

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MORBIDITY AND COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES STATISTICS
1917-1931
RECORD GROUP 252**

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Health Morbidity and Communicable Diseases Statistics from 1917 to 1931 were transferred to the Tennessee State Library and Archives for review from the Tennessee Department of Health in November, 1998. After review it was decided to film the record group, since the published reports begin in 1927. The record group consists of twenty-three volumes which were disposed of after filming.

There are no restrictions on this record group. Photocopies may be made for scholarly research.

DEPARTMENTAL HISTORY

The Department of Health was established in 1877 as the State Board of Health. The main functions of the newly formed Board were to fight epidemics and keep birth and death records for the state. The Board also focused on school sanitation and on establishing county health boards. The name was changed in 1923 when the legislature formed the Department of Public Health. The Department was to be headed by a commissioner under the executive branch. As the scope of the Department's focus broadened and began to include environmental issues, the name was changed in 1983 to the Department of Health and Environment. The name was changed again in 1991 to the Department of Health after the establishment of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The duties of the Department have greatly increased over the years as health care and concerns have changed with the fighting communicable diseases and the keeping vital records still among them.

Source: *Tennessee Blue Book 1997-1998*

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Department of Health Morbidity and Communicable Diseases Statistics from 1917 to 1931 consist of twenty-three volumes of records. The record group was transferred to the Tennessee State Library and Archives for review from the Department of Health. The record group has been microfilmed and the original volumes disposed of.

The records are divided into three series. The ten volumes in the first series are compiled yearly statistics for the state from 1917-1926. The statistics give the number of births and deaths for the year. The birth statistics show whether or not a physician was present at the time of birth as well as the number of stillbirths. The death statistics are broken down by the cause of death, color, and age. The cause of death statistics show the number of auto fatalities, homicides, suicides, and disease related deaths as well as the name of the disease. Statistics are given for the entire state, each individual county, urban and rural areas, and six major cities: Chattanooga, Jackson, Johnson City, Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville. There are also statistics on non-residents.

The second series consists of twelve volumes which contain the morbidity statistics for 1926-1929. They give the weekly number of deaths by disease for each county. The volumes for 1926-1928 give a state wide weekly total in the first volume of each year. The statistics are also divided by race.

Series three is the Tennessee Department of Public Health's Monthly Reports of Communicable Diseases for 1931. The data is listed by disease and has the number of reported cases for each month. The statistics are listed by the entire state, cities, counties, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, Jackson, and Johnson City. The information is then listed for each county.

This record group provides information on disease and causes of death in Tennessee from 1917-1928. The information can be used with the published reports which begin with records from 1927.

CONTENTS LIST

Series 1

1. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1917
2. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1918
3. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1919
4. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1920
5. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1921
6. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1922
7. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1923
8. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1924
9. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1925
10. Vital Statistics of the State of Tennessee for the year 1926

Series 2

1. Morbidity 1926--Vol. 1--Anderson - Grundy
2. Morbidity 1926--Vol. 2--Hamblen - Obion
3. Morbidity 1926--Vol. 3--Overton - Wilson
4. Morbidity 1927--Vol. 1--Anderson - Grundy
5. Morbidity 1927--Vol. 2--Hamblen - Moore
6. Morbidity 1927--Vol. 3--Morgan - Wilson
7. Morbidity 1928--Vol. 1--Anderson - Hamblen
8. Morbidity 1928--Vol. 2--Hamilton - Moore
9. Morbidity 1928--Vol. 3--Morgan - Wilson
10. Morbidity 1929--Vol. 1--Anderson - Hamilton
11. Morbidity 1929--Vol. 2--Hamilton - Overton
12. Morbidity 1929--Vol. 3--Perry - Wilson

Series 3

1. Monthly Reports of Communicable Diseases for 1931