

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, East Suffolk County Council.

Contributors

East Suffolk (England). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer

1944

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH

EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

1944.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

IPSWICH.

September, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,


I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for 1944; this is abridged in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and it follows on the lines of former years.

It would be fitting here to express my appreciation of the work of all members of my Department, who have helped me in administering the Public Health Service throughout a difficult year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. G. ATKINSON,
A/County Medical Officer.



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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 548,607 acres.—1st April, 1934.

Population 1944 : 176,080.

(As estimated by the Registrar-General).

Population, Census 1931 : 207,475.

Number of inhabited houses, Census 1931 : 52,513.

Number of families or separate occupiers, Census 1931 : 53,933.

Rateable Value : £1,032,555 (year beginning 1st April, 1944).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £3,786 (estimated). Year beginning 1st April, 1944.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Geology, Industry, Commerce. These subjects are dealt with in the Survey Report for 1930 and there has been no alteration requiring comment; those desiring information are referred to that Report.

1944

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate	1,696	1,498	3,194	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 20.2.
Illegitimate	190	171	361	
Total live births	1,886	1,669	3,555	
Stillbirths :				} Rate per 1,000 total births (live and stillbirths) :—27.6.
Legitimate	45	37	82	
Illegitimate	12	7	19	
Total stillbirths	57	44	101	
Deaths :	1,206	1,183	2,389	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population :—13.56.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal Sepsis	2	.54
Other Puerperal Causes	5	1.37
Total	7	1.91

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	34.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	58.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6
„ Cancer (all ages)	386
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population	2.19
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population ....	.38

Population.

Year.	Population.
1931 ...	207,475 Census Return.
1940 ...	199,500
1941 ...	179,400
1942 ...	172,980
1943 ...	172,760
1944 ...	176,080

The increase in population this year would appear to be due chiefly to the return of evacuees to the coastal areas.

TABLE I.

BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	2789	14.4	13.7	14.0	14.6
1941	2873	17.04	15.0	15.8	14.2
1942	2949	17.77	16.62	17.05	15.8
1943	3053	18.84	16.95	17.65	16.5
1944	3555	22.58	18.7	20.2	17.6

The birth rate is now the highest since 1922, when it was 20.1 for the County, and 20.4 for England and Wales. The total number of babies born is higher than in any year since 1924, when the figure was 3,803, with a rate of 17.8.

TABLE II.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.		
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.
1940	142	0.6	0.8	0.7
1941	199	1.1	1.1	1.1
1942	194	1.27	1.04	1.1
1943	275	1.70	1.52	1.59
1944	361	2.17	1.97	2.05

This table shows the trend of the illegitimate birth rate for the whole of the war period; again this year there is a sharp rise in illegitimacy, with the urban rate still somewhat higher than the rural. The number of illegitimate births and the rate recorded are the highest shown in the annual reports (from 1916 onwards).

TABLE III.
DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	2824	15.2	13.4	14.16	14.3
1941	2488	15.4	13.0	13.87	12.9
1942	2434	15.3	13.4	14.07	11.6
1943	2329	14.18	13.05	13.48	12.1
1944	2389	13.8	13.4	13.56	11.6

The figures shown in Table III. are crude rates, and they do not give a true picture of the position, because of the varying age distribution in the various areas throughout the country. From 1934 until 1941 a corrected rate was shown, a factor being given by the Registrar-General to correct the crude rate for the area; for example, in 1941 the crude death rate was 14.3, but when the appropriate factor was applied the corrected death rate was 12.45.

TABLE IV.

Five-yearly period.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1935-39	14,511	13,000	1,511
1940	2,789	2,824	
1941	2,873	2,488	
1942	2,949	2,434	12,464
1943	3,053	2,329	
1944	3,555	2,389	

These two quinquennial periods again show a marked rise of births over deaths, the difference being 1,244 more births than deaths in the last quinquennium than in the previous one.

Infant Mortality Rate.

TABLE V.
DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	128	45	47	46	55
1941	132	47	45	46	59
1942	119	41	40	40	49
1943	107	43	30	35	49
1944	122	35	33	34	46

Although there is a small increase in the number of deaths of children under one year for 1944, nevertheless, the rate per 1,000 live births is the lowest recorded both for the County and England and Wales since 1916. The rate of 34 per 1,000 live births for the County compares favourably with the rate of 46 for the country as a whole.

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.
1935-1939	14,511	604	41.6
1940	2,789	128	39.9
1941	2,873	132	
1942	2,949	119	
1943	3,053	107	
1944	3,555	122	

In the quinquennial period 1916-1920, the yearly rates varied from 79 to 61 per 1,000 live births; the average rates for the two five-yearly periods in the above table show a great improvement on any previous quinquennial record.

II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Staff (whole-time):

County Medical Officer (Acting): A. G. Atkinson, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer (Acting): C. M. Whiteford, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

County Bacteriologist: (Acting) P. H. Martin, B.M., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.P.

Assistant County Medical Officers: H. Pedler, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

W. M. Burns, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. E. A. Parkinson, M.B., D.P.H. E.

Graham, M.B., D.P.H. (on active service). M. Gibson, M.B. (temporary).

Nursing Staff (whole-time):

Supervisor of Midwives: Miss M. MacDonald, resigned 16.10.44.

Miss M. W. Lindsay, from 5.12.44.

Assistant Supervisor of Midwives: Miss G. C. McGlinchy, from 17.4.44.

2 Health Visitors.

1 Orthopaedic Nurse (resigned)—on active service.

County Sanitary Staff (whole-time):

County Sanitary Officer: A. E. Chapman, F.S.I.A.

Assistant County Sanitary Officers: G. H. Hine (on active Service).

Ivon W. Fenn. (on active Service).

District Medical Officers of Health:

Urban Districts and Boroughs:

Aldeburgh	...	...	Dr. C. D. Somers, O.B.E.
Beccles	...	...	Dr. L. Gibson.
Bungay	...	...	Dr. H. Pedler.
Eye	...	...	Dr. H. Pedler.
Felixstowe	...	...	Dr. G. J. Conford.
Halesworth	...	...	Dr. W. M. Burns.
Leiston	...	...	Dr. W. M. Burns.
Lowestoft	...	...	Dr. V. R. Walker.
Saxmundham	...	...	Dr. D. W. Ryder Richardson.
Southwold	...	...	Dr. D. W. Collings.
Stowmarket	...	...	Dr. H. Pedler for Dr. E. Graham.
Woodbridge	...	...	Dr. C. M. Whiteford.

Rural Districts:

Blyth ...	...	...	Dr. W. M. Burns.
Deben ...	...	...	Dr. C. M. Whiteford.
Gipping ...	...	...	Dr. C. M. Whiteford for Dr. E. Graham.
Hartismere ...	...	...	Dr. H. Pedler.
Lothingland ...	...	...	Dr. L. Gibson.
Samford ...	...	...	Dr. A. G. Atkinson for Dr. E. Graham.
Wainford ...	...	...	Dr. H. Pedler.

County Laboratory.

The total numbers of specimens examined at the County Laboratory during the past three years were:—

1942	...	...	...	13,723
1943	...	...	...	16,010
1944	...	...	...	14,426

The laboratory services continue to be carried out under the auspices of the Medical Research Council, Emergency Public Health Laboratory, and Dr. Martin and his staff have continued to give valuable services in this important branch of Public Health work to the County.

III.**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

This part of the Report deals with the Administrative County, excluding Lowestoft M.B., which is a Local Supervising Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Summary of Visits Paid by Health Visiting Staff.

	1944.	1943.	1942.
First visits to children under 1 year	2,465	2,131	2,006
Re-visits to infants under 1 year ...	19,615	16,902	16,229
Visits to expectant mothers ...	12,559	9,839	9,860
Visits to children 1-5 years ...	26,980	24,925	25,426
Totals	61,619	53,797	53,521

Nursing in the Home.

There are now 59 District Nursing Associations, employing 65 District Nurse-Midwives. 6 Emergency Nurses are employed by the East Suffolk County Nursing Association. 50 of these Nurses use a car for their district work. The smaller numbers are due to the amalgamation of districts effected during 1944, whereby more adequate use could be made of the existing staff.

Nurses undertaking work for the County Council at the end of the year were:—

		Employed by	Emergency Nurses	
		D.N.A.	employed by C.N.A.	
State Registered Nurses—	Queen's Nurse-Midwives	19		
	District Nurse-Midwives	10		
		—		
		29		
	Village Nurse-Midwives ...	33		
		—	62	3
	Vacancies at end of year ...		3	3
			—	—
			65	6
			—	—

No whole-time Health Visitor is employed by the County Council; this work is carried out by the District Nurses employed by the Nursing Associations mentioned above. In spite of war-time difficulties, these part-time Health Visitors have made more visits this year than in any year since 1938. This is indicative of the keenness of the Nurses in their work, and has no doubt been helped by the further amalgamation of districts, with an extended use of the motor-car for the Nurses' work.

Circular 2831—Infestation.—The Health Visitors advise the mothers upon cleanliness and how to prevent infestation by head-lice; in the course of their duties they examine the heads of children under 5 years at home and at clinics; if a child is found to have head infection, mothers are instructed how to clean the head, half-strength Dettol being used. In addition, where School nurses find persistent head infection of children at school they visit the homes, and the mothers are shown how to cleanse the children's heads. Lethane oil is not used, as Dettol has been found to be highly efficacious.

Instruction in cleanliness is also given at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Circular 20/44—Care of Premature Infants.—All premature infants of 5½lbs. or less at birth are reported by the District Nurses and Midwives; a report is submitted upon the home conditions and whether the equipment is adequate; an investigation is made by the Supervisor of Midwives or her Assistant, where these are not satisfactory. ...

During the year 14 deaths of infants were reported by the midwives as being due to prematurity.

Circular 2866.—The Care of Illegitimate Children.—The County Council pay for the confinement and maintenance in an institution of the unmarried mother, and for the mother and baby to be cared for in one of the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association's Homes, for 13 weeks after the birth of the child. In addition, the County Council make a grant annually to the St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich Moral Welfare Association, and to the Norwich Diocesan Council for the services of their workers in assisting with finding of suitable homes for illegitimate children. The District Nurse Health Visitors also visit and see that the children are well cared for. The County Council does not maintain any home for the care of illegitimate children.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary for years 1943 and 1944:—				1943.	1944.
Number of openings	...	...	...	734	722
Number of attendances:—					
Ante-natal	...	...	...	1,159	1,273
Post-natal	...	...	...	20	45
Children	...	...	...	21,100	19,506
Average attendance of children a session				29	27
Number of consultations with Medical Officer:—					
Mothers, Ante-natal	...	...	...	995	1,089
Mothers, Post-natal	...	...	...	17	37
Children	...	...	...	6,047	5,679
Average number of consultations per child each session attended by Medical Officer				11.1	10.4

Twenty-eight Infant Welfare Centres were in commission at the end of 1944. Two new Centres were opened during the year at Saxmundham and Debenham. Nine functioned as ante-natal clinics, those at Felixstowe, Stowmarket, and Ipswich being specially equipped for that purpose. Ante-natal advice is given at all the clinics where a Doctor attends, even though the Clinic is not specially equipped for ante-natal purposes.

Centres functioning at the end of 1944.

Sessions held.

Weekly.	Twice monthly.	Monthly.
Aldeburgh	Bramford (a)	Charsfield
Beccles	Brantham (a)	Farnham (a)
Bungay	Eye	Framlingham
Felixstowe (a)	Kesgrave (a)	Kirton
Halesworth	Kessingland	Nacton (a)
Leiston	Wrentham	Newbourne
Stowmarket (a)		Otley
Woodbridge (a)		Stradbroke
Yoxford		Waldringfield
County Hall, Ipswich (a)		Wenhaston
		Saxmundham
		Debenham

(a) = Centre also functions as an ante-natal clinic.

Voluntary Helpers.—I would wish once more to express my sincere thanks to the many voluntary helpers at these clinics, who have taken so much interest in the mothers and children, and given such willing service throughout the year.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.

314 women were confined in institutions under the Council's scheme, compared with 209 in 1943—an increase of almost 50 per cent.; this high figure is accounted for by war-time conditions, especially the continued difficulty of obtaining home-helps and adequate housing accommodation.

Unmarried Mothers.—The County Council contributed towards 6 cases under their agreement with the Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations.

Obstetric Consultant Service.—Mr. Stansfield, of Ipswich, was called out in consultation three times, and Mr. Bulman, of Norwich, once. These figures do not include the number of persons sent by Medical Practitioners to hospital for consultation with the Obstetric Specialists.

Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.—17 cases were given financial assistance for extractions, fillings, scalings, dentures, etc.

Maternal Mortality.

There were 7 deaths; 2 from puerperal sepsis, and 5 from other causes. The mortality rate for the County was 1.91 for each 1,000 total births, compared with 1.92 for England and Wales; last year the comparable figures were 1.91 for the County and 2.29* for England and Wales.

*In the annual report for 1943 two maternal death rates were shown for England and Wales, separately:—

1.84 for puerperal sepsis and other causes.
.45 for abortion.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births.

<i>Five-yearly period.</i>	<i>Administrative County.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1935-39	2.84	3.29
1940	3.11	3.34
1941	1.02	2.23
1942	2.64	2.01
1943	1.91	2.29
1944	1.91	1.93

I give below a list of the maternal deaths which occurred in 1944, showing the cause to which each death was assigned:—

- Shock and hæmorrhage following rupture of a gravid uterus, due to malpresentation at confinement. Certified by Coroner after P.M.
- 1a. Bilateral pneumonia and left empyema.
II. Labour. (Died in hospital).
- Acute myeloblastic leukemia and allergic shock following a transfusion of blood administered for the relief of pregnancy. (Died in hospital).
- 1a. Acute hæmolytic shock
b. Blood transfusion for Cæsarian section.
c. "Dicoumarin" hæmorrhage.
(Died in hospital).
- Heart failure due to shock and cold caused by the deceased getting up too soon after her confinement. Certified by Coroner. No inquest.
- 1s. Septicæmia.
b. Parturition.
(Died in hospital).

7. 1a Toxæmia and septicæmia resulting from a septic abortion.
P.M. showed universal liver necrosis and an early acute nephritis.
(Died in hospital).

Remarks:—

1. This was a case of an unmarried girl who had concealed her pregnancy, and her death occurred suddenly. No arrangements were made for her confinement.
2. This patient was only seven months pregnant when she developed pneumonia; she was removed to hospital immediately on the advice of the doctor; in my opinion death was primarily due to pneumonia.
3. For some time this patient had treatment at hospital for severe anæmia, and my view is that this could not strictly be classified as a maternal death.
4. This was her second Cæsarian Section, and the patient was under specialist supervision in hospital from the onset of labour, where all possible treatment was available.
5. Death occurred suddenly on the third day after confinement, and no post-mortem was held.
6. This case had been under the care of a medical practitioner throughout until her removal to hospital on the twelfth day.
7. No ante-natal supervision had been given to this patient, as she had not approached a doctor or midwife, nor had she attended any ante-natal clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

7 cases were notified. All were treated at home; in all cases the vision was unimpaired.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

In the County (excluding Lowestoft) 30 cases were notified; of these, 7 were treated at home and 23 in hospital, through arrangements made by the County Council.

Midwives.

105 midwives practised in the County during 1944. 2,773 births were notified by doctors, parents, midwives and Registrars. (Lowestoft births are not included). 1,256 confinements were attended by midwives in that capacity, and 1,203 by midwives as maternity nurses.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

8 homes were registered as maternity or nursing homes; in addition 6 institutions were exempt from registration.

Orthopaedic Treatment.—(Children under 5 years of age.

In-patient treatment—Individual children 3.

Out-patient treatment—Individual children, 42.

Number of attendances ...	...	84
Number of X-rays taken ...	...	7
Number of Surgical appliances supplied ...	...	15

Child Life Protection.

331 children were under supervision at the end of the year, compared with 311 in 1943. These children are visited at regular intervals by the District Health Visitors; the Superintendent and her Assistant make a special visit to these children when inspecting the work of the District Nurses. There is close co-operation between the County and the Voluntary Societies—e.g. Church of England Waifs and Strays Societies, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, etc. Special visits are made and reports submitted before any child is placed in a home by one of these Societies.

IV.

VACCINATION.

	<i>Adminis. County.</i>				<i>Excluding</i>			
	<i>County.</i>				<i>Lowestoft.</i>			
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Total births registered during year	2,602	2,559	2,585	2,632	2,069	2,218	2,250	1,999
Successfully vaccinated ...	990	1,232	1,358	1,380	969	1,215	1,330	1,222
Insusceptible of vaccination ...	29	15	18	18	28	15	18	1
Statutory declaration of conscientious objection ...	1,245	965	926	978	878	767	733	606
Died unvaccinated ...	67	85	75	60	48	64	60	3
Postponement by medical certificate	8	14	13	6	7	14	13	
Removal to other districts and Vaccination Officer apprised ...	39	64	41	68	30	58	41	5
Removal to places unknown and cases not found ...	47	47	37	49	37	40	37	2
Percentage of children successfully vaccinated ...	38.4	48.1	52.5	52.4	46.8	54.8	59.1	61.3

In view of the continued difficulties under which the Public Vaccinators and Vaccination Officers have been working, I think the figures are very satisfactory; as has been mentioned in previous reports, the figures for vaccination are a year behind the other statistics given in this report because the returns of the Vaccination Officers cannot be submitted until some time after the expiration of any particular year.

V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

No extensions of public waterworks or water mains have been made.

Sewage Disposal.

There has been no enlargement of the sewage disposal works, nor any extensions of sewers in the County.

VI.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

TABLE VII.

Progress of Scheme approved by the Minister of Health under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1942.
Position at 31st December, 1944.

ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF GRANTS BY THE COUNCIL.

Purpose for which assistance required.	Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grants have been :—			Assistance promised by the Council :—		Assistance given by the Council :—		Number of dwellings :—	
(1)	Made to the Council.	Refused by the Council.	Withdrawn by applicants.	Total Amounts of grants promised.	Number of dwellings concerned.	Total Amounts of grants paid.	Number of dwellings concerned.	On which work has been finished.	On which work has been commenced but not finished.
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings	51	6	15	£ 2,908. 4. 0	30	£ 2,808. 4. 0	29	29	—
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings	1,257	120	196	£ 73,348. 19. 8	937	£ 72,248. 19. 8	925	925	0
Total at end of year	1,303	126	211	£ 76,257. 3. 8	967	£ 75,057. 3. 8	954	954	0

VII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

7 samples of milk were taken and examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli; all of the samples proved to be negative.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Accredited Milk.—The number of licences in force at the end of the year was 234. No licences were suspended or revoked during 1944. Only 48 samples were collected and examined; of these 8 (or 16.6 per cent.) did not comply with the prescribed standards.

Tuberculin tested.—76 licences were in force at the end of the year. No licences were suspended or revoked during 1944. 22 samples were collected and examined; of these 5 (or 22.7 per cent.) failed to satisfy the tests for the "Tuberculin Tested" grade of milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

36 samples of food or drugs, were taken and sent to the Public Analyst for his report. One was an informal sample and one was lost in transit.

Of the 29 milk samples, three were taken "in course of delivery" and three were "appeal to cow," taken at the request of the Ipswich Borough Council.

9 of the samples (all milks) were found to be not up to the standard prescribed by the "Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939"; of these, 6 showed evidence of the addition of water. Letters of warning were sent in five cases, and legal proceedings taken in the other four. I give the results of the prosecutions:—

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. added water: | Fined £10 and £4 10s. costs. | |
| 2. $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. added water | | } Cases dismissed. |
| 3. $13\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. added water | | |
| 4. $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. added water | | |

VIII.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-36.

It has not been possible to make any systematic inspections under these Acts during the year.

IX.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Isolation Hospital accommodation for the County is set out in detail in the annual report for 1938; this should be referred to for any information which may be required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1944.

TABLE VIII.

Infectious Disease:	Number of cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Attack rate per 1,000 Population.	
			Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	360	—	2.04	2.40
Diphtheria ...	26	1	.15	0.58
Enteric Fever ...	5	—	.03	0.02
Pneumonia ...	180	64	1.02	0.97
Poliomyelitis ...	3	3	.02	—
Whooping Cough ...	731	3	4.15	2.49
Measles ...	443	1	2.52	4.16
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	7	1	.04	0.05
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	45	2	—	—

Smallpox.—This condition has been absent from the County since 1929.

Scarlet Fever.—This continues to be mild in type, as is indicated by the fact that there were no deaths from the disease again this year.

Diphtheria.—One death from diphtheria was recorded—this was of a child between 1-5 years of age. The number of cases notified—26, compares favourably with 43 in the previous year.

Immunisation.—1,656 children under the age of 5 years were immunised and 289 school children.

Poliomyelitis.—The three deaths which were included in the Registrar General's figures were adults dying from acute infective encephalitis.

Whooping Cough.—There was a sharp rise in the number of cases notified, giving an attack rate for the year higher than that for England and Wales. The mortality rate was much lower, 3 deaths in 731 cases, compared with 5 deaths in 368 cases in 1943.

Measles.—This was not an epidemic year—443 cases compared with 3,233 the previous year.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.—1 death in 7 cases indicates the lower mortality from this disease, following on the modern forms of treatment.

X.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IX.

Cases certified as having died of Tuberculosis.—taken from the return of the Registrar-General.

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1939	79	16	95
1940	82	13	95
1941	66	21	87
1942	60	18	78
1943	52	16	68
1944	49	18	67

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is the lowest ever recorded in this County; it is interesting to note that the figure for 20 years ago (1925) was 163 deaths from Pulmonary and 44 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

TABLE X.

The figures in this table are those assigned by the Registrar-General.

Five-yearly Period.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
1914-1918 (1st War-Period)	928	273	1,201
1940-1944 (2nd War-Period)			
1940	82	13	95
1941	66	21	87
1942	60	18	78
1943	52	16	68
1944	49	18	67
	309	86	395

I again include the figures for the quinquennium covering the years 1914-1918, which is a war period comparable with 1940-1944; these figures show clearly the great improvement in the number of deaths from tuberculosis.

Death Rates—Tuberculosis.

TABLE XI.

Year.	All Forms.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1939	.45	.64	.38	.54	.07	.10
1940	.48	.68	.41	.57	.07	.11
1941	.48	.69	.37	.57	.12	.12
1942	.45	.62	.35	.51	.10	.11
1943	.39	.61	.30	.51	.09	.10
1944	.38	.58	.28	.48	.10	.09

Deaths of notified cases of Tuberculosis, 1944.

Notified after death	...	...	...	3
Within one week of notification	...	...	...	4
1 week to 1 year after notification	...	...	...	23
1 year to 5 years after notification	...	...	...	23
From 5 years onwards after notification	...	...	...	6
				—
				59
				—

1,105 examinations were made by the Tuberculosis Officers, compared with 943 in 1943.

271 cases were classified as fit for full-time, and 108 for part-time work; 117 were classed as "getting about," and 71 were confined to bed.

397 specimens of sputum from dispensary cases were examined at the request of the Tuberculosis Officers; of these 118 were positive, compared with 98 the previous year.

Primary Notifications.

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1943	113	70	183
1944 ...	107	71	178

Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.—11 new cases received this treatment. 2 completed treatment. 1 had advanced disease and treatment was abandoned. 11 had A.P. induced in other areas and continued treatment here when they came to live in the County. 4 County patients moved to other areas and continued treatment elsewhere. 47 were having this treatment at the end of the year.

Thoracoplasty.—Patients requiring this form of treatment are sent to Brompton Hospital; one patient was admitted for operation, but this was not carried out until early in 1945; a second patient was placed on the waiting list, but had not been admitted at the end of 1944.

Institutional Treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—78 patients were admitted to institutions. 61 were discharged. 17 died. 47 were in institutions at the end of the year.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—59 cases were admitted to institutions. 35 were discharged and 3 died. 23 were in institutions at the end of the year.

TABLE XII.

Tuberculosis : Dispensary Register.

Cases on Register 1.1.44	...	...	...	...	540
New Cases of Tuberculosis placed on Register	...	...	...	...	168
New cases placed under observation	...	...	...	...	25
New Cases diagnosed as Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	106
Cases transferred from other areas or restored to the Tuberculosis Register	...	...	...	...	47
Total:					886
Old and New Cases written off as Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	126
Cases transferred to other areas or lost sight of	...	...	...	...	61
Cases written off as "Recovered"	...	...	...	...	44
Cases written off as "Dead"—from all causes	...	...	...	...	55
Cases remaining on Register on 31.12.44	...	...	...	...	600
Total:					886
No. of "T.B. Plus" cases on Register on 31st Dec., 1944	231				
No. of X-ray exams. for Dispensary Cases during year	339				

Memo 266/T.—Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—37 cases received allowances under this scheme during the year. It must be recognised that this scheme was initiated as a war-time measure for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis only, and was intended primarily to assist and encourage persons suffering from an early stage of the disease to obtain the necessary treatment in a sanatorium which would fit them for return to full employment. The assessment of these cases is difficult, and throws a great responsibility upon the Tuberculosis Officers. All forms of surgical tuberculosis are excluded from any benefit under the scheme.

XI.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

TABLE XIII.

Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.

Area from which Patients came.	No. of New Cases.			Total number of attendances.		
	1942	1943	1944	1942	1943	1944
East Suffolk ...	316	256	104	3005	2669	2510
Great Yarmouth ...	46	38	45	663	705	517
Norfolk ...	9	2	2	53	12	10
Total :	371	296	151	3721	3386	3037

The figures shown in the above table reveal a falling-off in the number of new cases seen at the Lowestoft Clinic during 1944.

TABLE XIV.

Venereal Diseases. (East Suffolk Patients Only).

Centre.	No. of East Suffolk Persons seen for the first time and found to be suffering from:—			Conditions other than Venereal.	Total.	Total No. of Attendances at Out-patient Clinics.	Aggregate No. of In-patient days.
	Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea.				
Lowestoft	19 (3)	1	10 (1)	74 (19)	104 (23)	2510	—
Ipswich	25 (3)	1	54 (1)	66 (3)	146 (7)	2938	195
TOTALS	44 (6)	2	64 (2)	140 (22)	250 (30)	5448	195

N.B.—The figures in brackets relate to members of H.M. Forces and are included in all totals.

Table XIV.—The proportion of syphilis to gonorrhoea treated is still much higher at the Lowestoft than at the Ipswich Clinic; the comparative figures are 70 per cent. syphilis at Lowestoft and 32 per cent. at Ipswich.

The total number of new cases seen for the first time at the Ipswich Clinic has fallen from 194 last year to 146 this year.

DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS. REGULATION 33B.

The Superintendent Health Visitor and her deputy are the officers authorised by the County Council to visit persons under Regulation 33B. and to endeavour to persuade them to attend a Clinic for examination and, if necessary, treatment. This is not an easy task and requires much tact and patience; this work has taken up much time of these Officers.

The Medical Officer of the Clinic notifies me when a person has not attended for examination as arranged, or when a person does not continue to attend for the necessary treatment. Further visits are then made by the Superintendent Health Visitor, or her deputy.

On some of the Forms I. very inadequate information has been given of the names and addresses; here the Police have made discreet enquiries and have been instrumental in tracing many of these persons.

30 Forms I. were received. In 4 instances two Forms I. for the same person; in such cases steps can be taken to enforce examination and any subsequent treatment which may be required.

20 persons were traced and 15 attended a Clinic for examination; 2 were examined privately by a Medical Practitioner; 1 promised to have a medical examination but did not do so; 2 only refused to be examined.

Persons who are not notified under Regulation 33B, but who attend a clinic either on their own account or at the request of their own Doctor, come under the control of the Clinic concerned, and any following-up is done through the Clinic.

XII. CANCER DEATH RATE. TABLE XV.

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1939	202	215	417	2.03	1.95	1.98	1.62
1940	198	168	366	2.08	1.66	1.83	1.66
1941	175	209	384	2.3	2.05	2.14	1.67
1942	203	195	393	2.6	2.12	2.3	1.69
1943	144	226	370	2.77	1.76	2.14	1.74
1944	202	184	386	2.21	2.18	2.19	1.92

The Cancer death rate is misleading, as except in Census years the number of persons in each age group is not known. There is a slight rise in the rate for the County this year, but this also applies to the rate for England and Wales; there was a big increase in the male deaths from this disease from 144 last year to 202 this year.

XIII.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.

TABLE XVI.

Mental Defectives in East Suffolk:

Number on books:—				1942.	1943.	1944.
Males	...	...	...	572	613	654
Females	...	...	...	703	641	686
Total				1,275	1,254	1340

Dealt with by Joint Committee:

	Males	Females	Total
In institutions	169	164	333
On leave of absence from institutions	7	45	52
Under guardianship	8	19	27
Under statutory supervision	80	88	168

Dealt with at instance of parent or Suffolk Mental Welfare Association:

In training homes	8	12	20
In Royal Eastern Counties Institution	11	8	19
Under voluntary supervision	344	279	623

Defectives in Public Assistance Institutions:

Total	...	654	686	1,340
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XIV.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1938.

Total blind persons: 433. Males, 183. Females 250. Of these 394 are unemployable. 15 are employed, and 24 come into other categories. 23 blind persons are mentally defective. 11 are physically defective, and 33 are deaf.

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer

1944

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH