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1961-1962

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1962

Kenneth F. Girard, M. D., Assistant Director

During the calendar year 1961, the Wassermann Laboratory performed 437,068 tests. A total of 51,523 specimens were tested to comply with the premarital law, and 39,434 to comply with the prenatal law. Out-of-State premarital certificates were issued to eleven hundred and eighty-five applicants.

The intrastate evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis was conducted for one hundred and forty-one laboratories. Sixty-eight of these laboratories applied for approval to perform tests for blood donor purposes, and seventy-three for approval to perform standard tests. Eleven laboratories failed to meet the required standards of performance.

The Wassermann Laboratory participated again this year in the National Evaluation of Serologic tests for syphilis conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service, and Hinton tests were performed on two hundred serum samples. In this Federal program the laboratory received an excellent rating for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of results of tests.

The laboratory served as control for the Hinton test in the Texas State Health Department interstate evaluation of serologic tests, and tested two hundred and sixty-one specimens.

In cooperation with the Division of Communicable Diseases on

The use of the Rafter Protein Complement Fixation test seven hundred specimens from patients who presented diagnostic problems due to positive reagin tests were performed. Also, a comparative study was conducted using this new treponemal test for syphilis on fifteen hundred Hinton negative blood specimens in order to evaluate comparative reactivity of the two tests.

Eight hundred and five tests were performed on two hundred and ninety-nine specimens that were submitted for rabies. One of these specimens, a bat found in Harvard, Massachusetts, was found to be rabid. This represents the first positive case of animal rabies in Massachusetts since 1949. All other specimens were negative for rabies virus.

Conferences, demonstrations, and practical work in the serology of syphilis were given throughout the year, as in the past, to many laboratory technologists from various parts of the State. Supplies of negative and positive Hinton serum, and diluted Hinton Indicator were made available, as in the past, to many hospital laboratories upon request.

Milk samples submitted by the Massachusetts Medical Milk Commission have been tested monthly for Russell's Abortion Agglutinins.

It is recommended that the Fluorescent Tagged Antibody (FTA) test for syphilis be added to the routine procedure in this laboratory as it has proved most satisfactory for diagnostic use in all stages of syphilis. Funds should be made available for the purchase of equipment and supplies needed for this test. Supplies and equipment to carry out the FA rabies test are also needed to supplement our existing routine for rabies virus identification.

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES
WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION

SUMMARY

The Wassermann Laboratory Section of the Diagnostic Laboratories performed 467,066 tests during the calendar year 1961 on 480,391 specimens.

One hundred and forty-one laboratories participated in the intra-state evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis. Eleven of these laboratories failed to meet the standard requirements.

The Wassermann Laboratory participated in the Annual National Serologic Evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis, and obtained an excellent rating for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of results of tests.

Two hundred and ninety-nine specimens (animal heads) were examined for rabies. One of these specimens, a bat found in Harvard, Massachusetts, was found to be rabid. This was the first positive case of animal rabies in Massachusetts since 1949.

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES
WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION
TABLE I. -- TESTS AND SPECIMENS

Kind of Specimen		1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
		1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Blood	Number of Specimens	463,099	453,053	468,275	463,501	471,118
	Tests					
	Hinton	440,394	434,302	452,848	449,313	454,682
	Quantitative Hinton	9,130	9,356	10,007	9,581	10,027
	Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	4,067	4,887	5,352	4,595	6,404
	Glanders Complement Fixation	3	3	3	12	5
	*Brucella Abortus Agglutination	9,505	4,505	65	-	-
Spinal Fluid	Number of Specimens	8,692	9,175	9,769	9,217	8,974
	Tests					
	Davies-Hinton	8,692	9,175	9,769	9,217	8,974
	Globulin	2,782	2,979	3,144	2,598	2,600
	Total Protein	2,592	2,753	2,777	3,488	3,571
Rabies	Number of Specimens	207	229	255	259	299
	Diagnosis:Tests:					
	Impressions	207	229	255	259	299
	Sections	185	194	204	189	215
	Animal Inoculations	202	222	250	255	291
Total Tests		477,759	468,605	484,674	479,507	487,068
Total Specimens		471,998	462,457	478,299	472,971	480,391 ✓

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control

Ant was also
rendered
w. 1/2 of sera. & prep.
of Hinton Indica

1961-1962

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY
TABLE XVII - SPECIMENS
January 1, 1961 — December 31, 1961

WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION

<u>BLOODS:</u>	<u>Positive Results</u>	<u>Total Specimens</u>
Hintons	5418)	
Quantitative Hintons	*)	
Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculations	54) —	471,118
Glanders Complement Fixation	0)	
 <u>SPINAL FLUIDS:</u>		
Davies-Hinton	120) —	8,974
Globulin	0)	
Total Protein	0)	
 <u>RABIES:</u>		
Impressions	0)	
Sections	0)	299
Animal Inoculations	1) —	
 Total Wassermann Laboratory Section Specimens	—————	480,391

* We do not tabulate the results of quantitative Hinton tests.

Prenatal - Prenatal (Statistics)

1957-1961

September 17, 1962

Dr. Nicholas J. Fiumara, Director
Division of Communicable Diseases
Ford Bldg., Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Fiumara:

In response to your request for premarital-prenatal statistics to include in some Public Health report that you were working on we are enclosing a typewritten copy which we promised to submit to replace rough copy sent to your office on August 17, 1962, attention of Miss Rachel Austin.

You will note that these statistics include the grand total blood tests performed each year, a total of the premarital (male & female) bloods tested which of course are included in the grand total and the per cent, also the totals positive as well as the per cent of positives.

We have also listed the prenatal giving the totals and the percentages.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth F. Girard, Ph. D.
Assistant Director
Diagnostic Laboratories

KFG/j

j enc.

September 24, 1962

Dr. Nicholas J. Fiumara, Director
Division of Communicable Diseases
Ford Bldg., Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Fiumara:

We are enclosing a corrected copy of the Premarital and Prenatal Statistics, 1957 thru 1961, mailed to you on September 17, 1962.

We have just noticed that the last column (% Positive re: positive premarital tests) shows the results decimally, and whereas you requested percentages, decimals could be very misleading. Hope that you have not been too inconvenienced by this.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth F. Girard, Ph. D.
Assistant Director
Diagnostic Laboratories

KFG/j

Enc.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

August, 1962

PREMATRALS 1957 - 1961		Total Specimens Tested	Total Male & Female Prematral tests	% of total tests prematral tests	Total number of prematral tests (M&F) Positive	% Positive
Year	1957	440,394	52,366	11.65	176	.0033%
"	1958	434,302	50,404	11.5	165	.0033
"	1959	452,848	49,405	10.9	181	.0036
"	1960	449,313	49,025	11.	145	.0030
"	1961	454,682	51,528	11.3	139	.0027
PREMATRALS 1957 - 1961		Total Specimens Tested	Total Prematral Tests	% of total tests Prematral tests	Total number of prematral tests Positive	% Positive
Year	1957	440,394	39,367	9.	97	.0025
"	1958	434,302	38,793	9.	93	.0024
"	1959	452,848	37,847	8.5	104	.0027
"	1960	449,313	40,499	9.3	85	.0023
"	1961	454,682	39,434	8.9	56	.0014

1.33%

.33

.36

.34

.27

1.15

.14

.17

.21

.14