

permitting West Virginia to be included in the National Registration Area. These minimum requirements were that at least ninety per cent of all births and deaths be reported to the Division of Vital Statistics. A subsequent test, in 1940, showed that we had slipped in fifteen years as only 86.4 per cent of the births occurring in December, 1939; January, February, and March, 1940, were reported.

In view of this fact it is felt that the data for the years prior to 1925, even though they are given, are incomplete. All data for the years prior to 1935 are classified by the place of occurrence of the event, data for other years is classified by place of residence.

Methods of Collection and Presentation

The West Virginia Vital Statistics Law requires the attending physician, midwife, or other person attending a birth to file a birth certificate with the local registrar. The undertaker, or person burying a body, is responsible for filing a death certificate. The medical portion of the death certificate is filled out by the attending physician. A death without medical attendance is referred to the local health officer or coroner for investigation and certification. In certain sections of the State many persons are without medical attendance and the causes of death are unknown.

The causes of death have been classified under the title number of the 1938 Revision of the International List of Causes of Death. The data for the period 1932-1939 were classified by the rules of the 1929 Revision, while previous to 1932 the 1920 edition of the International List was used.

For certain Communicable Diseases the number of cases reported to the Communicable Disease Control Division of the Health Department is shown. These cases of communicable diseases represent reports from private

physicians, as required by law, but these may or may not be complete as many cases of illness are unattended by a physician.

The following tables contain only the number of births, deaths, infant deaths, and deaths from specific causes, no rates have been shown. Persons desiring rates for the purpose of comparison may work their own rates by following these simple formulae:

$$\text{Crude Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population} = \frac{\text{Number of Live Births}}{\text{Population}} \times 1,000$$

$$\text{Crude Death Rate Per 1,000 Population} = \frac{\text{Number of Deaths}}{\text{Population}} \times 1,000$$

$$\text{Specific Cause of Death Rate Per 100,000 Population} = \frac{\text{Number of Deaths From Specific Cause}}{\text{Total Population}} \times 100,000$$

$$\text{Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live Births} = \frac{\text{No. of Deaths Under 1 Yr.}}{\text{Total No. Live Births}} \times 1,000$$

In the following tables the term "Premature Birth" should read "Malformations of Early Infancy (157-161)" as the number of deaths shown is from this cause rather than Premature Birth.