

[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Holywell U.D.C.

Contributors

Holywell (Wales). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qcuh9gdt>

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health.

1951.



Holywell Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health,
Dr. D. J. FRASER,
M. B., Ch. B., D. P. H.

*Town Hall,
Holywell.*

10th December, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Holywell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st 1951.

It will be clear that I am reporting upon events which mainly took place before I took up my appointment on December 1st 1951.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 8,162. The population at the time of the Census was given as 8,196.

The Birth Rate shows a slight rise. The number of live-births was 155, compared with 145 in 1950.

The Still Birth rate rose slightly. The number of still births was 4 compared with 3 in 1950.

The Death Rate showed a rise, as did the Death Rate for the country as a whole. The total of deaths was 105 compared with 93 in 1950. With the ever increasing number of elderly persons in the population, a continued rise in the death rate must be expected in the future.

There was a fall in the Infantile Death Rates from 48.27 per 1,000 live births to 32.25. Five infants under a year old died compared with seven in 1950. Four of those five infants were under a month old.

I am glad to report that once again there were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth.

The analysis of the causes of death amongst the population as a whole shows that diseases of the heart and circulatory system, followed by cancer in one form or another, were the two largest causes accounting for over 50% of the deaths. It must be admitted that the death rate from cancer is rising, but cancer is chiefly a complaint found in old age, so that with an ever increasing proportion of elderly people in the population, there are bound to be more cancer deaths. As to the causes of cancer, constant research is going on. In this County, every death from cancer is investigated, and details of the patients' life, work and even the preferences regarding food, are recorded.

It will be seen from the reports upon samples, that the quality of the water supply is satisfactory, although the quantity is inadequate.

There is no need for me to enlarge upon the housing situation. To assess the housing needs of the town, it is necessary only to look at the population figures according to the Census.

Census 1901	-	population 2,652.
1911	-	" 2,549.
1921	-	" 3,073.
1931	-	" 3,424.
1951	-	" 8,196.

With an increase in area from 917 acres in 1901 to 2,532 acres in 1951, and a triple increase of population in 50 years, Holywell has the ground to expand upon, and the population to inhabit it.

From the Table XI it will be seen that parts or organs were condemned in a large number of carcasses examined at the slaughterhouse. In meat inspection, it will be realised that where there is any shade of doubt concerning the quality of a part or organ, that part or organ is condemned. The incidence of tuberculosis found was remarkably low.

The total number of cases of disease notified rose from 132 in 1950 to 316 in 1951 the main cause of the increase being due to measles in children.

There were fifteen new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year - 7 males, 8 females. There is no doubt that unsuspected cases of tuberculosis are at large amongst the population. The increased number of notifications does not necessarily mean an increased incidence of tuberculosis in the population. Modern methods of diagnosis, and close co-operation between the various authorities responsible for the health of the populations bring many of the unsuspected cases to light. The death rate from tuberculosis in Holywell is lower than that for England and Wales.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your Officers, for their assistance which has been so readily given to me since I took up the appointment.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. J. FRASER.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions including chief industries.

There has been no change in conditions during the year. Employment within the Urban District is provided mainly in paper works, woollen and other textile works, and in artificial silk works. Many residents work in neighbouring districts at a steel works, an iron foundry, quarrying, and at coal mining.

Area in acres - 2,428. Statutory acres.

Population - Census 1951 - 8,196.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate).

Mid-Year 1951. 8,162.

Mid-Year 1950. 7,950.

Number of inhabited houses - 2,193.

Rateable Value. £46,427.

Product of a Penny Rate. £168.

Vital Statistics.

These are presented in tabular form. For purposes of comparison figures for last year are given, and where appropriate the rates for England and Wales as a whole are also given.

TABLE. 1. Births.

Live-Births.

	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	76	73	149
Illegitimate.	3	3	6
TOTAL.	79	76	155.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1951 - 18.99

1950 - 18.24

England and Wales. Live Birth rate per 1,000 population.

1951 (Provisional) - 15.5

1950 ----- 15.8

The birth rate continued to rise, and is well above the rate for England and Wales, which has continued to fall. 155 live births occurred, compared with 145 in 1950.

Using the Registrar General's "comparability factor" of 0.99 (to compare this area with other similar areas) the corrected Birth Rate is 18.78 per 1,000 population.

TABLE 11. Still Births.

	Male	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	2	2	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
TOTAL.	2	2	4

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births.

1951 - 25.15
1950 - 20.27

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1951 - 0.49
1950 - 0.38.

England and Wales. Still-birth rate per 1,000 population.

1951 (provisional) - 0.36
1950 ----- 0.37

There has thus been a slight rise in the still-birth rate for the Holywell Urban area. The actual number of still-births was four, compared with three in 1950.

TABLE III. Deaths (General) Rate.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
All ages (all causes)	58	47	105.
Death Rate per 1,000 population.			
1951 -----	12.86		
1950 -----	11.69.		

England and Wales. Death rate per 1,000 population.

1951 (Provisional) - 12.5
1950 ----- 11.69.

The crude death rate has risen slightly and it is very slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.00, the corrected death rate is 12.86. There were 105 deaths compared with 93 in 1950.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

See next page.

Cause of Death.	Male	Female	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Tuberculosis respiratory.	-	1	1	0.12
Tuberculosis other.	1	-	1	0.12
Malignant Neoplasm-stomach.	3	-	3	0.36
" "lung bronchus.	2	-	2	0.24
" "breast.	-	2	2	0.24
" "uterus.	-	2	2	0.24
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	4	12	1.47
Leukaemia aleukaemia.	1	-	1	0.12
Diabetes.	1	-	1	0.12
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	7	11	1.34
Coronary disease, angina.	5	1	6	0.73
Hypertension with heart disease.	3	2	5	0.61
Other heart diseases.	12	8	20	2.45
Other circulatory disease.	1	3	4	0.49
Influenza.	3	2	5	0.61
Pneumonia.	2	-	2	0.24
Bronchitis.	2	2	4	0.49
Ulcer stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	0.12
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	2	2	0.24
Nephritis & nephrosis.	1	2	3	0.36
Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	5	8	13	1.59
Accidents (other than motor accidents)	3	-	3	0.36
Suicide.	-	1	1	0.12
TOTAL.	58	47	105	

It will be seen from this table that 35 deaths 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system: 21 deaths (20%) were due to cancer in one form or another.) There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with 4 in 1950. Five persons died of Influenza. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping cough, meningitis, poliomyelitis, measles.

TABLE V. Deaths (associated with Pregnancy and childbirth)
I am glad to report that once more there were no deaths from those causes.

TABLE VI. Deaths (Infantile) i.e. infants under one year old.

	Male	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	3	2	5
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
TOTALS.	3	2	5

Infantile Death-rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.

1951 - 33.48
1950 - 49.65

Infantile Death-rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births

1951 - nil.
1950 - nil.

Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 live-births (legitimate & illegitimate).

1951 - 32.25

1950 - 48.27

England and Wales. Infantile Death-Rate per 1,000 live-births.

1951 - (Provisional) - 29.6

1950 ----- 29.8

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Death-Rate has fallen, but it is still above the figure for England and Wales. Five infants died compared with seven in 1950. Four of these five were under four weeks old.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

OFFICERS: Medical Officer of Health: T.W.Brindle M.B.Ch.B.,
D.P.H. resigned from
30/9/51.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: D.J.Fraser M.B.Ch.B.,
D.P.H., from 1/12/51.
John Topham.

Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratories at Conway (Dr.Kingsley Smith) and Birkenhead.

Ambulance Service. provided by the County Council, an ambulance is stationed in Holywell on a 24 hour service. Sitting case transport is provided by arrangement with the County Welfare Department.

Other services provided by the County Council are:-

Home Help.
Home nursing.
Domiciliary midwifery.
Health visiting.
Diphtheria Immunisation.
Tuberculosis health visiting and after-care.
Mental Health visiting.
Prevention of Illness, Care, and after-care.
Antenatal clinics.
School clinics and examination of school children.
Infant welfare clinics.
Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners.

Provided by the Regional Hospital Board are:-

Hospital and out-patient clinic facilities.
Tuberculosis clinics and sanatorium Accommodation.
Mental Hospital Facilities.

<u>Treatment Clinics.</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Date and times of opening.</u>
Tuberculosis.	Cottage Hospital	Tuesdays 10.30 a.m.
School clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Fridays 9.30 a.m.
Antenatal Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
Infant Welfare Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell	Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Cottage Hospital, HOLYWELL.	2nd & 4th Fridays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Once monthly.

Hospitals.

The provision of all types of hospital accomodation is the responsibility of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. There are two small general hospitals within the Urban area.

National Assistance Act 1948: (Section 47) (removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention). No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

SECTION C. Water Supply.

The arrangements made with Birkenhead Corporation to augment the Authority's insufficient water supply have proved to be reasonably satisfactory. The problem of water supply is one which is troubling most local authorities in North Wales. It is to be hoped that more water will be available from the Birkenhead Corporations supply, when that authority will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee.

Fifteen samples were taken during the year in the Urban area. Of those, fourteen were Class I (highly satisfactory) and one was Class III (suspicious). This source was re-sampled a few days later, and was found to be Class I. This latter sample was from a local source in Greenfield.

There is no record of chemical analysis of water having been made.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from water mains direct to the houses is 1,976 approximately: by stand-pipes 210 approximately; springs and other sources 7 approximately.

Refuse Disposal. is carried out by direct labour, and there is a weekly collection from every house in the area. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. Some nuisance has been caused by unauthorised tipping of animal and vegetable refuse. Strict supervision of tipping is necessary, or the tip gets out of control, and much expense may be caused in having to hire machinery to get the tip into order (A weeks hire of a bull-dozer costs £50).

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. TABLE VII.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ended 31st December, 1951, (required by Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report).

TABLE VII. Number of visits made in connection with Public Health matters:-

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Nature.</u>
130	Visits re complaints of sanitary defects.
313.	Inspections of dwelling houses.
90.	Shops and food stores.
32	Slaughterhouse.

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Nature.</u>
12.	Re refuse collection and disposal.
18.	Re infectious diseases and disinfection.
77.	Factories Act.
64.	Interviews with owners or agents.
12.	Dirty or verminous premises.
78.	Bakehouses.
12.	Sewage works.
6.	Dairies
16.	Water sampling.
63.	Inspection under Building Byelaws.
23.	Shops Acts.

TABLE VIII. No. of notices served.

<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Nature of notices.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
29	2	Nuisances	Abated.
Court cases 1.			Order obtained.

SECTION D.

Housing.

This, as in most areas is the most pressing problem of the present. There are great numbers of old and insanitary houses in Holywell fit only for demolition. Until new houses can be provided the old ones must be patched up. In many cases, the houses are in such a state of dilapidation that money spent on them is wasted.

Number on the waiting list at the end of 1951 - 381
 New Council houses built in 1951 - 16
 New Private houses built in 1951 - 7

TABLE IX.

Dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health Acts - 164.
 Inspections made for the purpose of the above - 313.

TABLE X. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action - 48.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority. Inspections of farms were carried out throughout the year. All samples of milk taken conformed to their respective standards.

TABLE XI. Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	774	372	258	3,551	374
Number inspected.	774	372	258	3,551	374
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcases condemned.	2	4	6	12	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	341	92	7	73	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	14.50	12.33	14.00	3.29	7.42
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.	4	5	1	1	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	45	75	-	-	28
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	6.3	20.1.	.3	.02	9.09

TABLE XLV. Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food-poisoning in the area during the year.

Ice Cream.

33 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year. The results were as follows:-

9	samples	were	in	Provisional	Grade	1.
17	"	"	"	"	"	2.
3	"	"	"	"	"	3.
4	"	"	"	"	"	4.

Investigation of the low grade samples led to the taking of samples at the source of manufacture, where it was found that the standard was high. The falling off in purity was probably due to delay in transmission of samples from Holywell to Conway. The longer the delay in getting samples to the laboratory, the more opportunity the organisms of contamination had to increase in numbers. Much of the ice-cream sold in the district comes from manufacturers of repute, who realise their obligations to the public, and who have a laboratory and staff of chemists of their own. This ice-cream is pre-packed at the place of manufacture.

Inspection and supervision of Food-Shops.

Cleanliness of Food Shops. - It cannot be said that the food shops in the district are all clean. In many cases, the most elementary rules of hygiene are ignored. Many persons handling food do so either without overalls or wearing dirty overalls. In many shops, in summer, flies and bluebottles crawl at will over the food. The dirty habits of licking a finger before picking up wrapping paper, and of blowing into a paper bag to open it, still are practised. A vast amount of education in regard to food handling remains to be done. Shopkeepers in Northern Wales have much to do before they live down the saying that Deeside is a region of "grubby little towns with dirty little shops." Model Bye Laws relating to food handling are in existence, and they will be rigidly applied when adopted.

Condemned Food.

During the year, a large amount of foreign tinned ham has been voluntarily surrendered for destruction as unfit for consumption. This ham of continental origin, was lightly cured, and the tins of the cans was of poor quality, with the result that as soon as the cans were taken out of cold storage, deterioration began. Shopkeepers should always obtain a certificate from the Sanitary Inspector before food is destroyed, as Certificates cannot be given if the unfit food has already been destroyed.

Factories 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>M/c</u>	<u>No. on</u>	<u>Number of</u>			<u>M/c</u>
	<u>line</u>	<u>Regis-</u>	<u>Inspe-</u>	<u>Written</u>	<u>Occupiers</u>	
	<u>No. 2</u>	<u>ter.</u>	<u>tions.</u>	<u>notices.</u>	<u>Prosecuted.</u>	<u>Line</u>
		<u>(3)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>(7)</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	8	17	2	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	6	13	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	3	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	-	14	30	2	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

	<u>M/c</u>	<u>Number of cases in which</u>				<u>No. of cases</u>
	<u>line</u>	<u>defects were found.</u>				<u>in which pro-</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Rem-</u>	<u>To H.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u>	<u>secutions were</u>
			<u>edied.</u>	<u>M.I.</u>	<u>I.</u>	<u>instituted.</u>
Want of Cleanliness. S.1.	4	7	7	-	-	-
Overcrowding S.2	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature. S.3	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation S.4	7	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6	8	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences S.7. (a) insufficient	9	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defect- ive	10	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.		14	14	-	-	-

Outworkers:- There are no records of any out workers in the Holywell Urban Area.

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other notifiable diseases.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.	DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	2	0
Whooping Cough.	38	0
Measles.	221	0
Acute Pneumonia.	48	2
Dysentery.	7	0
TOTAL	316	2

Analysis of Infectious and other notifiable Diseases.

Diseases 1951.

DISEASE	No. of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.							(1950 Figures)
	at all ages.	under 5 yrs.	5-14.	15-44.	45-64.	65& over	Age unknown.	
Scarlet Fever.	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Whooping Cough.	38	33	5	-	-	-	-	29
Measles.	221	146	72	2	-	-	1	89
Acute Pneumonia.	48	10	5	3	8	19	3	10
Dysentery.	7	2	4	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	316	192	86	5	9	19	5	

Two cases of scarlet fever were notified, compared with three in 1950. Whooping cough cases numbered 38 compared with 29 in the previous year; most of the cases occurred in the first half of the year. The incidence of measles was heavy, with 221 notifications; most cases were in the second half of the year. (The 1950 cases of measles numbered 89).

There were 48 cases of acute pneumonia notified (compared with 10 in 1950). 27 of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, during the Influenza epidemic. The very young and the elderly were most affected. There were 2 deaths from pneumonia. There were no cases of Diphtheria, no outbreaks of food-poisoning, and no cases of poliomyelitis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1951.

There were 15 new cases notified during the year all pulmonary cases, compared with 9 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases in 1950. The cases are analysed in their age groups thus:-

<u>AGES.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
0-4 years.	-	1	1
5-9 "	-	-	-
10-14 "	-	-	-
15-19 "	-	-	-
20-24 "	-	-	-
25-34 "	2	3	5
35-44 "	3	1	4
45-54 "	-	2	2
55-64 "	2	-	2
65 and over.	-	1	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>15.</u>

There were two deaths from Tuberculosis during the year one pulmonary, one non-pulmonary, compared with four deaths from pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1950. The cases were one female aged 52 years, pulmonary tuberculosis, and one male aged 16 years, Tuberculosis meningitis and miliory Tuberculosis.



