

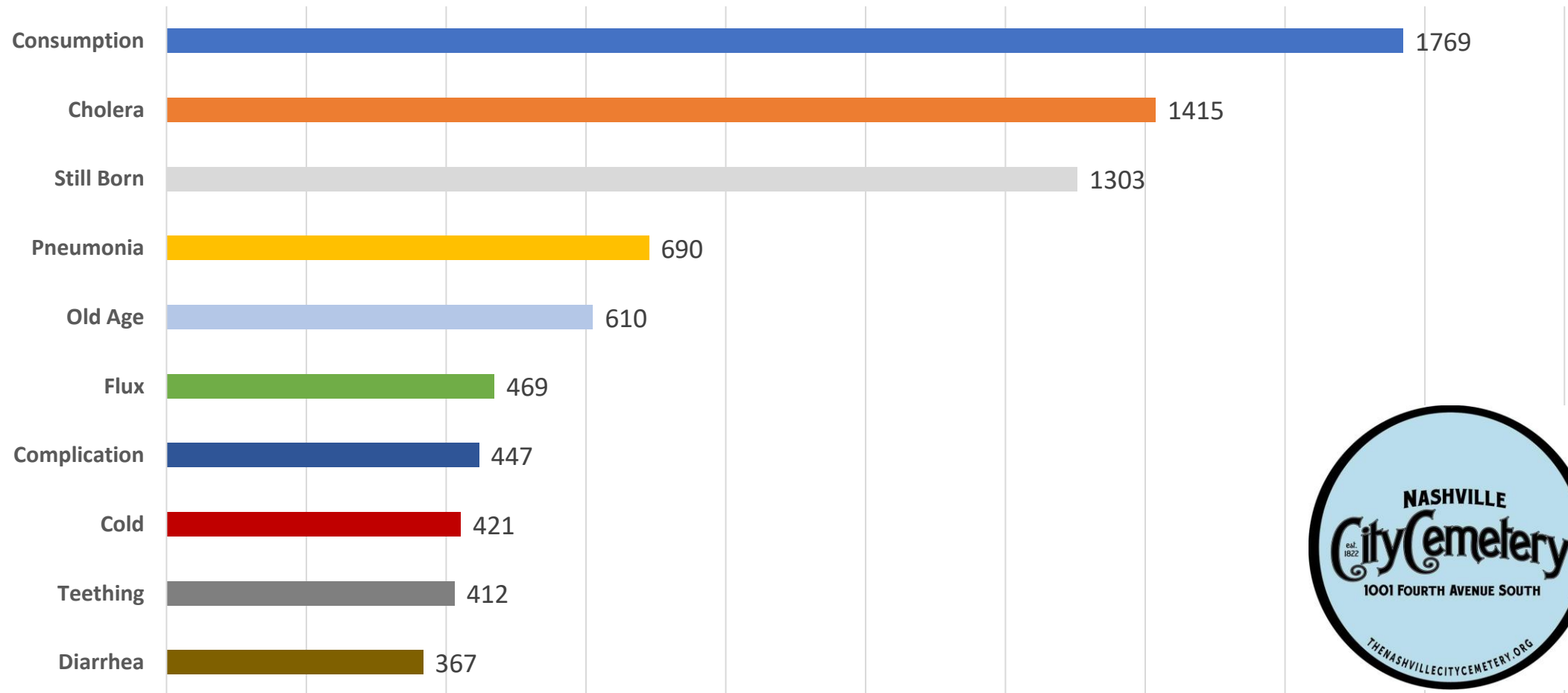


Medical History Glimpsed through Nashville's History

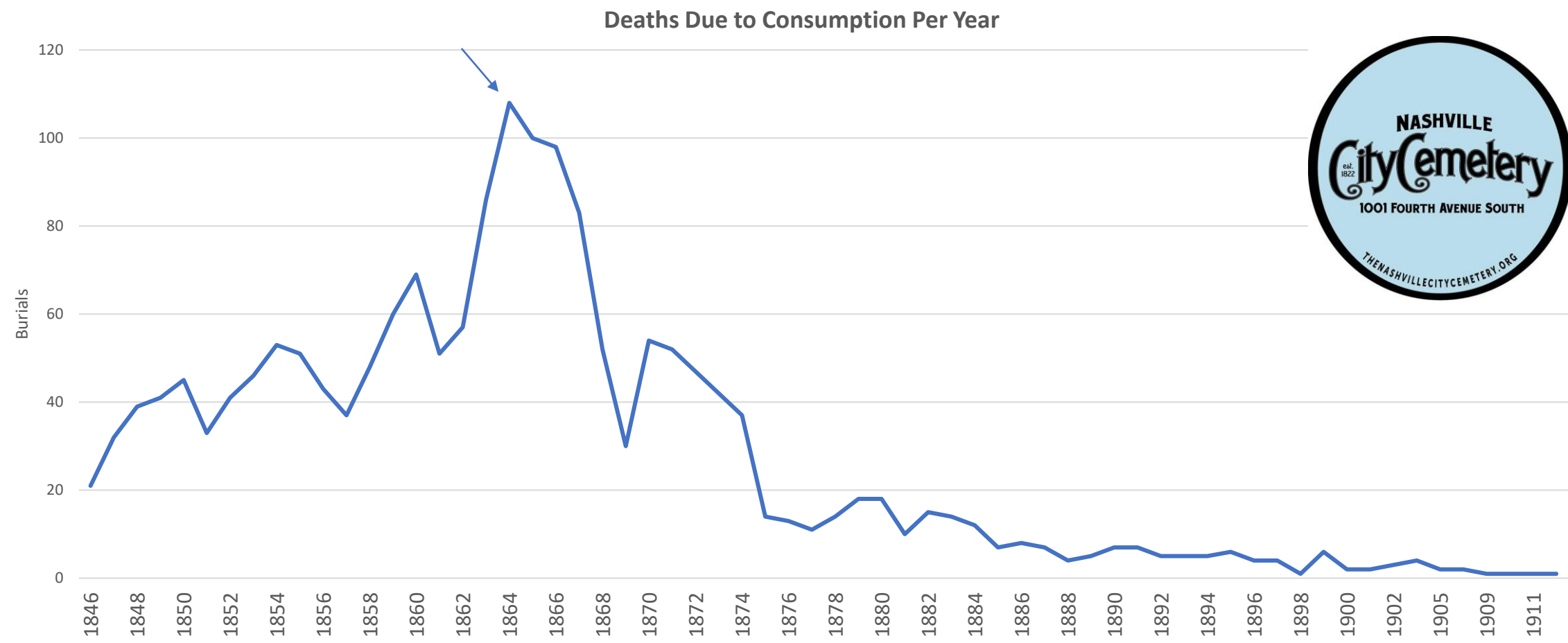
Nashville City Cemetery

Top Causes of Death: Consumption & Cholera

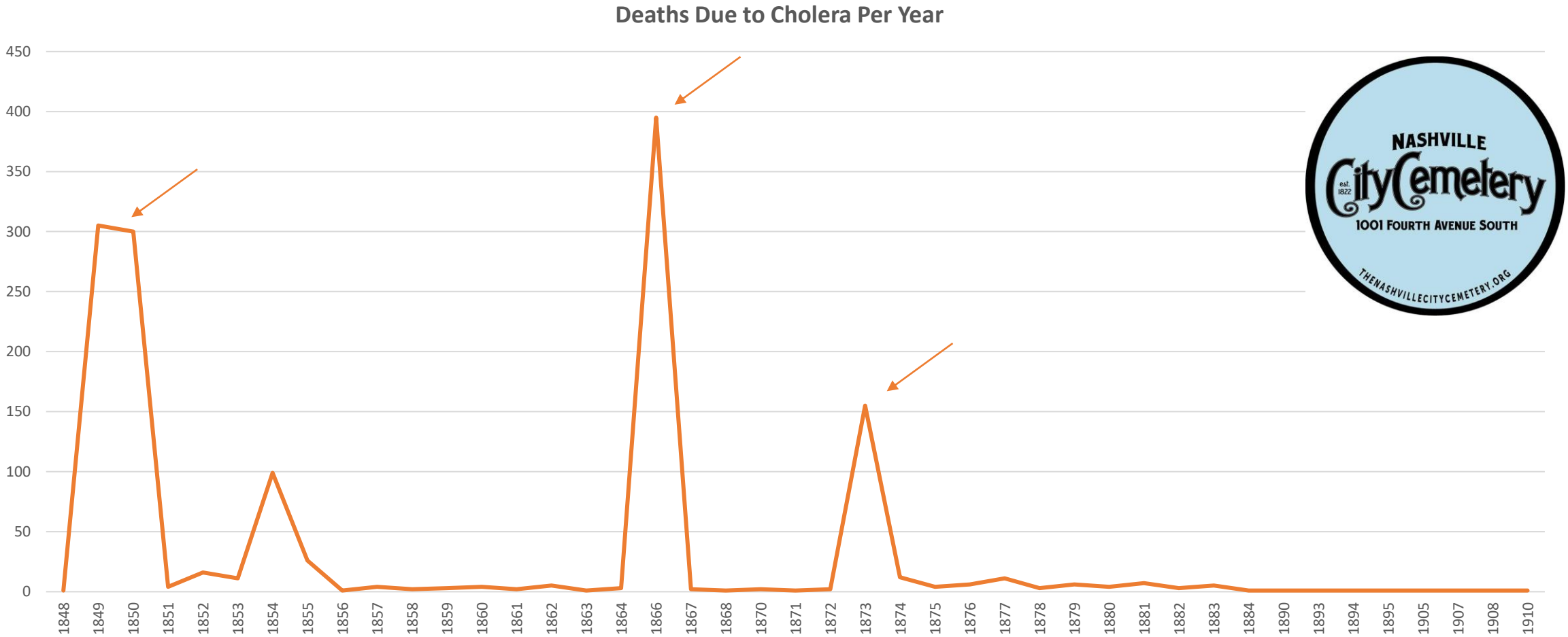
Top Ten Causes of Death



We see a dramatic rise in deaths from **consumption** (tuberculosis) in the years during and after the Battle of Nashville. Consumption was not widely considered infectious until early in the 20th century, making military barracks ripe grounds for spreading the disease.

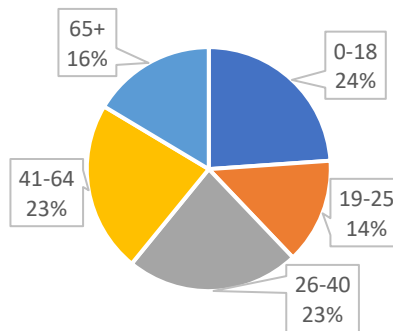


The United States had three major waves of **cholera** in the 19th century. The most significant of those waves to affect Nashville were in 1849 (resulting in the death of James K. Polk) and 1873. You'll notice, however, that the largest peak is not around either of those dates. The Battle of Nashville as well as the subsequent cleanup are the likely reasons for cholera's spread in 1866. Note that sanitation is key to preventing the spread of cholera. The washing of hands wasn't discovered as medically effective until the 1850s and wasn't widely adopted until the 1900s.

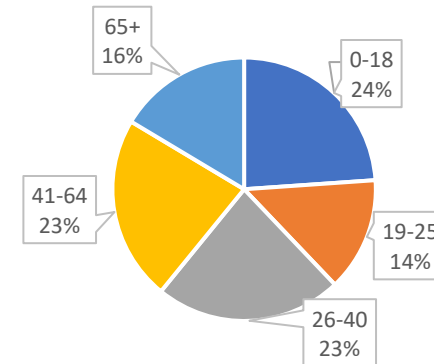


Through analyzing the proportion of deaths by age range at different time periods, we get a glimpse of both medical progress and the development of Nashville's infrastructure. Notice that before 1880, the proportion of deaths in the different age ranges are very similar. After the 1920s, however, elderly deaths were far more common than young ones.

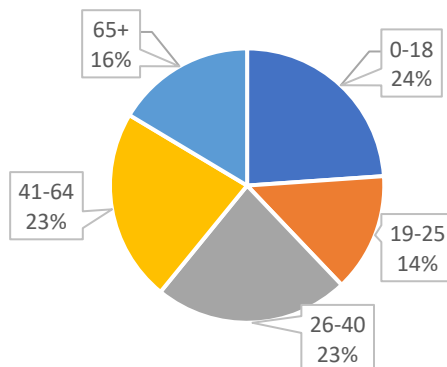
**Count of Burials by Age Range,
before 1880**



**Count of Burials by Age Range,
1880-1899**



**Count of Burials by Age Range,
1900-1920**



**Count of Burials by Age Range,
After 1920**

