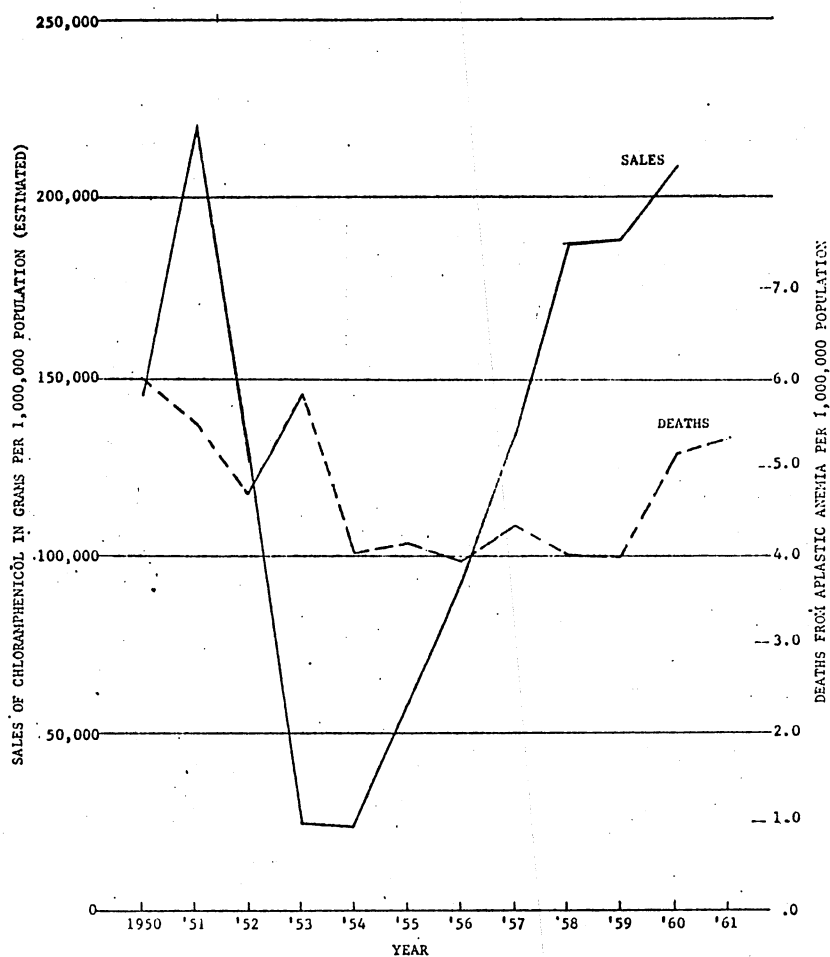


Deaths were compared with sales in the same year, sales in the previous year and sales two years previously. Since precise significance levels for partial tau are not available, approximate significance values were obtained by using the tables for first-order tau. For California and the United States, all correlation coefficients were significant at <0.05 . The relationship is strongest between deaths and sales of chloramphenicol two years previously for California and between deaths and sales in the previous year for the United States. The Canadian data show no relationship between sales and deaths. (It has been suggested that some of the drug sold in Canada may be re-sold to other countries. If true, this would mitigate any relationship to aplastic anemia deaths in the Canadian population). These partial correlations for the United States and California are consistent with the hypothesis that there is a casual relationship between chloramphenicol and aplastic anemia. The death certificate study here reported represents a further investigation of this hypothesis.



Sources: Parke, Davis and Company,
State of California, Department of Public Health.

FIG. 1. Death rates for aplastic anemia and sales rates for chloramphenicol, California, 1950-1961.