

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 1916, VOL. III
REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER**

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Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Year Ended June 30, 1916,
Vol. III Report of the Health Officer by William C. Woodward

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WILLIAM C. WOODWARD

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YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1916

Vol. III

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER



WASHINGTON
1916



OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JUNE 30, 1916.

Health officer.

WILLIAM C. WOODWARD, M. D.

Assistant health officer.

JOHN L. NORRIS, M. D.

Chief clerk and deputy health officer.

HARRY C. McLEAN.

Clerks.

S. PHILLIPS.
A. G. COLE.
C. D. HERRMANN.
E. LUCAS.

T. W. PARSONS.
A. C. PATTERSON.
A. W. AYRE.
L. H. CROWE.

LE ROY B. FOSTER.
M. LUCILLE GARDINER.
R. C. KILMARTIN, JR.

Chief sanitary inspector.

C. R. HOLMAN.

Chief food inspector.

R. S. WILSON.

Bacteriologist.

J. J. KINYOUN, M. D.

Assistant bacteriologists.

J. E. WALSH, M. D.
L. V. DIETER, PHAR. D.

Chemist.

M. A. POZEN, PHAR. D., B. S.

Assistant chemist.

VACANT.

Sanitary inspectors.

R. E. BECKHAM.
C. H. BUCHANAN.
J. F. BUIJS.
W. R. SMITH.

C. C. STAUB.
O. H. WELCH.
E. W. WHITAKER.
A. S. WOODLAND.

T. B. CARROLL.
M. STARBECKER.
C. B. COLVIN.
D. C. MALCOLM.

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REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER.

Food inspectors.

R. R. ASHWORTH, D. V. S.	W. B. DODGE.	A. L. MURRAY.
J. P. TURNER, V. M. D.	H. J. MULLIGAN.	P. A. CHAMBERLIN.
H. S. DRAKE, V. S.	R. A. GUERRANT.	W. H. H. HOOVER.
J. R. GRIME, D. V. S.	H. S. LUCAS.	B. F. MINGHALL.
C. M. GRUBB, D. V. M.	R. RANDALL.	
JOHN ROME, D. V. S.	W. H. CAMERON.	

Eight-hour female labor.

W. C. DILLER, inspector.	CAROLINE S. DAVIS.
M. L. SIMPSON, inspector.	W. M. SMITH.

Pound service.

G. W. RAE, poundmaster.

Laborers.

J. BURRELL.	B. PRICE.
W. JONES.	H. SHAWWELL.

Skilled laborers.

F. W. WILLNER.	H. LEVY.
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Messenger and janitor.

J. H. PROK.

Driver.

ISAAC PINKNEY.

Contagious-disease service.

W. C. FOWLER, M. D., chief medical inspector.	
LLEWELLYN ELIOT, M. D., medical inspector.	J. D. BRADFIELD, M. D., medical inspector.
E. L. LE MERLE, M. D., medical inspector.	W. J. FRENCH, M. D., medical inspector.
A. L. HUNT, M. D., medical inspector.	

OLIVER C. GORDON, inspector.

Skilled laborer.

J. J. QUICKLEY.

Laborer.

G. W. HALL.

Disinfecting service.

C. M. BRALL, M. D., inspector.	W. D. TAPSCOTT, engineer.
EDW. NEWMAN, laborer.	

Crematorium.

ERNEST BISHOP, superintendent.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 9, 1916.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916.

PART I.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1915, WITH A SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT RELATING TO THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 1916.

Detailed statistics of births, stillbirths, cases of reportable illness, and deaths are printed in the appendix, to which reference must be made for information not found in the body of this report. Here only a brief synopsis of such data is possible.

POPULATION.

A police census was taken during the fall of 1915, with the following result:

Population of the District of Columbia in November, 1915, as determined by a police census, with comparative data from police census immediately preceding.

Date of census.	Population.		
	White.	Colored.	All.
Apr. 28, 1913.....	255,153	98,144	353,297
Nov. 1, 1915.....	258,940	96,909	355,749
Total increase.....	3,787	665	4,452
Average increase per annum.....	1,515	266	1,781
Percentage of increase per annum.....	0.59	0.37	0.60

Upon the foregoing figures all birth rates, stillbirth rates, morbidity rates, and death rates are computed.

GENERAL BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES.

The diminution in the death rate that has been continued since the calendar year 1896 was by unknown causes abruptly checked in the calendar year 1915. Deaths numbered 6,505 as against 5,866 during the preceding year, and the death rate rose from 16.59 to 18.18. The various factors that entered into this increase are discussed on pages 11 to 16. Stillbirths diminished from 447 to 440,

the latter figure being the lowest yet recorded, which may be accounted for, in part at least, by the falling off in the number of births, from 7,130 to 7,067, the birth rate falling from 20.16 to 19.75. Details appear in the following table:

Population, births, stillbirths, and deaths in the District of Columbia, with corresponding rates during the calendar years 1901-1915, inclusive.

Calendar years.	Population.	Births.	Stillbirths.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.		
					Births.	Stillbirths.	Deaths.
1901-1905 ¹	311,325	5,409	570	6,042	17.38	1.83	19.41
1906-1910.....	336,940	5,900	577	6,304	20.48	1.71	18.71
1911.....	349,568	7,032	504	6,303	20.13	1.44	18.03
1912.....	352,386	7,007	501	6,259	19.85	1.42	17.73
1913.....	353,297	6,903	500	6,006	19.54	1.41	16.99
1914.....	353,664	7,130	447	5,986	20.16	1.26	16.59
1915.....	357,749	7,067	440	6,905	19.75	1.23	18.18
1911-1915 ¹	353,443	7,028	478	6,188	19.88	1.35	17.50

¹ Average for 5-year period.

BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS.

Birth rates.—Births and stillbirths together numbered 7,507, the natality being 21 per thousand, computed on the basis of the entire population. Of the children whose births or stillbirths were recorded, 50 were of unknown race, representing bodies picked up on vacant lots and in other similar places, often in stages of more or less advanced decomposition, coming under the official notice of the coroner, and whose race could not be determined. Of the remaining children, 5,027 were white and 2,430 were colored, the natality for the white race being 19.8, and that for the colored race being 24.6. None of these rates varied materially from those of the preceding year, as is shown in the following table:

Natality in the District of Columbia, by years and by race, during the calendar years 1906-1915, inclusive.

Calendar years.	Births and stillbirths registered.				Rate per 1,000 of corresponding population.			
	White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.
1906-1910 ¹	4,832	2,583	62	7,477	20.1	26.7	.....	22.2
1911.....	4,943	2,524	60	7,526	19.7	25.7	.....	21.6
1912.....	4,901	2,532	75	7,508	19.3	25.7	.....	21.3
1913.....	4,834	2,509	60	7,403	18.9	25.6	.....	20.9
1914.....	5,104	2,422	51	7,577	19.9	24.8	.....	21.4
1915.....	5,027	2,430	50	7,507	19.8	24.6	.....	21.0
1911-1915 ¹	4,962	2,453	61	7,506	19.5	25.3	.....	21.0

¹ Average for 5-year period.

Stillbirths.—Of the 7,507 children born during the calendar year 1915, 440 were born dead, equivalent to 5.9 per cent. Of the 5,027 white children, 155 were born dead, equivalent to 3.1 per cent. Of the 2,430 colored, 235 were born dead, equivalent to 9.7 per cent.

The corresponding stillbirth rates, and figures for comparison with preceding years, are embodied in the following table:

Stillbirths in the District of Columbia, relative frequency of, with reference to race, legitimacy, and illegitimacy, during the calendar years 1906-1915, inclusive.

Calendar year.	Registered stillbirths.				Rate per 1,000.				Percentage of stillbirths of each class named below computed upon the basis of all live and stillbirths, together for each such class.					
	White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.	By race.				Social status.	
									White.	Colored.	Unknown.	Total.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1906-1910 ¹	200	316	62	577	6.8	3.2	.....	1.7	4.1	12.2	.....	7.7	5.6	14.9
1911.....	171	266	67	504	.7	2.7	.....	1.4	2.5	10.5	.....	6.7	5.0	12.8
1912.....	167	269	75	501	.7	2.6	.....	1.4	3.4	10.2	.....	5.7	4.9	12.2
1913.....	167	273	60	500	.7	2.8	.....	1.4	3.5	10.9	.....	6.8	5.1	13.3
1914.....	179	217	81	447	.6	2.3	.....	1.3	2.5	8.9	.....	6.8	4.6	12.1
1915.....	165	235	80	440	.6	2.4	.....	1.2	2.1	9.7	.....	5.9	4.5	12.5
1911-1915 ¹	168	260	61	478	.7	2.5	.....	1.3	2.4	10.0	.....	6.4	4.8	12.6

¹ Average for 5-year period.

In view of the increasing resort to hospitals in cases of confinement, the following data are of interest. Surmises might be made as to the reasons for the greater frequency of stillbirths in hospital practice than in case of confinements at home, but in the absence of a full knowledge of the details of the situation, it is probably better not to guess. It is safe to say, however, that the apparent infrequency of stillbirths in the practices of midwives is due to the fact that in difficult cases of labor midwives call physicians to their aid, and then if the child is stillborn the case is reported by the physician and is not charged against the record of the midwife.

Stillbirths in the District of Columbia, relative frequency of, in home and hospital practice, during the calendar year 1915.

Attended by—	Confined at home.		Confined in hospital.		Percentage of stillbirths to live births and stillbirths.		
	Live births.	Stillbirths.	Live births.	Stillbirths.	Homes.	Hospitals.	Homes and hospitals.
Physicians.....	3,996	201	2,467	187	4.80	7.05	5.67
Midwives.....	604	12	.....	.....	3.33	.....	1.33
Total.....	4,600	203	2,467	187	4.23	7.05	5.23

¹ All stillbirths occurring in the practice of midwives are certified by the coroner, but he has failed during the past year to distinguish between cases so attended and other cases among the 59 stillbirths certified by him.

Illegitimacy.—Of the 7,507 births and stillbirths registered during the year, 670 were illegitimate, equivalent to 8.9 per cent. Illegitimate births and stillbirths of white children numbered 119, equivalent to 2.4 per cent of all births and stillbirths of white children.