

[Report 1962] / Medical Officer of Health, Hay R.D.C.

Contributors

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1962

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District during the year 1962.

In this report I have dealt briefly with all matters within my responsibility for public health and preventive medicine and I have included some of the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/62 issued by the Welsh Board of Health.



Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area..... Hay Urban District Council

Report
of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1962

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last two years is shown below:

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.

Public Health Inspector.....G.G. Evans, M.R.S.H.,
W.D. Morgans, C.R.S.H.

Legitimate Births.....

Illegitimate Births.....

The corrected rate was 18.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 19.6
The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also higher than the district death rate.

The Breconshire County Rate was 20.2

The number of still-born illegitimate births was 10.

Deaths.....

The corrected rate was 9.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.2
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birth rate.

The Breconshire County Rate was 14.20


Total Births, Males, Females, Total, Rate per 1000 Live Births

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.2

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

The Breconshire County Rate was 20.4

Total Live and Still Births.....62.

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Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1962

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I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District during the year 1962.

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Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....370 acres.

The district is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire, and adjoins the Counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	1509.
	Census 1951.....	1452.
	Census 1961.....	1321.
	Estimated Midsummer 1962.....	1310.

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

1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962.

1448. 1450. 1450. 1440. 1420. 1430. 1420. 1410. 1310. 1310

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 492 giving an average number of 2.7 persons per house.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	9.	11.	20.	
Illegitimate	1.	1.	2.	
	10.	12.	22.	16.7

The corrected rate was 18.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.0

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also higher than the district death rate.

The Breconshire County Rate was 15.2

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births were two.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	12.	8.	20.	15.2

The corrected rate was 9.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.9

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birth rate.

The Breconshire County Rate was 14.39

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

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.1

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

The Breconshire County Rate was 22.4

Total Live and Still Births.....22.

Infantile Mortality. There were no deaths registered during the year in a child of under one year of age.

Total Mortality rate.....0.

Mortality Rate for whole of England Wales.....21.4

The Breconshire County Rate was 28.98

Maternal Deaths. No deaths during the year could be attributed to childbirth, which was very satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.

Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.

Other forms tuberculosis.....Nil.

Cancer.....One.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...12. Females...8.

Males. Females.

Other malignant neoplasms.....1.....0.

Vascular lesions, nervous system.....1.....1.

Coronary disease, angina.....5.....0.

Other heart disease.....5.....4.

Bronchitis.....0.....1.

Gastritis.....0.....1.

Accidents, not motor vehicle.....0.....1.

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

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year, with the kind co-operation of the County Welfare Committee, a room at Cockcroft house continued to be used. Post mortem examinations can also be carried out in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes. During the year eight post mortem examinations were made in these premises, one body was from Hay Urban, six from Hay Rural and one from Painscastle Rural.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. Mr. G. G. Evans, who had been your Public Health Inspector for many years, retired in May. His place was taken by Mr. W. D. Morgans, who, previously, was your Surveyor.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics, where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

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

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. The domestic water supply for the town is collected from springs and streams and piped to storage reservoirs; the water being filtered and chlorinated by drip feed, the whole system being by gravitation.

The two sand and gravity filters at Hay Common works were cleaned out twice during 1962.

An improved supply was given to consumers during the year and it was only necessary to impose restrictions at nighttime from 6th. June to 8th. November and no daytime restrictions were necessary. A systematic search for leaking mains and services was carried out and many burst pipes were repaired which reduced considerably the quantity of water running to waste.

Number of inspections.....10.

Number of samples taken.....2.

(One sample taken from the intake stream (raw water)

was unsatisfactory, but the sample taken from a domestic tap after chlorination was satisfactory)

Number of houses in the district.....491.

Number supplied with Council water.....489.

Hay Area Water Supply Scheme.

Negotiations have continued during the year between the District Valuers and the various landowners for the acquisition of land for the construction of reservoirs and pumping stations and the majority of these were satisfactorily completed. Consultations have also continued with the owners of the land adjoining Llanbwehllyn Lake. The Draft Water Order for the scheme has been prepared.

Drainage and Sewerage. A complete revision of the scheme for the provision of a sewage disposal works for Hay was carried out in the year and planning application for a revised site for the works was submitted. This application was refused by Herefordshire County Council and an Appeal against the County Council's decision was subsequently made by the Hay Urban District Council. The Minister of Housing and Local Government decided to hold a combined Inquiry into the planning and engineering aspects of the scheme, and this will be held when outstanding reports from the District Valuer concerned are received.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. The work is done by the Council's employees under the supervision of your Public Health Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping. Waste paper is collected and some 9 tons was sent to the mills in 1962. 5 tons of scrap metal was also sold.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....30.

Number of complaints investigated.....30.

Number of premises inspected.....23.

Number of premises revisited.....7.

Number of preliminary notices served.....6.

Number of statutory notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as 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 by Public Health Inspector.....16.

There are 8 licensed premises in the area.

In addition there are 2 licensed clubs and 2 off licence shops.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....18.

Camping Sites. There is no caravan site in the district.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

Number of visits.....2.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of investigation or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....1.

Rodent Control. One full time operator is engaged by the Council. This same man is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operator worked under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....275.

Number of premises found infested.....68.

Number of premises treated by operator.....49.

Number of premises treated by occupier.....19.

Number of dead rats picked up.....153.

Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....613.

A total of 12 road gullies were treated during the year and 8 showed evidence of infestation. 17 sewer manholes were also treated and of these 11 were infested.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. There are 28 applicants on the Council's "waiting list" at 31st. December, 1962, and of these, 6 were living in rooms, and 6 living in houses which should be considered for demolition. The applicants could be housed as follows:-

- 3 in one bedroom flats or bungalows
- 13 in two bedroom houses
- 10 in three bedroom houses
- 2 in a four bedroom house

3 applications for Discretionary Grants were received and approved during the year; the total amount of grant involved was £675. Standard Grants in connection with three properties were also approved.

Number of housing inspections made.....36.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 (Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....85.

2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....6.

3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....0.

4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957...0.
8. Number of houses demolished.....2.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. There are 2 producer/retailers delivering milk in the district and these hold licences to sell designated milk. There is one dealer selling T.T. Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk operating from a Dairy in the district.

Meat. The improvement and modernisation of the slaughterhouse at the rear of No.8 Broad Street had been completed by the end of 1962 and a licence for the ensuing twelve months was issued.

The owner of the slaughterhouse at No.2 Castle Street had not carried out the modernisation of his slaughterhouse by the 31st. December and had requested an extension of the time allowed for the work to be carried out. In accepting this request the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food approved the 1st. October 1963 as the new Appointed Day by which all the slaughterhouses in the Council's district should be brought up to the standard as laid down in the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958.

Meat Condemned - Cattle 10 lbs.
Other animals 39 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned - Tins 22
Pounds weight 28

Number of inspections to slaughterhouses...120

All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deal in waste Food products. All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip, after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected	210	5	580	208	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned -	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	15	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticercosis	1.4	-	26	-	-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

It has come to my notice that not all the meat is inspected at your slaughterhouses. This is extremely regrettable.

Other Foods. There are 32 shops dealing in foods in your district and may be tabulated as follows:-

Grocers.....	10.
Greengrocers.....	1.
Greengrocer/Confectioners.....	2.
Grocer/Baker.....	1.
Fishmonger/Greengrocer.....	2.
Confectioner/Tobacconist.....	6.
Restaurants.....	4.
Fish and Chip shops.....	2.
Butchers.....	4.

Food Preparation Rooms.(including bakehouses)

There are 9 such premises in the district as follows:-

4 butchers preparing pressed, pickled or potted meats and sausages,
4 premises where food is prepared in cafes and 1 baking.

Number of inspections made.....8.

No special examination of shop's stock or consignment of food had
been necessary during the year.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are 12 retailers of ice cream in your district, 10 of these sell pre-packed ice cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....32.

Fried Fish Shops.

There are two such premises in the district.
Number of inspections made.....16.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

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

Measles.....2 cases.

The district was, therefore, remarkably free from infectious disease. No cases were removed to hospital and no deaths occurred as a result of 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 register at commencement of year.....	13.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	2.
Number of cases removed as left district.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	11.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962.

3. 5. 4. 6. 1. 1. 2. 3. 2. 1.

Diphtheria. As a result of the National Health Act, the County Council were 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. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

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.

APPENDIXFactories Acts 1937 to 1959ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HAY IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	24	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	24	-	-

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

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health