

**REPORT OF THE HEALTH
OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA, 1916**

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Report of the Health Officer of the District of Columbia, 1916 by Various

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**REPORT OF THE HEALTH
OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA, 1916**

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

REPORT OF THE
HEALTH OFFICER

OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

▼
1916

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.

B. 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. BUTTS.
W. R. SMITH.

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

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

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. MINSHALL.
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. BURRILL.	B. PRICE.
W. JONES.	H. SHAWWELL.

Skilled laborers.

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

J. H. PROCK.

Driver.

ISAAC PINENEY.

Contagious-disease service.

W. C. FOWLER, M. D., chief medical inspector.
 LEWELLYN ELIOT, M. D., medical inspector. J. D. BRADFELD, 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.

OLIVE C. GORDON, inspector.

Skilled laborer.

J. J. QUICKLEY.

Laborer.

G. W. HALL.

Disinfecting service.

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

Crematorium.

ERNEST BISHOP, superintendent.

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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.....	266,153	98,144	364,297
Nov. 1, 1915.....	258,940	98,800	357,740
Total increase.....	3,787	665	4,452
Average increase per annum.....	1,615	298	1,781
Percentage of increase per annum.....	0.58	0.27	0.50

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.	Popu- lation.	Births.	Still- births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.		
					Births.	Still- births.	Deaths.
1901-1905 ¹	311,325	5,408	570	5,947	17.38	1.83	19.41
1906-1910 ¹	336,940	6,960	577	6,304	20.45	1.71	18.71
1911.....	349,568	7,032	504	6,303	20.12	1.44	18.03
1912.....	352,938	7,007	501	6,256	19.85	1.42	17.73
1913.....	353,297	6,903	500	6,008	19.54	1.41	18.99
1914.....	353,664	7,130	447	5,966	20.16	1.26	18.59
1915.....	357,749	7,067	440	6,505	19.75	1.23	18.12
1911-1915 ¹	353,443	7,093	478	6,189	19.88	1.35	17.90

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.	Un- known.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Un- known.	Total.
1906-1910 ¹	4,833	2,588	62	7,427	20.1	26.7	.....	22.2
1911.....	4,943	2,524	69	7,536	19.7	25.7	.....	21.6
1912.....	4,901	2,532	75	7,508	19.2	25.7	.....	21.3
1913.....	4,834	2,509	60	7,403	18.9	25.5	.....	20.9
1914.....	5,104	2,423	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	2,468	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.