

1956 Anu'u Island American Samoa

From George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

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To George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

The 1956 Aunu'u Outbreak

- **The Scale:** Following a traditional community feast, the poisoning **prostrated 185 people**—nearly the entire village—leaving them severely ill. [National Library of Australia](#)
- **The Timeline:** Local fishermen caught a large 300-pound turtle on November 16, 1956. The village consumed it the following day, and the toxic epidemic completely overwhelmed the community by November 18. [National Library of Australia](#)
- **The Victims:** While dozens of adults suffered agonizing symptoms, the only fatalities were the four children. Children and nursing infants are statistically the most vulnerable to chelonitoxism, as their smaller body masses cannot tolerate the highly concentrated marine biotoxins. [National Library of Australia +1](#)

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