

**[Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Brecknock R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Brecon (Wales). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1961

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/acfqdbe3>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.  
RECEIVED  
31 JUL 1962  
A.

*Library*

Brecknock Rural District Council  
Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1961

---



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,  
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,  
T.N.Brecon 26 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,

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.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1961

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 1961.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 1/62 (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.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	8302.
	Census 1951.....	7430.
	Census 1961.....	8696.
	Estimated Mid-summer 1961.....	7920.

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

<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
7432.	7464.	7480.	7490.	7440.	7430.	7410.	7410.	7380.	7920.

The population increased between the last two census years. The estimated population for 1961 was higher than any of the previous ten years.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2319 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>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	51.	48.	99.	
Illegitimate	1.	3.	4.	
	52.	51.	103.	13.0

The corrected birthrate was 14.9  
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.4  
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but very much higher than the district deathrate, which was a very satisfactory feature.

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

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	44.	30.	74.	9.3

The corrected deathrate was 8.7  
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.0  
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birthrate, again a satisfactory feature.

Still Births. Males. Females. Total. Rate per 1000 Live & still births.

1.	1.	2.	19.0
----	----	----	------

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.7.  
The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average.

Total Live and Still Births.....105.

Infant Deaths. There were three deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age, all boys. Two deaths occurred before the children had reached the age of 4 weeks, and the other before the child was 1 week old.

Total Mortality Rate.....29.1  
The infantile mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales was 21.4  
The district infantile mortality rate was therefore higher than the national average.

Maternal Mortality. No deaths could be attributed to childbirth during the year which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

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

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....44. Females.....30.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	3.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	2.
Diabetes.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	7.....	8.
Coronary disease, angina.....	7.....	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	2.
Other heart disease.....	5.....	5.
Other circulatory disease.....	3.....	4.
Influenza.....	1.....	0.
Bronchitis.....	3.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	2.....	0.
Nephritis.....	1.....	0.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.....	0.
Congenital malformations.....	2.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	3.....	0.
Accidents, non-motor vehicle.....	2.....	0.
Suicide.....	1.....	1.

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 Carmarthen 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.

Nursing Facilities. 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. Due to elevation approximately 80% of the properties in the Rural Area are supplied with treated water by means of gravitation from the mains of the South-East Breconshire Water Board.

Owing to the higher elevations of the majority of the remainder of the properties it would be necessary to provide small booster pumps to pump the water. However, many of the owners of such properties are constructing their own supplies - grant aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - and are drawing water direct from the "eye" of the springs.

Before this water can be used a satisfactory standard must be obtained and to this end samples of the water are taken by the Public Health Inspectors and forwarded to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Advice is given on the precautions to be taken and the maintenance necessary to ensure a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes at all times. Unfortunately such supplies are untreated and once installed maintenance is forgotten in most cases until the water supply is suspected as being the cause of illness in the family.

The number of inspections of water supplies was.....38.

Thirty eight samples of water were examined during the year. All Council samples were satisfactory, 18 of the private supplies were not.

There are two small independent village supplies in the Rural Area - one of which is chlorinated and the other untreated. Samples of water were taken from both supplies for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory and both supplies were regarded to have been satisfactory in quantity.

The water supplied by the South-East Breconshire Water Board regional mains is derived from:

- a. The Trinant Stream above Cwmwyg in the West. This supply is plumbic solvent and lime and chlorine are added at the Treatment Works at Portis.

- b. The Newport Corporation's Waterworks at the Aber, Talybont, from where it is purchased in bulk. This supply is not plumbo solvent.

Samples of the water are taken daily at both Treatment Works for solvent action, and any necessary action taken.

When contamination is found:

- a. With Private Supplies. - the boiling of water is advised until remedial measures are carried out to obtain a wholesome supply.
- b. With the Regional Mains. - the attention of the Engineer/Clerk of the South-East Breconshire Water Board is drawn to the fact.

The number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied with treated water have been unobtainable for this year.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

The arrangements for sewerage disposal in the Rural Area are reasonably adequate.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village of Llanfilo was completed in the year by the Council's direct labour staff.

Consideration has also been given during the year to sewage disposal schemes for the villages of Bwlch and Aber. It is hoped that these will be put in hand in 1962.

#### Properties Connected to Main Drainage.

The response of owners to arrange for their properties to be connected to the Council's new sewers is fairly satisfactory. During 1961 the following number of properties were provided with main drainage.

Llangorse	1
Talybont on Usk	1
Trecastle	1
Llanfilo	4

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

Llanfihangel Nantbran	10
Cray	18
Llanddew	27
Llanfrynach	51
Llangorse	62
Llan-Talylllyn	7
Pencelli	13
Pennorth & Scethrog	21
Sennybridge	273
Talybont on Usk	90
Trecastle	74
Llanfilo	8
Total	<u>654</u>

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors.....79.  
 Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors to sewage works..49.  
 Number of effluent samples taken.....8.  
 Of these 8 samples only 7 were satisfactory. Improvements were therefore made to the defective sewage works.

Public Cleansing. The refuse collection service is still being carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year further applications were received for the removal of house refuse from other properties.

The refuse vehicle covered 13,550 miles during which 570 loads were collected weighing 1716 tons.

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.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	51.
Number of complaints investigated.....	51.
Number of premises inspected.....	51.
Number of premises revisited.....	16.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	6.
for (a) Structural defects.....	6.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	0.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	1.

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.

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 Inspectors.....	48.
Number of defects found and remedied.....	0.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....	15.
---------------------------------	-----

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....	46.
Number of notices served.....	4.

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 to be very successful. No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr. D. I. G. Griffiths was employed by the Council during the year. However, he is not yet wholly employed on the work of rodent destruction. Details of the work carried out during the year is as follows:-

Number of premises inspected.....	24.
Number of premises found infested.....	24.
Number of agricultural premises inspected.....	8.
Number of agricultural premises found infested.....	8.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	26.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	0.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses. The work of rodent destruction on farms in the rural district is now the responsibility of the Council.

Section 4. Housing.

The following details show the position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by Council during the year.....	Nil.
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year...2.	
Number of inspections under the Housing Act.....	90.
Number of notices served.....	Nil.
Number of houses in course of erection by Council.....	22.



Improvement Grants(Discretionary) - Housing Act,1949.

Twenty one applications for discretionary improvement grants were made and all were approved and grants made.

Improvement Grants(Standard) - House Purchase & Housing Act,1959.

This is a new Act under which owners can obtain half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements in a house i.e. a bath, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food store.

Ten applications for Standard Grants have been received and approved during the 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.....1.  
 Undertakings accepted.....1.  
 Properties demolished.....0.  
 Closing Orders served.....0.  
 Properties closed.....3.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of food premises in the area was as follows:-

Clubs.....1.  
 Retailers.....16.  
 Ice Cream retailers.....22.  
 Bakers.....1.  
 Cafes.....6.  
 Hotels where meals are served.....12.  
 Fish and chip shops.....1.

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 required standard by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary be carried out.

Meat Inspection.

The owner of the slaughterhouse in the district has not, as yet, commenced the necessary work to bring this up to a standard but he has until January 1st, 1963, to do this.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
126	531	70	157

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

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	56	70	70	531	157	-
Number inspected	56	70	70	531	157	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; cysticercis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	1	-	13	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	12.5	1.4	-	2.4	4.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	-	-	4.4	-

Cysticercis. No cases were discovered.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....108.

As there are no facilities at the slaughterhouse at Llangorse for the sterilisation of condemned meat in accordance with the above Regulations all such meat is removed by the Inspectors and buried in one of the refuse disposal sites.

Meat condemned amounted to 976½ lbs. Six pounds of tinned food condemned.

Milk.

Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected.....10.  
 Number of samples taken during the year.....10.  
 Number of samples satisfactory.....10.  
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....0.

All of the above were examined for the presence of tuberculosis and brucelle abortus, with negative results.

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

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....29.  
 Number of samples taken.....29.  
 All these samples were reported as satisfactory.  
 There are 9 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops. One premises is registered in the area for the sale of fried fish. Fish sold retail from motor vans is frequently inspected.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

Measles.....70 cases.

The district experienced a fairly severe epidemic of measles during June, July and August of the year. No case was admitted to hospital and no death was caused by infectious disease.

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.....38.  
 Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....2.  
 Number of cases removed from register.  
 (a) Deaths.....1.  
 (b) Left district.....1.  
 (c) Recovered.....6.  
 Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....32.

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

1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.

4. 3. 5. 13. 5. 7. 5. 9. 2 2.

One of these two new cases was a transfer from another district.

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 of Health.

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 an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIXFACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BRECKNOCK IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCKPART 1 OF THE ACT

## 1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
i. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	10	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	10	-	-

2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found  
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no out-work done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health