited to orthopedic and plastic conditions. A much wider range of crippling conditions is now receiving attention. Care is gradually being extended to such handicapping conditions as rheumatic fever, congenital heart disease, hearing defects, cerebral palsy, epilepsy . . .

THESE ARE THE CRIPPLING CONDITIONS—IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY—  
 AMONG CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED TREATMENT SERVICES

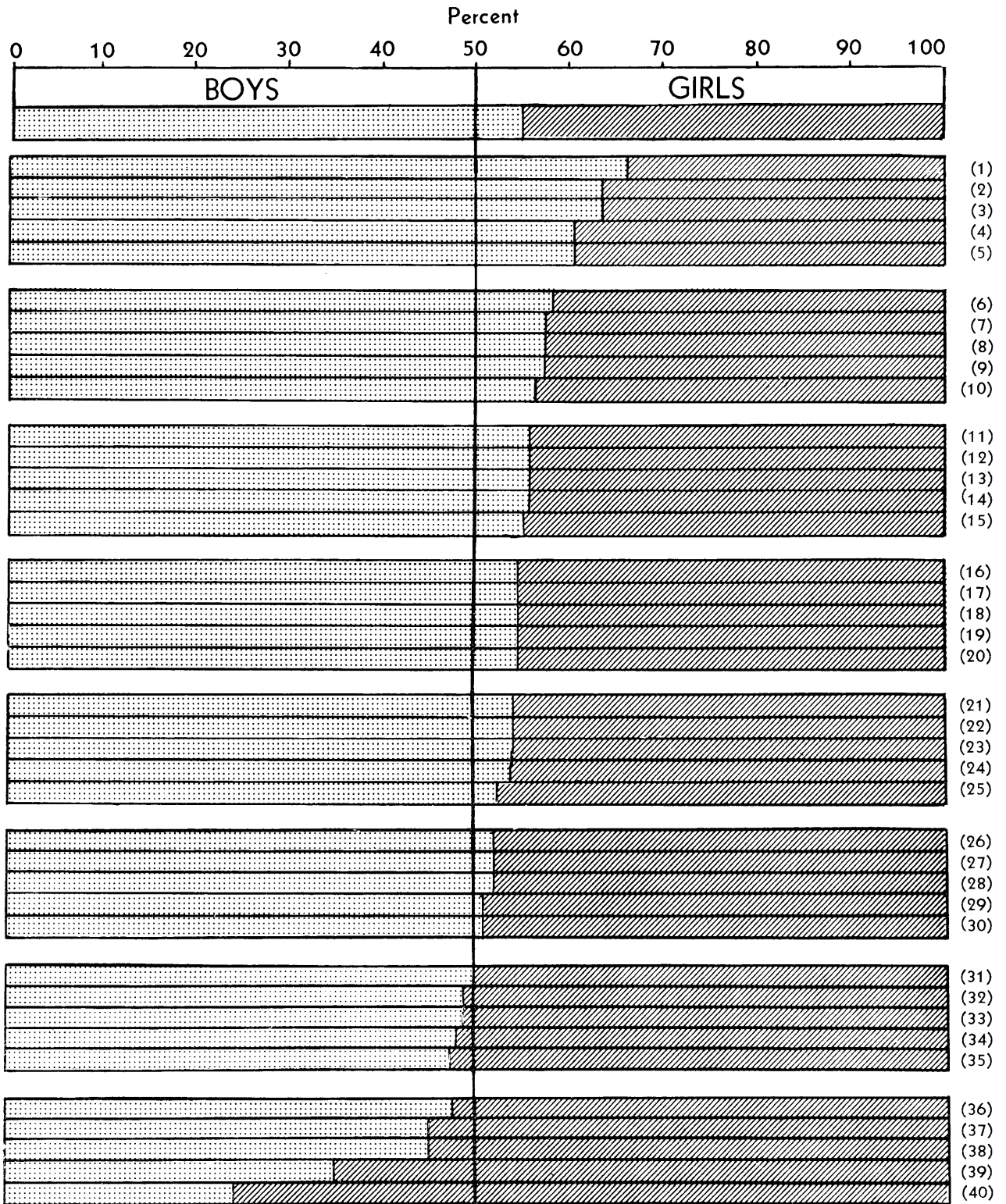


- (1) Poliomyelitis, late effects
- (2) Cerebral palsy
- (3) Diseases of bones and organs of movement, not elsewhere classified
- (4) Clubfoot, congenital or unspecified
- (5) Congenital malformations, not elsewhere classified
  
- (6) Flatfoot, acquired or unspecified
- (7) Cleft palate and harelip
- (8) Effects of accidents, poisonings, and violence, excluding (11)
- (9) Osteomyelitis and periostitis, except tuberculosis
- (10) Curvature of spine, except congenital or late effect of polio or tuberculosis
  
- (11) Burns
- (12) Poliomyelitis, acute
- (13) Rheumatic fever, acute
- (14) Arthritis and rheumatism, except rheumatic fever
- (15) Tuberculosis of bones and joints, active or unspecified
  
- (16) Birth injuries, except cerebral palsy and epilepsy, excluding (32)
- (17) Congenital dislocation of hip
- (18) Flatfoot, congenital
- (19) Chronic rheumatic heart disease
- (20) Diseases of nervous system, except mental disorders, excluding (2) and (29)
  
- (21) Spina bifida and meningocele
- (22) Deafness and impairment of hearing
- (23) Heart diseases, except congenital malformations, excluding (13) and (19)
- (24) Tuberculosis of bones and joints, late effects
- (25) Congenital malformations of circulatory system
  
- (26) Rickets, late effects
- (27) Strabismus
- (28) Rickets, active
- (29) Epilepsy
- (30) Diseases of the ear and mastoid process, excluding (22)
  
- (31) Eye conditions, except congenital or diabetic cataract, excluding (27) and (36)
- (32) Birth injuries, intracranial and spinal, except cerebral palsy and epilepsy
- (33) Diabetes mellitus
- (34) Congenital cataract
- (35) Disorders of occlusion, eruption, and tooth development
  
- (36) Refractive errors
- (37) Diseases of buccal cavity and esophagus, excluding (35)
- (38) Tuberculosis, except respiratory, excluding (15) and (24)
  
- (39) Other diagnosed conditions, not elsewhere classified
- (40) Provisional or deferred diagnoses

(Data for 39 States)

A LITTLE OVER HALF OF THE CHILDREN TREATED ARE BOYS . . .

THIS HOLDS FOR MOST OF THE TYPES OF CRIPPLING



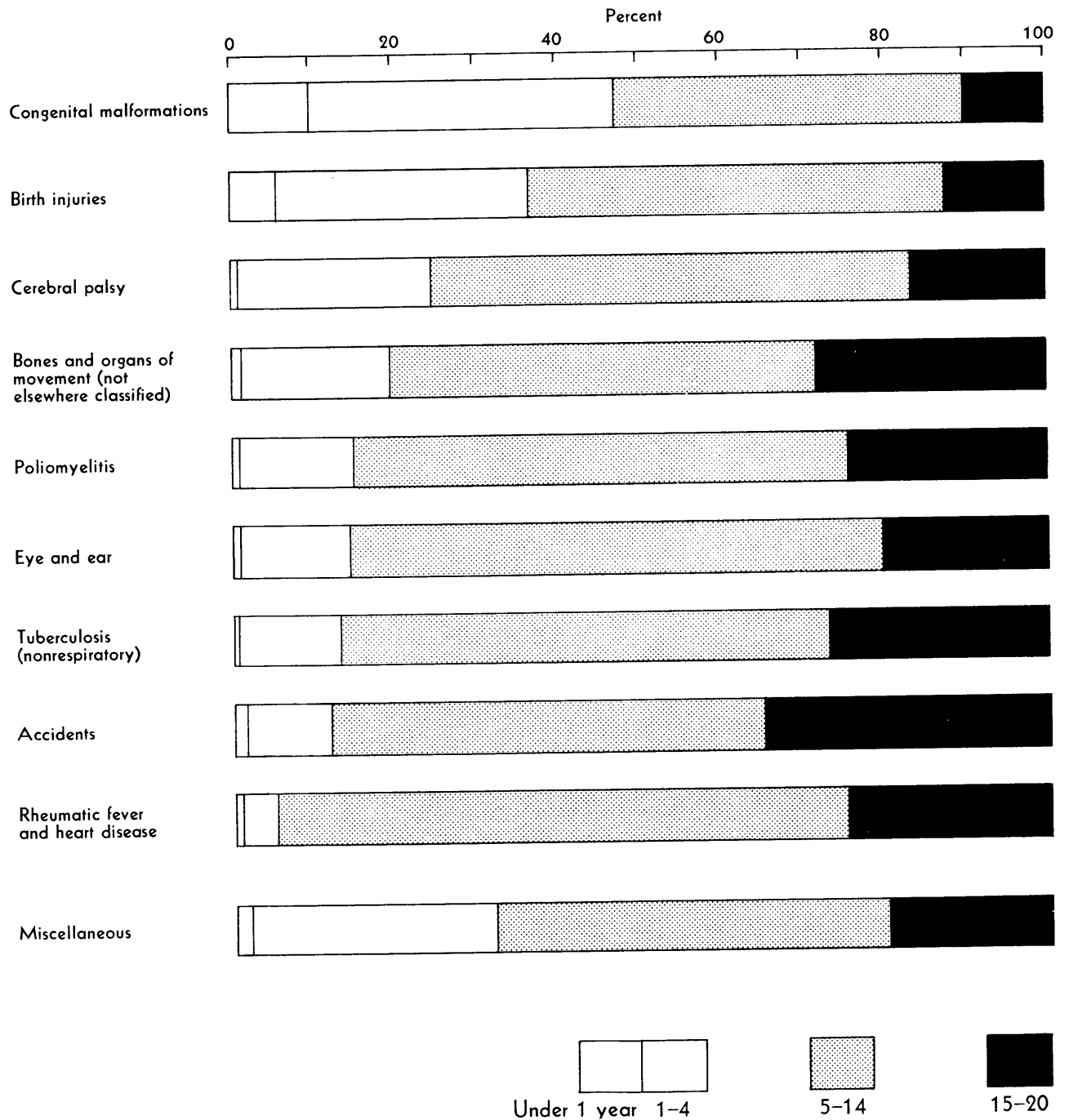
Total, all diagnoses

- (1) Effects of accidents, poisonings, and violence, excluding (28)
- (2) Osteomyelitis and periostitis, except tuberculosis
- (3) Clubfoot, congenital or unspecified
- (4) Diseases of bones and organs of movement, not elsewhere classified
- (5) Cleft palate and harelip
  
- (6) Rickets, active
- (7) Tuberculosis of bones and joints, active or unspecified
- (8) Rickets, late effects
- (9) Deafness and impairment of hearing
- (10) Eye conditions, except congenital or diabetic cataract, excluding (21) and (38)
  
- (11) Poliomyelitis, acute
- (12) Cerebral palsy
- (13) Diseases of nervous system, except mental disorders, excluding (12) and (18)
- (14) Diagnosed conditions not elsewhere classified
- (15) Diseases of the ear and mastoid process, excluding (9)
  
- (16) Tuberculosis of bones and joints, late effects
- (17) Poliomyelitis, late effects
- (18) Epilepsy
- (19) Disorders of occlusion, eruption, and tooth development
- (20) Flatfoot, acquired or unspecified
  
- (21) Strabismus
- (22) Congenital malformations, not elsewhere classified
- (23) Birth injuries, except cerebral palsy and epilepsy, excluding (31)
- (24) Provisional or deferred diagnoses
- (25) Chronic rheumatic heart disease
  
- (26) Arthritis and rheumatism, except rheumatic fever
- (27) Flatfoot, congenital
- (28) Burns
- (29) Tuberculosis, except respiratory, excluding (7) and (16)
- (30) Heart diseases, except congenital malformations, excluding (25) and (34)
  
- (31) Birth injuries, intracranial and spinal, except cerebral palsy and epilepsy
- (32) Congenital cataract
- (33) Congenital malformations of circulatory system
- (34) Rheumatic fever, acute
- (35) Diseases of buccal cavity and esophagus, excluding (19)
  
- (36) Spina bifida and meningocele
- (37) Diabetes mellitus
- (38) Refractive errors
- (39) Curvature of spine, except congenital or late effect of polio or tuberculosis
- (40) Congenital dislocation of hip

*For a few of the conditions, there was a large difference in the proportion of boys and girls who received treatment in 1948, in part reflecting sex differences in the incidence of those conditions. Thus we see many more boys suffering effects of accidents, and many more girls with congenital hip dislocation.*

(Data for 39 States)

THE AGES OF CHILDREN RECEIVING TREATMENT VARY MARKEDLY  
WITH THE CRIPPLING CONDITION INVOLVED



(Data for 39 States)

Relatively more young children received treatment for congenital malformations and birth injuries than for any of the other groups of diagnoses. School-age children predominated in the rheumatic fever and heart disease category. Proportionately more of the oldest children were

treated for conditions resulting from accidents than for any other broad group of crippling conditions.

The percentage distribution of children who received treatment in 1948, by age, according to a more detailed diagnostic classification is shown below:

Diagnosis	Total	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-20
Total, all diagnoses	100.0	3.2	23.1	52.9	20.8
Tuberculosis of bones and joints, active or unspecified	100.0	0.4	15.9	61.1	22.6
Tuberculosis of bones and joints, late effects	100.0	0.1	7.1	58.3	34.5
Other tuberculosis except respiratory	100.0	2.2	22.2	57.8	17.8
Poliomyelitis, acute	100.0	2.5	34.5	51.9	11.1
Poliomyelitis, late effects	100.0	0.2	12.7	62.7	24.4
Diabetes mellitus	100.0	0	3.7	46.7	49.6
Rickets, active	100.0	3.0	71.1	23.6	2.3
Rickets, late effects	100.0	0.5	50.9	44.4	4.2
Cerebral palsy	100.0	0.6	24.7	58.8	15.9
Epilepsy	100.0	0	21.3	56.0	22.7
Other diseases of the nervous system, except mental	100.0	3.4	22.8	53.6	20.2
Refractive errors	100.0	1.6	19.1	58.7	20.6
Strabismus	100.0	0.7	23.1	61.5	14.7
Other eye conditions except congenital or diabetic cataract	100.0	2.4	27.1	52.9	17.6
Deafness and impairment of hearing	100.0	0.2	6.4	70.8	22.6
Other diseases of the ear and mastoid	100.0	0.5	18.6	63.4	17.5
Rheumatic fever, acute	100.0	0.5	3.3	73.7	22.5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	100.0	0.3	2.4	68.6	28.7
Other diseases of the heart, except congenital	100.0	0.2	3.9	73.8	22.1
Disorders of occlusion and tooth development	100.0	0	9.9	69.0	21.1
Other diseases of buccal cavity and esophagus	100.0	0	6.6	76.7	16.7
Arthritis and rheumatism	100.0	1.0	7.7	50.8	40.5
Osteomyelitis and periostitis	100.0	0.7	6.6	48.9	43.8
Curvature of spine	100.0	0.5	4.7	48.7	46.1
Flatfoot, acquired or unspecified	100.0	0.3	34.2	53.9	11.6
Other diseases of the bones and organs of movement	100.0	0.8	24.2	49.7	25.3
Spina bifida and meningocele	100.0	13.0	30.4	43.9	12.7
Congenital cataract	100.0	8.1	26.7	51.2	14.0
Congenital malformations of circulatory system	100.0	6.8	25.6	58.1	9.5
Cleft palate and harelip	100.0	16.4	39.1	34.7	9.8
Congenital dislocation of hip	100.0	1.8	28.7	50.2	19.3
Clubfoot, congenital or unspecified	100.0	11.0	42.8	39.0	7.2
Flatfoot, congenital	100.0	2.0	41.7	46.9	9.4
Other congenital malformations	100.0	6.1	32.4	46.4	15.1
Injuries at birth, intracranial or spinal	100.0	7.3	36.0	42.7	14.0
Other injuries at birth	100.0	6.6	30.7	52.4	10.3
Burns	100.0	1.2	16.4	58.8	23.6
Other morbid conditions due to accidents	100.0	1.2	8.3	51.2	39.3
Other diagnosed conditions	100.0	3.2	25.2	52.0	19.6
Provisional or deferred diagnoses	100.0	2.9	29.0	51.9	16.2

(Data for 39 States)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : O—1953