

# REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

1926-1927

## POPULATION

The estimated midyear population of Porto Rico for 1926-1927, computed by the arithmetical method, is 1,436,521.

## BIRTHS

A decrease of 2,905 births has been recorded this year as compared with those recorded in 1925-26 (65,295). As a consequence the birth-rate dropped from 37.9 per 1,000 population in 1925-26 to 37.1 per 1,000 population in 1926-27. The total number of births (exclusive of still-births) registered in the year under review is 53,390.

The following municipalities had the highest and lowest rates:

| HIGHEST              |      | LOWEST            |      |
|----------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| 1. Culebra -----     | 51.2 | 1. Gurabo -----   | 15   |
| 2. Lares -----       | 48.6 | 2. Yabucoa -----  | 26.4 |
| 3. San Lorenzo ----- | 46.6 | 3. Patillas ----- | 26.9 |

Out of the total number of births 40,392 or 75.7 per cent are white births and 12,998 or 24.3 per cent are colored births.

Sex: There were 27,560 male births and 25,830 female births. The proportion is 106 male births for every hundred female births.

## MARRIAGES

A total of 19,796 persons were married during the year or 9,898 marriages. The marriage rate is 13.0 persons married per 1,000 population for this year as against 15.0 for the year before. The decrease of the number of persons married is 1,552 or 776 less marriages.

## DEATHS

A total of 33,562 deaths was registered during the year, an increase of 1,218 deaths over the year 1925-26, in which 32,344 deaths were registered.

The gross death rate is 23.3 per 1,000 population as against 22.8 for the previous year, or an increase of 0.5 per 1,000 population.

A table of the principal causes of deaths during the years 1924-25, 1925-26, and 1926-27 follows:



TABLE No. 1

| Int. List No. | Causes of death                                      | 1925-27 | 1925-26 | 1924-25 |
|---------------|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 113.....      | Diarrhea and Enteritis (under two years).....        | 4,228   | 3,729   | 3,270   |
| 31-37b.....   | Tuberculosis (all forms).....                        | 3,842   | 3,408   | 3,087   |
| 5.....        | Malaria.....   | 2,103   | 1,755   | 1,474   |
| 114.....      | Diarrhea and Enteritis (two years and over).....     | 1,983   | 1,625   | 1,532   |
| 160.....      | Congenital debility.....                             | 1,834   | 1,548   | 1,304   |
| 164.....      | Senility.....  | 1,658   | 1,452   | 1,466   |
| 129.....      | Chronic Nephritis.....                               | 1,599   | 1,239   | 925     |
| 100a.....     | Bronchopneumonia.....                                | 1,422   | 1,370   | 1,879   |
| 99a-d.....    | Bronchitis (all forms).....                          | 1,405   | 1,364   | 1,482   |
| 87-90.....    | Diseases of the Heart (all forms).....               | 1,396   | 1,200   | 1,068   |
| 56.....       | Rickets.....   | 1,246   | 1,703   | 2,021   |
| 101a-b.....   | Pneumonia.....                                       | 1,150   | 1,150   | 1,379   |
| 115.....      | Ankilostomiasis.....                                 | 777     | 940     | 772     |
| 128.....      | Acute Nephritis.....                                 | 699     | 776     | 791     |
| 29.....       | Tetanus.....   | 645     | 698     | 644     |
| 43-49.....    | Cancer (all forms).....                              | 529     | 580     | 494     |
| 91b.....      | Arteriosclerosis.....                                | 334     | 275     | 284     |
| 74a.....      | Cerebral Hemorrhage.....                             | 309     | 285     | 401     |
| 1a.....       | Typhoid fever.....                                   | 290     | 317     | 262     |
| 71a.....      | Simple Meningitis.....                               | 245     | 256     | 299     |
| 41.....       | Purulent infection, septicemia.....                  | 236     | 242     | 202     |
| 38.....       | Syphilis.....  | 227     | 177     | 184     |
| 112.....      | Other diseases of the stomach (cancer excepted)..... | 210     | 133     | 116     |
| 146.....      | Puerperal Septicemia.....                            | 204     | 242     | 202     |
| 118.....      | Intestinal Obstruction.....                          | 116     | 111     | 82      |
| 10.....       | Diphtheria.....                                      | 105     | 131     | 101     |
| 126.....      | Peritonitis without specified cause.....             | 101     | 100     | 81      |

As may be observed from the preceding table, significant increases were recorded in the following causes of death: Diarrhea and enteritis (under two years) 499; tuberculosis (all forms), 343; chronic nephritis, 360; diarrhea and enteritis (two years and over), 358; malaria, 348; congenital debility, 286; senility, 206; and diseases of the heart 196.

Causes of death showing a marked decrease are the following: Rickets, 457; ankylostomiasis, 163; acute nephritis, 77; and tetanus, 53.

The decrease in the number of deaths charged to rickets (547) has enough importance to be mentioned. Rickets was appearing in our statistics with an unjustified prominence. In fact this disease is of very rare occurrence in Porto Rico. After a survey was made in the Island by the COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF RICKETS of Yale University, headed by Dr. Martha Elliot of the U. S. Children's Bureau in which a great number of children was examined with negative results, a circular letter was sent to all practicing physicians of the Island announcing the preliminary results of the survey and asking them not to certify any more deaths from this cause.

Many of these deaths were then, no doubt, certified as caused by nutritional disorders, diseases of the respiratory tract, malaria, etc., thus increasing the number of deaths attributed to these causes.



However, the increase in the number of deaths from diarrhea and enteritis (under two years), 499, diarrhea and enteritis (two years and over), 358, tuberculosis (all forms), 434, and malaria, 348, by far exceeds the decrease recorded in rickets and the increase in these diseases is in the main responsible for the rise in the death rate.

The highest and the lowest death rates are recorded for the following municipalities:

| HIGHEST              |      | LOWEST            |      |
|----------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| 1. Santa Isabel..... | 41.3 | 1. Naranjito..... | 11.7 |
| 2. Mayagüez.....     | 35.8 | 2. Culebra.....   | 11.9 |
| 3. Luquillo.....     | 35.3 | 3. Corozal.....   | 12.9 |

The mortality from important causes and the percentage of each cause of death to total deaths, may be seen in the following table:

TABLE NO. 2

| Int. List No. | Causes of death                                  | Deaths | Percent-<br>age of total<br>deaths |
|---------------|--|--------|------------------------------------|
| 113.....      | Diarrhea and Enteritis (under two years).....    | 4,228  | 12.6                               |
| 31-37b.....   | Tuberculosis (all forms).....                    | 3,812  | 11.4                               |
| 5.....        | Malaria.....                                     | 2,103  | 6.2                                |
| 114.....      | Diarrhea and Enteritis (two years and over)..... | 1,883  | 5.9                                |
| 160.....      | Congenital debility.....                         | 1,834  | 5.5                                |
| 164.....      | Senility.....                                    | 1,658  | 4.9                                |
| 129.....      | Chronic Nephritis.....                           | 1,599  | 4.7                                |
| 100a.....     | Bronchopneumonia.....                            | 1,422  | 4.2                                |
| 99a-d.....    | Bronchitis (all forms).....                      | 1,405  | 4.1                                |
| 87-90.....    | Diseases of the heart (all forms).....           | 1,396  | 4.1                                |
| 56.....       | Rickets.....                                     | 1,246  | 3.7                                |
| 101a-b.....   | Pneumonia.....                                   | 1,150  | 3.4                                |
| 115.....      | Ankylostomiasis.....                             | 777    | 2.3                                |
| 128.....      | Acute nephritis.....                             | 699    | 2.0                                |
| 29.....       | Tetanus.....                                     | 645    | 1.9                                |
| 43-49.....    | Cancer (all forms).....                          | 529    | 1.5                                |
| 74a.....      | Cerebral hemorrhage.....                         | 309    | .9                                 |
|               | All other diseases.....                          | 6,737  | 20.7                               |
|               | Totals.....                                      | 33,562 | 100.                               |

## INFANT MORTALITY

A higher infant mortality rate is also recorded this year, 167 per 1,000 living births as against 150 per 1,000 living births in 1925-26 and 148 per 1,000 living births in 1924-25. The total number of deaths in infants under one year of age registered during the year is 8,925. There were more infant deaths from: Diarrhea and enteritis (441), congenital debility (286), acute bronchitis (124), and malaria (102), and fewer infant deaths from rickets (166), measles (148), whooping cough (34) and tetanus neonatorum (17).

The highest infant mortality rates for 1926-27 appear for the following municipalities: Santa Isabel, 356, Mayagüez, 268, and



Patillas, 262; and the lowest rates for the following: Jayuya, 56; Naranjito, 61, and San Lorenzo, 88.

## PROPORTIONAL MORTALITY

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age represents 26.5 per cent of the total number of deaths.

TABLE NO. 3

## DEATHS BY AGE PERIODS, SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS, 1926-27

| Age periods            | Deaths | Percentage of total Deaths |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Under 1 year.....      | 8,925  | 26.59                      |
| 1 to 2 years.....      | 3,405  | 10.15                      |
| 2 to 5 years.....      | 3,058  | 9.11                       |
| 5 to 9 years.....      | 1,211  | 3.61                       |
| 10 to 14 years.....    | 807    | 2.41                       |
| 15 to 19 years.....    | 1,480  | 4.41                       |
| 20 to 24 years.....    | 1,660  | 4.95                       |
| 25 to 29 years.....    | 1,686  | 5.02                       |
| 30 to 39 years.....    | 2,623  | 7.81                       |
| 40 to 49 years.....    | 2,133  | 6.36                       |
| 50 to 59 years.....    | 2,119  | 6.31                       |
| 60 to 69 years.....    | 1,808  | 5.39                       |
| 70 to 79 years.....    | 1,361  | 4.05                       |
| 80 to 89 years.....    | 870    | 2.59                       |
| 90 years and over..... | 416    | 1.24                       |
| Total.....             | 33,562 | 100.00                     |

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

The mortality from puerperal septicemia and from all other puerperal causes may be seen in the following table:

TABLE NO. 4

| Year         | Puerperal septicemia |                              | All other Puerperal causes |                              |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
|              | Deaths               | Rate per 10,000 total births | Deaths                     | Rate per 10,000 total births |
| 1924-25..... | 202                  | 33.9                         | 187                        | 31.4                         |
| 1925-26..... | 191                  | 31.2                         | 202                        | 33.0                         |
| 1926-27..... | 204                  | 34.9                         | 171                        | 32.6                         |

## STILLBIRTHS

There were two hundred more stillborn children this year (5,056) than in 1925-26 (4,856). The stillbirth rate for 1926-27 is 86 stillbirths per 1,000 total births.