

**[Report 1971] / Medical Officer of Health, Wigan R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Wigan (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1971

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n7zwwk7a>

**License and attribution**

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

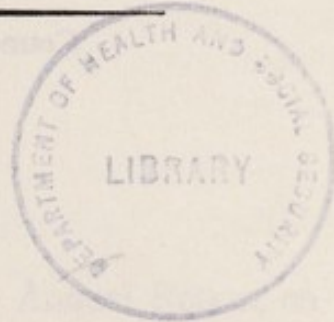
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

**WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**

---

**FOR THE YEAR 1971**

## WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

Chairman:

Councillor Mrs. M. M. TARBUCK

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor C. J. AINSCOUGH, J.P.

Councillors:

I. CROPPER, J.P.

REV. G. DEWHURST

J. HARDMAN

G. MONK

J. PRESCOTT

W. A. RIGBY

J. W. ROTHWELL

W. D. WADSWORTH

Clerk:

DEREK B. BENNETT.

Staff Public Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health:

P. LEE, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. HOLDING

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. G. THOMAS.

3, King Street,  
Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural  
District Council.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1971, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire to express to the members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

P. LEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1972.



## WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

### 1.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 11,222 acres

Population (Census 1971) ..... 14,700

Estimated mid-1971 (Registrar General) ..... 14,700

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1971—

    according to Rate Book ..... 5,066

Rateable Value ..... £524,315

Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..... £5,069

The District is mainly agricultural, with several residential villages. The chief industries are stone-quarrying, precast concrete manufacture, brick making, linoleum manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, glue and fertiliser manufacture, animal foodstuffs and a newspaper printing factory.

### VITAL STATISTICS

	M	F	Total
Live Births (Legitimate) .....	155	155	310
(Illegitimate) .....	3	6	9
	—	—	—
	158	161	319
	—	—	—
Still Births (Legitimate) .....	4	—	4
(Illegitimate) .....	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	4	—	4
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:			
(Legitimate) .....	1	2	3
(Illegitimate) .....	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	1	3	4
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:			
(Legitimate) .....	1	2	3
(Illegitimate) .....	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	1	2	3
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:			
(Legitimate) .....	—	2	2
(Illegitimate) .....	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	—	2	2
	—	—	—
Deaths .....			116
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1971			21.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1971			7.9

TABLE I

	Live Births		Deaths (all Causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Regd. No.	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1971	319	21.7	116	7.9	4	12	Nil	Nil	4	13	4	13
Year 1970	275	16.6	117	10.6	7	25	Nil	Nil	5	18	5	18
Year 1969	289	18.5	118	11.5	4	14	Nil	Nil	5	17	5	17
Year 1968	262	18.1	118	12.6	10	36	Nil	Nil	3	11	1	4
Year 1967	254	17.9	128	17.9	4	16	Nil	Nil	8	31	2	8
Year 1966	247	17.8	119	13.4	1	4	1	4.03	5	20	4	16
Year 1965	218	16.3	119	14.0	5	22	Nil	Nil	7	32	5	22





	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and Over
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL—All Causes</b>	M	55	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	5	9	25	9
	F	61	3	—	—	1	1	1	2	4	13	15	21



## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

**Ambulance Services.**—Ambulance services are provided by the Lancashire County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946. An Ambulance Station to cover the needs of the Rural District is established in Standish and the service is quite satisfactory.

**Home Nursing.**—Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, home nursing facilities are provided by the Lancashire County Council.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Wigan Royal Infirmary and chemical analyses by the County Analyst, Preston. These arrangements are satisfactory.

## 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supply.**—The Makerfield Water Board are now the Statutory Undertakers for the Wigan Rural District.

Generally throughout the year the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Five dwellings rely on private wells and springs for water : four in Dalton, and one in Wrightington.

TABLE III  
WATER SUPPLY — YEAR 1971

Parish	No. of Houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1971		From Public Mains Direct to Houses		From private supplies, e.g., wells, springs, etc.	
	Existing Houses	New Houses	No. of Dwelling-Houses	Estimated No. of Population	No. of Dwelling-Houses	Estimated No. of Population
Dalton .....	—	—	127	390	4	17
Haigh .....	—	—	248	728	—	—
Parbold .....	—	66	683	2,020	—	—
Shevington .....	—	173	2,837	7,873	—	—
Worthington .....	—	—	37	122	—	—
Wrightington .....	—	24	1,129	3,548	1	2
Total— Whole District	—	263	5,061	14,681	5	19



**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at end of 1971):—**

Number of Privy Middens .....	—
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens .....	—
Number of Pail Closets .....	134
Number of Dry Ashpits .....	—
Number of Houses not on Water Carriage System .....	134

During the year, 2 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.'s.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING—Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Nine men, including two drivers, are employed in collection work. A seven-day refuse collection service is operated throughout the Council's District. Two Dennis Paxit Refuse Collection Vehicles are engaged full-time on this work, and the disposable sack system is in operation throughout the Council's area. The hygiene of refuse collection has been considerably improved.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Dalton.

**CESSPOOL EMPTYING**

A Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is used for the cleansing and desludging of cesspools and septic tanks and no charge is made for this service. The contents of the vehicles are discharged into the public sewer.

**INSPECTIONS**

Total Inspections made for all purposes by Public Health Inspectors during 1971 :—

No. of premises visited .....	710	No. of Visits .....	1,530
No. of Defects or nuisances discovered .....	75	No abated .....	57
No. of Notices served— informal .....	20	Statutory .....	4
Legal proceedings .....	1		



## SEWERAGE

The built-up areas of the Rural District are sewered together with large rural areas.

The Wigan Road and Crooke areas of Shevington are to be sewered as soon as possible.

## RIVERS (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1961.

With the extension of main drainage facilities and the abolition of numerous septic tanks, streams and ditches continue to show improvement in cleanliness and very few instances of pollution by septic tanks now exist.

To reduce ditch and stream pollution the Council desludge septic tanks free of cost.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the District. A swimming pool at Shevington Primary School has been provided by private subscription for the sole use of the school pupils. The bath water is analysed regularly and has been found to be satisfactory.

## DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

There were no cases of flea infestation during the year.





## OFFENSIVE TRADES

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area. Frequent inspections are made of the premises. The periodic smell nuisance has now virtually been removed by discontinuation of the Iwell plant.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT—CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

It has not been necessary to take any legal action during the year but constant watch has been kept on industrial premises within the area.

Only grates of the approved type capable of burning smokeless fuel were installed in newly erected dwellings. More and more new and existing dwellings are being provided with full or partial central heating.

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

It has not been found necessary to take action under the provisions of this Act during the year.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The purpose of this Act is to make provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in Offices, Shops and certain Railway premises.

The following information has been furnished to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year.
<b>Class of Premises :</b>	
Offices .....	6
Retail Shops .....	17
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .....	—
Catering Establishments open to Public: Canteens	14
Fuel Storage Depots .....	1
	—
Total .....	38
	—
Number of general inspections carried out .....	97
Number of prosecutions .....	—



## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### Part 1 of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	75	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	25	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	41	100	7	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found :—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3).....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) .....					
(a) Insufficient ....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	7	7	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork .....	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

4 Outworkers were notified as being engaged in basket making.

There were no instances of work done in unwholesome premises.



## HOUSING

### GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The erection of private houses has continued at a high rate during the year; and as a result of improved sewerage facilities and Standard Grants made under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, housing conditions and standards generally are becoming increasingly satisfactory.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year :—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority .....	—	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	263	—

(2) Total number of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year .....

		515
--	--	-----

(3) INSPECTION of dwellings during the year :—

(i) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		50
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose		77
(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		40

(ii) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which :—

(a) Demolition, clearance or closing orders have been made .....		43
(b) Demolition, clearance or closing orders have not yet been made .....		39



(4) HOUSES DEMOLISHED :-

CLEARANCE AREAS :

(i) Houses unfit for human habitation .....	—
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ....	—
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 .....	—

NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

(i) As a result of procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	1
(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .....	—
(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts .....	—
(iv) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders .....	—

(5) UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :-

(i) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961 .....	—
(ii) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 .....	—
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 .....	—

(6) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH  
DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :-

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(i) After informal action by Local Authority	65	—
(ii) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16 Housing Act, 1957 .....	—	—
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts .....	4	—
(iv) After modification or revocation of a Clearance Order under S.21, Housing Act, 1961 .....	—	—
(v) After determination of a Demolition Order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957.....	—	—
(vi) After determination of a Closing Order under S.27, Housing Act, 1961 .....	—	—

(7) UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1967):—

	No. of Houses	No. of Separate Dwellings contained in Column (1)
Position at end of year :		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 48 .....	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2) .....	—	—
(c) Under Section 46 .....	—	—
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53 .....	—	—

(8) PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants of Houses in Col. (1)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	—	—

(9) HOUSING ACT, 1969 AND HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.:—

Number of Schemes submitted during the year	
(a) by private individuals to Local Authority .....	8
(b) by Local Authority to Ministry .....	—

The Council now gives Discretionary Grants.

(10) HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 and HOUSING ACTS, 1961, 1964 & 1969 — STANDARD GRANTS :—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted to Local Authority .....	13
(b) Approved by Local Authority .....	12
(c) Work completed .....	6

HOUSING ACT, 1969 — PART III  
QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Improvement Cases :

(a) No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(2) under consideration at end of period.....	4
(b) No. of certificates of provisional approval issued .....	4
(c) No. of qualification certificates issued under section 46(3) .....	—



## STANDARD AMENITIES ALREADY PROVIDED

(d) No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(1) under consideration at end of period....	34
(e) No of qualification certificates issued under section 45(2) in respect of :-	
(i) dwellings with rateable value of £90 or more in Greater London or of £60 or more elsewhere .....	1
(ii) dwellings with rateable value of less than £90 in Greater London or of less than £60 elsewhere .....	12

## EXEMPTION FOR LOW INCOME TENANTS FROM SECTION 54

(f) No. of certificates issued under section 55 .....	—
---	---

## RENT ACT, 1957 :—

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, and no Certificates were issued.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY :—

Under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, all persons carrying on the trade of distributor from premises within the District and all premises used as dairies, other than dairy farms are registered with the Council. Dairy farms and dairy farmers are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Number of distributors registered by the Local Authority and operating from :—

(i) Dairies in the district .....	4
(ii) Shops in the district other than dairies .....	18

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960

Under the above-mentioned Regulations all dealers (other than producers) must obtain a licence from the Lancashire County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority.

### (b) ICE CREAM :—

All the premises in the District are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream, the only loose ice cream being sold by itinerant vendors operating from outside the District.

### (c) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

There are no private slaughterhouses within the district.

No premises are used for the slaughter and dressing of poultry.

## DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

One premise is licensed under the Order and has been inspected during the year.



## FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections are made of restaurants, cafes, canteens, grocery and butchers' shops, hawkers' premises and vehicles and public houses. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Number of food premises by type of business in the District at the end of the year :—

Type of Business :	No.
General Grocers .....	29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	5
Fishmongers .....	—
Meat Shops .....	4
Bakers and/or Confectioners .....	3
Fried Fish Shops .....	3
Sweets, Minerals and Ice Cream .....	3
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc. ....	39

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Type of Business	No. registered at 31/12/71	No. of Inspections of registered premises during year
Ice Cream .....	29	58

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

16 cases of Measles were notified during the year compared with 105 in 1970. 1 case of Food Poisoning and 1 case of Whooping Cough were notified.

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Wigan Rural District who were immunised and vaccinated during the year 1971 :—

Type	Primary	Re-Inforcement
Diphtheria .....	298	330
Whooping Cough .....	267	21
Tetanus .....	303	333
Poliomyelitis .....	301	290
Measles .....	229	—
Rubella .....	160	—



TABLE IV  
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1971

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—20	20 and Over	Un- known	Remov'd to Hospital
Measles .....	16	3	4	3	1	2	2	1	—	—	—
Dysentery Sonne.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	Cases	Total No. of Cases
Haigh :		
Measles .....	2	
	—	2
Shevington :		
Dysentery Sonne .....	1	
Measles .....	7	
Whooping Cough .....	1	
	—	9
Worthington :		
Measles .....	1	
	—	1
Wrightington :		
Measles .....	6	
	—	6
		—
		18
		—

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to Hospital.

#### CANCER.

20 Deaths, 5 males and 15 females, occurred in the year 1971, compared with 12 Deaths, 10 males and 2 females, in the year 1970.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were no notifications received during the year under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctors, or by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — Section 47.

No cases under Section 47 of this Act were dealt with during the year.

There were no notifications received during the year under the  
Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1922.

The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for  
the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and  
appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wyke, and patients  
may be referred there for examination by their own doctors, or by  
the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of  
Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1922.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1924 -- Section 47

No cases under Section 47 of the Act were dealt with during  
the year.

It is noted that under the Act of 1924, no cases were dealt with  
under Section 47 of the Act during the year 1924.

### CANCER

In 1924, 5 cases of Cancer were reported, and in 1925, 2 cases.

The statistics of Cancer in the district are as follows: