

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Sidmouth U.D.C.

Contributors

Sidmouth (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/mrz66nvw>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HEALTH
RE 29 JUL 54
55

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1953



=====

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

1881

NEW YORK: 1881.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the public health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The report conforms as closely as possible to the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951, and also Circular 1/54 dated 12th January, 1954.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. L. PERRY

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health E.L. Perry, D.S.O., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector Stanley T. Chard, M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector E.P. Bennett, M.S.I.A.
Clerk to Medical Officer, Surveyor
and Sanitary Inspector Mrs. M.H. Dodd

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health, Water and Highways Committee
Estates Committee
Housing Committee

1. Statistics of the Area

Area	11,475 acres
Number of inhabited houses	3,730
Rateable Value	£115,292.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£450.11.9.
Population	9783

2. Vital Statistics

Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) Live Births (legitimate)	90	37	53
Live Births (illegitimate)	4	2	2

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population = 9.6

(b) Still Births (legitimate)	3	2	1
Still Births (illegitimate)	-	-	-

Rate of still births per 1000 total (live and still births) = 30.92

Deaths

(a) Death rate per 100 of the estimated resident population = 17.17	
---	--

Deaths from puerperal causes - - -

(b) <u>Infant Mortality</u>	-	-	-
-----------------------------	---	---	---

(c) Statistics provided by the Registrar-General Causes of Death

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	0
5. Whoopingcough	1	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	21
18. Coronary disease, angia	16	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	0
20. Other heart disease	8	11
21. Other circulatory disease	7	6
22. Influenza	1	3
23. Pneumonia	2	0
24. Bronchitis	4	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	2	1
35. Suicide	0	1

Total deaths in 1953 168 75 93

3. Infectious Disease

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	3.	2	-
Measles	140	-	-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted To Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Whooping cough	19	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	1	1	-

4. Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality, 1953.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

5. National Health Service Act, 1946.

- (a) The Devon County Council are the Local Health Authority responsible for the Act under Parts II and III. The Hospital facilities under Part II have been found satisfactory.

(b) Isolation

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital at Exeter, and this arrangement has worked very well. The Medical Superintendent and staff have always been most co-operative and helpful.

(c) Smallpox

A smallpox hospital at Upton Pym, administered by the Regional Hospital Board, is available in case of need.

(d) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter under the direction of Dr. B. Moore who has as usual been most helpful when facilities were needed.

(e) Ambulance Facilities

These are provided by the County Council.

(f) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

6. National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

It was not necessary during the year to investigate any cases or take any action under this section.

7. Water

- (i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and the quantity has been maintained, though during the peak holiday period this has meant very long hours of pumping at the Sidford borehole. The extensive building that has been carried out since the War and more particularly during the last two years is having a marked effect on the consumption. The report of the Consulting Engineers for the augmentation of the supply as reported

in my Annual Report for 1952 has reached the stage where preparations are being made to sink a borehole to a depth of 500 feet in a field at Sidford (Ordnance No.1366). This work should commence early in 1954. The present maximum water available for the public supplies under the control of the Council is approximately:-

From springs	350,000 gallons per day
From 2 boreholes at Sidford	250,000 gallons per day
Total	<u>600,000 gallons per day</u>

Shortage of water still exists in the Village of Harcombe which is a private supply from springs which supplies a small reservoir feeding about a dozen properties. During the year the public health officers made a careful and extensive survey of the installation and it was found that the pipes are corroded and the catchpits silted up. The matter is still under consideration.

- (ii) During the year 31 samples were taken from the public supply for bacteriological examinations and 2 samples for chemical analysis. Two of the bacteriological samples taken after chlorination proved to be below standard, but the reason was not determined. The chemical analyses were satisfactory.
- (iii) Supplies from all springs which yield plumbo solvent water are passed through beds of limestone chippings.
- (iv) There are 3,730 dwelling houses in the area and the following figures show the position in respect of distribution: -

Public Supplies.

No. of dwellinghouses connected to S.U.D.C. supply	2936
No. of dwellinghouses connected to Honiton Hill ram	4
No. of dwellinghouses with shared supplies or connected to standpipes	10
	<u>2950</u>

Private Supplies.

Salcombe Regis - properties connected	16
Harcombe - properties connected	15
Fortescue - properties connected	25
Bowl - properties connected	8
Sidbury-Ridgway- properties connected	59
Greenhead- properties connected	78
	<u>201</u>

The remaining properties mostly in the outlying areas have their own supplies.

8. Drainage and Sewerage

The growth of building which has necessitated the augmentation of the water supply is also having its effect on the sewerage system. This is particularly noticeable in the section which sewers the area north of Exeter Cross where most building is taking place, as all the branches connect eventually with the trunk sewer running through "The Byes". When this was laid in 1931 the normal overflow systems discharging to the River Sid at six times the dry weather flow were installed. It is now becoming apparent owing to the increased volume of sewage and possibly some infiltration of surface water, that these overflows are functioning at less than this figure and consequently some pollution of the river is taking place. This has been confirmed by samples taken from the river and referred to in the next paragraph.

It seems apparent therefore that the question of the adequacy of sewerage system together with the outfall arrangements will have to be considered.

The maceration of the sewage at the Disintegrating plant which deals with the whole volume of sewage before discharge to the outfall continues to function satisfactorily. Apart from the fact that no complaints are received of excretal matter being present in the sea or washed on the shore, I am strongly of opinion that by exposing all the deleterious organisms to the destructive action of light and admixture with sea water it must be of considerable hygienic value.

The part of the Sanitary Inspector's Report dealing with drainage gives some indication of the number of new connections made during the year.

9. Rivers and Streams

For six years investigations have been carried out as to the extent of pollution of the River Sid, and over this period systematic sampling of the river and sewers has been done. It is clear that pathogenic organisms are being passed to the river from the sewers through the overflow at certain times and sufficient data has been obtained to relate such pollution to the periods when the tank at Frys Field overflows. During the year a standpipe was installed at the Lawn Vista allotments to enable mains water to be used by the allotment holders instead of river water. No industrial pollution of the River has been noted.

10. Food

(a) Meat, Milk and Other Foods

There are now no slaughterhouses in Sidmouth but inspections of butchers shops is regularly carried out.

(b) Milk

The milk supply of the Urban District is satisfactory, there being a modern pasteurising plant within the district which deals with a very large proportion of the raw milk supplied from the local farms. The Company operating the plan also retails TT milk. Only two other producer retailers from TT farms are now operating.

The amount of raw milk sold amounts only to a few gallons from farms supplying neighbours etc..

It has not been necessary during the year to stop the supply of milk from any farm under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

(c) Ice Cream

During the year there were only two manufacturers of ice cream in the district, but both ceased before the end of the year, having found the process uneconomic, so that all ice cream sold is now pre packed. The table below shows that 28 samples were taken, and only four were in Grades 3 and 4 and in each case those samples were from the manufacturers referred to above

Grade 1	15
Grade 2	9
Grade 3	3
Grade 4	1
	<u>28</u>

(d) Hotels, Restaurants etc.

There are within the Urban District 35 hotels or guest houses, 22 boarding houses and 22 restaurants and cafes. During the year the great majority of hotels and catering establishments were visited, some more frequently than others. In most cases the standard of cleanliness was

high, but in a few hotels and catering establishments it was necessary to insist on improvements. It has been found to date that the managements of these premises have co-operated with the public health officers and in no case was it necessary to take statutory action.

(e) Food Poisoning

Only one case of food poisoning was notified, that of a child of five and although enquiries were made it was not possible to find the cause.

(f) Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

It was necessary in a few cases to call the attention of traders to the provisions of the byelaws, during the Sanitary Inspectors' visits but it has been found generally that the Byelaws are complied with and no statutory action has been necessary.

The following part of the Report has been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

11. Housing

The tabulated statement below shows the position at the end of 1953. The thorough survey of the properties situated in the Development Area in Eastern Town has continued, and good progress is being made. Each property is thoroughly inspected and in most cases a plan of the ground floor is prepared and filed with the report, so that when completed it will be possible to classify each property or group of properties in relation to any proposals for the future treatment of the area.

Houses completed during the year

(a) By the Local Authority 1

(b) By others 47

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Act 1936 for purposes of survey | 31 |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under (Public Health or Housing Acts) excluding those in preceding sub paragraph | 14 |
| (c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (d) Number of dwelling houses (excluding those under preceding sub heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation | 14 |

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers 20

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
|--|-----|

Housing (continued)

(2) Proceeding under sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "Time and Place" Notices were served under Section 11	Nil
Number of dwelling houses closed as a result of action above (previous year)	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "Time and Place" Notices were served under section 12	Nil
Number of dwelling houses closed as a result of action above (previous year)	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

12. Public Cleansing

The refuse collection is under the control of the Surveyor and is disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

13. Public Conveniences

During the year extra accommodation was provided at the Ham Convenience on the ladies side, and the opportunity was taken to modernise the premises and provide hot water to the wash basins for both male and female sides.

The extra accommodation with improved facilities has been of great value during the peak summer period to cater for the coach traffic at the Ham Car Park.

Loan sanction has been obtained to completely modernise and extend the facilities at the Three Cornerd Plot and work should be started on this early in 1954.

14. Camping Sites

- (a) There are two licensed sites in the district, both in the Salcombe Regis area.
- (b) The number of licences issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was one. The other site is controlled by Planning Permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

Frequent visits were made during the season as can be seen by the tabulated statement in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, and in no case was it necessary to take any statutory action.

15. Rodent Control

Very many visits were made in connection with rodent control and the use of Warfarin has been found to be of great value in this work.

The annual sewer baiting showed two slight infestations during the year, and the surrounding areas were given treatment which proved efficacious.

16. Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	18	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	21	-	-
3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-worker's premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	82	39	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Dispector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to homework	3	3	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-

17. Sanitary Inspections of the area

(a) Disinfection

Bedding and clothing is disinfected in the Equifix Steam Disinfector

(b) Verminous Persons

(c) Eradication of bed bugs

No cases were dealt with during the year.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

TABLE I

General Inspections

The following table represents the summary of visits, inspections, interviews, etc., by the two Sanitary Officers during the year.

<u>GENERAL SANITATION.</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Water Supplies (Public)	43
(Private)	20
(Other visits)	34
Public Conveniences	114
Sewer and River Sampling	141
Movable dwellings	65
Accumulations and Deposits	44
Refuse collection and refuse tip	20
Dustbins	12
Pests	144
Rodent Control	169
Rodent Control (Sewers)	53
Animals improperly kept	21
Smoke abatement	1
Shops Act	Nil
Petroleum	12
Explosives	4
Rag Flock Act	Nil
Drainage	381
Interviews and appointments	162

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Enquiries in case of I.D.	10
Enquiries in case of other diseases	3
Visits re disinfection & disinfestation	67

FOOD PREMISES.

Hotels and Guest Houses	35
Boarding Houses	13
Restaurants and Cafes	36
Fish and Chip Shops	29
Fishmongers	16
Bakehouses	24
Butchers Shops	43
Slaughterhouses	4
Daries and Milk Distributors	34
Ice Cream premises	80
Retail Food Shops	82
Visits re Unsound Food	78

HOUSING.

Visits under Housing Act, 1936 etc., for purposes of survey (Redevelopment Area)	52
Visits under Public Health and Housing Acts (excluding above)	23
Visits re dirty or verminous premises	6
Visits to Council Houses	140
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	60
Total Number of Housing Visits	<u>381</u>

TABLE II

NOTICES SERVED.

Intimation Notices	10
Statutory Notices Served	2
Statutory Notices complied with	Nil

DRAINAGE.

The figures below do not include Council Houses or other buildings built or maintained under the directions of the Surveyor but include all other new buildings and adaptations to existing buildings.

No. of complete new house drainage systems	58
No. of house drainage systems repaired, relaid or extended	42
No. of new water closets	112
No. of water closets discontinued	1
No. of old closets replaced with new	6
No. of drains tested (complete or renovated systems) ...	100
No. of drains cleaned	8
No. of cesspools discontinued	1
No. of septic tanks installed	1

DISINFECTION.

No. of premises disinfected after I.D.	7
No. of premises disinfected after T.B.	2
No. of premises disinfected for other reasons	2
Lots of bedding or clothing disinfected after I.D.	6
Lots of bedding or clothing disinfected after T.B.	2
Lots of bedding or clothing disinfected for other reasons	8

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of unsound food were examined, and condemned on voluntary surrender for destruction or salvage during the year:-

Meat and Meat Products:

109 Tins.
10 Tins imported Ham.
12lb Pork Sausage.
33lb (3) Ham.
42lb. Home Killed Beef.
12lb. Shoulder and Kneck end of Pork.

Milk and Milk Products:

50 Tins.
32ozs. Processed Cheese.
32lb. National Cheese (returned for processing).
4lb. New Zealand Cheese.

Fish and Fish Products:

51 Tins
4 stone Smoked Fillet of Cod.
1 stone Bloaters
11½ stone Dogfish
1½ stone Hake
2 stone Dabs
3½ stone Herring
1½ stone Brill
1 stone Kippers.

UN SOUND FOOD (Continued).

Fruit and Vegetables:

699 Tins.

Miscellaneous:

1 Pheasant.

58 Fruit Puddings.

56 lb Packeted Granulated Sugar.

70 lb Assorted dried fruits (Raisins, apricots, saltanas).

I am,

Your obedient servant,

S.T. CHARD.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

Part and Description

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000

100.0000