

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Hartismere R.D.C.

Contributors

Hartismere (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

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HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1956.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

K.M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.

H. SPINDLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector.

G.H. GRAYSTON, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

H. FELL, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Assistant Housing Officer and Additional Public Health Inspector.

N.J. WHITE. Cert. R.S.I & S.I.E.J.B (Resigned 12th December, 1956).

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Water Committee	- -	Council's water undertakings.
Housing Committee	- -	Improvement of housing amenities under Housing Act, 1949. Provision of housing accommodation by the Council and also by private enterprise.
Public Health Committee		Sewerage, refuse collection, rodent control, and all other public health functions.

To The Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

The estimated population remains stationary. There is a slight increase in the Standardised Birth Rate. There were 7 deaths in infants under the age of one year, compared with 6 in 1955, this has caused the Infant Mortality Rate to rise to 28.1.

There was an increase in the number of deaths (208) and the Standardised Death Rate rose from 8.78 to 10.67. The number of deaths from diseases of the Heart and Circulation rose from 92 to 123, and the number of deaths from Cancer fell from 34 to 25. For the first time in six years there was no death from Tuberculosis.

Measles was again prevalent, the majority of cases being notified during the summer months, and there was an epidemic of Whooping Cough during the last two quarters of the year; but there were no deaths from either of these diseases. No cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria occurred.

Six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified; five of these cases were Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of Non-Pulmonary.

One of the outstanding events of the year was the Exhibition on Safety in the Home, which was organised jointly by the Borough of Eye and Hartismere Rural District Council. It was held in the Town Hall at Eye and nearly 500 people visited the Exhibition, which included special exhibits and displays, talks and film shows.

We are all proud of the fact that the first Exhibition on Safety in the Home ever to be held in Suffolk, was organised by two of the smaller units in Local Government, namely a small non County Borough and a Rural District.

In conclusion, I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement. I am also most grateful to the Officers and other staff of the Public Health and Housing Department, and also to other officers and staff of the Council, for their help during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health.

6th November, 1957.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	96,486 acres.
Population	16,950.
No. of inhabited houses	6,016.
Rateable Value	£100,751.
Product of Penny Rate	£411. 13s. 8d.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	114	125	239
Illegitimate	6	4	10
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	120	129	249
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Birth Rate.

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.7
Comparability factor	1.17
Standardised birth rate	17.2
Birth rate England and Wales	15.7

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	2	2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	3	6	9
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Still Birth Rate.

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	34.9
Still birth rate England and Wales	23.0

Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	3	4	7
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Infant Mortality Rate.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	28.1
Infant mortality rate England and Wales	23.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	3	4	7
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes	122	86	208
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	12.27		
Comparability factor	0.87		
Standardised death rate	10.67		
Death rate England and Wales	11.7		

The Registrar General has continued to supply a comparability factor, 0.87 by which the Crude Death Rate must be adjusted for comparison with other areas of the country. As this factor is less than unity, the Standardised, or corrected Death Rate is less than the Crude Death Rate. This indicates that Hartismere has a greater "weighting" of elderly persons than the average for the rest of the country.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1956.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1955.</u>
Tuberculosis - respiratory	-	-	-	3
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1	1
Meningo-coccal infections	-	1	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	2
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	1	4	8
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	5	1	6	5
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	2	2	-
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	5	13	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	2	3	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	17	40	31
Coronary disease, angina	32	7	39	29
Hypertension with heart disease	-	4	4	2
Other heart diseases	12	18	30	25
Other circulatory diseases	5	5	10	5
Influenza	1	1	2	2
Pneumonia	3	3	6	6
Bronchitis	6	4	10	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2	2
Congenital malformations	1	2	3	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	8	7	15	23
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6	3
Suicide	-	-	-	3
All other accidents	3	4	7	3
Total	122	86	208	187

Cancer.

There were 25 deaths from Cancer in 1956 compared with 34 in 1955.

Cancer Death Rate.

Hartismere 1.5 per 1,000 population.
East Suffolk 2.06 per 1,000 population.

Vital Statistics - Summary for Past 5 Years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	England & Wales 1956.
Population	17,180	17,080	17,030	17,040	16,950	
Live Births	233	236	270	242	249	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.56	13.8	15.85	14.2	14.7	
Standardised Birth Rate	16.5	16.8	18.54	16.61	17.2	15.7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	6	7	4	6	7	
Infant Mortality Rate	25.7	29.7	14.85	24.8	28.1	23.8
Deaths	227	175	184	187	208	
Crude Death Rate	13.2	10.2	10.39	10.97	12.27	
Standardised Death Rate	10.56	8.16	8.3	8.78	10.67	11.7

Summary of Principal Causes of Death for last 5 Years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Diseases of Cardiac and Circulatory System (Including Cerebral Haemorrhage	127	101	100	92	123
Cancer	39	31	34	34	25
Diseases of Respiratory System (excluding Tuberculosis)	15	7	18	16	17
Tuberculosis - all forms	6	1	1	1	-
Suicide and Violent Causes	7	9	9	6	13

Monthly Notification of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	1	5	1	19	4	6	5	6	49
Measles	5	1	4	-	1	3	12	34	6	-	-	14	80
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Total	7	2	5	5	2	9	14	53	11	9	5	20	142

Notifiable Diseases - Age Distribution.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	4	5	12	25	2	-	1	-	-	49
Measles	3	10	11	46	5	2	3	-	-	80
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Total	7	15	24	74	8	5	7	2	-	142

Notifiable Diseases - Summary for Past 5 Years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	4	5	18	11	5
Whooping Cough	49	45	92	27	49
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	172	56	69	89	80
Acute Pneumonia	14	1	11	17	3
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	2	1	-	2	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	1	2	5
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	2	-	-	-
Malaria	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	1	-	-	-

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Figures kindly supplied by the
County Medical Officer).

No. of pre-school children receiving primary immunisation - 206.
No. of school children receiving primary immunisation - 16.
No. of children receiving Booster injections - 172.

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	
Cases on register at 1.1.56.	39	11	25	13	88
Primary Notifications	4	1	1	-	6
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	-
Total	43	12	26	13	94
<u>Cases taken off register in 1956.</u>					
Deaths	1	-	-	-	1
Recovered	-	3	-	2	5
Removed from District	2	-	1	-	3
Re-diagnosed Non T.B.	-	-	-	-	-
Total removed	3	3	1	2	9
No. of cases remaining on register at 31.12.56.	40	9	25	11	85

Notification Rates.

Pulmonary (Hartismere) 0.29 per 1,000 population.
Pulmonary (East Suffolk) 0.42 per 1,000 population.
Non-Pulmonary (Hartismere) 0.06 per 1,000 population.
Non-Pulmonary (East Suffolk) 0.13 per 1,000 population.

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 Years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number added to Register by Primary Notification.					
(a) Pulmonary	17	10	8	8	5
(b) Non-Pulmonary	3	4	6	1	1
Total Number added to Register	20	16	18	14	6

6. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Construction Works.

Mains.

During the year 30 miles of small diameter A.C. mains were laid. This completes a distribution system which serves 90% of the properties in the district.

Headworks.

Construction of the Pumping Station and reinforced concrete reservoir (400,000 gallons) were completed. It was not possible to put the headworks into operation as the Treatment Plant had not been installed.

Water Towers.

A reinforced concrete water tower (capacity 100,000 gallons) was constructed at Beddingfield and put into operation.

A similar water tower of the same capacity was commenced at Finningham.

(b) Water Examination.

Well water - 8 samples were taken - 4 of these were found to be satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

Mains - 24 routine samples were submitted for examination all these were satisfactory.

(c) Well Water Cyanosis.

During the year 34 samples were taken - 18 of these were found to be safe, 16 unsafe (this figure includes 13 which were termed as doubtful). The families concerned in the unsafe cases were warned and advised about obtaining an alternative supply.

7. SEWERAGE.

Cotton - A drainage scheme for 8 houses was completed.

Withersdale Street - A drainage scheme for 10 houses was completed.

Fressingfield and Weybread - Water, sink drains and W.C.'s connected.

Palgrave - Village sewers - Stage I completed.

8. HOUSING.

New Housing.

During the year 39 Council houses were built.

9. MILK DEALERS LICENCES.

Pasteurised Milk - 14 licences were issued.
Tuberculin Tested Milk - 12 licences were issued.
Sterilised Milk - 1 licence was issued.

10. MILK SAMPLING.

No. of samples taken by East Suffolk County Council - 124.
No. containing Tuberculosis organisms - 4.
No. containing Brucella organisms - 12.

11. FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year the 3 licensed slaughterhouses continued operations on a small scale. 84 cattle and 137 pigs were killed and 100% inspection of carcasses was carried out. No carcasses were condemned during the year and this indicates the extremely high quality of meat handled.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

12 lbs. canned meats.
22 lbs. packed suet.
10 stns. fish fillets.

12. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

One elderly man who was living alone and who was in need of care and attention was removed to hospital under the provisions of this Act.

13. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

Number of factories with mechanical power - 45.
Number of factories without mechanical power - 5.
Other premises - building sites etc. - 49.
Number of inspections made - 40.
Number of defects found - 3.
Number of defects remedied - 3.