

**[Report 1967] / Medical Officer of Health, Woodhall Spa U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Woodhall Spa (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1967

**Persistent URL**

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

**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>



**Urban District of Woodhall Spa**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**1967**



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
1967

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.



To The Chairman and Members of  
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1967.

1967 has been a year without incident in the Spa; no epidemic raged; no untoward lapses in standards of public health were detected and, indeed, one would be tempted to wonder why, indeed, a public health inspector and a medical officer of health, albeit part-time officers, are still required.

The standardized death rate hit a new low at 6.85 which is well below the national figure of 11.2. The mean age at death was 73.7 for males and 77.2 for females. These figures would have been fractionally higher but for the deaths of two children and one young woman. The proportion of the population all over the country who live their three score years and ten has greatly increased in recent decades but there has been much less progress in prolonging life beyond its natural span, especially if by "life" we mean more "full life" rather than "medicated survival".

Whilst writing, a programme of wardened dwellings for the elderly is nearing completion, to complement the County Councils Hostel and the various private homes. The importance of these places is shown (perhaps regrettably) by the distribution of deaths between private houses and institutions. Institutional deaths equal or exceed those in private homes. The new dwellings will be occupied by those elderly folk who are less frail than those for whom a hostel or nursing home would be appropriate but who feel that they need a small dwelling with modern facilities and a neighbour(warden) on whom they can rely in time of need.

Private housing continues steadily and in variety so that much of the Spa retains its superior appearance on which its prosperity must, to a degree, depend. Whilst the districts concerned vary greatly in character it may be of interest to record the rate of housebuilding in the districts which I serve.

A replacement time is calculated as being that period of time required, at the 1967 rate of building, to double the number of dwellings in the district.

<u>District</u>	<u>Total of Houses</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>New during</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Replacement</u> <u>time</u>
Welton Rural District	7071	374	19 years
Woodhall Spa Urban District	708	10	71 "
Horncastle Rural District	4687	59	79 "
Horncastle Urban District	1497	10	149 "

A little thought will soon show the local factors responsible for the vast variation. Welton is accommodating a substantial number of Lincoln overspill; Woodhall attracts the retired and some of the well-to-do who can afford to conduct their business from a distance, whilst Horncastle R.D. includes growth points at Wragby and Tattershall/Coningsby, with employment in those parishes. The function of Horncastle itself is traditional - that of the Market town for the district and it is unlikely that more people will be required for this service. Consequently, housebuilding is related more nearly to local internal need.

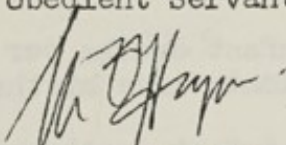
This year some additional information regarding child health in the district has been provided by courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health. It will be borne in mind that Woodhall Spa is unusual in having no senior school and most of the information relating to children over the age of 11 is thus buried in the statistics for Horncastle Urban and Rural Districts.

It will be seen that the number of smallpox vaccinations recorded is grossly unsatisfactory whilst the lesser discrepancies between the oral poliomyelitis vaccinations and the infections against Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus suggest the obvious - that the spoonful of sugar is more popular than the needle and that fear rather than common sense is what motivates the mothers. This remark will be unpopular but is important because it is in this air of indecision that Big Brother and the faceless "they" can gain power.

Whilst welcoming, this year the chance to include more information regarding the health of children, it is with bitter regret that I have now to state that this information will not, in future, be made available.

With the catachysmic changes to be brought about by Seebohm, the Green Paper, and the Royal Commission on Local Government, it may well be that soon there will be no District Councils to receive Annual Reports of Medical Officers, nor Medical Officers to write them.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Register General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2210
Density of Population:	1.15 persons per acre
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	708

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	13	10
Rate per 1000 population		10.8
Standardized Birth Rate		13.5
National Birth Rate (Live)		17.2
Illegitimate live births % total		4%
<u>Still Births</u>		
Rate per 1000 total live and still births		42
Total live and still births		1
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)		1
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births		43
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births		43
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births		0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
(deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0
---	---	---	---

Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	0	0	42
---	---	---	----

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	0	0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Male	19	21	17
Female	20	32	25
	—	—	—
	39	53	42
	—	—	—
Deaths per 1000 population	16.5	24.9	19.0
Comparability factor	0.51	0.36	0.36
Standardized Death Rate per 1000	8.4	8.6	6.8
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000	11.5	11.7	11.2



Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years						75 & over	
						1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55		55 - 65
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20.	Other heart Disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
23.	Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24.	Bronchitis	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
32.	Other defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
34.	All other accidents	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
		F	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19

Causes of death at age under 65

Drowning	1	{ aged 2
Status Epilepticus	1	" 26
Myocardian Infarction	1	" 58
Mesenteric Thrombosis	1	" 54
Coronary Occlusion	1	" 59
Imperforate Anus	1	" 1 month
(Congenital defect)		

The variety of causes of these 'premature' deaths suggests that little organised 'prevention' can occur.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications from Woodhall Spa comprised only 16 cases of Measles and 1 case of whooping cough during the year.

During the past six years there have been notifications of 65 cases of measles whilst, during the same period 218 children have been born. This implies that either there is a substantial reservoir of susceptible children or that many have already had sub-clinical measles. Since to ascertain the true position would be costly in resources and have mainly an academic interest, I would recommend that all children who are not known to have had definite measles should be regarded as susceptible and given vaccination under the recently announced scheme.

All family doctors and the County Councils doctors are eligible to take part in the scheme and the first batches of consent-slips and vaccine are to hand (May 68).

Unfortunately, measles is endemic at present so that if children are vaccinated, some may already be incubating natural measles. If vaccination takes place within a day or two contracting natural measles, some protection may occur, but if given too late it will seem to the uninformed that the vaccination caused the measles. At the moment this is a risk worth taking for nothing but good can result to the child. It is still not known with certainty whether one injection of live vaccine protects for life or whether when natural measles no longer provides "boosters," it may at some time later be desirable to give further doses.

### The National Health Service

No changes have occurred in the National Health Service during the year.

### Water Supply

The water supply of Woodhall Spa is under the control of the East Lincolnshire Water Board. No complaints have reached me regarding either quantity or quality of the water supplied.

No recent analyses in respect of fluoride is available but there is no reason to hope for improvement. The Spa is supplied from a local upland surface supply and is substantially independent of other districts, it is thus theoretically possible for fluoride correction to be applied to this source without reference to local politics.

Out of 708 dwelling houses, 706 had a direct supply into the dwelling.



## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The nature of the subsoil (running sand is widespread) predisposes to the influx of soil water, so that the volume of of sewage normally exceeds the domestic water consumption by a considerable margin. In wet weather thus becomes excessive. The lack of natural fall results in some sewers being particularly deep and inaccessible and pumping by ejector stations is necessary. Much of the equipment has been in service for many years and the possibility of breakdown is ever present, whilst financial restrictions limit the provision of standby equipment.

These factors are not new but need periodic mention.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

This is by dust-bin, skip and side-loading vehicle to a reasonably controlled tip beside the sewage works.

In common with the Councils of small districts, improvements were considered early this year and, whilst it was agreed that there was room for improvement, this was barred by financial stringency.

## Common Lodging Houses

This item is required by the Ministry. It may suffice to say that no such institution has ever, to my knowledge, existed in Woodhall Spa.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### (a) Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

This is dealt with mainly at County level. I am always informed of positive results. No action was necessary in respect of Woodhall Spa.

### (b) Liquid Egg (Pasteurization) Regulations 1963

No pasteurization plant operates in the area.

### (c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Trades	No. of Premises	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	No. to which Reg. 19 applies.	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Hotels and Public Houses	6	6	6	6
Cafes, Restaurants, and Snack Bars	3	3	3	3
Butchers	3	3	3	3
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Grocers	4	3	4	4

### (d) Poultry Inspection

No poultry processing premises operate within the Spa.



## REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH

### INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

#### HOUSING:

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	708
Total number of houses erected during the year:-	
(1) By local authority	0
(2) By other local authorities	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	10
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	0
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	28
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	54
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	18
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	0
(2) Proceedings under Housing Acts	0
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	0
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	0
(c) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	0
(d) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	0
(e) Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	0
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	0
(g) Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections, 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	0
(h) Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Acts, 1957	0

(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	0
---	---

#### Housing Act - Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	0
(b) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	6

#### Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard	7
- Discretionary	0
Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard	3
- Discretionary	0
Number of houses owned by Local Authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	0
---------------------------------------	---

#### Public Health Act, 1936

Number of site licences	2
Number of individual licences	1
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under the above licences	13
Number of inspections during the year - sites	28
- dwellings	0
Number of contraventions remedied	0
Number of sites exempt from licence	0
Number of moveable dwellings thereon	0

#### FOOD PREMISES

##### Bakehouses

Number in district	2
Number of inspections	6
Number of contraventions	0
Defects remedied	0



### Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	2
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	9
Number of inspections of premises made	11
Number of contraventions found	0
Contraventions remedied	0
Number of samples taken	0

### Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
Number of inspections made	3
Number of contraventions found	0
Contraventions remedied	0

### Other Food Premises

Number of other food premises (i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products)	27
Number of inspections made	32
Number of contraventions found	1
Contraventions remedied	1

### Slaughterhouses

Number licensed - abattoir type	0
- private individual	0

### UNSOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	0
Other condemned food	0
Method of disposal	Incineration

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

<u>Closets</u>	
Number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
Number of houses with pail closets in district	2
Number of houses with water closets in district	701
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	0
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No



### Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleaned etc.	0
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	0
Do Council operate cesspool/septic tanks emptying service?	No

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made for new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved:-	0
Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :-	0
Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :-	No

### WATER SUPPLIES

<u>Domestic</u>	
Number of houses supplied from public mains	
- in house	706
- standpipe/outside tap	1
Number of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
Number of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply for public health reasons	No
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	0

### Swimming and Paddling Pools

	Swimming Pools	Paddling Pools
Number in operation	1	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1	1
Number of samples of water taken for chemical examination	3	3
Number of samples for bacteriological examination	0	0

## GENERAL

### Offensive Trades

Number of Premises in district 0

### Knackers Yards

Number Licensed 0

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Number of premises licensed 36

Number of inspections 40

Number of defects 2

Number remedied 2

### Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected

(a) infectious disease other than tuberculosis 0

(b) tuberculosis 0

Number of premises subject to disinfestation 0

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected 739

Frequency of collection 7 - 8 days

Type of receptacle bin

Method of Disposal Controlled Tipping

Is this satisfactory? Yes

Number of tips 1

Number of vehicles 1

Is collection by Local Authority or Contract? L.A.

### Details of nuisances abated

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	8	-
Foul Ditches, ponds and stagnant water	14	-
Drainage	6	-
Poultry and Animals	0	-
Dangerous Premises	0	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	6	-
	<u>34</u>	

### Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employees 1 part time

Number of premises treated

- dwellinghouses 40

- other premises 34

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district? No

Service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises.

# Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits	0
Number of nuisances found	0
Number of nuisances abated	0

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions  
as to health (including inspections made by Public Health  
Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	19	0	0
3. other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	22	0	0



Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-







