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Denver Outstrips Entire Country in Low Record of Child Mortality

Statistics recently compiled at the office of Dr. W. H. Sharpley, Denver's municipal health manager, tell a remarkable tale as to Denver's child mortality in 1916 compared to other cities of the country having over 100,000 population. Denver stands virtually at the head of the list of cities of this size when it comes to conserving the health of the kiddies. The results of excessive sanitary care, the climate and eternal sunshine in this municipality are apparent in graphic charts which have been made up from figures obtained directly from the health offices in many parts of the country. These figures yield such a fund of information that the health authorities propose to keep them plainly on view for use in answering the constant flood of inquiries as to child health conditions here.

It is a well-known fact that the greatest drain upon the infantile population of the country occurs when children are under one year of age. Last year Denver registered 296 such deaths, while cities of equal size, such as Rochester and Indianapolis, reported respectively 565 and 487. Detroit and Cleveland report infantile deaths respectively of 2,732 and 2,043.

As to deaths of children from 1 to 5 years of age in 1916, Denver registered 86, while Rochester reported 210 and Indianapolis 232. Salt Lake City and Oakland bettered Denver's record, having respectively 69 and 77.

The chart setting forth the low number of deaths from diarrheal diseases of children in Denver under 2 years of age is regarded as a genuine tribute to the purity of the city's milk supply. Last year but 36 children succumbed to this affliction, while in such cities as Los Angeles, Detroit, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, New Orleans, Nashville, Syracuse and Dayton, the deaths from this cause ranged anywhere from 60 to 722.

Out of the returns of thirty-six cities which submitted figures to the health department, there are discoverable but two places—Oakland and Seattle—having a smaller diarrheal disease death rate than Denver. Seattle had but 17 last year and Oakland 19. In Cleveland there were 743 deaths of children under 2 years of age, due to afflictions produced largely by impure milk. In Pittsburgh there were 643 cases, in Toledo 208, in Indianapolis 127, and in Birmingham, Ala., 121.

There were but three deaths in Denver last year due to scarlet fever and diphtheria. The scarlet fever schedule, in fact, was clean, Denver, Oakland and Seattle being together as to zero registration. Rochester and Indianapolis, meanwhile, announced respectively 1 and 11 deaths due to scarlet fever and 23 and 51 deaths due to diphtheria. Detroit figures disclosed 259 fatal diphtheria cases and 57 deaths from scarlet fever. Cleveland fatalities were 40