

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Brecon R.D.C.

Contributors

Brecon (Wales). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

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WELSH BOARD
14 AUG 1957
OF HEALTH
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BRECON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1956.



Officials. Medical Officer of Health...T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector,..W.J.Rees,
Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board; Meat and
Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,
Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygiene.

Additional Public Health Inspector..R.Taylor, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

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Brecknock Rural District CouncilReport of the Medical Officer of Health

1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecknock Rural District during the year 1956.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all the matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 19/56 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.Area. 189,532 acres.

The Rural District of Brecknock, which has an area of 189,532 acres is a large district in the County of Breconshire. It is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one third of the total size of the County.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. It contains a new National Park consisting of the Brecon Beacons and surrounding countryside.

There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

Population. Census 1931.....8302.
Census 1951.....7430
Estimated Mid-summer 1956.....7440.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years are shown below.

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.
7065. 7113. 7042. 7178. 7338. 7432. 7464. 7480. 7490. 7440.

The population dropped between the two last census years but during the last ten years again shows a general tendency to rise.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2162, giving an average number of persons per house of 3.4.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	50	35	85	
Illegitimate	0	2	2	
	50	37	87	11.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.7. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also, regrettably, lower than the district deathrate.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered during the year was two.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live&still births</u>
	0	1.	1.	11.3

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	55	38	93	12.5

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, regrettably, higher than the district birthrate.

Maternal Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year which could be attributed to childbirth. This was a very satisfactory feature.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live births</u>
1.	1.	2.	22.7

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.8. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average. Both of these children died when under 4 weeks of age.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....	One.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	17.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....55. Females.....38.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Other infective diseases.....	0	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach.....	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0	3
Other malignant neoplasms.....	6	4
Leukaemia.....	1	0
Diabetes.....	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5	8
Coronary disease.....	7	2
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	0
Other heart disease.....	18	9
Other circulatory disease.....	2	2
Pneumonia.....	1	1
Bronchitis.....	4	1
Nephritis.....	1	0
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	0
Congenital malformations.....	0	2
Other defined causes.....	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	0
All other accidents.....	1	1
Suicide.....	1	0

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. W. J. Rees remained as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. R. Taylor as your Additional Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Water samples were also sent to the Public Analyst at Carmarthen.
Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies.

Of the villages which were hitherto supplied with water from Council owned untreated small water supplies, nineteen have now been linked up with the Regional Water Supply trunk mains and are supplied with treated water. These villages are as follows:-

Eastern Area. Talybont-on-Usk, Pencelly, Llanfrynach, Scothrog, Bwlch, Cathedine, Pennorth, Talyllyn, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llangorse, Llanfilo, Llechfaen, Talachddu, Felinfach, Llanddew.

Western Area. Sarnau, Pwllgloyw, Lower Chapel, Llanspyddid.

In addition a number of small communities which had no public supplies previously are now connected. These include Llansantffraed, Llanhamlach, Llangasty, Llanwern, Tredomen, Cradoc, Fennifach and Aberyscir.

Further progress in the linking of villages to the new scheme is now largely dependent upon the completion of the treatment works at Pen-y-Wingon, which, together with two small booster stations represents the bulk of the outstanding work on the Scheme. It is anticipated that the works should be producing water before the end of 1957 and it is hoped that the remaining villages which it is possible to supply from the new mains will be connected in the next 12 months.

During the year arrangements were made to supply the Borough of Brecon with water which will be used largely to supply the upper reaches of the town.

During the year 99 inspections of public and private supplies were carried out. The water from public supplies was not sampled chemically. 33 samples of public supplies were tested bacteriologically and of these 11 were satisfactory.

Fifty one samples of private supplies were taken, and of these 27 were found to be satisfactory and 24 unsatisfactory. The majority of these samples were taken at the request of the Breconshire Agricultural Executive Committee in support of grant aided schemes for the provision of water to individual premises.

In all cases the Committee and the owners of the supplies were advised of the analyses.

Drainage and Sewerage. During the year the joint sewerage scheme for Pennorth and Scethrog and a scheme for Llanfihangel Talylllyn were carried out. This completed the Schedule of sewerage schemes for the larger villages as drawn up by the Council in 1947.

Properties connected to main drainage. The response of owners to connecting up drainage arrangements to the Council's new sewers has been quite satisfactory. During the year, the following number of properties were provided with main drainage.

Pencelly.....	5.
Trecastle.....	22.
Talybont.....	3.
Llanfrynach.....	4.
Pennorth and Scethrog.....	18.
Llanddew.....	1.
Sennybridge.....	1.
Cray.....	3.

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to:-

Llangorse.....	61.
Trecastle.....	69.
Talybont.....	81.
Llanfrynach.....	50.
Cray.....	13.
Llanddew.....	25.
Pennorth and Scethrog.....	18.
Pencelly.....	5.
Total	<u>322.</u>

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....158.
Number of visits by Public Health Inspector to sewage works....68.

Public Cleansing. The collection and disposal of household refuse has been carried out during the year by direct labour under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. This comprehensive scheme provides for the removal of refuse from most of the larger villages weekly and, from the remaining villages, which are more scattered, fortnightly. The Council maintain three refuse disposal sites at Devynock, Trecastle and Llanfihangel Talylllyn. In order to prolong the length of usefulness of these sites and to reduce much duplication of mileage, particularly from the Eastern area, arrangements have been made for the disposal of refuse on a site in the Borough.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. J. Rees, and the additional Public Health Inspector Mr. R. Taylor.

The following summary gives information relating to the work of the public health inspectors during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	120.
Number of complaints investigated.....	120.
Number of premises inspected.....	120.
Number of premises revisited.....	30.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	23.
for (a) Structural defects.....	20.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	3.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	2.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Brecknock Rural District

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....61.
Number of defects found.....0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....49.

Factories. A complete survey of the factories in the district was carried out with the following results:-

Total number of factories.....19.
Total number of inspections made.....63.
Total number of defects found (want of cleanliness and insufficient sanitary conveniences).....3.
All these defects were remedied.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....102.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found very successful. No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr. J. C. Reynolds, having been transferred to the Rates Department, has been replaced by Mr. I. Richards, who now carries out the work of rodent control. He is assisted in this work by Mr. John Price.

Details of the work carried out are given below:-

Number of premises inspected.....110.
Number of premises found infested.....88.
Number of agricultural premises inspected.....118.
Number of agricultural premises found infested.....23.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Officer.....88.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....0.
Number of premises treated by B.A.E.C.....7.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses.

Section 4. Housing. The following details show the housing position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by Council during the year.....25.
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year..3.
Number of inspections under Housing Act.....145.
Number of notices served.....27.

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949. Seventeen applications were made, all were approved during the year and grants made.

Rural Housing Survey. No comment is made on this Survey other than that it was completed in previous year.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.

The district is being inspected regularly, and, as and when the occasion necessitates representation is made to the Council with a view to:-

- (a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works or
- (b) The making of demolition or closing orders.

Demolition orders made.....26.

Undertakings accepted.....10.

Properties demolished.....6.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

in the area was as follows:-

The number of food premises

Retailers.....16.

Ice cream retailers.....7.

Bakers.....2.

Cafes.....5.

Hotels where meals are served.....12.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion has it been found necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year but in the normal course of their duties the Public Health Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

School Canteens. Visits were made to and inspections made of school canteens and dining rooms. The attention of the Brecknockshire Education Committee was drawn to those premises which did not come up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary to be carried out. In particular the attention of that Authority was drawn to the primitive state of the school canteen at Llandefalle where a building formerly used as a garage was used as a dining room. At Llanfihangel-Nantbran the arrangement whereby the Chapel long room is used as a dining room has also received the attention of the Committee.

The kitchen at the Church Hall, Llanfihangel-Talyllyn which is used for the preparation of meals for the Llanfihangel, Llangorse and Cathedine Schools is wholly unsatisfactory.

Plans for the conversion of a disused classroom into a kitchen and canteen at the Council School, Llanfihangel-Talyllyn are being prepared by the Education Committee.

Meat Inspection.

Number of registered slaughterhouses in area.....1.

Number of inspections made to Slaughterhouse.....89.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
30.	43.	555.	37.	88.

Brecknock Rural District

Meat affective with Diseases.

	Disease	Livers		Lungs		Heads		Total car cases & all Organs lbs.
		Whole or Part	lbs	Whole or Part	lbs	No.	Lbs	
<u>Bovine</u>	Distomatosis (Echinococcus)	19	218 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	-	218 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Veterinorun)	1	14	12	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	90 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Cirrhosis (Cavernous)	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Angioma)	1	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	-	-	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Abscesses	6	61 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	90
<u>Sheep</u>	Distomatosis	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Cirrhosis (Strongylus)	3	7	-	-	-	-	7
	Rufescens)	-	-	9	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Malformation	-	-	-	-	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Necrosis	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Pigs</u>	Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	8	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{3}{4}$
<u>Totals</u>		38	329 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	522 $\frac{1}{2}$

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	30	43	37	555	88	-
Number inspected	30	43	37	555	88	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis & cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	27	-	26	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	70%	62.7%	-	4.68%	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	7.9%	-

Cysticercis. No cases discovered.

All condemned meat from the Slaughterhouse is collected by a fertiliser making firm from Newport.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

All condemned foodstuffs excluding meat are disposed of by burying in one of the Council's refuse disposal sites.

Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st, 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Local Authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year.....10.
 Number of samples satisfactory.....10.
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....0.
 24 samples were also examined for tuberculosis and brucelle abortus with negative results.

The result of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....34.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....6.
 Number of samples taken.....4.
 All these samples were reported as satisfactory.
 There are 7 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....29.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....2.
 There was one premises registered for the sale of fried fish, which closed during the year.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Sonne Dysentery.....11.
 Whooping Cough.....30.
 Acute primary pneumonia.....2.
 Paratyphoid Fever.....3.

The majority of these cases were mild in character with the exception of one case of sonne dysentery, which proved fatal. In spite of extensive investigation the original causes of both the dysentery and paratyphoid were not discovered.

Venereal Disease.

The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....40.
 Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....5.
 Number of cases removed from register
 (a) Deaths.....0.
 (b) Left district.....3.
 (c) Disease arrested.....2.
 Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....40.

Brecknock Rural District

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below:-

1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

9. 5. 8. 7. 11. 13. 4. 3. 5. 13. 5.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

Annual Report of the Health Officer

The report of the health officer for the year 1922 is as follows:

1922 1921 1920 1919 1918 1917 1916 1915 1914 1913 1912 1911 1910 1909 1908 1907 1906 1905 1904 1903 1902 1901

The following table shows the number of deaths from the various causes during the year 1922, as compared with the corresponding years from 1901 to 1921, inclusive. The total number of deaths in 1922 was 1,234, as compared with 1,156 in 1921, 1,089 in 1920, 1,012 in 1919, 935 in 1918, 858 in 1917, 781 in 1916, 704 in 1915, 627 in 1914, 550 in 1913, 473 in 1912, 396 in 1911, 319 in 1910, 242 in 1909, 165 in 1908, 88 in 1907, 11 in 1906, 34 in 1905, 57 in 1904, 80 in 1903, 103 in 1902, and 126 in 1901.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year. It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the vaccination campaign, however, remains to secure the eradication of the disease. It is to be noted that the first elimination of the disease in connection with the maintenance of an adequate level of vaccination. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria epidemics.

The following table shows the number of cases of diphtheria during the year 1922, as compared with the corresponding years from 1901 to 1921, inclusive. The total number of cases in 1922 was 0, as compared with 0 in 1921, 0 in 1920, 0 in 1919, 0 in 1918, 0 in 1917, 0 in 1916, 0 in 1915, 0 in 1914, 0 in 1913, 0 in 1912, 0 in 1911, 0 in 1910, 0 in 1909, 0 in 1908, 0 in 1907, 0 in 1906, 0 in 1905, 0 in 1904, 0 in 1903, 0 in 1902, and 0 in 1901.

The following table shows the number of cases of diphtheria during the year 1922, as compared with the corresponding years from 1901 to 1921, inclusive.

Medical Attention of Health Officer

The following table shows the number of cases of diphtheria during the year 1922, as compared with the corresponding years from 1901 to 1921, inclusive. The total number of cases in 1922 was 0, as compared with 0 in 1921, 0 in 1920, 0 in 1919, 0 in 1918, 0 in 1917, 0 in 1916, 0 in 1915, 0 in 1914, 0 in 1913, 0 in 1912, 0 in 1911, 0 in 1910, 0 in 1909, 0 in 1908, 0 in 1907, 0 in 1906, 0 in 1905, 0 in 1904, 0 in 1903, 0 in 1902, and 0 in 1901.

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