

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

IN TEXAS



1938

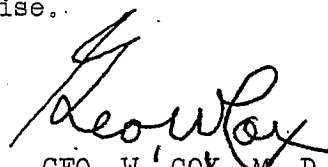
TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
GEO. W. COX M. D., STATE HEALTH OFFICER
AUSTIN, TEXAS

TO THE HEALTH OFFICER:

This small publication is designed to give to the health officers of Texas that information regarding communicable disease morbidity in 1938 which this Department has been able to accumulate. It is recognized that this is far from a true picture since many of the communicable diseases are not reported. No matter how poor the picture may be, it is my duty to those health officers who have cooperated in reporting, to give them that information accumulated. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the cooperative spirit and interest in improving health of Texans, which has led that faithful group of full time and part time health officers to report regularly on morbidity of their respective communities or counties.

Through reporting of disease, this Department is given an insight into the problems of the various sections of the State, plans and technique may be developed to meet the actual problems which exist. A staff of experts is maintained for epidemiological investigation and disease studies, their services are ever available wherever the incidence of disease in a community is abnormal. The splendid State laboratory is maintained to assist in the expert diagnostic procedures necessary for proper labeling of disease. The laboratory is one of five State laboratories approved by the Hygienic Laboratories of the United States Public Health Service for manufacture of biologicals; these biologicals are available for disease prevention.

In conclusion I pledge every resource of this Department as available to the local health officers and communities for disease control and prevention. I ask only these things -- that 1939 be made the year when every health officer was active in disease reporting, and that you call on us for service when problems arise.


GEO. W. COX, M. D.
State Health Officer

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN TEXAS

The year just passed, 1938, was apparently one of the healthiest years in the history of Texas. These impressions must of course wait for re-enforcement by the final compilation of vital statistics. When viewed in the light of actual cases reported, this is not at first apparent, but there is evidence that reporting has definitely improved and the State has been free from serious generalized outbreaks of disease.

Control of communicable disease calls for eternal vigilance to maintain control of already controlled disease and to anticipate new problems. The actual number of cases of diphtheria is slightly increased in 1938, but smallpox is causing especial concern among those diseases considered fairly well controlled since there is a very considerable increase in its incidence. Carelessness or neglect of immunization will be fatal as regards these diseases.

The number of cases of malaria reported in the past year was the least since 1920. Poliomyelitis, which flared to unprecedented heights in Texas in 1937, faded to a few sporadic cases. The year saw an ebb in influenza, and measles presented no problems. Whooping cough continued to take toll among the infants.

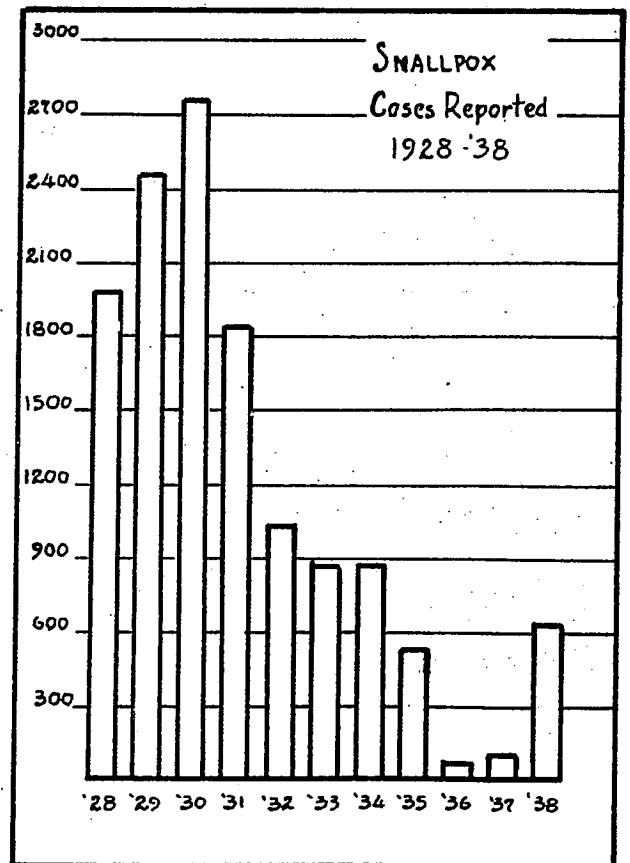
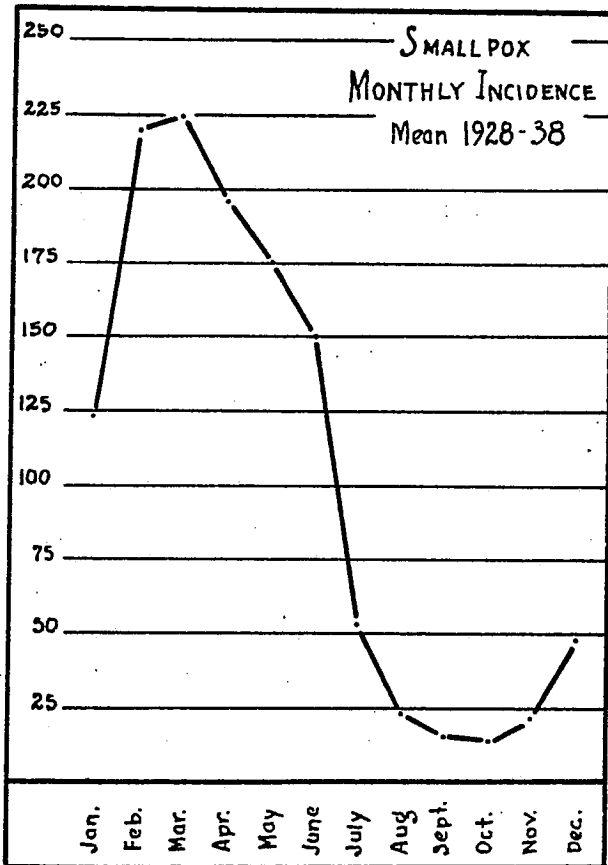
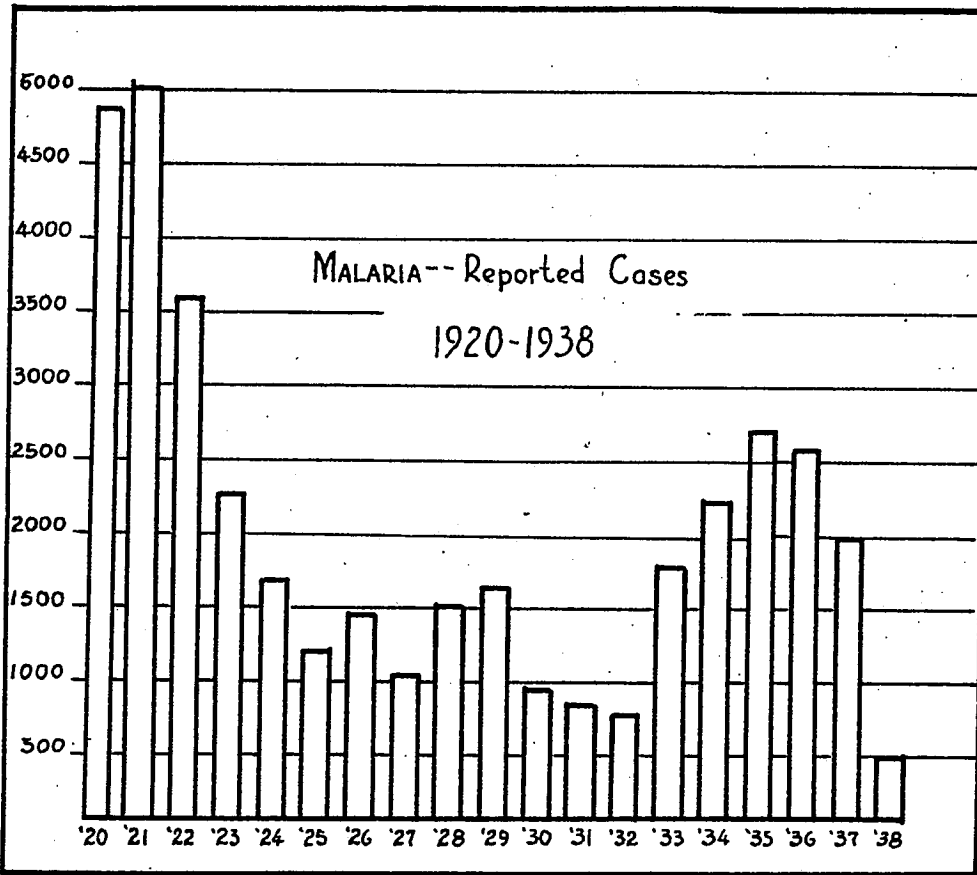
Growing problems in Texas public health are the diseases typhus and undulant fever, both of which reached their peak incidence during the year. Special attention must be given to rodent control campaigns and to development of building codes requiring rat proof construction. Pasteurization of milk or destruction of animals infected with Bang's disease will control undulant fever. Of the two, pasteurization of milk seems the more economical approach since a safeguard is thereby erected against typhoid, scarlet fever, streptococcic sore throat and other milk borne diseases as well as against undulant fever.

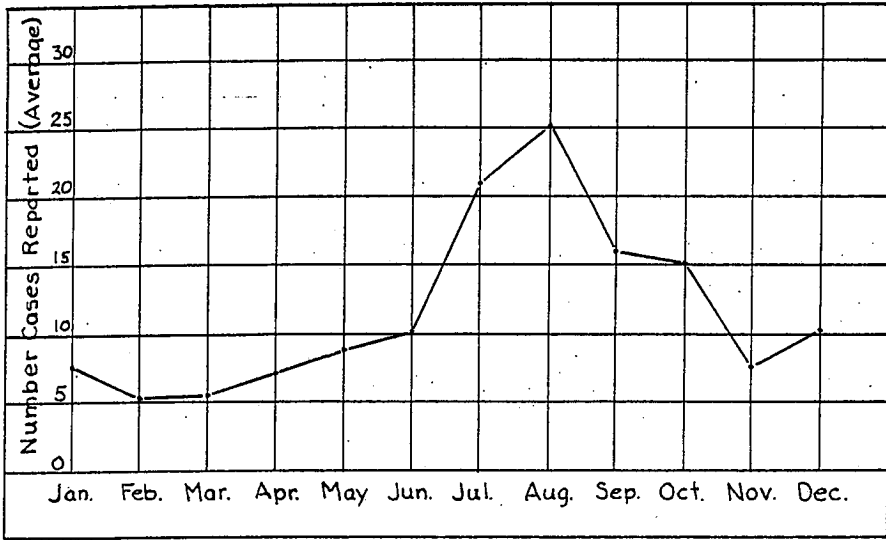
Pellagra, which of course we now recognize as a dietary deficiency but which has appeared on the list of communicable diseases through the years, reached its highest point during the present year. There seems to be a definite indication of special emphasis to be given to the nutrition of the people of this State.

There was a reduction in typhoid fever and in dysentery from the previous year; however, these diseases continue to take a large toll in deaths in this State and continued improvement of sanitary facilities is most important.

Tuberculosis shows the greatest number of cases reported in the State's history, but the increase here is believed to be a reflection of improved reporting by health officers since there is no indication that the trend of tuberculosis mortality downward has been interrupted. Of the diseases which are relatively infrequent and which go frequently unreported we find that tularemia and relapsing fever show a continued increase.

In the pages which follow will be found a tabulation of the number of cases of reportable diseases reported to this Department over a period of years, a breakdown of the tabulation of diseases reported in 1938 by counties, and in addition a group of graphic illustrations dealing with the various problems of communicable diseases in this State.



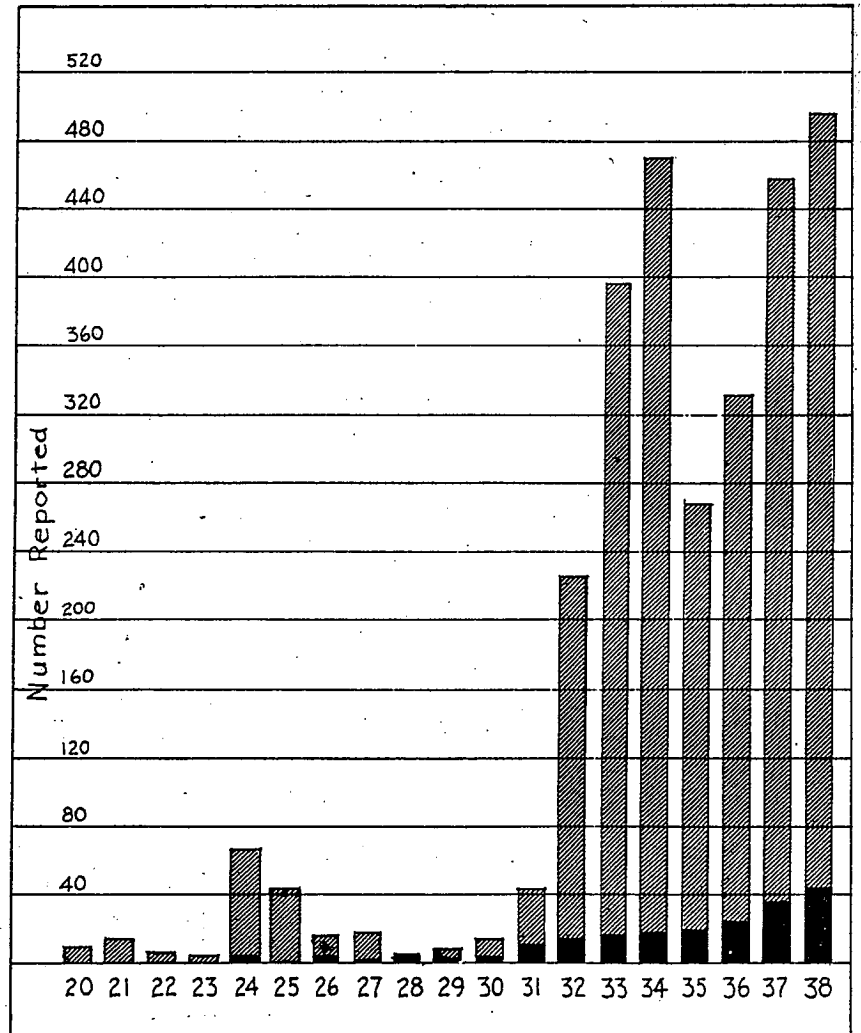


Average Cases per Month
1920 - 38

TYPHUS FEVER IN TEXAS

Annual Incidence Typhus
in Texas.

Cases Reported 
Deaths 



Number of Cases Reported by Disease and by Year in Texas

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Anthrax	8	8	8	8	11	10	1	3	7	1	6
Chickenpox	6,628	6,035	2,694	4,060	5,554	3,650	2,247	2,252	2,340	1,914	2,448
Dengue	143	257	30	107	133	100	35	16	17	38	47
Diphtheria	2,348	2,205	2,155	3,512	3,943	5,756	4,304	2,276	1,936	2,906	1,969
Dysentery	937	2,003	383	446	1,344	780	90	52	277	72	116
Influenza	16,219	40,962	15,273	14,421	12,573	15,208	11,275	1,952	2,617	25,306	6,703
Leprosy	16	15	10	19	27	5	0	2	0	4	2
Leth. Enceph.	35	47	19	16	34	73	4	3	5	2	6
Malaria	4,400	19,026	25,373	26,304	21,790	17,124	7,132	7,756	8,958	15,932	14,448
Malta Fever	238	198	43	46	21	43	33	11	5	3	0
Measles	5,710	14,768	8,119	4,073	28,632	22,146	4,694	2,424	4,274	4,053	6,573
Meningitis	90	241	273	148	93	86	20	44	50	51	33
Mumps	2,204	8,177	9,659	3,610	1,140	1,357	574	1,483	935	736	1,105
Ophthalmia	53	72	27	27	55	22	5	4	10	16	1
Pellagra	1,926	1,676	589	546	782	523	19	54	33	43	131
Pneumonia	5,156	6,104	3,892	3,489	4,190	1,885	953	682	711	1,157	810
Polioyelitis	63	635	68	79	152	53	72	33	134	17	34
Rabies	109	75	154	182	173	54	18	7	20	12	3
Relapsing Fever	37	43	3	12	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4,445	4,378	2,982	2,792	3,484	3,004	2,601	1,893	1,716	2,318	2,546
Smallpox	636	166	76	547	886	859	1,035	1,819	2,718	2,457	1,980
Trachoma	101	152	73	60	400	171	42	69	65	40	85
Tuberculosis	3,600	3,362	2,643	3,029	3,018	3,017	1,268	1,066	1,186	1,002	731
Tularemia	83	44	18	15	24	42	16	4	1	3	0
Typhoid Fever	1,612	1,729	918	1,389	1,796	1,831	941	836	669	749	503
Paratyphoid	71	103	71	68	108	101	55	24	14	10	24
Typhus Fever	497	453	327	265	465	398	227	43	13	8	5
Whooping Cough	9,846	10,091	1,764	3,009	9,145	6,019	1,967	1,251	788	2,899	1,598

CASES REPORTED BY COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1938

	ANTHRAX	DENGUE	DIPHTHERIA	DYSENTERY	INFLUENZA	ENCEPH. LETH.	MALARIA	MEASLES	MENINGITIS	MUMPS	OPHTHALMIA	PARATYPHOID	PELLAGRA	PNEUMONIA	POLIOMYELITIS	LEPROSY	MALTA FEVER	RELAPSING FEVER	TULAREMIA	RABIES	SCARLET FEVER	SMALL POX	TUBERCULOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	TYPHUS FEVER	WHOOPIING COUGH
Edwards			1	1	4			4					3	6							2			9		22
El Paso			34					2502	6	75				3	1		19		1		254		193	12		372
Ellis			7	10	128	1	24	3	2	57	3		13	59				1			19		5	6		54
Erath			15	26	806	2	4	31		457	1		39	207			1				102	38	14	7		382
Falls		4	33	3	72		78	6		4			16	92			2				3		6	13	6	367
Fannin			28	1	102		14	14		25			22	12	2					1	13		5	25	1	78
Fayette			6	10	83		4	3					6	13							2		6	8	2	27
Fisher			4		18								2	10							42	4		19	4	15
Floyd			8		43			6		2			1	19						1	15	2	2	3		3
Foard			19		98			198		12			350	29							13		2	2	8	260
Fort Bend			1		85		11	2		1			8	8	2						1	1	5			1
Franklin			2		5		6	5		1			2								1	3		1		5
Freestone			14	3	30		175						19	11							10		3	3		5
Frio			8	10	36					1			2	7							2		4	3		8
Gaines					29		2	22	1					14							7	1	1			20
Galveston		8	19	2	47		6	4	2	60				22	1	1	1		3		46	1	1	10	10	78
Garza			3	10	30			16						25							11					60
Gillespie			2		6	1								14							1		2	3		2
Glasscock																										
Goliad			2	1	10			1					11	4										1	1	4
Gonzales			17		227		26	3		1			6	52					3			2	13	6	22	66
Gray			7		117			1	1				1	19							43	13		5		13
Grayson			27	1	142	2	8	99	2	1			3	18			1				31	1	3	12		153
Gregg			1																		1	1			2	
Grimes			3		18		2		1		1		3	5							3		2	21	6	
Guadalupe			9	2	6			12					3	1							2	1		25	10	49
Hale			10	1	34			6					1	8			1	1	1		46	2	1	14	1	52
Hall			6		37									8							12		1	2		35
Hamilton			5		10		3	1					5	1					1		2					35
Hansford			1		125		1				1			11							2					4
Hardeman					11			1	1	1	1		6	2							11			17		31
Hardin			12	16	417		27	8					13	47	3				3		3		7	13	7	10
Harris		1	224	4	221	1	41	48	18	153	12	5	4	519	6		1		3	1	243	32	1099	85	35	47
Harrison			18				1	6	2												15	2		3		2

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Hartley			8																								
Haskell				6	32			2					1	3			1										
Hays				11	87									8								40			11	37	
Hemphill			1		8			1						5								17	1	8	1	2	
Henderson		1	15	9	218		81	3					6	18					1			2	6	17		26	
Hidalgo			28	11	138		171	102		10		4	62	23		1						2	6	17		27	
Hill		1	16		20		1			1				4	1							3	2	40	34	45	
Hockley			5		39			15					3	44	1							30	24	1	2	3	
Hood								1		23			4				3	2	2			18		1	6	30	
Hopkins			1														3					13	1				
Houston			7	1	112		53			10			2	22		1			4	1			1	4	4	4	
Howard			2										6										89	8	32	4	
Hudspeth				2	93		1	52		5	1	1	22		1							6					
Hunt			10	1	234		75	21		8		1	21	46								3		1	7	9	
Hutchinson			3		12									7								31		1	12	123	
Irion					15									4								12		1		21	
Jack																											
Jackson				3	15																	1					
Jasper		1	2	23	108		103			1		1	24	42			5				3			8	1	4	
Jeff Davis					2																	18		2	13	25	32
Jefferson	1		62	1			5	12	3					29			1					63	1	6	6		
Jim Hogg			8		2		3						2	12										2	2	2	
Jim Wells			6											2										4	10	4	
Johnson			12	1	198		6		1	10			3	19										4	4		
Jones		2	5	1	22					1				14	2								13	2	4	14	
Karnes			2		9			1						1			1					37	2	8		2	
Kaufman				11	37		15	2	1					1			1					9		10	4		
Kendall				3	3						1		6	30			3					5		4	9	36	
Kenedy																										4	
Kent			4		32		1			1				4										2		1	
Kerr										23				24				3				24	2		1	80	
Kimble			2		75			4		5				9					1		1	1	1	1			
King								7		2				1								3		2		12	
Kinney				1	25		1	2		1				1								13	1			43	

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	ANTHRAX	DENGUE	DIPHTHERIA	DYSENTERY	INFLUENZA	ENCEPH. LETH.	MALARIA	MEASLES	MEMINGITIS	MUMPS	OPHTHALMIA	PARATYPHOID	PELLAGRA	PNEUMONIA	POLIOMYELITIS	LEPROSY	MALTA FEVER	RELAPSING FEVER	TULAREMIA	RABIES	SCARLET FEVER	SMALL POX	TUBERCULOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	TYPHUS FEVER	WHOOPIING COUGH	
Kleberg			8		1			2	1												5			6	6	23	
Knox			2		1								2								2	3				5	
La Salle			9		36			1		1			2	13							1		2	4	1	23	
Lamar			48		48		34	3		1		2	9	19	1				2		23	37	1	16		36	
Lamb			20	3	145		3	23		23			6	51			2	1			15	5		1		105	
Lampasas		13	5	6	84		2			91	2		11	14		1	1	3			3		10	4	6	41	
Lavaca		1	12	6	124		3	13	1	1		2		10	1	1	1		1		2		2	2	11	19	
Lee			1				3														1					1	
Leon		6	2	23	276		486	2		75	1	2	47	69					8		11	40	35	5		129	
Liberty			5	15	36		17	2	1	9	4		10	8	2		1				3			6		86	
Limestone		3	8	3	173	2	79	8		2			96	21	1		1				2	2	8	41	6	23	
Lipscomb					4									2													
Live Oak				9	11		5					3	7	21	2									5	1	11	
Llano					48									11													
Loving																					3		1	1			48
Lubbock			23		391		2	204		6			46	147			2				144		65	37		546	
Lynn																	3								1		
McCulloch			9		60			5		15			2	33			1	2	1		9		1	3	1	37	
McLennan			32	32	32		26	2		26			28	15					1		22		12	9	4	91	
McMullen																											
Madison			1		41		1							1					1					1	1	1	
Marion			11	1	19		68	12						11					1				1	1	1		
Martin			1		16			1		42													4				
Mason			1	1	5			1		5			3	3			2									25	
Matagorda			6		2		5	8		32		2		1							2			1		32	
Maverick	4		6		8					3		2		8			1				1		2	7		1	
Medina			15		91			2		3				3		1	6				7		18	1		19	
Menard					5									4			1				6		7			120	
Midland														1													
Milam		1	63	29	72	1	90	10		3	1		8	37			2			3	2						
Mills			6		18		3			7			1						1		11	2	8	26	10	163	
Mitchell			3	6	49		1	66	2	2		1	6	30	1		1	1			12			1		15	
Montague			11	1	16			3		8			4	14	1						42		1			65	
Montgomery							2														29	2		22	1	52	

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Washington			3		232		5		1					8							12			2	6			
Webb			3	1	3		6	2			1		3	1		3							3	3	2	10		
Wharton		1	18	21	206		66	20		11		2	28	55							5		2	20	12	26		
Wheeler			11		137		1	22		6			32	25									99	1	22	10	86	
Wichita			13	1	61	1		73	1	2		1	14	57								123	9	6	17	199		
Wilbarger			17	1	26		2	4			1		24	35								64	8	8		26		
Willacy			10	21	14		33	4			4		8	10			1					1	2	6	2	11	16	
Williamson		1	10		17		3	1		1			3	7	1								11		6	13	6	5
Wilson			9	1	25			5		1			4	31						1			6	13	6	5		
Winkler				11	1			8		14		1	1	10			1				1		35	8		37		
Wise			4	7	238		3	9		11			19	33								71	14	3	3	14		
Wood			51	21	72		171	4					17	10	1		1					8	5	9		112		
Yoakum														4								20	2	5	20	1	30	
Young			5		7	1								4														
Zapata					15									2											5		4	
Zavala			2							1				4			16								2		4	