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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.




Public Health Department,
Lewes House,
High Street,
LEWES, Sussex.



*Newhaven Urban District Council
and Port Health Authority.*

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*



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Public Health Department,
Lewes House,
School Hill,
LEWES,
Sussex.

May, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee,
Newhaven Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1957 on the state of public health of the general population and the sanitary circumstances of Newhaven.

The estimated population of Newhaven for 1957 was 8,030 which is the highest so far recorded.

The crude birth rate for the year was 12.33 per 1,000 population. This rate is 4.63 less than that for 1956.

The crude death rate in 1957 was 9.59 per 1,000 population.

There was a total of 105 deaths during the year. Thirty-eight were due to heart disease, twenty were due to cancer, and nine were due to vascular lesions of the nervous system mostly so called "strokes".

Very few infectious diseases were notified. Out of a total of twenty-four, fifteen were of measles, four were of whooping cough, whilst three cases of scarlet fever and two of pneumonia were notified.

Eleven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There were no notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. No deaths were due to pulmonary or to non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

Mass radiography was carried out from 25th September to 1st October 1957 during which time 1,429 persons were X-rayed. As a result one case of active pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered and three cases of inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.

Concerning the sanitary circumstances and sanitary inspection of the area, all premises are provided with closets connected with the sewer with some exceptions. These exceptions are where there are cesspools. There is a total of 344 cesspools in the area of which there are 279 in the added area. This area is being dealt with now as regards sewerage. There are very few earth closets. The total number is 23.

Your Public Health Inspector made some hundreds of inspections in connection with housing, general sanitation and with meat and other foods. A perusal of the main body of this report will give some idea of his multifarious duties. He carried out his work with zeal and efficiency.

I have to thank you for your encouragement to me during the year and my thanks are given to other officials for their kind co-operations and courtesy.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

G.M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
F.R.S.I., etc.

Medical Officer of Health.

Table 1.1
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Date
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Page 1

The following table shows the results of the survey conducted in the year 1950.

Table 1.1. Results of the survey.

The survey was conducted in the year 1950 and the results are shown in the following table.

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SECTION I.

Statistics for the Area -- 1957.

Area in Acres	1,766
Population (Estimated)	8,030
Rateable Value (Estimated)	£85,680
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£327
Number of occupied houses	2,478

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>	
				<u>Crude Rates</u>	<u>Adjusted Rates</u>
Legitimate	56	41	97		
Illegitimate	1	1	2	12.33	12.70

Deaths.

Including those of outside residents.	55	50	105	13.07	8.89
Excluding those of outside residents	39	38	77	9.59	

Rate per 1,000 live and still births

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth.	0.00
-----------------------------------------------------------	------

Rate per 1,000 live births.

<u>Infantile Mortality</u> (deaths under one year of age)	-	1	1	10.10
--------------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---	-------

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimated population figure for mid-1957 is 8,030. The population for Newhaven for the past 10 years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	
1948	7,520	139	86	18.48	11.43	
1949	7,592	156	92	20.60	12.15	
1950	7,774	131	94	16.85	12.09	<u>Excluding</u>
1951	7,803	123	100	15.76	12.81	<u>Outside</u>
1952	7,815	140	82	17.91	10.49	<u>Residents</u>
1953	7,832	126	148	16.47	18.89	12.38
1954	7,940	124	113	15.62	14.23	13.22
1955	7,980	118	123	14.79	15.41	10.02
1956	7,960	135	94	16.96	11.81	9.05
1957	8,030	99	105	12.33	13.07	9.59

The estimated population figure for 1957, 8,030, shows an increase of 70 over the total recorded for 1956 and an increase of 50 over the 1955 total. The reduction of 20 recorded in 1956 has thus been more than wiped out. Although the annual increase in population is small it has resulted in an increase from 7,520 in 1948 to 8,030 in 1957, or nearly 7 per cent in the ten-year period.

Maternal Mortality

No case of maternal mortality took place in the area during 1957.

Only one mother who was normally resident in Newhaven has died in, or in consequence of, childbirth during the past twenty two years. In that time the maternal mortality rate for Newhaven was about one-tenth of that for England and Wales for the same period.

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 1957 one infant under one year of age died in Newhaven. This represents a rate of 10.10 per 1,000 live births as compared with 23 per 1,000 live births for the whole of England and Wales.

Birth Rate.

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 12.33 per 1,000 population. This represents a decrease of 4.63 per 1,000 compared with the rate for 1956 and is the lowest rate recorded in the district in any post-war year.

An area comparability factor of 1.03 is applicable to the birth rate in the town for 1957. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General in order that a fair comparison may be made between the local birth rates of different districts and of England and Wales as a whole. In this case, its application gives an adjusted birth rate of 12.70. The rate for England and Wales for the same period was 16.1.

Death Rate

The crude rate for the year under review was 13.07 per 1,000 population, the death rate for England and Wales for the same period being 11.5 per 1,000 population. Deaths of persons from other areas who enter an institution in the district are included in the total from which the crude rate is calculated, but the area comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General for application to the crude rate gives an adjusted death rate in which allowance has been made for such deaths. The factor of 0.68 applied to the crude rate of 13.07 gives an adjusted death rate of 8.89 per 1,000 population, which compares very favourably with the figure of 11.5 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart Disease	16	22	38
Cancer	10	10	20
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	3	9
Circulatory disease other than mentioned elsewhere	3	4	7
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Accidents other than motor vehicle accidents	5	-	5
Influenza	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	-	1
Disease of respiratory system other than mentioned elsewhere	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformation	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4	7
	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>105</u>

Section I - Causes of Death (Continued)

The highest age at death was 94 years

The lowest age at death was 3 days

The average age at death of
Newhaven residents was 68.26 years.

SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system

Nearly one half of the total number of deaths in the area during 1957 were due to heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system. Twenty out of the total number of 45 deaths due to this group of diseases took place in a local institution and the average age at death of this group of twenty persons was 81 years. This clearly illustrates the fact that most deaths due to heart disease occur amongst the elderly.

Cancer.

Twenty deaths due to cancer took place in Newhaven during 1957, giving a death rate of 2.49 per 1,000 population. Ten of these deaths were of males and ten of females. Two cases of cancer of the lung were recorded.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system include cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism and thrombosis and other cerebral lesions. A total of nine deaths in Newhaven was classified under this heading during 1957, six being males and three females. This is the same as last year's total. Most of these deaths occur amongst elderly persons and a good proportion of them take place in an institution in the area to which elderly and infirm people are sent from surrounding areas as well as from Newhaven district.

SECTION II

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. Public Health Facilities of the Local Authority.

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for Newhaven also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Seaford and the Rural District of Chailley.

One Public Health Inspector carries out duties in the Urban District of Newhaven.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory, established at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has proved of great assistance during the year.

The Laboratory has carried out for the Urban District, free of charge, the examination of sputum and nose and throat swabs and has also examined samples of water. This service is extremely valuable both to your Medical Officer of Health and to the medical practitioners practising in the district.

3. Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which has made arrangements for the ambulance to be housed, serviced, and maintained by a local commercial garage, and for the vehicle to be driven by members of the garage staff. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade act as attendants. The area served by the ambulance includes the districts of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe, Piddinghoe, Tarring Neville and South Highton. In the event of a further call or calls being received before the ambulance has returned from a previous call, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other authorities in the area.

The Newhaven ambulance is not available for the transport of infectious disease cases but under the provisions of the Ambulance Scheme ambulances from adjacent ambulance stations can be called upon, if required, for the conveyance of such cases. Arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances so used, together with the disinfection of bedding, clothing etc.

The East Sussex County Council provide facilities for the transport of tuberculosis patients.

4. Hospitals.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation which, in this area, was materially the same as in previous years.

5. Nursing in the Home.

As in previous years, the East Sussex County Council, as empowered by Section 25 of the National Health Service Act 1946, has arranged for this service to be provided by the East Sussex County Nursing Association through the Lewes and District Nursing Association.

6. Clinics.

The Minor Ailments Clinics have been held at the Schools as previously, and immunisation clinics have also been held monthly in the town.

7. Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

The East Sussex County Council deals with the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency services in respect of patients outside institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

Sanitary Circumstances and Sanitary Inspection of the Area.1. Water Supply.

The District has two sources of water supply:-

(a) from the Newhaven, Seaford and Ouse Valley Water Company which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom ; and

(b) from the British Railways' Well at Denton. This supply is only provided for four houses and two hotels, viz. 1 - 4 Denton Terrace, The Railway and Harbour Hotels.

2. Closet Accommodation.

All the premises in the district are provided with closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:-

Premises with cess-pools

West Pier	2
Court Farm Road	10
Harbour Heights Estate	46
Added Area	279
Lewes Road	7

Premises with earth closets

New Road	15
Denton Village	8

3. Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse was made from all premises in the area which were within fifty yards of a reasonably accessible road. House refuse was disposed of by the Bradford Tipping System, buried daily on the Council's Refuse Tip on Denton Island. This system of disposal has proved to be satisfactory.

4. The following is a list of the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year by your Public Health Inspector:-

Housing.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	70
Visits under the Public Health Acts	101
Inspections under the Housing Acts	113
Visits under the Housing Acts	81
Inspections of verminous houses	2
Certificates of Disrepair	5

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries	3
Disinfections	4

General Sanitation.

Ditches	8
Drainage	51
Stable and piggeries	10
Fried Fish Shops	46
Factories and Workshops	54
Bakehouses	33

SECTION III - Continued.

4. General Sanitation.

Public Conveniences	56
Refuse collection	65
Refuse disposal	17
Rats and mice	57
Shops	22
Tents, vans and camping sites	90
Miscellaneous visits	110

Meat and Food Inspections.

Butchers	69
Fishmongers	41
Grocers	51
Dairies	61
Ice-cream premises	79
Restaurants	66
Food Hygiene Regulations	64

Summary of Work after Service of Notice

Roofs repaired	9
Eavesgutter or fallpipes repaired	3
Dustbins	13
Pointing or rendering of external walls	5
Water closets or cisterns repaired or renewed	8
Drains relaid, improved or cleared	4
Dampness remedied	8
Chimney stacks repaired	3
Kitchen sinks renewed	1
Means of ventilation improved	4
Windows and sashes repaired	10
Firegrates or flues repaired	2
Floors (wood or solid) repaired or relaid	3
Doors repaired or renewed	7
Wall plaster repaired	11
Ceilings repaired	4
Accumulation of refuse removed	4
Dirty premises cleansed	4

5. Inspections of shops and offices.

Shops and offices were regularly inspected and, with the exception of minor items, were found to be satisfactory.

6. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses infested:	Council houses	Nil
	Other houses	Nil

7. Premises Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

(a) Clean Food Byelaws are in force, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(b) Dairies: During the year the Public Health Inspector made sixty-one dairy inspections. There are fifteen retailers in the district registered for the sale of milk.

(c) Slaughter of Animals. There are no slaughterhouses in the district. Fresh meat is obtained principally from slaughterhouses and markets in Brighton and Chailey.

There are two licenced slaughtermen in the district.

7. Premises Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

(d) Milk Supply. The premises from which milk is supplied to the District retail received special attention.

(e) Other foods. All premises where food is prepared for sale were inspected regularly, and their condition proved to be reasonably satisfactory except for some minor details which were made good on informal notice. There were four bakehouses in the district, all of which were above ground.

8. Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unsound and were condemned and suitably disposed of:-

	Cwt.	Qrts.	Lbs.
Meat (tinned-various)	0	1	24
Fruit (tinned-various)	1	0	14
Vegetables (tinned-various)	0	1	2
Fish (tinned and fresh)	0	0	26
Ham and Bacon	0	0	18
Frozen Egg	0	0	14
	2	1	14

9. Factories Act, 1937.

In the Urban District of Newhaven there are eight factories on the Register in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the above Act are enforced, and 45 in which Section 7 only is enforced.

Part I of the Act.1. Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections	Written Notice.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	8	6	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	41	45	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	4	3	Nil	Nil
T O T A L :	53	54	Nil	Nil

SECTION III - Continued

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
T O T A L :	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION IV.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

In all, twenty-four cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, were notified in Newhaven during 1957. The details are as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths
Measles	15	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
TOTAL :	24	-	-

Measles

During the year under review fifteen cases of measles were notified in Newhaven, none of which were admitted to hospital. All cases made uneventful recoveries.

The number of fifteen cases of measles included in a total number of twenty-four cases of infectious disease notified during 1957 represents over 62% of all cases notified. In years of high incidence it is common for the percentage to be very much higher and last year the total number of measles cases recorded was 179, which represented over 91% of all cases notified.

Pneumonia

Both cases of pneumonia notified during the year were of the acute influenzal type and made satisfactory recoveries without admission to hospital.

Whooping Cough.

Only four cases of whooping cough were notified in Newhaven during the year under review. It is therefore the third successive year of low incidence, as only six cases were recorded in 1955 and two in 1956. Vaccination against whooping cough was introduced into the County on 1st April 1954, and the number of cases notified in Newhaven during 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 were 66, 6, 2 and 4 respectively. It must be pointed out, however, that in several recent years small numbers of cases were recorded, examples being 7 in 1946, 4 in 1948, 6 in 1950 and 5 in 1952. It cannot therefore yet be assumed that the low figures recorded during the past two years are the result of the introduction of vaccination against the disease. It will in fact need several more consecutive years of a very low incidence before such an assumption can be made. Meanwhile it only remains to note the low figure with appreciation and to hope for similarly low figures in future years.

Scarlet Fever.

Only three cases of scarlet fever were notified in the Urban District during the year under review. These cases were mild and all made uneventful recoveries without admission to hospital.

SECTION V.

Tuberculosis.

In 1957 eleven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. No new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was reported. During the same period no death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis was reported. Details are given in the following table:-

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

The incidence per 1,000 population of the eleven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1957 is 1.37.

No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the Urban District during 1957. The tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales for the same year was .107 per 1,000.

The East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey in Newhaven from the 25th September to the 1st October, 1957, inclusive in the course of which 1,429 persons were X-rayed. One case of active pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered as a result of the survey, together with three cases of inactive pulmonary tuberculosis. No case of malignant disease was traced, in fourteen persons other diseases of the lung and pleura were found and in eleven cases cardiovascular disease was discovered. The number per 1,000 persons X-rayed who were found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis was 0.7.



