

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS – 1988

John V Dyer, District Medical Officer
Lancaster Health Authority, Community Services
Slyne Road, Lancaster LA1 2HT

BIRTHS

There were 1,600 live births to Lancaster mothers, much the same as in the previous four years. This followed successive annual increases from the lowest recorded number of 1,222 in 1978.

Seven babies were stillborn, compared with 13 in 1987, but a further 12 died within seven days of birth. Twenty-three babies died before their first birthday, 22 in 1987. Known illegitimate and pre-marital conceptions accounted for about 30% of births. Half the babies from Alexandra and Poulton Wards of Morecambe were illegitimate.

RATES

	District	England and Wales
Live births per 1,000 population	12.0	13.6
Still births per 1,000 total births	8.2	5.0
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births		
Under 1 year	14.4	9.0
Under 4 weeks	10.6	4.9
Under 1 week	7.5	3.9

ABORTIONS

Under the Abortion Act 1967, 343 terminations were notified, of which 124 were performed in NHS establishments.

Marital Status:-	Married	Single	Other	Total
	95	217	31	343

("other" included widowed, divorced, separated and status unknown)

DEATHS

For many years, the annual number of deaths has been about 2,000, but this year saw a marked drop to 1,786, of whom 316 were under 65 years of age.

Selected causes:-	Male		Female	
	Under 65	65+	Under 65	65+
Cancer, all forms	56	168	44	163
Circulatory system	82	318	29	487
Respiratory system	12	78	5	74
Digestive system	5	15	4	26
Injury & Poisoning	21	4	6	8

Standardised Mortality Ratios for certain wards (England and Wales = 100):-

	Lung Cancer	Ischaemic	
		Heart Disease	Respiratory Disease
Bulk	186	141	402
Skerton Central	102	154	225
Castle	235	158	164
Alexandra	189	120	127
Poulton	164	164	137
Victoria	149	170	138

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no notifications of Whooping Cough, and only 28 of Measles, probably an all-time low. Hepatitis, both A and B, continues to increase, particularly in the older age groups.

Mumps and Rubella were made notifiable from 1 October 1988, when the MMR vaccine was introduced. By the end of the year, 21 cases of Mumps and 9 of Rubella had been notified.

Attendances at the GUM clinics fell slightly, with 35 male (5 under 20 years of age) and 14 female (8 under 20 years of age) diagnosed as new cases of gonorrhoea; no new cases of syphilis.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Acceptance rates of over 90% for Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria and over 80% for Measles and Pertussis vaccines, keep the District amongst the country's leaders, and at the targets set by the Regional Health Authority.

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