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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
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MORTALITY STATISTICS
1906

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., December 30, 1907.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the seventh annual report on mortality statistics, which presents the results of the registration of deaths in the registration area of the United States during the year 1906.

This area now embraces about one-half (48.8 per cent) of the total estimated population of continental United States. For the first time a state upon the Pacific coast (California), a state of the Rocky Mountain region (Colorado), a state of the great Northwest (South Dakota), and a state with a considerable proportion of negro population (Maryland) are included, besides the great industrial and mining commonwealth of Pennsylvania, making the registration area as a whole much more truly representative of the entire country than ever before.

Even as yet, however, only 15 of the 46 states are accepted as registration states. The Bureau of the Census is making earnest efforts to increase this number. It has carried on a propaganda, in conformity to the expressed desire of Congress, "to the end that the United States may attain a complete and uniform system of registration" not only of deaths but of births, returns of the latter being now entirely wanting in these reports. This work has been done by means of the annual reports, by special pamphlets and circulars of instruction, by addresses of the chief statistician for vital statistics before various national associations and legislative committees, and by correspondence with the governors, sanitary authorities, and persons interested in the advancement of registration in the various nonregistration states. The efforts of the Bureau have been warmly appreciated, and special committees of the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, and the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, are now cooperating with it in the framing and advocacy of effective legislation. In a considerable number of states, as a direct consequence of this movement, excellent laws have recently been passed which, if effectively enforced, will entitle these states to admission to the registration area. Bills of a similar character will be introduced in several other states at the next sessions of their respective legislatures. It is to be hoped that Congress will foster this movement and provide for the complete registration of vital statistics in all areas directly under its control.

The contents of this report are presented in substantially the same form as in the preceding reports of this series. In view of the demand for this information, death rates are stated separately for the white and colored populations in areas where the proportion of colored makes this a matter of importance. But death rates by sex, nativity, and age can not be computed so long as the corresponding data for the population are not available. Therefore under present conditions such computations can be made only at ten-year intervals. The rates here given are simply the general death rates useful for comparison of the movement of mortality in individual areas, and care should be exercised in their employment to avoid direct comparison of rates based upon very differently constituted populations.

The report has been prepared under the direction of Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, chief statistician for vital statistics.

Very respectfully,



Director.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.