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PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR 1972*

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F. J. HALLINAN,  
M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M.,  
D.P.H.,  
*Area Medical Officer No. 3 Area,  
Monmouthshire.  
District Medical Officer,  
Pontypool Urban District.*

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
PONTYPOOL,  
MON.

APRIL, 1973.



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MON.

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# PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1972

Area of District .. .. .	15,907	acres
Rateable Value (1.4.'72) .. .. .	£1,210,511	
Estimated Product of 1p. rate (1.4.'72) .. .. .	£11,863	
Number of inhabited houses (1.4.'72) .. .. .	13,492	
Population (Estimated mid-1972) .. .. .	36,910	
Number of live births (1972) .. .. .	542	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	14.7	
Number of illegitimate live births .. .. .	32	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	6%	
Number of stillbirths .. .. .	6	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. .	11	
Total live and stillbirths .. .. .	548	
Number of infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) .. .. .	3	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	6	
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .. .. .	4	
Perinatal mortality (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) .. .. .	15	
Number of maternal deaths (including abortion) .. .. .	NIL	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. .	NIL	
Number of deaths (1972) .. .. .	521	
Death rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	14.1	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural Increase</i>
1952	699	507	192
1953	683	466	217
1954	628	480	148
1955	563	510	53
1956	571	543	78
1957	593	475	118
1958	623	461	162
1959	569	471	98
1960	587	498	89
1961	649	517	132
1962	632	481	151
1963	675	512	163
1964	661	501	160
1965	694	467	227
1966	603	508	95
1967	556	451	105
1968	560	531	29
1969	551	517	34
1970	529	473	56
1971	544	502	42
1972	542	521	21

# PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Councillors:

Chairman: A. PARRY

Vice-Chairman: G. S. EVANS

## Wards:

### *Garndiffaith:*

C. LITTLE  
R. T. G. WATKINS  
G. I. MILES

### *Abersychan:*

W. BERRY  
J. J. MILES  
A. PARRY

### *Snatchwood:*

W. R. BOWEN  
W. M. GEORGE  
E. H. PARKER

### *Wainfelin:*

D. J. COTTRELL  
H. J. ROSSER  
C. G. THOMAS

### *Pontypool:*

G. M. DAY  
J. C. LEAHY (Resigned 1972)  
Mrs. M. P. WELLS  
P. J. YOUNG (Resigned 1972)

### *Pontymoile:*

W. L. JACKSON, M.M., B.E.M.  
Mrs. M. L. LEE, M.B.E., J.P.

### *Griffithstown:*

G. S. EVANS  
C. J. R. IRVING, J.P.

### *Sebastopol:*

Mrs. A. M. MOORE  
J. L. WHITTINGTON

### *New Inn:*

J. W. HAYCOCK (Deceased 1972)  
G. S. R. POWELL

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Public Health Committee is a major Committee and is comprised of all Members of the Council

*Chairman*: Councillor J. J. Miles

*Vice-Chairman*: Councillor Mrs. M. L. Lee, M.B.E., J.P.

Public Health Committee Meeting :—Six Weekly

### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health .. F. J. HALLINAN, M.B.E. (Mil.),  
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.),  
M.F.C.M., D.P.H. (Wales).

*Official Address*: Municipal Offices, Pontypool.

*Telephone*: Pontypool 3411 (Ext. 69).

Chief Public Health Inspector .. J. M. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Official Address*: Municipal Offices, Pontypool.

*Telephone*: Pontypool 3411 (Ext. 67).

Senior District Public Health

Inspector .. .. . D. H. THOMAS, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.  
Dip. R.S.H. (Meat and Other  
Foods)

District Public Health Inspector .. B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.  
M.R.I.P.H. & H.

District Public Health Inspector .. J. M. JONES, Cert. R.S.I.

Enforcement Officer .. .. . J. K. CRAIK, ESQ.

Clerk to the Department .. MRS. E. B. DAVIES

Clerk / Typist .. .. . MRS. E. STINCHCOMBE

The Chief Public Health Inspector and Senior District Inspector  
D. H. THOMAS possess the Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

### OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk and Chief Executive Officer .. M. B. MEHTA, ESQ.,  
(Barrister-at-Law)  
A.M.B.I.M.

Treasurer and Accountant .. .. . E. A. KEELEY, ESQ.,  
F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.

Engineer and Surveyor .. .. . W. BROWN, ESQ., C.ENG.  
A.M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.C.E.

Architect .. .. . A. Y. PITTS, ESQ.,  
A.R.I.B.A., A.I.Arb.

Parks Superintendent .. .. . R. SAUNDERS, ESQ.

Housing Officer .. .. . T. P. JONES, ESQ., A.I.H.M.

**ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**for the**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF PONTYPOOL**  
**for the year ending 31st December, 1972**

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Pontypool Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my 24th annual public health report for your district for the year 1972. This may be my ultimate annual public health report in view of the impending changes in the National Health Service and Local Government.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and complies with instructions contained in Circular 15/73 dated 15th January, 1973, from the Community Health and Social Work Division of the Welsh Office.

### **General Comments**

The past year could be regarded as an epidemic year for the district as regards measles, which were notified to the number of 301 (163 males and 138 females). The last previous year of high incidence was 1970. It is salutary to think that most of these cases need not have occurred had parents been more diligent in taking up the vaccination now available, free of charge, for their children, against the measles virus.

There were six notifications (4 males and 2 females) of infective hepatitis during the year, which were equally divided between children and adults. These were all sporadic cases with no discoverable epidemiological links.

There was one notification of acute meningitis (meningococcal) in a female in the 45-65 year age group during the year. She made a full recovery.

Pulmonary tuberculosis notifications for the year totalled 6 (4 males and 2 females), which was one more than in the previous year. One of these cases was a female aged 57 years who had previously been notified some 21 years previously and had been removed from the register as cured some years ago. She had now broken down again and exhibited a positive sputum. The notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis for this district have been practic-



ally identical for each year for some time now, which seems to indicate a level of infection in the community which is proving resistant to further reduction.

The district experienced a sharp outbreak of influenza during the last two weeks of December, which reflected its severity for the elderly in an increase in the deaths assigned to pneumonia and acute bronchitis over this period for the upper age groups. This outbreak continued into 1973 with similar dire results for the elderly.

Past annual reports have referred to the very adverse environmental conditions of those dwelling in caravans in the Lower Race area, but there now seems to be some ray of hope as the County Council and Local Authority are actively giving consideration to the setting up of an organised site with necessary amenities for these people.

The record of slum clearance for this district over the last 16 years has indeed been an excellent one and bears comparison with that of any other urban district of comparable size in the country and many much larger. From 1957—1972 unfit properties numbering 1,714 were dealt with under the Housing Act, 1957, and the big majority are already demolished. This indicates that these unfit properties were dealt with at the rate of 107 per annum over the last 16 years. Additionally, several hundred post-war "prefabs" which had served their useful life were also demolished over the same period. Over the same period, 2,047 new units of accommodation were provided by the Council to cater for those displaced from these slum dwellings, in addition to meeting the general housing needs of the district. These units of accommodation contain many warden scheme complexes (in addition to bungalows) for the elderly, as well as a block of high-rise, one-bedroomed flats for childless and newly-married couples. In all, a very impressive record for this urban district.

Improvement Grants numbering 211 were agreed during the year and in financial terms amounted to £14,383 for standard grants and £147,177 for discretionary grants. General improvement areas involving scores of properties which require modernising were also declared during the year.

The new sports complex in the picturesque Pontypool Park is now nearing completion and will be worth every penny of its great cost in the many leisure-spending facilities which it will provide for the young and not so young people of the town. A magnificent swimming pool is being provided in addition to many other ancillary sports facilities to enable the young people of the town to spend their leisure hours in a health-giving manner. It is to be hoped that full advantage will be taken of these facilities by our youth and that they will jealously guard their heritage against any wanton

damage. The magnificent setting of this new complex in such a fine park, which also provides an excellent football pitch, must make it the envy of many other less fortunate towns.

It is pleasing to record that the town's market, provided under the Pontypool Local Board (Markets) Act, 1891, which did not comply with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, is currently having an extensive re-organisation and facelift at a cost of some £50,000. This extensive improvement scheme follows a report to the Markets Committee of the Council in March, 1972, and involves the provision of permanent food stalls fitted with sinks, wash basins, water heaters and hanging rails for meat. The new stalls for casual traders will be finished in laminated plastic instead of the old tables. New entrance doorways with curtain heating will also be provided in addition to new refuse and loading bays.

## Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District is situated on the eastern outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield and occupies an area of 15,907 acres. The mining areas of the district are in general away from the centres of population.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above sea level at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet above sea level at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish. The altitude at the Town Hall is 431 feet above sea level. The population is mainly contained in a narrow valley.

## General Statistics and Industries

Census population 1921—44,831

Census population 1931—43,910 (22,723 males and 21,187 females)

Census population 1951—42,703 (21,242 males and 21,461 females)

Census population 1961—39,930 (19,827 males and 20,103 females)

Census population 1971—37,030 (18,105 males and 18,925 females)

Estimated population mid-1972—36,910

The yearly estimate of the district's population by the Registrar General has shown a steady downward trend over the years which has now reverted to an upward trend.

1956—41,280

1957—40,610

1958—40,290

1959—40,020

1960—39,720

1961—39,710

1962—39,750

1963—39,280

1964—39,000

1965—38,720

1966—38,330

1967—38,160

1968—37,210

1969—36,600

1970—36,090

1971—36,850

1972—36,910

These estimates show a drop of 10.6% in population since 1956.

The main heavy industries in the district include coal mining, the manufacture of stainless steel and glass making. The main light industries include the manufacture of nylon yarn, the making of soft toys, photographic processing and pharmaceuticals. Many new industries are currently being introduced to the district.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

**TABLE I.** Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year population and birth rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1965.

YEAR	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
Number of live births	542	544	529	551	560	556	603	694
Estimated mid-year population	36,910	36,850	36,090	36,600	37,210	38,160	38,330	38,720
Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.7	14.8	14.7	15.1	15.0	14.6	15.7	18.0

The live births allocated for 1972 to this district numbered 542 (289 males and 253 females), which was 2 less than in the previous year. A crude birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population is indicated by these figures, which is fractionally lower than that for 1971. The number of illegitimate live births for 1972 was 32 (16 males and 16 females), which compares with a figure of 33 for 1971. The illegitimacy rate for this district was 6% of all live births as compared with 9% for England and Wales and 7% for Monmouthshire County.

The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) for 1972 was 21 as compared with 42 for 1971.

Stillbirths allocated for the year totalled 6 (3 males and 3 females), of which 4 (1 male and 3 females) were legitimate and 2 (both males) were illegitimate. This figure gives a stillbirth rate of 11 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths as compared with 12 for England and Wales and 12 for Monmouthshire County.

The local crude birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population can be compared with the rate of 14.8 (provisional) for England and Wales if the local crude rate is first multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.11 to give a local adjusted rate of 16.3 per 1,000 population.

**TABLE II.** Showing the births registered in and allocated to this district for 1972 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Births
January .. ..	12	14	26	96
February .. ..	15	19	34	
March .. ..	17	19	36	
April .. ..	23	17	40	94
May .. ..	15	14	29	
June .. ..	12	13	25	
July .. ..	18	15	33	94
August .. ..	16	14	30	
September .. ..	10	21	31	
October .. ..	18	11	29	93
November .. ..	25	10	35	
December .. ..	10	19	29	
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>377</b>
Inward transferable births .. ..	98	67		165
<b>GRAND TOTALS for the year</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>253</b>		<b>542</b>

**Comparative Birth Rates—1972**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	16.3 (adjusted)
Monmouthshire Administrative County .. ..	15.8 (adjusted)
England and Wales .. ..	14.8 (provisional)

**TABLE III.** Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1965.

YEAR	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
Number of deaths	521	502	473	517	531	451	508	467
Estimated mid-year population	36,910	36,850	36,090	36,600	37,210	38,160	38,330	38,720
Death-rate per 1,000 population	14.1	13.6	13.1	14.1	14.3	11.8	13.3	12.1

The deaths allocated to this district for 1972 totalled 521 (288 males and 233 females), which was 19 in excess of those for the previous year. This may have been due to the influenza outbreak at the close of the year which affected the elderly badly. The local crude death rate was 14.1 per 1,000 population as compared with 13.6 for the year 1971.

These deaths can be found allocated to their various causes in age and sex groups in Table V.

The malignant diseases accounted for 99 deaths (57 males and 42 females), or 19% of the total deaths for the year, which was 1% less than the previous year. Cancer of the lungs and bronchus caused 28 deaths (24 males and 4 females), or 28% of the total cancer deaths for the year. This figure is 40% up on the previous year. These 28 deaths compare with 20 (18 males and 2 females) for 1971, 15 deaths (12 males and 3 females) for 1970 and 22 deaths (17 males and 5 females) for 1969.

The diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 300 deaths (165 males and 135 females), or 58% of the total deaths for the year.

The respiratory diseases caused 68 deaths (44 males and 24 females), or 13% of the total deaths.

There was no death assigned to tuberculosis or maternal causes during the year.

The local crude death rate of 14.1 per 1,000 population can be compared with the national rate of 12.1 (provisional) if the local crude rate is first multiplied by a comparability factor of 0.99 to give an adjusted local rate of 14.0.

**TABLE. IV.** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1972 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January .. ..	10	11	21	} 91
February .. ..	28	17	45	
March .. ..	11	14	25	
April .. ..	9	7	16	} 74
May .. ..	20	20	40	
June .. ..	11	7	18	
July .. ..	18	13	31	} 91
August .. ..	18	15	33	
September ..	16	11	27	
October .. ..	19	13	32	} 108
November .. ..	21	10	31	
December .. ..	24	21	45	
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>364</b>
Inward transferable deaths .. ..	83	74	157	
<b>GRAND TOTAL for the year</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>521</b>	

**Comparative Death Rates, 1972**

Pontypool Urban District .. ..	14.0 (adjusted)
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	13.1 (adjusted)
England and Wales .. ..	12.1 (provisional)

TABLE V. Showing the deaths for 1972 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
B11 Meningococcal Infection ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	5
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	M	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	10	7
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	1
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(10) Leukaemia ..	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1972 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years							
					1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75+
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ..	M F	12 9	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 -	2 2	5 3	2 4	
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ..	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	
B21 Diabetes Mellitus ..	M F	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 2	- -	
B46(1) Other Endocrine, Etc. Diseases ..	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	M F	8 5	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	5 1	1 2	1 1	
B27 Hypertensive Disease ..	M F	3 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	2 4	
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	M F	98 56	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	11 2	15 9	40 20	31 25	
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	M F	16 23	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 2	1 1	5 5	9 15	
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease ..	M F	33 39	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	8 4	11 10	13 25	
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	M F	7 8	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	2 3	3 5	

TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1972 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
B31 Influenza .. .. .	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B32 Pneumonia .. .. .	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	6
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	10
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema .. .. .	M	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	12
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
B33(2) Asthma .. .. .	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. .. .	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B34 Peptic Ulcer .. .. .	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System .. .. .	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .. .. .	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

TABLE V. (continued) Showing the deaths for 1972 assigned to the different causes in sex and age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under four weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B42 Congenital Anomalies ..	M	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45 Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48 All Other Accidents ..	M	9	-	-	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	4
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	M	288	-	1	2	5	21	47	106	104	106	104	104	104
	F	233	2	1	3	2	12	25	67	67	67	119	119	119

Table V (continued)

Estimated mid-year home population: 36,910  
 Area comparability factors — Births: 1.11; Deaths: 0.99

	MALES			FEMALES			
	Total	Legit.	Illeg.	Total	Legit.	Illeg.	
Live Births ..	289	273	16	253	237	16	Live Births—Crude rate per 1,000 population .. 14.7
Stillbirths ..	3	1	2	3	3	-	Live Births—Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate .. 1.10
Deaths of Infants							Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births .. 11.0
Under 1 year ..	-	-	-	3	3	-	Deaths of Infants
Under 4 weeks ..	-	-	-	2	2	-	Under 1 year of age—Rate per 1,000 live births 6.0
Under 1 week ..	-	-	-	2	2	-	Perinatal mortality—Rate per 1,000 total live and still births combined .. 15.0
DEATHS ALL AGES	288	-	-	233	-	-	Deaths (all ages) Crude rate per 1,000 population 14.1
							Deaths (all ages) Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate .. 1.15

**TABLE VI.** Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1972 in quinquennial age groups and by sex.

Age last birthday	Males	Females	Total
0-4 ..	—	5	5
5-9 ..	—	—	—
10-14 ..	—	—	—
15-19 ..	1	—	1
20-24 ..	2	—	2
25-29 ..	—	1	1
30-34 ..	2	2	4
35-39 ..	3	—	3
40-44 ..	2	2	4
45-49 ..	5	3	8
50-54 ..	16	9	25
55-59 ..	17	9	26
60-64 ..	30	16	46
65-69 ..	58	32	90
70-74 ..	48	35	83
75-79 ..	52	38	90
80-84 ..	35	38	73
85-89 ..	9	31	40
90-94 ..	8	11	19
95 and over ..	—	1	1
All ages ..	288	233	521

The age of 65 years at death was attained by 396 persons (210 males and 186 females), or 76% of the total deaths.

The age of 75 years at death was attained by 223 persons (107 males and 119 females) or 43% of the total deaths.

The age of 85 years at death was reached by 60 persons (17 males and 43 females), or 11.5% of the total deaths.

## INFANT MORTALITY

**TABLE VII.** Showing the yearly number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for this district since 1965.

Year	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year .. ..	3	10	8	8	9	18	11	14
Number of live births .. ..	542	544	529	551	560	556	603	694
Infant mortality rate .. ..	6·0	18·0	15·0	14·5	16·1	32·4	18·2	20·2

There were 3 infant deaths assigned to this district for 1972, which was 7 less than in the previous year and the lowest so far recorded. All of these deaths occurred in hospital.

This is the lowest number of infant deaths in any year ever recorded for this district. The three deaths were all in females and were all of legitimate birth.

The local infant mortality rate for 1972 was 6·0 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 17·0 for England and Wales and 17·0 for Monmouthshire County.

The number of live births for 1972 was 2 fewer than for 1971.

**TABLE VIII.** Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1972 by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
All Causes .. ..	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3

The 3 infant deaths (all females) for the year compare with 10 infant deaths for the previous year. These deaths all occurred in hospitals and were due to prematurity in one case and congenital defects in two cases. Two of the deaths occurred in the first week of life.

**TABLE IX.** Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, Monmouthshire County and Pontypool Urban District since 1965.

Year	England & Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool Urban District
1965	19.0	21.2	20.2
1966	19.0	25.0	18.2
1967	18.3	22.0	32.0
1968	18.3	18.7	16.1
1969	18.0	20.7	14.5
1970	18.0	21.1	15.0
1971	18.0	15.0	18.0
1972	17.0	17.0	6.0

**TABLE X.** Showing the number of inquests during 1972 on persons belonging to this district and the causes of death.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Colliery accidents .. ..	3	—	3
Road accidents .. ..	3	—	3
Electrocution in home .. ..	—	1	1
Falls in home .. ..	2	3	5
Bronchopneumonia and pneumoconiosis .. ..	1	—	1
Salicylate poisoning .. ..	—	1	1
Accidental hanging .. ..	—	1	1
Factory explosion .. ..	1	—	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning in caravan .. ..	1	1	2
Results of fractured spine .. ..	—	1	1
Asphyxia due to post-traumatic epilepsy .. ..	1	—	1
Accidental burns—lighting pipe in bed .. ..	1	—	1
All causes .. ..	13	8	21

The three colliery accidents involved men aged 30, 36 and 38 years.

Road accidents involved three males aged 20, 63, and 77 years.

Falls in the home involved two males aged 45 and 67 years, and three females aged 74, 85 and 93 years.

The case of accidental hanging involved a female child aged 3 years.

The factory explosion referred to a male aged 38 years.

Carbon monoxide poisoning in a caravan involved a boy aged 17 years and his mother aged 52 years.

The case of accidental burns while lighting a pipe in bed referred to a male aged 90 years.



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The details of the notifications of notifiable diseases received from general practitioners, hospital medical officers and chest physicians for this district for 1972 are shown in age and sex groups in tables XI and XIII.

There was little of significance to note apart from an outbreak of measles which resulted in 301 notifications. These cases could have been prevented if parents would only take advantage of the effective measles vaccine now available for the protection of their children from this troublesome disease.

For the twentieth consecutive year this district has had no notification of diphtheria to record and this satisfactory state will be sustained only so long as parents take full advantage of the very effective immunisation available, without charge, for their children against this very serious disease.

The notifications for pulmonary tuberculosis were very similar in number to those received in recent past years. This disease appears to have reached a low incidence over a number of years recently and seems to be showing itself resistant to further reduction. It is a disease which cannot be regarded as having been conquered yet by any means.



TABLE XII Showing the number of cases of notifiable diseases notified yearly since 1957  
(Corrected for diagnosis).

DISEASE	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Diphtheria ..	-	6	465	34	127	323	549	59	70	684	3	709	2	92	620	187
Measles ..	301	1	5	9	2	15	10	1	3	7	12	3	5	9	36	39
Scarlet Fever ..	1	11	-	-	8	25	1	-	8	8	17	10	11	3	63	31
Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	6	7	32	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Acute Meningitis ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Leprosy ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gyphoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1
Ophthalmia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
Acute Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
(b) Non-paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	309	25	503	59	137	363	568	62	81	700	34	725	30	104	721	266

## TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic facilities for this urban district continue to be sited at the Park Buildings in the town centre. This is a very convenient location for patients from this district and outside. The Clinic is open for referrals on two whole days each week.

The facility for mass radiography is provided at the static unit in the Chest Clinic at 129, Stow Hill, Newport, and is open daily from Monday to Friday (9.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m.) with an evening session on Thursdays from 5.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.

### **Respiratory tuberculosis and lung cancer deaths for England and Wales — 1972**

The provisional death rate per million population for England and Wales from respiratory tuberculosis for the year was 20 as compared with 19 for 1971. This indicates a slight increase in the death rate from this cause.

The death rate per million population for England and Wales from cancer of the lungs and bronchi for the year was 646 as compared with 630 for 1971. This indicates a further rise in the annual death from this cause.

In the actual figures this means 31,649 deaths (25,754 males and 5,895 females) from cancer of the lungs and bronchi for 1972 as compared with 30,746 deaths (25,137 males and 5,609 females) for 1971.

There were 968 deaths (737 males and 231 females) from pulmonary tuberculosis in 1972 as compared with 925 deaths (672 males and 253 females) for 1971.

**TABLE XIII.** Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1972 in age and sex groups and by type of disease (corrected for diagnosis).

Age groups in yrs.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS . .</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

There were 4 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in males during the year and three of these had a positive sputum on ascertainment.

One notification of pulmonary tuberculosis in a female occurred in a person who was notified 21 years previously and had been removed from the register as cured in 1961. This case also gave a positive sputum at the time of ascertainment. The second infection in a female occurred in a girl aged 13 years with primary pulmonary tuberculosis who was a home contact of her brother who presented as an open case some two months previously and was undoubtedly the source of her infection.

**TABLE XIV.** Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.1972.

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
42	9	27	10	88

**TABLE XV** Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1947. (Corrected for diagnosis)

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1947	16	23	5	9	9	10	1	1	21	
1948	21	22	4	10	16	5	3	1	25	
1949	14	17	4	3	16	6	1	1	24	
1950	19	17	1	4	6	2	1	1	10	
1951	24	15	1	7	9	2	1	1	12	
1952	25	13	5	2	5	4	3	1	12	
1953	12	6	2	3	2	3	1	—	6	
1954	13	10	—	3	4	1	—	—	5	
1955	8	8	2	1	1	2	—	—	3	
1956	8	7	1	—	1	4	2	—	7	
1957	8	5	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	
1958	9	9	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	
1959	10	9	1	1	2	2	—	—	2	
1960	8	2	1	1	19	1	1	1	4	
1961	12	5	—	2	13	4	—	—	3	
1962	8	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	5	
1963	3	1	—	—	14	2	—	—	—	
1964	8	4	—	—	12	1	—	—	3	
1965	6	5	1	—	12	1	—	2	2	
1966	3	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	
1967	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	2	
1968	4	1	—	2	7	—	—	1	1	
1969	4	1	—	2	6	—	—	3	2	
1970	4	1	1	—	5	1	—	—	5	
1971	4	3	—	—	7	3	—	—	3	
1972	4	2	2	—	6	2	—	—	—	

**TABLE XVI.** Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population for this district since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1938	1.09	.42	.52	.07
1939	1.15	.49	.42	.07
1940	.84	.48	.58	.12
1941	1.13	.41	.74	.05
1942	.67	.36	.41	.19
1943	.99	.22	.49	.10
1944	1.34	.26	.55	.07
1945	1.88	.19	.67	.12
1946	.76	.33	.48	.10
1947	.93	.33	.45	.05
1948	1.01	.33	.50	.09
1949	.73	.16	.56	.05
1950	.84	.12	.19	.04
1951	.92	.18	.26	.02
1952	.90	.17	.21	.09
1953	.42	.12	.12	.02
1954	.55	.07	.12	NIL
1955	.38	.07	.06	NIL
1956	.36	.02	.12	.04
1957	.32	.03	.05	NIL
1958	.45	.10	NIL	NIL
1959	.47	.05	.05	NIL
1960	.26	.05	.08	.03
1961	.43	.05	.05	.03
1962	.28	.05	.10	.03
1963	.10	NIL	NIL	NIL
1964	.31	.05	.08	NIL
1965	.28	.02	.03	.05
1966	.13	NIL	.03	.03
1967	NIL	.08	.03	NIL
1968	.13	.05	.03	.03
1969	.14	.02	.06	.08
1970	.14	NIL	.08	NIL
1971	.14	.05	.08	NIL
1972	.16	NIL	NIL	NIL

## GENERAL HOUSING INFORMATION

1. Houses in which defects were remedied by the owner after informal notice .. .. .	4
2. Houses in which defects were remedied by the owner after formal notice under Public Health Acts ..	9
3. Houses in which defects were remedied after formal notice under the Housing Act, 1957 .. ..	NIL
4. Number of post-war council houses completed by 31.12.72 .. .. .	3,996
5. Number of council houses under construction at 31.12.72 .. .. .	79
6. Number of council houses completed during 1972 ..	181
7. Number of houses completed by private enterprise during 1972. .. .. .	132
8. Number of houses under construction by private enterprise at 31.12.72 .. .. .	116
9. Number of individual unfit houses represented to the Council during 1972 .. .. .	36
10. Number of Closing and Demolition Orders (as appropriate) made during 1972 .. .. .	23
11. Number of Clearance Areas represented to the Council during 1972 .. .. .	1
12. Number of unfit houses included in this Clearance Area .. .. .	3
13. Number of Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed during 1972 .. ..	NIL
14. Number of Council-owned houses condemned ..	NIL
15. Number of condemned houses still occupied at 31.12.72 .. .. .	75
16. Number of condemned properties actually demolished during 1972 .. .. .	63



## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE DURING 1972

(a) Number of grants made during 1972	...	...	211
(b) Amount of improvement grants for 1972		...	£161,560
(c) Number of grants made 1949-1972 inclusive		...	1,447
(d) Amount of improvement grants for 1949-1972 inclusive (approx.)	...	...	... £456,112

Standard grants were allocated £14,383 and discretionary grants £147,177 during the year.

### Tabulation showing slum clearance progress, rehousing from unfit houses, etc., since 1957

Year	No. of unfit houses represented yearly	No. of unfit houses in Col. (2) which were vacant when represented	No. of unfit houses condemned yearly	No. of rehousing from condemned houses yearly	No. of Council houses built each year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1957	39	4	29	21	95
1958	51	6	35	42	64
1959	182	11	85	62	82
1960	201	23	245	64	73
1961	109	5	73	65	87
1962	132	7	185	105	178
1963	120	13	143	46	64
1964	117	11	68	49	74
1965	102	3	98	94	124
1966	125	7	117	141	177
1967	94	10	144	133	349
1968	128	5	107	106	137
1969	130	17	123	57	130
1970	85	10	97	50	105
1971	63	7	110	54	127
1972	36	5	23	84	181
1957 to 1972	1,714	144	1,682	1,173	2,047

Unfit properties have been represented at an average of 107 per year over the last 16 years and this satisfactory rate of progress now leaves the district with a small residue of unfit properties and a larger number of properties which are substandard rather than frankly unfit.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following table shows the number and type of factories in the district and the inspections carried out during 1972 in connection with the above Acts.

**TABLE XVII.** Showing the number of factories and the inspections thereof for 1972.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occu- piers prose- cuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority .. .. .	149	34	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 enforced by the Local Authority excluding Out-workers' premises) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>149</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**TABLE XVIII.** Showing the defects found in factories and the action taken during the year.

Particulars	Number of defects				Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
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). .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ..	—	—	—	—	—

**Part VIII of the Factories Act, 1961**

**OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)**

One out-worker is engaged in the making of wearing apparel and one in the manufacture of soft toys.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary during the year to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the compulsory removal of any person in need of care and attention. It has always been our policy in such difficult cases to use all possible means of persuasion and in that way it has so far been possible to avoid recourse to compulsion.

#### **Superannuation Acts, 1937-53, etc.**

There were 47 medical examinations undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health on Council employees during the year in relation to the above. Eight referred to fitness as drivers of heavy duty vehicles.

#### **Staff and Accommodation**

The Public Health Department offices are considered adequate for present requirements.

The public health inspector staff has been at full strength during the year.

The department moved once again at the close of the year into new offices in the Gas Board Buildings.

I have to again acknowledge on behalf of all members of the staff a very good year's work on behalf of this Council.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor J. J. Miles.

## PUBLIC ANALYST'S REPORT

I am indebted to Dr. G. V. James, M.B.E., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst to the Council, for the following report on the work carried out by him for this Authority during the year 1972.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report, which has been classified in the usual manner for ease of reading.

### Food and Drugs Act 1955

During the year a total of 145 samples was received of which 27 were formal and the remainder informal samples.

### Milk

Twenty-seven formal samples of milk were received and taken in course of sale to the public, the average composition being:—

3.74% FAT 8.97% SOLIDS NOT FAT 12.71% TOTAL SOLIDS.

No sample of milk showed adulteration or deficiency.

The remaining samples are tabulated as follows:—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Total Informal</i>	<i>Adulterated</i>
Dairy Products .. .. .	11	—
Bread/Confectionery .. .. .	13	5
Cereals .. .. .	5	—
Jams/Preserves .. .. .	1	—
Fruit/Vegetables .. .. .	12	1
Soft Drinks .. .. .	10	—
Spices/Sauces/Pickles .. .. .	6	—
Food Colours, Decorations, etc.	1	—
Fish/Meat Products .. .. .	24	5
Miscellaneous .. .. .	12	1
Soups .. .. .	13	—
Drugs .. .. .	4	—
Sweets .. .. .	6	—
<b>TOTALS</b> .. .. .	<b>118</b>	<b>12</b>

The adulteration rate is somewhat increased at 8.28%, and the adulterated samples are described herewith.

1. Meat Pie contained a fly.
2. Pork Pie contained a roll of cotton gauze.
3. Pork Pie contained a tin tack.

4. Sliced Bread contained a dirty oily dough (2 samples).
5. Bread contained a wasp.
6. Corned Beef contained a beetle.
7. Chipped Potatoes contained a metal staple.
8. Fruit Cake was misdescribed, as there were insufficient currants to warrant the description "fruit."
9. Coconut Mallows were mouldy.
10. A bacon wrapper was rot proofed with a green compound, which was not a permitted food colour.
11. Bacon was contaminated by a green dye from the wrapper and this was not a permitted colour.

Two samples of foodstuffs were submitted for examination for pesticide residues, and these were both satisfactory.

Several samples of Jequirity Beans were submitted as these beans are very toxic and occur in many bead necklaces purchased abroad.

### **Water Examination**

The Public Health Department continue to submit occasional samples of water, usually following complaints or to check on potability, plumbo solvency, etc. It would be unwise to draw conclusions from these samples.

### **Sewage Disposal**

Regular samples of sewages and effluents continue to be submitted by the Eastern Valley (Monmouthshire) Joint Sewerage Board from the Ponthir Treatment Plant and the results are good.

### **Radioactivity**

The results of examination of the regular air samples submitted in association with the County Monitoring Scheme are at a low level — well below the limit considered safe by the M.R.C.

Again I would like to express my appreciation of the continued co-operation shown by Dr. F. J. Hallinan, Mr. J. M. Williams and their respective staffs in the Public Health Department.

## WATER SUPPLIES 1972

I am indebted to H. D. Linton, Esq., J.P., C.ENG., A.M.INST. C.E., M.INST.W.E., F.A.W.O., Divisional Engineer to the Eastern Division of the Gwent Water Board, who are the statutory water undertakers for this Urban District, for the following report for 1972:

The quantity of water distributed in the Eastern Division of the Gwent Water Board during 1972 was 2,215,000,000 gallons of which approximately 1,111,000,000 gallons were distributed in the Urban and adjacent areas of Pontypool, which is equal to 3,040,000 gallons per day.

Rainfall during the year taken at Penyrheol Reservoir was 1,675.5 mm, which is approximately equal to 66 inches. Although the amount is more than average, a long dry spell did occur during the latter part of the year. From the 9th June to 11th November, only 12.75 inches were recorded. As a result of this dry period, sources became depleted and a restriction on hosepipes was imposed on 7th September, which remained in force until 1st December. Shortages occurred in a few localised elevated districts. All sources and treatment were in operation in the Pontypool area for the whole of the year and a high quality of water was maintained.

As a result of experimental work at Bunkers Springs, Blaenavon, a new process has been installed to reduce the acidity of the natural water, by passing it through a bed of Akdolit. This treatment reduces the plumbo solvency of the water and prevents lead absorption. An improved supply has thus been achieved from this source.

Bacteriological and chemical samples of water were taken continuously from both the sources and consumers' premises and analyses were carried out at the Board's Court Farm laboratory by the Chief Chemist and Microbiologist, Mr. R. N. Scott, B.SC.

In all, some 342 samples of water from the Pontypool area were dealt with, and, in addition, daily routine chlorine residual tests were made by the plant operatives.

There is no measurable flouride content in the natural waters in the Pontypool area and none is added.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to J. M. Williams, Esq., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector to the Pontypool Urban District Council, for the following report for 1972.

### THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

#### Water Supplies

These results are of the bacteriological analyses carried out on processed water samples.

Source of Supply	Number	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mains ..	30	29	1
Springs and Wells ..	2	—	2
Swimming baths ..	12	12	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ..	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3</b>

In the case of the unsatisfactory mains sample, immediate re-samplings proved satisfactory.

Advice was given to the users of the unsatisfactory spring and well supplies.

In addition 6 chemical water samples were taken, mainly to obtain information with regard to the plumbo solvency of local water sources. In all cases the results showed lead content levels well below the recommended limits.

The quality and quantity of the public supplies remains satisfactory.

#### Food Hygiene

The detailed survey of the public houses in the area has been completed and as an initial step towards obtaining the required standards so far as the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations are concerned, meetings were held with representatives of all the various brewers concerned, when all the relevant details were discussed. This was followed by letters to the brewers containing lists of their public houses and schedules of suggested works for them.



It is now expected that the brewers will come forward with planned budgeted programmes covering the items discussed at the meetings and it must be stated now that we found them most co-operative and receptive at all stages of contact with them.

### **Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966**

During 1972 the Council embarked upon a major re-organisation of its covered market. The work involves the construction of various new enclosed stalls, each with its own washing facilities, and the provision of new stall tables and various washing facility points for the "casual" food traders.

When the works are completed, in 1973, the market will be fully modernised and up to date so far as the Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations are concerned.

#### **For bacteriological analysis:**

##### **Ice Cream**

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft Ice-Cream	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Ice-Cream	-	-	-	-	9	1	1	-

##### **Bacteriological Milk Samples**

A total of 31 bacteriological milk samples were taken from various premises including farms. All these samples were satisfactory.

##### **Testing for Brucellosis in milk**

A total of 10 samples were taken at farms throughout the year for this purpose and all were reported upon as negative.

## Food Premises

The following table shows the various categories of Food Premises within the Urban District of Pontypool and includes some of the permanent shop-type structures within the Pontypool Market.

Category	No. of Premises
Bakers and Confectioners .. .. .	32
Butchers and Cooked Meat Shops .. .. .	39
Cafes and Restaurants (not Hotels or Public House Catering) .. .. .	12
Canteens, Industrial Schools and Hospitals .. .. .	36
Fish and Chip and "Take Away Meals" Shops	15
General Grocers .. .. .	85
Green Grocers and Wet Fish .. .. .	24
Ice Cream Manufacturers .. .. .	5
Licenced Premises	
(a) Public Houses .. .. .	54
(b) Clubs .. .. .	24
(c) Off-Licences .. .. .	12
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>338</b>

## Food Complaints

The following complaints were received during the year:

<i>Date Rec'd</i>	<i>Article of Food</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
9. 2.72	Pork Pie	Alleged to contain foreign body	Evidence indicated foreign body had gained access after purchase. No action.
21. 3.72	Loaf of sliced bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Oily dough. Vegetable oil. No action.
8. 5.72	Bottle of milk	Dirt on inside surfaces of milk bottle	Prosecution - £25 fine.
16. 5.72	Loaf of sliced bread	Alleged to contain foreign body	Oily dough. Vegetable oil. No action.
23. 5.72	Jar of meat paste	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. Analyst result satisfactory. No action.
26. 5.72	Swiss Roll	Alleged stale and mouldy	Prosecution - £5 fine and £5 costs.

7. 7.72	Meat Pie	Alleged stale and mouldy	Prosecution – £5 fine.
7. 7.72	Meat Pie	Alleged to contain insect	Prosecution – £5 fine.
14. 7.72	Ice Lolly	Alleged unfit	Considered fit. Analyst result satisfactory. No action.
21. 7.72	Loaf of bread	Alleged to contain insect	Prosecution – £20 fine plus £5 costs.
31. 7.72	Meat Pie	Alleged to contain foreign material	Prosecution – £20 fine plus £5 costs.
5. 9.72	Frozen Fish Fingers	Alleged to contain worm	Worm in cod. No action.
8. 9.72	Fried Potato chips	Alleged to contain metal staple	Defendant ceased trading and moved away. No action.
13. 9.72	Cornish Pasty	Alleged to be unfit	Considered to be fit. Analyst report satisfactory. No action.
15. 9.72	Strawberry cream fool	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit and found satisfactory. No action.
22. 9.72	Carton of milk	Alleged to contain slug	Evidence suggested slug gained access to milk at complainant's house. No action.
23.10.72	Coconut Mallows	Alleged to be stale and mouldy	Prosecution – £10 fine plus £5 costs.
24.10.72	Dates	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. Analyst report satisfactory. No action.
13.11.72	Corned Beef	Alleged to contain insect	Prosecution pending.
30.11.72	Fruit Cocktail	Alleged to be unfit	Considered fit. No action.

### Condemned Foods for the year 1972

During the period under review, some 13,104 articles of food (ranging from small tins to forequarters of beef) were voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors. A large number of these surrendered articles became unfit for human consumption because of the breakdown of the deep freeze cabinets and refrigerators.

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following tables summarise the administration and enforcement during 1972 of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, which provides for the health, safety and welfare at work of nearly 2,000 persons employed in offices and shops in the Urban District of Pontypool.

**TABLE A.** Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	104	22
Retail shops, Warehouses	16	188	43
Wholesale shops	—	4	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	6	26	22
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>89</b>

**Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act**

359

In this schedule “ general inspection ” means:

Any inspection of premises to which the Act applies, which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises: and “ registered premises ” means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the Greater London Council, and the expression “ premises registered ” shall be construed accordingly.

**TABLE B.** Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	29	13	Sitting facilities	—
5	Overcrowding	1	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	2
6	Temperature	15	15	Eating facilities	—
7	Ventilation	5	16	Floors, passage and stairs	10
8	Lighting	7	17	Fencing exposed parts, machinery	—
9	Sanitary convenience	18	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	—
10	Washing facilities	9	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	—
11	Supply of drinking water	—	23	Prohibition of heavy work	—
12	Clothing accommodation	—	24	First aid General provisions	14
			50	Abstract of Act	18
			<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>128</b>

**TABLE C.** Exemptions.

Number of applications received: Nil

Number of applications granted: (i) Space Nil; (ii) Temp. Nil; (iii) San. Conv. Nil; (iv) Running Water Nil.

**TABLE D.** Prosecutions. Number instituted and completed during the year.

Section of Act or title of Order or Regulation	Number of persons or companies prosecuted	Number of informations laid	Number of informations leading to conviction
Section 48(1)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of complaints (or summary applications made under Section 22) — Nil.

Number of interim orders granted — Nil.

The following tables show the numbers of reported accidents :

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prose-cution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Retail shops	Nil	6	2	Nil	Nil	2	4
Wholesale shops and warehouses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTALS</b>	Nil	7	2	Nil	Nil	2	5

#### Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole-sale Ware-houses	Catering Establish-ments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage depot
Machinery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Transport	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Falls of persons	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Stepping on or striking against object or person	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Handling goods	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Struck by falling object	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fires and explosions	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Electricity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Use of hand tools	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not otherwise specified	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

## Disinfestations

The following table shows the work of disinfestation carried out during 1972.

Type of Buildings	Ants	Silver Fish	Woodlice	Vermin	Clover Mites	Cockroaches	Wasps	Bees	Flies	Earwigs
Council Houses ..	19	1	-	5	5	4	5	1	1	-
Other Council Buildings ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Private Houses ..	14	1	-	2	-	2	5	1	3	1
Miscellaneous Buildings ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

## Swimming Baths

The numbers of persons using the two open air swimming baths are shown in the following table:

	<i>Pontnewynydd</i>	<i>Griffithstown</i>
Adults .. .. .	2,555	1,836
Children .. .. .	17,360	11,476
Children through Schools ..	1,211	205
TOTALS ..	<u>21,126</u>	<u>13,517</u>

No particular problems were experienced during the year.

## Rodent Control

The following is a summary of the Rodent Control work carried out during 1972.

	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	Non-	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers	Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district (estimated)	16,205	60
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	449	—
b. Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	344	—
(ii) Mice	8	—
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rat and/or mice for reasons other than notification	397	—
b. Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	141	—
(ii) Mice	2	—

244 lengths Public Sewers were treated with fluoroacetamide at New Inn, Sebastopol, Griffithstown, Pontymoile, Pontypool, Wainfelin, Snatchwood and Garndiffaith.

## Environmental Inspection of the Area

During 1972, 226 complaints were made to the public health department and the work of the Public Health Inspectors may be summarised as follows:

### Food Premises (visits paid)

Bakehouses .. .. .	15
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	99



Cafes .. .. .	84
Confectioners .. .. .	91
Dairies and Pasteurising Plants .. .. .	89
Fish Shops .. .. .	55
Food Complaints .. .. .	85
Food & Drugs (Chemical and Bacteriological) Samples .. .. .	145
Grocers' Shops .. .. .	492
Greengrocers' Shops .. .. .	111
Ice Cream Dealers' & Ice Cream Manufacturers' Premises .. .. .	67
Mobile Shops (Hawkers) .. .. .	26
Canteens .. .. .	31
Miscellaneous Visits .. .. .	398
<b>Housing (visits paid)</b>	
Slum Clearance Inspections .. .. .	597
Environmental & Overcrowding Enquiries .. .. .	194
Sanitary Fittings & Structural Defects .. .. .	42
Water Supply and Pipes .. .. .	9
Miscellaneous Housing Visits (Re-inspections, etc.)	1,194
Improvement Grants .. .. .	598
Land Charges .. .. .	342
House Condition Survey .. .. .	189
<b>General Sanitation (visits paid)</b>	
Offensive Accumulations .. .. .	116
Atmospheric Pollution (Smoke Complaints and Observations) .. .. .	167
Caravans, Fairgrounds, etc. .. .. .	94
Drainage and Sewerage .. .. .	223
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc. .. .. .	25
Insect Pests .. .. .	11
Public House Urinals .. .. .	25
Public Conveniences .. .. .	18
Public Houses .. .. .	89
Refuse Tips .. .. .	58
Rodent and Vermin Infestation .. .. .	132
Unclean Premises .. .. .	5
Water Supplies (Sampling, etc.) .. .. .	37
Watercourses .. .. .	4
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	219
Abandoned Cars .. .. .	171
<b>Factories and Outworkers (visits paid)</b> .. .. .	36
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>6,383</b>

## METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS

The following information was supplied for 1972 by the Council's Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Superintendent, R. Saunders. Esq., and recorded at Panteg Cemetery.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Number of rain days per month	Highest temp. per month °F	Lowest temp. per month °F
January .. ..	5.90	19	52	16
February .. ..	6.35	19	50	29
March .. ..	4.41	19	65	31
April .. ..	3.10	15	64	36
May.. ..	5.85	22	66	37
June.. ..	3.83	20	70	40
July .. ..	0.73	6	82	47
August .. ..	1.56	7	80	42
September .. ..	2.59	5	72	38
October .. ..	3.58	7	64	35
November .. ..	4.20	15	58	27
December .. ..	8.11	23	57	28

Total rainfall for 1972 .. 50.21 inches

Total number of rain days 1972 177

The rainfall for some previous years was as follows:—

1971 .. 36.80 inches	1970 .. 42.63 inches
1969 .. 35.15 inches	1968 .. 46.56 inches
1967 .. 49.23 inches	1966 .. 46.51 inches

Highest temperature for 1972 .. 82°F

Lowest temperature for 1972 .. 16°F

# METEOROLOGICAL RECORD

The following information was reported for 1957 by the  
 United States Weather Bureau and is subject to revision  
 before the end of the calendar year.

Month	Temperature of air (degrees Fahrenheit)	Relative humidity (percent)	Wind speed (miles per hour)	Direction
January	38.7	78	10	Variable
February	43.3	75	12	Variable
March	48.1	72	15	Variable
April	51.0	68	18	Variable
May	58.2	65	20	Variable
June	63.5	62	22	Variable
July	68.8	60	25	Variable
August	72.1	58	28	Variable
September	75.4	55	30	Variable
October	78.7	52	32	Variable
November	72.0	55	25	Variable
December	65.3	60	18	Variable

Total rainfall for 1957: 45.2 inches  
 Total number of rain days: 145  
 The rainfall for some months was as follows:  
 1957: 45.2 inches  
 1956: 42.5 inches  
 1955: 48.1 inches

Highest temperature for 1957: 85.0 degrees F  
 Lowest temperature for 1957: 15.0 degrees F



