

Description of the computation of the 5-year weekly average displayed in *MMWR* Table I

On January 13, 2006, changes in the presentation of provisional data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System were implemented in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.^{1,2} The new version of Table I² [Provisional cases of infrequently reported notifiable diseases (<1,000 cases reported during the preceding year)—United States] in the *MMWR* includes a column displaying the 5-year weekly average. The purpose of this document is to describe how the 5-year weekly average is calculated.

The 5-year weekly average is calculated by summing the incidence counts for the current week, the two weeks preceding the current week, and the two weeks following the current week, for a total of 5 preceding years. As an example, if the current week was week #36 of year 2006, the 5-year weekly average would be computed by adding the incidence count for the weeks #34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 for the years 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2001. The total sum of incident cases is then divided by 25 weeks. The 25-week time interval is used to help account for seasonal variations in disease incidence over time.

A more visual presentation of how the 5-year weekly average is computed is included below:

Computation of the 5-year weekly average in Table I, if we are currently in week #36 of year 2006

	<i>MMWR</i> Week Number				
<i>MMWR</i> Year	34	35	36	37	38
2006			(current week)		
2005	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5
2004	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10
2003	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15
2002	X16	X17	X18	X19	X20
2001	X21	X22	X23	X24	X25

5-year weekly average for current week = Sum of the incidence counts X1 through X25, divided by 25

¹CDC. Notice to Readers: Changes in presentation of data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System—January 13, 2006. *MMWR* 2006;55(01):13-14 (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5501a5.htm?s_cid=mm5501a5_e)

²CDC. Table I--Provisional cases of infrequently reported notifiable diseases (<1,000 cases reported during the preceding year)—United States, week ending January 7, 2006 1st week. MMWR 2006;55(01):16-17 (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5501md.htm?s_cid=mm5501md_e)

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