

**A BULLETIN ON THE
CONDITION OF THE
COUNTY ALMSHOUSES
OF MISSOURI**

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A bulletin on the condition of the county Almshouses of Missouri by Charles A. Ellwood

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CHARLES A. ELLWOOD

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ALMSHOUSES OF MISSOURI

BY

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A BULLETIN ON THE CONDITION OF THE COUNTY ALMSHOUSES OF MISSOURI

I.

THE CONDITION OF THE COUNTY ALMSHOUSES OF MISSOURI.

Statistics. There is but one method of collecting accurate statistics concerning social conditions; and that is to send experts into the field to gather the information upon the spot. Unfortunately this method was not open to the department of sociology when it undertook to investigate the condition of the county almshouses of Missouri. The desired information had to be obtained by other and less accurate means. Wherever possible a student or alumnus of the University was sent to visit the almshouse about which information was sought; but it was found possible to do this in only about thirty per cent. of the cases. In the remaining cases question blanks were sent to the superintendents of the almshouses with the request that they be filled out and returned to the department. In this way information was received concerning fifty per cent. more of the almshouses. But when no response from the superintendent could be elicited, the information was usually obtained through the county clerk, although in the case

of three county almshouses all efforts of every sort failed to secure the desired information. Nevertheless, in spite of the relatively crude methods employed in gathering the statistics, there can be no doubt that they present a fairly accurate picture of the actual conditions of Missouri almshouses to-day. Small details, both good and bad, may lie concealed, but the main outlines of the system stand out in clear relief.

The statistics here presented concern ninety of the ninety-three county almshouses of Missouri. Twenty-one counties of Missouri have no almshouses, but still follow the primitive practice of boarding out their paupers (usually very few in number) with farmers. These counties are Benton, Camden, Carter, Dent, Douglass, Dunklin, Gasconade, Hickory, Laclede, McDonald, Madison, Maries, Miller, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Ripley, Shannon, Taney, Worth, and Wright. St. Louis county also has no almshouse, but sends its paupers to the St. Louis City Poorhouse.

The chief statistics for each almshouse of the ninety concerning which information could be obtained are herewith presented in tabular form, beginning on the following page.

STATISTICS OF MISSOURI ALMSHOUSES, 1903.

County.	Superintendent.	Postoffice.	Number of inmates, sex and race.		Age of inmates.				Defective classes.				Buildings, grounds and expenses.			Management.							
			Male.....	Female.....	Total.....	Colored...	White.....	Above 80	Between 18 and 80.	Under 18.	Between 8 and 14...	Insane....	Feeble-minded....	Epileptic..	Blind.....	Crippled...	Paralytic..	Acres of land.....	Cost of buildings.	Expenses per annum	Cost per week per inmate....	By lease system....	Religious services...
Adair.....	Z. T. Hagan.....	Kirksville.....	6	9	15	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	150	1,000	\$ 600	\$1.00	Yes	No	Op.
Andrew.....	E. Z. Hagan.....	Salina.....	7	10	17	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	329	1,300	2,000	1.75	Yes	No	Op.
Atchison.....	D. N. Maratt.....	Rockport.....	7	5	12	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,200	1,300	1,600	1.35	Yes	No	Op.
Audrain.....	Horace Wingo.....	Mexico.....	13	13	26	1	3	7	7	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	183	900	1,000	2.90	Yes	Yes	Op.
Barton.....	W. M. Wainwright.....	Cassville.....	10	6	16	1	4	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	130	1,000	1,000	2.90	Yes	Yes	Op.
Bates.....	Samuel Smith.....	Lamar.....	7	3	10	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	130	1,000	1,000	1.45	Yes	Yes	Op.
Bay.....	Samuel Smith.....	Autels Hill.....	5	1	6	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	187	1,000	1,000	1.45	Yes	Yes	Op.
Boonville.....	W. C. Langley.....	Columbia.....	30	18	48	10	15	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,160	15,000	3,020	2.00	No	Yes	Op.
Buchanan.....	W. C. Langley.....	St. Joseph.....	83	65	148	75	60	43	7	2	6	4	4	4	4	4	1,160	12,888	2,411	2.00	No	No	Op.
Caldwell.....	Chas. L. Craig.....	Poplar Bluff.....	18	2	20	11	1	8	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	259	1,000	815	1.50	No	No	Op.
Callaway.....	W. H. Conner.....	Hannibal.....	31	17	48	3	9	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	350	5,000	1,000	1.50	No	Yes	Req.
Carroll.....	J. M. Bush.....	Lawrence.....	16	10	26	5	10	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	360	3,000	1,000	1.15	Yes	Yes	Op.
Cass.....	J. O. Stone.....	Peculiar.....	13	9	22	4	13	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	500	5,000	2,000	1.35	Yes	Yes	Op.
Cedar.....	J. W. Brown.....	Bear Creek.....	10	5	15	5	10	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1,170	700	800	1.75	Yes	Yes	Op.
Chariton.....	M. T. Davenport.....	Dalton.....	11	4	15	7	11	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	240	2,500	1,000	2.00	No	Yes	Req.
Clark.....	W. J. McConnell.....	Ozark.....	11	4	15	7	11	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	240	2,500	1,000	2.00	No	Yes	Req.
Clay.....	W. J. McConnell.....	Osage.....	11	4	15	7	11	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	240	2,500	1,000	2.00	No	Yes	Req.
Clinton.....	W. J. McConnell.....	Chandler.....	20	15	35	15	16	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	1,000	1,000	1.75	Yes	Yes	Op.
Cole.....	W. J. McConnell.....	Phaunburg.....	3	4	7	4	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	65	10,000	615	6.45	No	No	Op.
Cooper.....	W. J. McConnell.....	Elston.....	85	12	97	25	3	11	8	7	6	5	13	3	3	3	910	10,000	2,685	2.90	No	Yes	Req.
Crawford.....	E. Summers.....	Speed.....	36	11	47	31	6	3	23	7	6	5	2	2	2	2	130	8,500	1,900	1.85	No	No	Req.
Dade.....	J. W. Wynn.....	Steelville.....	8	1	9	7	8	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	100	700	1,250	1.90	No	No	Op.
Daviess.....	W. E. Whit.....	Greenfield.....	12	5	17	1	1	9	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	140	1,000	1,000	2.07	Yes	Yes	Req.
DeKalb.....	Bert Johnson.....	Gallatin.....	10	5	15	4	10	9	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	100	9,000	1,000	8.15	Yes	No	Op.
Franklin.....	Wm. Bente.....	Mayaville.....	9	5	14	3	14	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	80	4,000	1,330	1.68	Yes	Yes	Op.
Gentry.....	O. J. Lewis.....	Gentry.....	14	9	23	14	3	2	14	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	100	4,000	1,330	1.68	Yes	No	Op.

STATISTICS OF MISSOURI ALMSHOUSES, 1918—Continued.

County.	Superintendent.	Postoffice.	Number of inmates, sex and race.				Age of inmates.			Defective classes.					Buildings, grounds and expenses.				Management.				
			Male...	Female...	White...	Colored...	Above 60.	Between 18 and 60.	Under 18	Between 2 and 14.	Insane...	Feeble-minded...	Epileptic.	Blind....	Crippled.	Paralytic.	Acres of land.	Cost of buildings.	Expenses per annum.	Cost per week per inmate...	By lease system...	Cells for the insane.	Empl'yment of able-bodied...
Greene	J. B. Alsup.	Nichols	41	34	61	34	26	44	5	5	23	15	9	4	10	130	30,000	3,000	1.25	No	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Grundy	J. B. Hartley	Trenton	10	6	7	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	1	160	8,000	1,056	2.28	Yes	No	Op.	No.
Hannibal	J. B. Williams	Clinton	24	14	10	23	4	12	1	1	10	7	2	2	4	1,000	13,000	2,000	2.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Henry	J. B. Williams	Clinton	11	11	11	11	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	553	1,700	1,700	1.50	No	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Holt	Abner Carson.	Oregon	30	10	10	11	9	9	2	2	3	7	1	1	5	300	1,900	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	No.
Howard	S. T. Mobley.	Fayette	18	11	7	18	8	14	1	1	3	10	1	1	5	1,300	1,300	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Howell	A. L. Rice.	West Plains	13	7	5	13	6	6	1	1	3	7	1	1	1	1,300	1,300	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Iron	E. C. Love.	Ironton	18	11	7	18	8	14	1	1	3	10	1	1	5	1,300	1,300	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Jackson	M. F. Tully.	Little Blue	18	11	7	18	8	14	1	1	3	10	1	1	5	1,300	1,300	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Jackson	M. F. Tully.	Little Blue	18	11	7	18	8	14	1	1	3	10	1	1	5	1,300	1,300	750	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Jefferson	J. W. Parney.	Hillsboro	30	14	6	35	4	10	1	1	2	5	2	2	1	180	800	2,355	1.75	No	Yes	Req.	No.
Johnson	J. W. Graham.	Warrensburg	16	7	9	15	3	5	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	118	890	875	2.25	Yes	No	Op.	No.
Knox	John C. Herr.	Edina	8	5	3	8	3	5	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	89	890	875	2.25	Yes	No	Op.	No.
Lafayette	C. O. Kinkaid	Lexington	15	9	7	13	6	10	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	89	890	875	2.25	Yes	No	Op.	No.
Lawrence	J. E. Snyder	St. Vernon	21	10	14	29	11	14	5	4	4	10	1	1	1	150	8,000	3,000	1.50	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Leavenworth	J. E. Snyder	Clinton	21	10	14	29	11	14	5	4	4	10	1	1	1	150	8,000	3,000	1.50	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Lincoln	G. Hammond	Troy	29	12	8	33	7	10	2	2	15	8	1	1	2	150	1,000	1,000	1.50	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Linn	T. M. Davis	Linn	21	11	10	17	4	3	15	3	2	5	2	2	5	14,000	3,000	3,000	1.50	Yes	Yes	Op.	No.
Livingson	J. W. Missenbeller	Chillicothe	22	19	13	29	3	10	23	5	10	8	3	1	1	27	7,500	1,900	1.20	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.
Macon	W. A. Patrick	Macon	27	9	18	20	2	7	14	5	3	1	1	1	63	25,000	2,132	1.20	No	Yes	Req.	Yes.	
Madison	J. Pettie	Madison	15	8	7	14	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	2	1	181	6,000	1,000	3.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	No.
Marion	J. W. Hupp	Palmyra	12	4	4	8	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	53	1,000	1,000	1.50	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.	
Missouri	W. W. Humphrey	Charleston	12	4	4	8	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	53	1,000	1,000	1.50	Yes	Yes	Op.	Yes.	
Monroe	A. Miller	McGirk	14	6	8	14	4	10	15	3	3	4	2	2	180	1,100	300	2.00	Yes	Yes	Req.	Yes.	
Montgomery	J. M. McGee	Paris	23	13	10	14	9	15	2	3	5	8	1	1	195	3,000	1,000	1.50	No	No	Op.	No.	
Morgan	F. M. Messenger	New Florence	15	7	8	10	5	5	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	200	2,000	1,200	1.25	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Morris	C. C. Marrot	Versailles	12	7	5	12	6	7	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	200	2,000	1,200	1.25	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Murphy	W. H. Reed	New Madrid	12	7	5	12	6	7	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	200	2,000	1,200	1.25	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Nada	W. H. Key	New Madrid	12	7	5	12	6	7	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	200	2,000	1,200	1.25	No	Yes	Op.	No.
Nodaway	W. H. Key	Maryville	24	14	10	24	9	9	1	1	6	12	3	3	1	140	3,500	1,400	1.00	No	No	Op.	No.
Osage	Joseph Weeks.	Linn	9	4	5	9	6	8	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	10	5,000	750	1.50	No	Yes	Req.	Yes.
Perry	H. E. Kuhlman	Perryville	12	6	7	12	4	8	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	25	1,000	1,000	1.00	Yes	Yes	Op.	No.
Pettis	H. E. Hutton	Sedalia	21	14	7	20	1	10	10	1	1	2	2	2	2	80	5,000	3,000	.50	No	No	Op.	No.
Phelps	I. B. Matlock	Kolla	11	6	6	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.50	Yes	No	Op.	No.

Plate	62	19	23	22	10	16	23	3	2	3	6	0	1	2	1	3	1	8	1	105	2,480	1.16	No	Op.	No.				
Blaine	11	6	6	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,300	1.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
A. R. Miller	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	800	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
J. C. Saling	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	800	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
Pulaski	16	8	10	17	1	2	14	3	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,100	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
Waynesville	16	8	10	17	1	2	14	3	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,100	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
Levensville	9	8	1	7	2	6	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2,400	2.00	No	Op.	No.				
Center	9	8	1	7	2	6	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2,400	2.00	No	Op.	No.				
Huntsville	20	10	10	19	1	7	13	3	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,550	2.00	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Richmond	24	11	13	21	3	6	15	2	2	11	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3,347	2.00	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
St. Charles	50	25	32	42	6	30	25	9	19	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	5,700	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
St. Clair	16	12	4	15	1	5	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,800	1.50	No	Op.	No.				
St. Francois	19	12	7	17	2	9	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2,000	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
St. Genevieve	43	25	5	28	5	14	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4,100	2.00	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Saline	6	2	3	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	500	2.00	Yes	Op.	No.				
Scout	11	7	4	10	1	10	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3,000	1.75	Yes	Op.	No.				
Scott	11	7	4	10	1	10	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3,000	1.75	Yes	Op.	No.				
Shelby	11	2	9	11	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	900	1.75	Yes	Req.	Yes.				
Stone	30	16	10	25	1	7	15	4	4	5	13	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10,000	1.50	Yes	Op.	No.				
Sullivan	14	11	8	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,800	1.50	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Union	14	11	8	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,800	1.50	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Verdon	14	11	8	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1,800	1.50	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Warren	14	7	7	9	0	0	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1,400	1.75	No	Op.	No.				
Washington	6	3	5	9	0	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1,300	1.50	No	Op.	No.				
Wayne	9	4	5	9	1	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	700	1.40	Yes	Op.	No.				
Webster	18	9	9	18	4	4	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	800	1.75	Yes	Op.	No.				
St. Louis City	154	75	70	145	23	58	85	27	20	284	47	25	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	150,000	2.00	Yes	Op.	Yes.				
Totals	8348	1519	1230	3054	202	1262	1282	154	29	1177	151	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	55	54	74	op. 85	yes				
																						35	no	36	no	16	req	15	no



The total number of inmates in the ninety almshouses was 3,348, of whom nearly one-half were found in a single institution, the City of St. Louis Poorhouse. The usual preponderance of males, due undoubtedly to the fact that dependent women are less likely to be sent to the poorhouse than dependent men, is exhibited in the Missouri almshouse population, over 54 per cent., or 1819, being males, and a little less than 46 per cent., or 1529, being females. As regards race, 3056 of the inmates are white, while 292 are colored. This makes the proportion of almshouse inmates who are colored a little less than nine per cent. while the colored element in the total population of the State constitutes but a little over five per cent. Classified as regards age, 1262, or 37.7 per cent. of Missouri's almshouse inmates are above sixty years of age; 1932, or 57.7 per cent., are between eighteen and sixty years; and 154, or 4.6 per cent., are under eighteen. It is evident from these figures that in Missouri as elsewhere an undue proportion of the aged end their days in the poorhouse. While persons above sixty years of age constitute but a little over six per cent. of the population of the entire country, they form over thirty-seven per cent. of the population of Missouri's almshouses. The proportion of children and young persons in Missouri's almshouses is not great, although it is much higher than it should be. Of the 154 inmates under eighteen years of age, ninety-two are between two and fourteen years.

If classified according to physical condition, it is evident that very few of the inmates of Missouri's almshouses are able-bodied. Five hundred and nine, or fifteen per cent. were reported as able to do some work, but probably not more than one-third of these might be considered in any proper sense able-bodied. One thousand nine hundred and nine of the inmates, or fifty-seven per cent., are mental defectives, being either insane, feeble-minded, or epileptic. Four hundred and seventy-