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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959



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





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

March, 1960.

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 1959 on the state of public health of the general population and the sanitary circumstances of Newhaven.

The estimated population of Newhaven for 1959 was 8,010 or twenty less than the highest recorded population, 8,030 for 1957.

The adjusted birth rate for the town in 1959 was 13.24 per 1,000 population as compared with 16.5 for England and Wales for the same year.

The adjusted death rate for Newhaven was 10.03 per 1,000 population which compares favourably with 11.6 for England and Wales for the same period.

In 1959 there were no maternal deaths in Newhaven. In the last twenty-four years there was only one maternal death ascribed to a Newhaven resident. Therefore, the death of a Newhaven mother in, or in consequence of childbirth, is very rare.

The chief causes of death in the year under review were heart disease (43); cancer (16); and vascular lesions of the nervous system (11), out of a total of 98 deaths.

The average age at death was 72.52.

The number of infectious diseases notified in 1959 was fifty-six. None of these notified cases required hospital treatment. All made satisfactory recoveries.

During the year five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported. No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in 1959.

Your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Harrison, as in former years, carried out his duties as regards the sanitary circumstances and sanitary inspection of the area most efficiently and tactfully. On perusal of Section III of this Annual Report it can be seen that there was a great volume and variation of the work he performed during the year.

This will be the last annual report submitted by me to your Authority and in expressing thanks to members of the Council and of the staff for their helpfulness, courtesy and encouragement during the year under review I would like also to express my appreciation of the fact that the same atmosphere of happy co-operation has extended throughout the years of my service with the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G.M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.  
Medical Officer of Health.





# SECTION I

## Statistics for the Area - 1959

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Area in Acres .. . . .            | 1,766   |
| Population (estimated) . . . .    | 8,010   |
| Rateable value (estimated) .. .   | £98,151 |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate ..  | £395    |
| Number of occupied houses . . . . | 2,560   |

## 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         | 52          | 45            | 97           |                                  |                       |
| Illegitimate       | 2           | 4             | 6            | 12.86                            | 13.24                 |

## Deaths

|                                       |    |    |    |       |       |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|-------|
| Including those of outside residents. | 49 | 49 | 98 | 12.23 | 10.03 |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|-------|

## Rate per 1,000 live and still births

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth

0.00

## Rate per 1,000 live births

## Infantile Mortality

|                                |   |   |   |      |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| (deaths under one year of age) | - | - | 0 | 0.00 |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|------|

## POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimated population figure for mid-1959 is 8,010, The population for Newhaven for the past ten years is given below:-

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Births</u> | <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Birth Rate</u> | <u>Death Rate</u> |                 |                 |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1950        | 7,774             | 131           | 94            | 16.85             | 12.09             |                 |                 |
| 1951        | 7,803             | 123           | 100           | 15.76             | 12.81             |                 |                 |
| 1952        | 7,815             | 140           | 82            | 17.91             | 10.49             |                 |                 |
| 1953        | 7,832             | 126           | 148           | 16.47             | 18.89             |                 |                 |
| 1954        | 7,940             | 124           | 113           | 15.62             | 14.23             | <u>Adjusted</u> | <u>Adjusted</u> |
| 1955        | 7,980             | 118           | 123           | 14.79             | 15.41             | <u>Birth</u>    | <u>Death</u>    |
| 1956        | 7,960             | 135           | 94            | 16.96             | 11.81             | <u>Rate.</u>    | <u>Rate.</u>    |
| 1957        | 8,030             | 99            | 105           | 12.33             | 13.07             |                 |                 |
| 1958        | 8,020             | 121           | 107           | 15.09             | 13.34             | 15.54           | 11.47           |
| 1959        | 8,010             | 103           | 98            | 12.86             | 12.23             | 13.24           | 10.03           |

The estimated population figures for the town for 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959 have been 7,980, 7,960, 8,030, 8,020 and 8,010 and it will be seen that after several years of fluctuation the estimated population at June 1959 was seventy more than at the same time in 1954.

### Maternal Mortality.

No case of maternal mortality took place in the area during 1959.

Only one mother who was normally resident in Newhaven has died in, or in consequence of, childbirth during the past twenty-four 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 1959 no infant under one year of age died in Newhaven.

It is exceedingly gratifying to record this fact and it is to be hoped the years when no infant deaths are reported will become increasingly frequent as time goes on. It must be remembered, however, that the average number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births is now very low and any reduction in the average becomes progressively harder to achieve.

### Birth Rate.

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 12.86 per 1,000 population. This represents a reduction of 2.23 per 1,000 compared with the rate for 1958, but is still 0.53 per 1,000 higher than the rate of 12.33 per 1,000 recorded in 1957.

An area comparability factor of 1.03 is applicable to the birth rate in the town for 1959. 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 13.24. The rate for England and Wales for the same period was 16.5.

### Death Rate.

The crude death rate for the year under review was 12.23 per 1,000 population, the death rate for England and Wales for the same period being 11.6 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 0.82 applied to the crude rate of 12.23 gives an adjusted death rate of 10.03 per 1,000 population, which compares favourably with the figure of 11.6 for England and Wales.

### Causes of Death

|   | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Heart Disease   | 24          | 19            | 43           |
| Cancer  | 9           | 7             | 16           |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system                        | 2           | 9             | 11           |
| Circulatory disease other than mentioned elsewhere            | 3           | 5             | 8            |
| Pneumonia   | 1           | 2             | 3            |
| Diseases of respiratory system other than mentioned elsewhere | 3           | -             | 3            |
| Bronchitis  | 1           | 1             | 2            |
| Influenza   | -           | 1             | 1            |
| Nephritis and nephrosis                                       | -           | 1             | 1            |
| Syphilitic disease  | 1           | -             | 1            |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum                                 | -           | 1             | 1            |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases                        | 1           | 3             | 4            |
| Accidents other than motor vehicle accidents                  | 4           | -             | 4            |
|   | <u>49</u>   | <u>49</u>     | <u>98</u>    |



The highest age at death was . . . . . 96 years  
The lowest age at death was . . . . . 7 years  
The average age at death was . . . . . 72.52 years.

#### Specific Causes of Death

##### Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system

Just over one half of the total number of deaths in the area during 1959 were due to heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system. Most deaths in this group occur amongst the elderly and many of the deaths take place in a local institution.

##### Cancer

Sixteen deaths due to cancer took place in Newhaven during 1959, giving a death rate of 1.99 per 1,000 population. Nine of these deaths were of males and seven of females. Two cases of cancer of the lung and one case of bronchial carcinoma were recorded. All three were males.

##### 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 eleven deaths in Newhaven was classified under this heading during 1959, two being males and nine females. 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 Chailey.

One Public Health Inspector carried 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 various specimens submitted. 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, Peacohaven, Telscombe, Piddingham, Tarring Neville and South Highton. In the event of a further call or calls being received before the ambulance has returned from a previous journey, 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 vehicles 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.



### SECTION III

#### 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.

(b) From the British Railways' Well at Denton. This supply is only provided for four houses and two hotels, viz. 1 to 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 .. .. .        | 14  |
| Harbour Heights Estate . . . . | 46  |
| Added Area . . . . .           | 301 |
| Lewes Road . . . . .           | 8   |

###### 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 .... | 56 |
| Visits under the Public Health Acts .....     | 64 |
| Inspections under the Housing Acts .....      | 36 |
| Visits under the Housing Acts .....           | 43 |
| Inspections of verminous houses .....         | 23 |
| Rent Act, 1957 .....                          | 9  |

###### Infectious Diseases:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Enquiries .....     | 1 |
| Disinfections ..... | 4 |

###### General Sanitation:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Ditches .....              | 18 |
| Drainage .....             | 57 |
| Stable and piggeries ..... | 27 |



### Section III (Continued)

#### General Sanitation:

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Fried Fish Shops .....              | 37 |
| Factories and workshops .....       | 40 |
| Bakehouses .....                    | 29 |
| Public conveniences .....           | 40 |
| Refuse collection .....             | 67 |
| Refuse disposal .....               | 14 |
| Rats and mice .....                 | 48 |
| Shops .....                         | 27 |
| Tents, vans and camping sites ..... | 74 |
| Miscellaneous visits .....          | 82 |

#### Meat and Food Inspections:

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Butchers .....                 | 73 |
| Fishmongers .....              | 32 |
| Grocers .....                  | 27 |
| Dairies .....                  | 45 |
| Ice-cream premises .....       | 52 |
| Restaurants .....              | 52 |
| Food Hygiene Regulations ..... | 65 |

#### Summary of work after service of Notice:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Floors repaired .....                        | 9  |
| Roofs repaired .....                         | 3  |
| Eavesgutter or fallpipes repaired .....      | 3  |
| Dustbins .....                               | 9  |
| Pointing or rendering of external walls .... | 5  |
| Water closets or cisters repaired or renewed | 5  |
| Drains relaid, improved or cleared .....     | 9  |
| Dampness remedied .....                      | 3  |
| Means of ventilation improved .....          | 1  |
| Windows and sashes repaired .....            | 12 |
| Firegrates or flues repaired .....           | 5  |
| Doors repaired or renewed .....              | 2  |
| Wall plaster repaired .....                  | 11 |
| Accumulation of refuse removed .....         | 2  |
| Dirty premises cleansed .....                | 3  |
| Cooking stoves repaired .....                | 3  |
| Kitchen sinks renewed .....                  | 2  |

#### 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 BYELAWS 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 forty-five inspections. There are eighteen retailers in the district registered for the sale of milk.

SECTION III (Continued)

(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 licensed slaughtermen in the District.

(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.

8. UN SOUND FOOD.

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

|                        | Cwt. | Qrts. | Lbs. |
|------------------------|------|-------|------|
| Fruit (tinned-various) |      | 1     | 7    |
| Meat (tinned-various)  |      | 2     | 22   |
| Frozen egg             |      |       | 14   |
| Bacon and ham          |      |       | 7    |
| Various                |      |       | 5    |
|                        | 1    | 0     | 27   |

9. FACTORIES ACT 1937 to 1959.

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 Acts are enforced and forty-five 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 the Local Authority.           | 8                   | 10          | Nil             | Nil                  |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.                  | 41                  | 30          | 1               | Nil                  |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | 4                   | Nil         | Nil             | Nil                  |
| T O T A L   | 53                  | 40          | 1               | Nil                  |



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 and other diseases.

In all, fifty-six cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, were notified in Newhaven during 1959. The details are as follows:-

| Disease           | Cases Notified | Cases admitted to hospital | Deaths |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Measles           | 29             | -                          | -      |
| Whooping Cough    | 23             | -                          | -      |
| Pneumonia         | 2              | -                          | -      |
| Scarlet Fever     | 1              | -                          | -      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1              | -                          | -      |

##### Measles:

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

The number of cases of measles notified each year fluctuates considerably, years of heavy incidence usually alternating with years when few cases occur. When two or three years of light incidence occur, they are usually followed by a year when an abnormally large number of cases is recorded.

##### Whooping Cough:

Twenty-three cases of whooping cough were notified in Newhaven during the year under review. This is the first year for five years when more than six cases have been recorded, as only six cases were recorded in 1955, two in 1956, four in 1957, and two in 1958. It is to be hoped that the low totals of the first four years mentioned above will be repeated in future years and will prove to be the result of the introduction by the County Council in 1954 of a combined vaccine for diphtheria and whooping cough.

##### Pneumonia:

Two cases of pneumonia were notified during 1959. Both cases were of acute primary pneumonia and made satisfactory recoveries without admission to hospital.

##### Scarlet Fever:

One case of scarlet fever was notified in Newhaven during the year under review. The case was mild and made an uneventful recovery without admission to hospital.

##### Puerperal Pyrexia:

Only one case of puerperal pyrexia was reported in the Urban District during the year under review.



# SECTION V

## Tuberculosis.

In 1959 five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. No new case 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           | -         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 25           | -         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 35           | 1         | 1 | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 45           | 1         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 55           | 1         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 65 & upwards | 1         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| TOTAL        | 4         | 1 | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |

The incidence per 1,000 population of the five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1959 is 0.62.

No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the Urban District during 1959. The tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales for the same year was .085 per 1,000.





