

Patterns of Death

The following table shows the distribution of the deaths from epidemic influenza by ages and policy years during the last four months of 1918. For comparison, the last column shows the age distribution of all the deaths that occurred in the company's business in the three years 1915, 1916, and 1917.

Table 1: Distribution of Deaths by Age and Policy Year

Ages at Death	Total		Policy Year 1		Policy Year 2		Policy Years 3-5		Policy Years 6-10		Policy Years 11-20		Policy Years 21+		Deaths 1915-17
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<20	26	1.7	15	8.0	5	2.7	6	1.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	.3
20-24	118	8.2	29	15.4	25	13.4	47	12.5	17	4.8	..	..	..	..	1.7
25-29	310	21.7	50	26.6	60	32.5	105	28.1	88	25.5	7	2.5	..	..	2.5
30-34	366	25.6	53	28.2	50	27.1	92	24.7	115	33.4	56	19.7	..	..	3.7
35-39	264	18.5	28	14.9	26	14.1	73	19.5	58	16.8	78	27.5	1	1.8	5.1
40-44	138	9.6	10	5.3	11	6.0	31	8.3	28	8.1	53	18.7	5	9.1	7.3
45-49	81	5.7	2	1.1	5	2.7	14	3.7	21	6.1	30	10.6	9	16.4	9.0
50-54	56	3.9	..	..	1	.5	5	1.3	12	3.5	30	10.6	8	14.6	10.4
55-59	24	1.7	1	.5	1	.5	1	.3	3	.9	11	3.9	7	12.7	12.1
60-64	17	1.2	..	..	1	.5	..	..	1	.3	10	3.5	5	9.0	11.0
65-69	16	1.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.3	4	1.3	11	20.0	10.9
70-74	7	.5	1	.3	5	1.7	1	1.8	10.0
75-79	4	.3	4	7.3	7.7
80+	4	.3	4	7.3	8.3
Total	1431		188		185		374		345		284		55		

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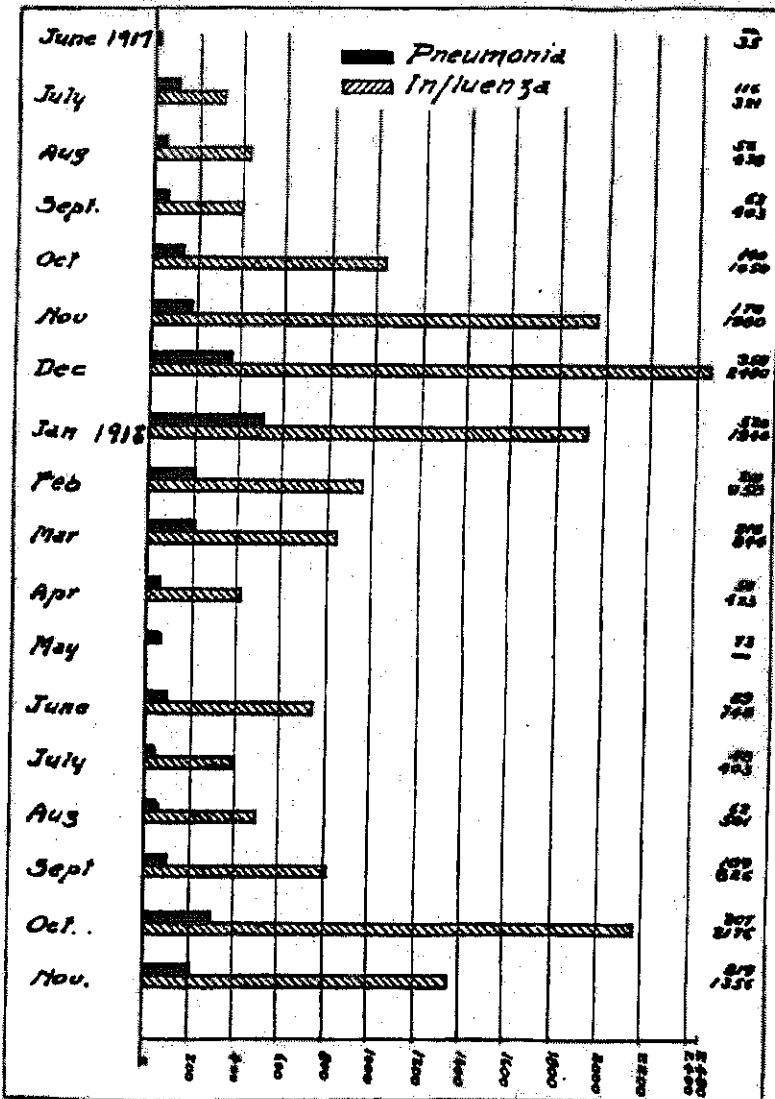


CHART 3.—Morbidity rate per 100,000 troops for influenza and pneumonia. Note that these diseases were relatively more prevalent in December, 1917, than at any time up to November, 1918.

Comparison With Previous Epidemics

In the previous epidemic of influenza, which began toward the end of 1889 and recurred in 1890, 1891, and 1892 and also in subsequent years when it was endemic, influenza affected the older ages. The following table shows the age of the policyholders who died.

Table 2: Influenza Deaths in 1889-92 Among Policyholders

Age of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage of Total Deaths
20-30 years	13	3.3
30-40 years	38	9.7
40-50 years	69	17.6
50-60 years	71	18.2
60-70 years	89	22.8
70-80 years	81	20.7
80-90 years	27	6.9
90 and over	3	0.8
Total	391	100.0

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Typical medical report chart from 1919. It compares rates of troop morbidity from both pneumonia and influenza.