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Factors Influencing the Health of Negroes in Houston, Texas

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FACTORS INFLUENCING THE
HEALTH OF NEGROES
IN HOUSTON, TEXAS



MULDREW

1943

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE HEALTH OF NEGROES
IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

By
Georgia Hilburn Muldrew

A Thesis
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Degree of

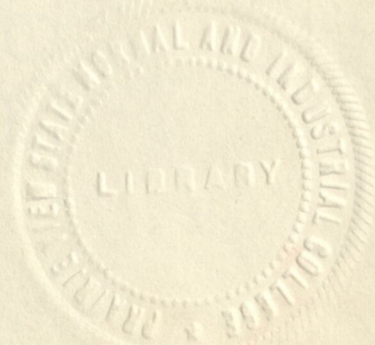
MASTER OF SCIENCE

In the
Graduate Division

of

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE
Prairie View, Texas

AUGUST, 1943



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author is indebted to many individuals and agencies for assistance in her work.

To Dr. Sasser goes many thanks for the time, helpful suggestions and other means of assistance which are too numerous to mention here.

To Dr. Norris, Dr. Perry, Mr. Cole and Mr. Russell of the Physical Education Department of Prairie View goes the author's gratitude for their help.

To many officials of the City of Houston who untiringly gave their assistance is the author especially grateful. To Dr. Hill of the Houston Health Department, and Nurse Rennick of the Old Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston the author will long remember their helpful assistance.

To all others, and there are many, for the author to acknowledge here, the author wishes to express her sincerest thanks for all the assistance they rendered.

G. H. M.

18770

DEDICATED

to

Mrs. Amanda A. Dodson

Under whose inspiration this study was begun, and whose friendship has since been an aid and guide, this book is affectionately dedicated.

BIOGRAPHY

Georgia Hilburn Muldrew was born in Paris, Texas, on February 14, 1903. Her elementary and high school training was received in the Public School System of Waco, Texas. She graduated from Prairie View College in 1931 with a B.S. in Science. She has done graduate work in the University of California. In 1940 she entered the graduate study department of Prairie View College. She is at present a teacher of Physical Education in the Phillis Wheatley High School where she has taught for the past sixteen years.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

THE SETTING:

General facts about Houston, its location, population percent, Negro population occupation, general health condition, etc.

Due to its geographic location Houston is a rapidly expanding industrial area. It is the largest manufacturing area in the Southwest, and possibly in all the South. Houston has a territory that is highly diversified in its industries and income. It is the greatest oil center in the world, although its people do not depend solely on this natural resource, because it is also a center of agriculture with exceptionally large production. Houston is not only one of the nation's greatest livestock sections, but is also the fastest growing packing house center in America. There is a large retail volume that extends half-way across the great state of Texas, the largest in the Union also a vast and rapidly growing wholesale and jobbing business. Even bank deposits have shown a steady increase yearly since 1895.

TABLE I

1. FIRST IN POPULATION.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Number</u>
1930	U. S. Census	292,352
1937	U. S. Census	350,870
1937	City Directory	382,752
1938	Telephone Co.	450,335

Taken from Bulletin issued by the Houston Chamber of Commerce. March, 1939.

2. FIRST IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. The number of establishments, 600. Wage earners employed, 22,000. Total pay roll \$28,475,000. Total value of products \$331,932,874. Major industries include Petroleum processing, cotton compressing and warehousing, cotton seed oil processing, meat packing, rice milling, oil field equipment manufacturing, textiles, chemicals, paint, iron products, clothing, steel fabricating, paper-pulp, flour milling, grain elevators and cement.

3. FIRST IN PORT TONNAGE. Total tonnage 1937: 26,854 exceeding all oil Gulf ports. Total value of tonnage \$497,022,896. Vessels entering and departing, 6,029. In 1937 Houston was the third export point of the United States and fifth in total tonnage.

4. FIRST IN OIL. Houston leads all America in oil, with Headquarters for six companies operating internationally. There are approximately one thousand oil company offices in Houston. Refineries, 10, with a daily capacity of 225,000 barrels. Houston companies have assets in excess of \$1,000,000,000 with annual pay rolls exceeding \$50,000,000. Production area under lease by Houston, 6,000,000 acres. Houston leads the world in manufacturing and distribution of oil industry equipment, with 30 manufacturers and 20,000 employees.

5. FIRST IN BUILDING PERMITS. In building permits, Houston is first in Texas, fiftieth in the United States. Total for 1938 to October 22nd: \$21,797,535. This figure is about double the building permits of the next two largest cities in Texas combined. Population 1938 (City Directory) 382,752. School enrollment 1938, 70,786.

TABLE II
TONNAGE HAULED AT PORT HOUSTON

1927 *****	12,003,497 Tons
1928 *****	12,979,828 Tons
1929 *****	13,919,317 Tons
1930 *****	14,991,046 Tons
1931 *****	13,977,140 Tons
1932 *****	15,714,432 Tons
1933 *****	16,929,771 Tons
1934 *****	18,516,317 Tons
1935 *****	19,753,565 Tons
1936 *****	22,921,092 Tons
1937 *****	19,829,264 Tons

Table II shows Port Houston tonnage over the eleven-year period 1927-1938.

* THE REAL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER. Houston is the real administrative center of most of the extensive petroleum development and production program in America. Here in the metropolis of Texas are located the corporation offices from which the routine of oil development plans emanate to that section of the Southwest which now holds the center of the world's stage in respect to this essential basic industry. The geographical location is relatively unimportant as compared to the location of the administrative headquarters.

* Bulletin of the Gulf Refining Company, Jan. 1939, p. 2.

The trade and commerce that spring from a far-flung oil development activity is largely influenced at that point where authority centers, where field programs are planned, where purchasing machinery is set up, where executives who have the distribution of business are located, where all financial business is transacted, where engineering decisions are reached, where there is the largest concentration of those services which minister to the industry. That point is Houston.

HOUSTON'S INDUSTRIAL ASSETS. Besides being so favorably located in respect to oil reserves, there are also reserves of gas amounting to two and one quarter trillion cubic feet, or approximately fourteen percent of the State's gas reserve, within a very short distance of the city in such fields as: Conroe, Tomball, Thompson, Dickinson, Pledger, Hastings, and Eureka.

This reserve of gas is sufficient to supply fuel for Houston and vicinity for a period of approximately 88 years at a daily average consumption rate of 70,000,000 cubic feet per day. At present there is an investment of approximately 126 million dollars in gas industry. Houston is blessed with two of the essentials of growth: cheap fuel and transportation. The strategic location of Houston has already attracted a number of companies interested in every phase of the petroleum industry -- production, both oil and gas, refining, transportation, marketing and manufacturing plants making oil field equipment.

Houston is the largest concentration point in the world for oil well supply companies. Houston is headquarters for more than 500 oil companies, and these allied industries give direct employment to 40,000 people. Department of Labor Statistics show each wage earner supports 4.5 persons; therefore 180,000 people in Houston depend on the oil industry for a living.

In addition to the above, the oil industry is the biggest customer of incoming and outgoing freight to the railroads. One railroad entering Houston shows 60 percent of the incoming and outgoing freight as petroleum; and its products constitute a major factor as do oil well and field equipment.

* According to figures recently released by the Houston Chamber of Commerce, Houston has a population of approximately 400,000 of which the Negro constitutes 26 percent.

** During a six weeks period, Negro males constituted 46.7 percent of male criminals, Negro females 75 percent of female offenders. Negro offenders constituted 48.4 percent of the total number of offenders. Negroes did most of the fighting, 75.8 percent of all the gambling, 23.8 percent of the stealing, and 16.6 percent of the sex crimes.

* From Bulletin issued by the Houston Chamber of Commerce, March 1939, p. 5.

** Taken from Facts and Figures, compiled by Miss Ellie Alma Walls, March 3, 1931, The Houston Informer.

TABLE II
OCCUPATIONS

	Male	Female
According to the Chamber of Commerce, the Negroes of Houston are gainfully employed in the following occupations:		
All Industries	21,480	14,448
Agriculture	312	19
Forestry and Fishing	6	0
Oil and Gas Well	45	1
Other Extractions of Minerals	23	0
Building Industry	2,002	10
Chemical and Allied Industries	581	5
Clay, Glass and Stone Industries	164	1
Clothing Industries	120	38
Bakeries	63	11
Slaughter and Packing House	162	1
Other Food and Allied Industries	267	18
Automobile Factories and Shop Repair	250	1
Iron and Steel Industries	1,714	173
Saw and Planing Mills	120	0
Wood Work and Furniture Industry	235	2
Paper, Printing and Allied Industries	99	16
Independent Hand Trade	48	387
Other Manufacturing Industries	1,724	173
Construction and Maintenance of Streets	326	4
Garages, Filling Stations, etc.	520	4
Postal Service	176	3
Steam and Street Railways	1,570	19
Telegraph and Telephone	39	8
Other Transportation and Communication	1,568	20
Banking and Brokerage	68	0
Automobile Agencies	322	1
Other Trade Industries	234	2
Public Service	297	6
Recreation and Amusement	208	57
Industry not yet Specified	1,167	72

It will be seen from the foregoing table that domestic and personal service affords employment for the largest group of Negro women, 10,610 thus employed. The largest single group of men, 1,724 is employed by manufacturing. Other

large groups are found in the building industry, automobile shops, and railroad shops. One thousand women are also engaged in this type of work.

TABLE IV

Types of Establishments	Number
Barbecue and Hamburger Stands	24
Barber Shops	49
Beauty Parlors	64
Cafes	20
Cleaners and Tailors	41
Confectioners	9
Contractors	5
Dance Hall and Pool Rooms	4
Dentists	18
Dressmakers	16
Druggists	8
Fish Markets	6
Florists	6
Grocers	33
Insurance Companies	6
Fraternal Insurances	4
Jewelers	2
Laundries	2
Lawyers	5
Liquor Stores	3
Midwives	15
Taxi Cabs	16
Miscellaneous	38
Musical Instructors	15
Newspapers and Printers	12
Nurses	30
Night Clubs	5
Photographers	3
Preachers	196
Physicians	25
Radio Shops	3
Shine Parlors and Shoe Shops	19
Teachers	359
Tin Shops, Blacksmiths, and Garages	35
Transfer Lines	5
Undertakers	24
Vegetable and Fruit Stands	5
Wood and Ice Dealers	5

In Houston, Negroes spend approximately fifty million dollars annually, of which amount less than one million dollars are spent with Negro businesses. It is pointed out that if half this amount were spent among Negroes, twelve thousand people could be employed for over two thousand dollars each per year.

The first fundamental factor concerning the Negro's physical condition is that the race is a naturally healthy people. That is, no evidence has been successfully presented to indicate that the Negro as a race is weaker than any other race. The Negro -- the most recent city dweller of our population -- through improved habits of life in addition to the early care of tuberculosis, will learn how to live in the city . . . Evidence of this fact is seen in the following: First, the only available figures of Negro death rate in southern cities prior to the Civil War point to the fact that the Negroes had a lower death rate than the whites in these cities, due evidently to the care that they received when they were in bondage; Secondly, that the Negro group is capable of indefinite improvement along health lines; Thirdly, that the Negro is capable of development within his own group the main forces that will make for improved life. The increase in the number of Negro physicians and nurses, the expansion of hospital facilities, the development of health programs through organization of community forces, resulting in national health campaigns and continuous local health campaigns are important factors in this connection.

Facts on Negro health are of the greatest interest to workers in the health field for a variety of reasons. Negroes constitute close to one-tenth

of the total population of the United States. They are a clear-cut social group with very definite health problems that call for a solution. Health is basic to the general welfare of the Negro as to no other race.

An improvement in Negro health, to the point when it would compare favorably with that of the white race, would at one stroke impress many and wipe out numerous disabilities from which the race suffers, improve its economic status, and stimulate its motive abilities, as would no other single improvement. These are the social implications, of the facts concerning Negro health.

There have been discussions concerning the casual relationship of economic conditions to death rates. As a result of these discussions, consensus of opinion indicates that poor economic conditions and high death rates are frequently found together. If there is a possibility that economic conditions are an influencing factor in death, it is highly desirable that studies be made to determine the extent of such a relationship along with other factors having a bearing on high death rates.

The present study, "FACTORS INFLUENCING THE HEALTH OF THE NEGRO IN HOUSTON," takes into consideration the following factors: percentage in the total population of Negroes, number of persons per family, average monthly rental of homes, arrests, delinquencies, syphilis and tuberculosis death rates.

Through the consideration of the foregoing topics, a conclusion will be derived as to some of the factors that influence Negro health in Houston, the low economic area with the congested population.

THE DATA

This data has been collected from: Records of the local Bureau of Vital Statistics, Bulletins from the State and National Bureaus, books, the records of the City Health Department located in the Jefferson Davis Hospital, personal interviews with physicians, and pamphlets issued by the local Chamber of Commerce. So far as the writer knows, this data is accurate.

The material referring to juvenile delinquency was taken from records of the children's court from the Jefferson Davis Hospital, and from the records in the Department of the Census of the Houston Public Schools. The information concerning unmarried mothers and girl delinquents was considered as confidential and only professional use is to be made of it.

The writer contacted Mrs. Edith Rennick, supervisor, Division of Nursing, who not only gave valuable material and information but made an appointment at Jefferson Davis Hospital with Dr. Michael O. Heeron, staff physician. He, in turn, gave facts and figures on treatments of diseases. The writer made an extensive tour of the hospital with Nurse Rennick to the Pre-Natal Clinic, Gonorrhoea Clinic and Venereal Disease Clinic. Mrs. Mary Stewart of the Houston Welfare Association gave willingly of the material in her department (also Mr. Harold Braun of the research department, who gave the key to the Census tracts).

Dr. J. G. Gathings, Negro staff physician at Gregg Street Clinic No. 2 and Miller Clinic No. 3, gave very valuable material on diseases and treatments of the Negro. Dr. A. E. Hill, Director of the City Health Department

of Houston, made a large contribution of material, The Annual Report of the City of Houston and the Mortality Survey from 1920 to 1940. This material was very valuable.

To this group of public-spirited citizens who gave their personal time and material, the writer is most grateful.

CHAPTER II

MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

THE MEANING OF VITAL STATISTICS. Vital Statistics is that branch of Science that deals with the tabulation, recording and filing of births and deaths.

DEFINITIONS. Vital Statistics are classified facts showing the number of persons born, and the number who die; the duration of life, the circumstances affecting its duration in the State or country as a whole or in any given community. In other words, Vital Statistics constitute the Book Keeping of Public Health.

THE STATE BUREAU. Such book keeping for Texas is done by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Births and deaths occurring in the entire state are recorded in this Bureau. Failure to file such reports is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine. These records are legal documents of great value, but their importance is frequently not understood until certified copies are required. Request for such copies is increasing daily. More than 15,000 requests are received and 7,500 certified copies issued annually.

THE LOCAL BUREAU. Texas is divided into 1,500 registration Districts. Each city over 2,500 and each Justice precinct constitutes a separate district and has its own registrar. In a city, the city clerk is the registrar; in a precinct the Justice of the Peace is the registrar.

On the first of each month the law requires the local registrar to forward to the state Bureau of Vital Statistics the record of births and deaths occurring in his district during the preceding month. He must file with

the county clerk a true and accurate copy of the records he handles.*

** DEMOGRAPHY. Demography is the statistical study of populations as to births, marriages, mortality, health, etc. -- usually restricted to physical conditions or Vital Statistics though sometimes applied to studies of moral and intellectual conditions.

BIRTH RECORDS. A birth certificate is a form designed by the national health department for the registration of births in the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Some of the uses of a birth certificate are to:

- Secure passports
- Prove school age
- Prove citizenship
- Prove right to vote
- Prove legal age for marriage
- Prove age for military service
- Prove right to property inherited
- Prove qualification for jury service
- Prove age under child-labor laws
- Prove nationality, in Foreign countries
- To determine birth rate in a State, Countries and Cities
- To establish proof for pensions, insurance compensations.

The physician or midwife in attendance upon the birth of a child shall file the birth certificate within five (5) days with the local registrar. Where there is no physician or midwife, the father and mother shall report to the registrar of such a birth. The certificate of birth shall contain the following items:

1. Place of birth (State, county, precinct, town or city).
If in hospital or institution, the name of same to be given.
2. Full name of child (If the child dies without a name, enter the words "died unnamed". If not named, the space for full name of child is left blank).

* Bulletin from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas, February 2, 1939, Page 1.

** Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Page 642.

3. Sex of child.
4. Whether a twin, triplet, or other plural births, a separate certificate is required for each child.
5. Plural births, number of each child in order of birth.
6. Date of birth including the year, month, and day.
7. Full name of father.
8. Residence of father.
9. Color or race of father.
10. Age of father at last birthday.
11. Birthplace of father, State or Foreign country.
12. Occupation of father.
13. Maiden name of mother.
14. Residence of mother.
15. Color or race of mother.
16. Age of mother at last birthday.
17. Birthplace of mother, State or Foreign country.
18. Occupation of mother.
19. Number of children born to the mother.
20. Number of children living.
21. Exact date of filing in office of Registrar, attested by his official signature.
22. Whether precautions were taken to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum.

DEATH RECORDS. A death certificate is a form adapted and designed by the national health department for the tabulation of deaths, with information upon certain points, which is essential to the progress of medical and

sanitary science in preventing and restricting diseases and in devising and applying medical agencies.

DEATH CERTIFICATES, that will not be accepted by the health department are certificates that are improperly completed, with words underlined, filled out with pencil or certificates that are torn. A death certificate may be necessary to:

- Establish pension claims.
- Establish insurance claims.
- Establish property rights.
- Establish inheritance claims.
- Establish legitimacy of children.
- Establish death rates in state, counties, cities.
- Establish valuable measures for the control of diseases.
- Guide home-seekers, industries and investors in the selection of healthful locations.

A funeral director having charge of a service or selling a casket must see that the death certificate is properly filled out as described in the book of "Vital Statistics and Law", filing same with the local health department in order to secure the necessary permit before interment is made.

The Certificate of Death shall contain the following items:

1. Place of death (State, county, precinct, town, city). If in a hospital or institution, name of same to be given.
2. Full name of decedent. If an unnamed child, the surname preceded by "unnamed", including residence of deceased, showing post-office address, county, and state.
3. Sex.
4. Color or race.
5. Conjugal condition -- single, married, widowed, or divorced.
6. Date of birth, year, month and day.
7. Age in years, months, and days.
8. Occupation.

9. Birthplace of father.
10. Name of father.
11. Birthplace of father.
12. Maiden name of mother.
13. Signature and address of informant.
14. Birthplace of mother.
15. Signature of registrar with date when certificate was filed.
16. Date of death--year, month, and day.
17. Certification as to medical attendance on decedent; signature and address of physician or official marking of medical certification.
18. Length of residence at place of death in state.
19. Signature and address of person burying the body.
20. A dead human body cannot be held more than 72 hours after death without securing a permit from the local health department. An unidentified and unclaimed body must not be disposed of until it has been held at least 24 hours before interment is made.

CERTIFICATE OF STILL BIRTH. A still-born child shall be registered as a birth and also as a death, and a combined certificate of birth and death shall be filed with the local registrar in the usual form and manner.

Midwives shall not sign this certificate of birth and death for a still-born child, but such cases, and still-births occurring without medical attendance of either physician or midwife, shall be treated as death without medical attention and the Justice of Peace must sign the death certificate. A certificate of still-birth is pink in color and must contain the following Items:

1. Place of birth (including State, county, precinct, town or city). If in a city, ward, street, and house number. If in a hospital or institution, the name is given.
2. Full name of child. If not named, the word "unnamed" is written in that blank.
3. Sex.
4. Whether twin, triplet, or other plural birth, a separate certificate is necessary for each child.
5. Number in order of birth.
6. Premature, or full term.
7. Legitimate.
8. Date of birth--month, day, year.
9. Full name of father.
10. Residence of father, place of state.
11. Color or race.
12. Father's age at last birthday.
13. Birthplace of father, state or foreign born.
14. Trade or profession of father.
15. Place at which work was done.
16. Date and year last engaged in this work.
17. Total time in years spent in this work.
18. Maiden name of mother.
19. Residence, state or foreign country.
20. Color or race.
21. Mother's age at last birthday.
22. Birthplace of mother.
23. Trade or profession of mother.

24. Place at which work was done.
25. Date--month and year last worked.
26. Number of children of this mother.
27. Period of gestation--months and weeks.
28. Cause of still-birth (Before labor, during labor).
29. Signature of attending physician.
30. Signature and address of undertaker.

HOW IS BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION CHECKED? All these are promptly checked against the original certificates received from the registrar of the districts. Missing records are immediately traced through correspondence. Failure to register a birth or death is a misdemeanor and the person found guilty is liable to a fine of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00.

ORIGINAL RECORDS IN PERMANENT FILE. The original birth and death certificates are filed in order as to counties and months. They are bound into book form of 500 records. The records this Bureau has date back to 1903. There are now filed in the Texas State Bureau approximately 3,000,000 birth and 2,000,000 death records.

OF WHAT USE ARE THESE RECORDS? The Bureau registered 126,000 births and 63,000 deaths in 1934. In 1935 only 124,500 births were filed, while the number of deaths increased to 64,700. There was a further decrease in the number of births in 1936 when the total dropped to 123,300; however, the 68,600 deaths registered in 1936 were a marked increase over the previous year. Each certificate is carefully scrutinized for the omission of data and many other errors. There are many requests coming in every day for

for information bearing upon many points involved in the records. Federal offices, Industrial, and probation offices, vocational schools and general public request this information constantly.

Annual compilations relating to nativity and mortality are made showing the number of births and deaths. For this reason Vital Statistics must necessarily form the basis of public health work. The State Bureau furnishes the local registrar with the following blanks:

BIRTHS:

Certificates (Current Births).
 Supplemental reports.
 Posters (English and Spanish).
 Certificates -- Affidavits (Corrections).

DEATHS:

Certificates (Current Deaths).
 Certificates -- Affidavits (Corrections).
 Certificates -- Affidavits (Old Data).
 Burial permits.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Reports of unfiled births.
 Reports of unfiled deaths.
 Reports of unfiled hospitals.
 Reports of coffin dealers.
 Reports of Sexton.

AND ALSO:

Envelopes for monthly reports.
 Notice for coffin sales.
 Physicians memoranda books.
 Vital Statistics.
 List of local registrars.
 International list of causes of death.

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE BIRTH RECORDS: In order to determine whether or not a birth is properly registered, it is necessary for the applicant to

advise the State Bureau of Vital Statistics as to the name and date of death of the deceased, and the actual place of death, regardless of the usual place of residence.

WHO REPORTS THEM? On the first of each month the law requires the local registrar to forward to the State Bureau of Vital Statistics the records of births and deaths occurring in his districts the preceding month. Any person in charge of a cemetery must report monthly the burials in that cemetery.

THE BIRTH RATE. The crude birth rate is simply the number of births per 1,000 persons in the population. Thus, a population of 100,000 having 3,000 births in a year would have a birth rate of 30 per 1,000.

The gaps and omissions in these data show how little we really know about the birth rate of different people of the world. However, the rates given for different countries, even though some contain a considerable margin of error, are valuable for many purposes. In general it may be assumed that over rather short periods the data of a county are useful for purposes of comparison within the county itself. But since there is good reason to believe that the data for all counties have become increasingly accurate as communication has become easier and registration methods have improved, we must be careful not to put too much faith in the comparability of data for any given county over rather long periods.

We must also be careful not to put too much credence in the results of comparisons between countries where population groups are not substantially the same. Bearing in mind these precautions, let us examine these birth rates with a view of ascertaining the most important trends in Houston and also the significant differences between them during the

last five years. It seems not improbable that the greater degree of voluntary control of the size of the family in Houston as compared with most other large cities in Texas leads to somewhat earlier marriages. The fact that age, sex and marital conditions affect the birth rate in a marked fashion has led people to conclude Houston has a differential make-up in population. There is a steady increase in births from the good liver to the very poor liver. Always the people in the better paid jobs -- managers, professional people, clerks, white-collar jobs -- have few children as compared to the common laborer; thus, as the major portion of the Houston Negro population falls in the third or working class, the trend is toward a high birth rate.

THE DEATH RATE: As in the case of birth rates, the gaps and omissions emphasize how little we really know regarding the death rate. Errors in death rates are, however, generally less than in the birth rate. For in the nature of the case it is easier to register deaths than births. But in spite of the incomplete condition of statistics on deaths in many cities of the south, there is an outstanding fact that Houston has a distinctly higher death rate than any other city. It is also clear that the death rate is declining in the same manner as the birth rate during the last five years. This decline has led us to believe that falling death rate has come to be regarded as the normal condition in cities where modern sanitary practices prevail and where good medical service is available.

1. FURTHER DECLINE IN DEATH RATE: It may not be out of place for me to say a word regarding the further decline of the death rate in Houston,

years old. In Houston for the past five years there has been a rapid decline in the proportion of deaths among young Negro children. This decline in child mortality has been due chiefly to four causes:

- (a) Better care children are receiving at home; that is, the improvement in the methods and in the sanitation of infant feeding.
- (b) The decline in number of children born to a large portion of mothers, thus enabling them to give their children better care before and after birth.
- (c) The improvement of medical care of children.
- (d) Generally more comfortable circumstances in which a large part of the colored people in Houston live.

THE NEGRO IN THE UNITED STATES. In my discussion of the Negro in the United States, I shall content myself with a very brief statistical presentation of the facts which seem to me most needed to help one understand the more obvious aspects of the Negro's life among us.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Death meaning a complete cessation of all the metamorphosis of life, often follows disease, which may be defined as the departure from ease.

1. * INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Any disease resulting directly from an infection with a microscopic organism is called an infectious disease. Thus Tuberculosis, Measles, Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, and Tetanus are all infectious diseases, though each is a distinctly different kind of illness, because of the existing cause of the disease in each case is an infectious organism that lives, either a germ or a virus.

* Text Book of Bacteriology, by Bourdon, PP. 217-18.

A distinction should be made between the infection itself, that is, the entrance of the germ and the injury to the body tissues, and the clinical disease it may bring about. The infection always occurs some hours or days, weeks or even months before symptoms of the disease appear. It takes about ten days after the typhoid germ enters the intestine before the disease sets in.

2. CONTAGIOUS DISEASE. The word "contagious" is sometimes used to mean the same as "communicable". But contagious disease is one which refers to direct contact, and in a strict sense a contagious disease is one that can be transmitted by direct or indirect contact. All infectious diseases are not contagious diseases, but all contagious diseases are infectious diseases. Such diseases as mumps, measles, chicken pox, and influenza are properly called contagious, because they are always communicable by personal contact with the patient. Typhoid fever on the other hand should be called an infectious disease because there is little danger of contracting the disease through a single contact with a patient, whereas, the germs may enter, or be spread through contaminated water or milk by other remote means. This distinction in the use of the term "contagious" cannot be carried out consistently, however, and it is best to avoid the word entirely, "communicable" being much preferred for its meaning is clear.

3. ENDEMIC, EPIDEMIC, PANDEMIC DISEASES. A disease is said to be endemic when a small number of cases occurs constantly among the population of a community. Thus, measles is endemic everywhere in the United States. Cholera is endemic in India, but not in this country. When an endemic flares up, as it were, and an unusually large number of cases develops

within a certain community within a short time, we say the disease has become epidemic. When an epidemic becomes very widespread, it is spoken of as a pandemic. During 1917-1919, influenza was at first epidemic in certain places then became pandemic, spreading over virtually the entire world.

From the latest data available on the health of the Negro, we find the indication of a definite improvement under way. However, we have many handicaps to overcome before we can attain the degree of health now general among the whites. The fact that our death rate is falling faster than the death rate of the whites simply means it is easier to reduce Negro death rates than white death rates. The improvements in Negro sanitation are in the stage where they yield large returns, while those among the whites proportionally smaller returns. We may expect this condition to remain the same until the rates for the two races become approximately the same.

It may be of interest to note some of the differences between the whites and Negroes in the Southern states as regards they succumb to particular diseases. In Table V, page 26, we see very clearly the way in which diseases affect the whites and Negroes. Influenza and Pneumonia claim a far larger toll from the Negroes than from the whites. On the other hand, Negroes seem to be relatively immune to scarlet fever, diphtheria, cancer, diabetes; have lower rates in all these than have the whites. Tuberculosis, malaria, and pelagra are considerably more than twice as deadly as Negroes as to whites. But the Negro does not benefit a great deal from his relative immunity to diseases in which he has a low death rate.

TABLE V

MORTALITY FROM IMPORTANT CAUSES AMONG THE WHITES AND
NEGROES IN SOUTHERN STATES OF THE DEATH REGISTRATION
AREA, 1920

*

Cause of Death	Death Rate Per 100,000		Ratio of Negroes to Whites
	Whites	Negroes	
Typhoid	12.9	22.4	1.74
Malaria	8.7	29.7	3.44
Measles	6.5	2.3	.36
Scarlet Fever	2.1	.5	.26
Whooping Cough	11.8	19.1	1.62
Diphtheria and Group	15.9	8.1	.52
Influenza	79.7	108.4	1.36
Pellegra	6.9	22.4	3.27
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	85.7	202.4	2.36
Cancer of all Forms	55.3	39.9	.72
Cancer of Breast	9.4	8.7	.93
Diabetes	9.4	5.5	.59
Cerebral Hemorrhage and Apoplexy	58.5	64.2	1.10
Organic Heart	93.1	126.4	1.36
Diseases of the Arteries	11.8	10.5	.89
Broncho Pneumonia	35.7	43.8	1.23
Pneumonia (Lobar and Undefined)	61.4	102.1	1.66
Ulcer of Stomach	2.3	3.5	1.54
Diarrhea and Enteritis	54.9	69.6	1.27
Cirrosis of Liver	4.4	5.9	1.34
Acute Nephritis and Bright's Disease	78.0	104.3	1.34
Digestive System (Total)	102.9	139.3	1.35
Puerperal State (Total)	40.9	69.5	1.70
Old Age and Ill-Defined	59.3	152.6	2.57

* This table taken from Thompson's Book on Population Problems,
p. 189.

CHAPTER III

TABLE VI

VITAL STATISTICS OF NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

January 1, 1934 - December 31, 1934

BIRTHS

Sex	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	560	67	627
Female	526	64	590
Total	1,086	131	1,217

WHERE BORN

Place	Male	Female	Total
Memorial Hospital	2	2	4
Jefferson Davis	287	265	552
Hermann	34	50	84
Houston Negro	4	1	5
Total	327	318	645

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Month	40	30	70
1 Month to 1 Year	23	25	48
1 Year to 5 Years	13	12	25
5 Years to 10 Years	3	5	8
10 Years to 20 Years	20	34	54
20 Years to 30 Years	81	73	154
30 Years to 40 Years	93	104	197
40 Years to 50 Years	123	102	225
50 Years to 60 Years	115	87	202
60 Years to 70 Years	56	33	89
70 Years to 80 Years	20	14	34
80 Years to 90 Years	10	6	16
90 Years to 100 Years	9	5	14
Over 100 Years	2	0	2
Total	608	530	1,138

TABLE VII
DEATHS AS TO MARITAL CONDITION

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	190	140	330
Married	297	201	480
Widowed	102	162	264
Divorced	17	17	34
Not Stated	20	10	30
Total	608	530	1,138

THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH
AMONG HOUSTON NEGROES IN 1934

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart Diseases	47	49	96
2. Pneumonia (All Kinds)	28	34	62
3. Cerebral Hemorrhage	2	1	3
4. Tuberculosis (All Kinds)	2	1	3
5. Cancer (All Kinds)	11	6	17
6. Homocide (All Kinds)	24	5	29
7. Prematurity	18	7	25
8. Bright's Disease	0	0	0
9. Pyloric Occlusion	0	1	1
10. Senility	1	3	4
11. Syphilis	1	1	2
Total	134	108	242

TABLE VIII
 VITAL STATISTICS OF NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
 January 1, 1935 - December 31, 1935

BIRTHS

Sex	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	544	134	678
Female	549	64	613
Total	1,093	198	1,291

WHERE BORN

Place	Male	Female	Total
Hermann Hospital	34	50	84
Memorial	2	2	4
Jefferson Davis	287	265	552
Houston Negro	4	1	5
Total	327	318	645

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Month	31	25	56
1 Month to 1 Year	26	11	37
1 Year to 5 Years	15	9	24
5 Years to 10 Years	8	12	20
10 Years to 20 Years	26	28	54
20 Years to 30 Years	78	86	164
30 Years to 40 Years	101	90	191
40 Years to 50 Years	144	102	246
50 Years to 60 Years	102	95	197
60 Years to 70 Years	50	26	76
70 Years to 80 Years	31	25	56
80 Years to 90 Years	20	6	26
90 Years to 100 Years	8	7	15
Total	640	522	1,162

TABLE IX
DEATHS AS TO CONDITION

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	250	129	379
Married	312	242	554
Widowed	138	211	349
Divorced	29	54	83
Not Stated	6	2	8
Total	735	638	1,373

TEN MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH
AMONG HOUSTON NEGROES IN 1935

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart Diseases	93	49	142
2. Pneumonia (All Kinds)	12	13	25
3. Cerebral Hemorrhage	0	0	0
4. Tuberculosis (All Kinds)	60	38	98
5. Cancer (All Kinds)	10	21	31
6. Homocide (All Kinds)	1	0	1
7. Prematurity	0	1	1
8. Bright's Disease	4	6	10
9. Pyloric Occlusion	9	6	15
10. Senility	1	3	4
11. All Others	450	385	835
12. Syphilis	0	0	0
Total	640	522	1,162

TABLE X
 VITAL STATISTICS OF NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
 January 1, 1936 - December 31, 1936

BIRTHS

Sex	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	590	78	668
Female	571	79	650
Total	1,161	157	1,318

WHERE BORN

Place	Male	Female	Total
Memorial	2	6	8
Jefferson Davis	309	283	592
Hermann	59	55	114
Houston Negro	16	29	45
Total	384	373	757

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Month	38	22	60
1 Month to 1 Year	23	20	53
1 Year to 5 Years	23	14	37
5 Years to 10 Years	6	12	18
10 Years to 20 Years	39	37	76
20 Years to 30 Years	83	93	176
30 Years to 40 Years	140	101	241
40 Years to 50 Years	152	119	271
50 Years to 60 Years	105	81	186
60 Years to 70 Years	77	74	151
70 Years to 80 Years	32	21	53
80 Years to 90 Years	12	10	22
90 Years to 100 Years	3	3	6
Over 100 Years	2	2	4
Total	735	609	1,344

TABLE XI
DEATHS AS TO MARITAL CONDITION

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	250	129	379
Married	312	242	554
Widowed	138	211	349
Divorced	29	24	54
Not Stated	6	2	8
Total	735	609	1,344

TEN MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH
AMONG HOUSTON NEGROES IN 1936

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart Diseases	25	18	43
2. Pneumonia (All Kinds)	5	2	7
3. Cerebral Hemorrhage	2	3	5
4. Tuberculosis (All Kinds)	6	12	18
5. Cancer (All Kinds)	10	18	28
6. Homocide (All Kinds)	3	0	3
7. Prematurity	1	1	2
8. Bright's Disease	0	1	1
9. Pyloric Occlusion	0	0	0
10. Senility	5	6	11
11. All Others	678	548	1,226
12. Syphilis	0	0	0
Total	735	609	1,344

TABLE XII
 VITAL STATISTICS OF NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
 January 1, 1937 - December 31, 1937

BIRTHS

Sex	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	506	107	613
Female	543	112	655
Total	1,049	219	1,268

WHERE BORN

Place	Male	Female	Total
Memorial	4	1	5
Jefferson Davis	313	357	670
Hermann	55	58	113
Houston Negro	24	27	51
At Home	217	212	429
Total	613	655	1,268

*DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Month	29	38	67
1 Month to 5 Years	29	24	53
5 Years to 10 Years	7	10	17
10 Years to 20 Years	25	21	46
20 Years to 30 Years	67	89	156
30 Years to 40 Years	108	123	231
40 Years to 50 Years	147	118	265
50 Years to 60 Years	99	116	215
60 Years to 70 Years	74	60	134
70 Years to 80 Years	28	26	54
80 Years to 90 Years	15	10	25
90 Years to 100 Years	3	3	6
Over 100 Years	1	4	5
Total	650	654	1,304

* THERE WERE MORE DEATHS THAN BIRTHS. Note also the high infant mortality and the heavy death toll in the prime of life between 30 and 50 years of age.

TABLE XIII
DEATHS AS TO MARITAL CONDITION

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	208	162	370
Married	283	234	517
Widowed	117	233	350
Divorced	22	21	43
Not Stated	20	4	24
Total	650	654	1,304

TEN MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH
AMONG HOUSTON NEGROES IN 1937

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart Diseases	123	103	226
2. Pneumonia (All Kinds)	89	83	172
3. Cerebral Hemorrhage	43	67	110
4. Tuberculosis (All Kinds)	57	43	100
5. Cancer (All Kinds)	22	42	64
6. Homocide (All Kinds)	48	11	59
7. Prematurity	23	35	58
8. Bright's Disease	15	19	34
9. Pyloric Occlusion	11	21	32
10. Senility	18	13	31
11. Syphilis	10	2	12
12. All Others	201	217	418
Total	660	656	1,316

TABLE XIV
 VITAL STATISTICS OF NEGROES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
 January 1, 1938 - December 31, 1938

BIRTHS

Sex	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	681	79	760
Female	574	92	666
Total	1,255	171	1,426

WHERE BORN

Place	Male	Female	Total
Memorial	2	1	3
Jefferson Davis	365	379	744
Hermann	0	0	0
Houston Negro	0	0	0
Total	367	380	747

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Month	45	22	67
1 Month to 1 Year	37	22	59
1 Year to 5 Years	12	11	23
5 Years to 10 Years	7	10	17
10 Years to 20 Years	23	38	61
20 Years to 30 Years	82	77	159
30 Years to 40 Years	84	120	204
40 Years to 50 Years	132	101	233
50 Years to 60 Years	128	89	217
60 Years to 70 Years	80	48	128
70 Years to 80 Years	34	29	63
80 Years to 90 Years	13	2	15
90 Years to 100 Years	2	4	6
Over 100 Years	2	1	3
Total	681	574	1,255

TABLE XV
DEATHS AS TO MARITAL CONDITION

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	228	148	374
Married	279	229	508
Widowed	134	167	301
Divorced	30	27	57
Not Stated	91	95	186
Total	760	666	1,426

TEN MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH
AMONG HOUSTON NEGROES IN 1938

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart Diseases	146	118	264
2. Pneumonia (All Kinds)	75	58	133
3. Cerebral Hemorrhage	49	62	111
4. Tuberculosis (All Kinds)	57	63	120
5. Cancer (All Kinds)	15	22	37
6. Homocide (All Kinds)	22	3	25
7. Prematurity	6	1	7
8. Bright's Disease	7	7	14
9. Pyloric Occlusion	9	6	15
10. Senility	1	3	4
11. Syphilis	6	3	9
12. All Others	374	326	820
Total	766	669	1,435

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRENDS OF TUBERCULOSIS

The epidemic, tuberculosis, is "young" when it makes its first encounter with a population; it "matures" when its contact has become fairly universal for a few generations and it is "old" when the population as a whole has become sufficiently resistant to its ravages that the death rate falls rapidly. Earliest childhood, maturity and senescence of tuberculosis are represented by the early invasion by tuberculosis of certain African tribes and a group of American Indians and the American Negro.

Wherever tuberculosis strikes first, it is in primitive societies. By "primitive" is meant a society previously not or hardly in contact with the occidental civilization and a society that for a long period has lived in essentially unchanged, settled conditions -- a population without history in the common sense of the word. Tuberculosis never comes alone to an untouched population; it always comes accompanied by, and rather through, agents of occidental civilization. It is, therefore, always associated with profound changes and disturbances of tribal life. These changes play a most significant role in shaping the epidemic features.

Borrel reports that a portion of Senegalese troops were tested with tuberculin upon arrival in France during the last war, and only 4% to 5% reacted. Many of these men were observed at a later date as tuberculous patients on the autopsy table. The general picture was about as follows: Following a certain period without evident clinical symptoms, during which swellings of supraclavicular and tracheobronchial lymph nodes can be observed, the disease develops rapidly with toxemia, high fever, weakness and multiple organ involvement, which in 70% leads to death. At autopsy, diffuse caseation of multiple groups of lymph nodes is dominant in 70%

to 90% of the cases. One-fourth of the patients died of generalized miliary tuberculosis and, in a large proportion of the remainder, diffuse caseous foci were present. Here is a form of disease characterized clinically by the predominance of systemic over local symptoms, by the rapidity of its course and its high fatality. The characteristics are generalization, diffuse caseation and the absence of reparative processes.

However, the majority of Senegalese neither acquired nor died of tuberculous disease and it is safe to assume that many healthy reactors returned to Africa, proving their resistance to tuberculous infection.

A somewhat later stage, that of practically universal infection, is represented by an epidemic among certain Indian tribes of the Canadian plains. Following a period (1850-1880) in which there were only sporadic cases of tuberculosis, the epidemic reached its height between 1884 and 1890, during which time one out of the three Indians had visible lymph node swelling and by 1906 about 20% of the school children in Qu'Apelle were operated upon for tuberculous nodes. The death rate rose from 1,000 in 1881 to 9,000 in 1886 falling to 2,000 in 1901, to 1,000 in 1907, and following the establishment of anti-tuberculosis work in 1930, it reached 270 in 1931-32.

The most complete epidemiological studies of tuberculosis in a relatively primitive society were made on the South African tribes that provide the laborers for the mining industry in South Africa. These studies are reviewed by the author. He points out that the epidemiological picture of South African natives is not a uniform one as these natives have been observed under three different living conditions, namely, in their native villages, during labor service in mines and during war service in France.

Hence, observations limited to only one of the three localities would lead to an incomplete and biased impression.

A more mature stage of the epidemic is illustrated by tuberculosis as it occurs in the American Negro. The tuberculin index is higher than in the white American, the death rate about three times as high and the peak of the age incidence is at an earlier age. Furthermore, the shift of this peak toward older age groups, while pronounced in the white, is negligible in the Negro.

Many Negroes show the same chronic localizing type of disease as the whites, but relatively acute forms, generalizations in the form of lymphatic and hematogenous spread occur with much greater frequency in Negroes than in Whites. This was demonstrated by the author in a previous study and in order to confirm these findings, he calculated the ratio of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis to deaths from disseminated tuberculosis, separately for the two races. The figures derived from the United States mortality statistics show that the relative frequency of disseminated forms is considerably higher in Negroes and that the decrease of disseminated forms during the last 17 years is much smaller in Negroes than in Whites.

Several studies of tuberculosis among Negroes and Whites under identical or similar living conditions show that while two morbidity rates are closely similar, the mortality rate for the Negro is about four times higher than for the White. One writer concluded that the chances for colored children to become infected in a tuberculous family are about

equal to those of white children under similar circumstances, but the chances of dying from tuberculosis are three times greater in Negro than in White children.

In the early phases of tuberculosis the disease is acute, rapidly fatal, generalized, without tendency to heal, with toxemic symptoms overshadowing local symptoms and has a predilection for the young.

No nation or tribe free of tuberculosis has a uniformly high susceptibility to tuberculosis. The complete lack of resistance in so-called virgin soil is a myth. The individual degree of resistance and the collective frequency of the disease are not simply matters of interplay between host and bacillus but they are profoundly influenced by living conditions in the widest sense of the word.

The most spectacular decrease in tuberculosis mortality occurred, as a rule, before any organized campaign against tuberculosis could be initiated. However, anti-tuberculosis work is undoubtedly effective in later phases of the epidemic.

The South African report makes it clear that previous infection did, in no noticeable way, modify or alter tuberculous disease that developed later. A primary infection in a not highly resistant stock produces allergy without causing immunity.

There is no shred of evidence to show that immunization is transmitted by heredity. The elimination of the least resistant strains must undoubtedly play an important role in the gradual attenuation of tuberculosis, particularly so in the early phases of the epidemic.

Tuberculosis mortality parallels the socio-economic conditions, so much so that it would seem that poverty and unusual stress and strain should be the guide posts for case-finding programs.

The danger that an acute and virulent epidemic may sweep again through our population sometime after tuberculosis has been eliminated (or reduced to its minimum) because the immunizing effects of infection would then be lost, would appear slight. A population that has survived a tuberculosis epidemic and has rid itself of it is hardly comparable to a "virgin-soil" population.*

MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM OF THE NEGRO

Although the general death rate from tuberculosis has continued to decline in a gratifying way, an analysis of the mortality records reveals certain facts which serve to dull the bright edge of achievement. One of the most striking of these is the high death rate from tuberculosis among Negroes, behind which lies the whole problem of tuberculosis in the Negro.

Approximately 20,000 Negroes die of tuberculosis each year. The tuberculosis death rate for Negroes is 170 for every 100,000 population as compared to 50 for the White population. More than 25 per cent of all deaths from tuberculosis in the United States are those of Negroes whereas they constitute only about 10 per cent of the total population.

Why is the Negro group so hard hit by this disease? Why should this group show a higher death rate than the White population? Where there are

*Epidemiological Trends of Tuberculosis by Max Pinner, M.D., American Review of Tuberculosis, Vol. XLII, Sept. 1940, distributed by Houston Anti-Tuberculosis League.

several possible answers to these questions, some authorities believe the Negro has certain racial characteristics which make him particularly susceptible to tuberculosis. Others believe the Negro has no "inherited resistance" because compared to the White race he has been exposed to tuberculosis only a short time. Most students of the problem agree on the third possible reason for the prevalence of Tuberculosis among Negroes -- that is, the social and educational disadvantages under which they live.

The question of whether or not the Negro is inclined toward tuberculosis by certain biological differences cannot be settled until research has provided more exact information than is available at present.

The social and educational factors are undoubtedly of major importance as regards the Negro tuberculosis problem. Tuberculosis flourishes on dirt and darkness and lean rations. The Negroes have been an underprivileged group. Their habits of living have made them easy prey to sickness.

There is much that can be done to remedy this problem of tuberculosis in the Negro. There is little hope of changing his physical make-up, it is true, and the urgency of the situation demands more than quiet waiting while the Negro develops an "inherited resistance". For all practical purposes preventive work must be effected by modifying the social and educational factors. Adequate medical care and hospitalization, education concerning how to live and where to live, and help in attaining desirable housing conditions, instruction in personal habits, cleanliness, and diet -- these are some of the weapons which will bring tuberculosis under control in this group. In addition to general health work, special efforts should be made to disseminate knowledge about the disease itself -- its cause, prevention, symptoms, and cure.

CHAPTER IV

VITAL STATISTICS IN HOUSTON 1934 - 1940

TABLES VI to XVI show vital statistics of Negroes in Houston as to births, place of birth, deaths by age groups, deaths as to marital condition, the major causes of death, and tuberculosis death rates by races per 100,000 from 1930 to 1940.

Figure 1 compares the tuberculosis death rates for Whites and Negroes from 1930 to 1940. It will be noticed that during most of the period the Negro rate was more than twice that of the Whites but that it is now on the decline.

Figure 2 compares the syphilis rates of the two races and shows that the rate for Negroes is very much higher than that for Whites. It is also on the decline.

These tables and graphs follow:

TABLE XVI

TUBERCULOSIS RATES PER 100,000
HOUSTON, TEXAS, 1930 - 1940

Year	Total	Whites and Others	Colored
1930	78.7	60.0	150.5
1931	69.9	50.0	149.6
1932	77.7	54.4	170.8
1933	68.2	50.7	141.7
1934	73.8	54.0	153.2
1935	74.0	55.2	149.3
1936	82.4	59.3	174.7
1937	71.0	53.3	142.1
1938	78.1	55.6	168.3
1939	75.1	55.4	153.7
1940	69.4	54.1	124.6

HOUSTON, TEXAS, CENSUS TRACTS

Population 1940-41

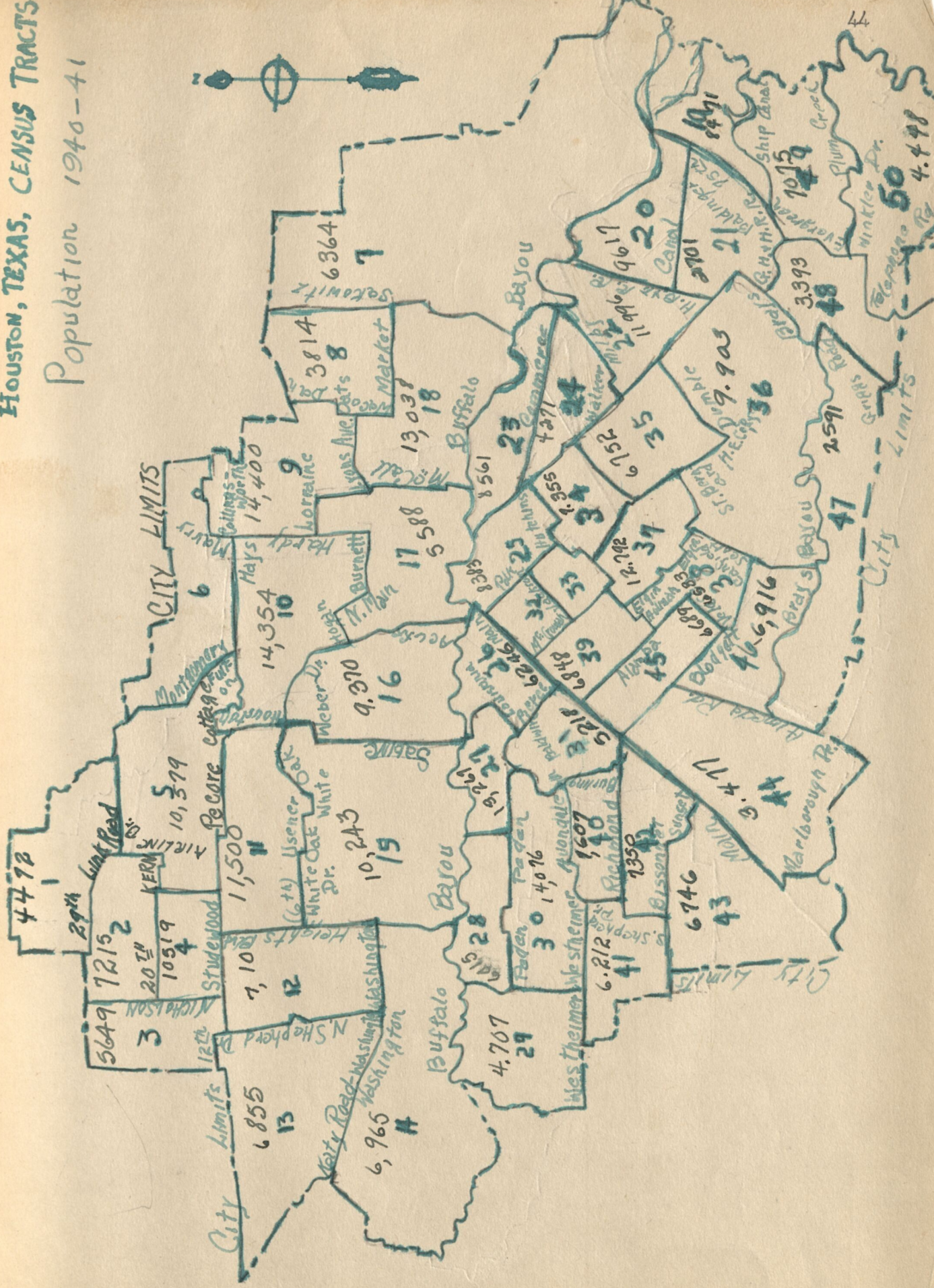
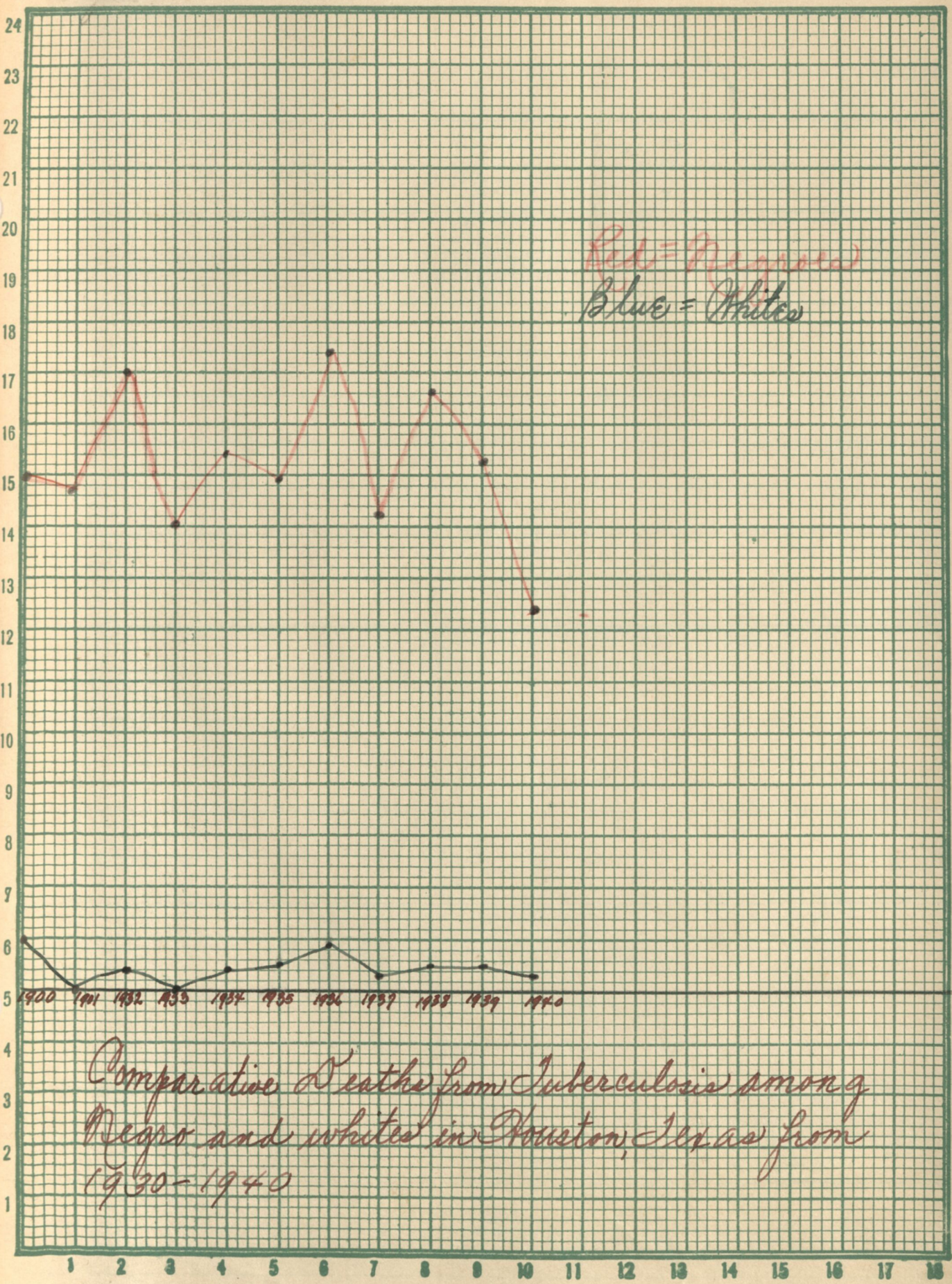
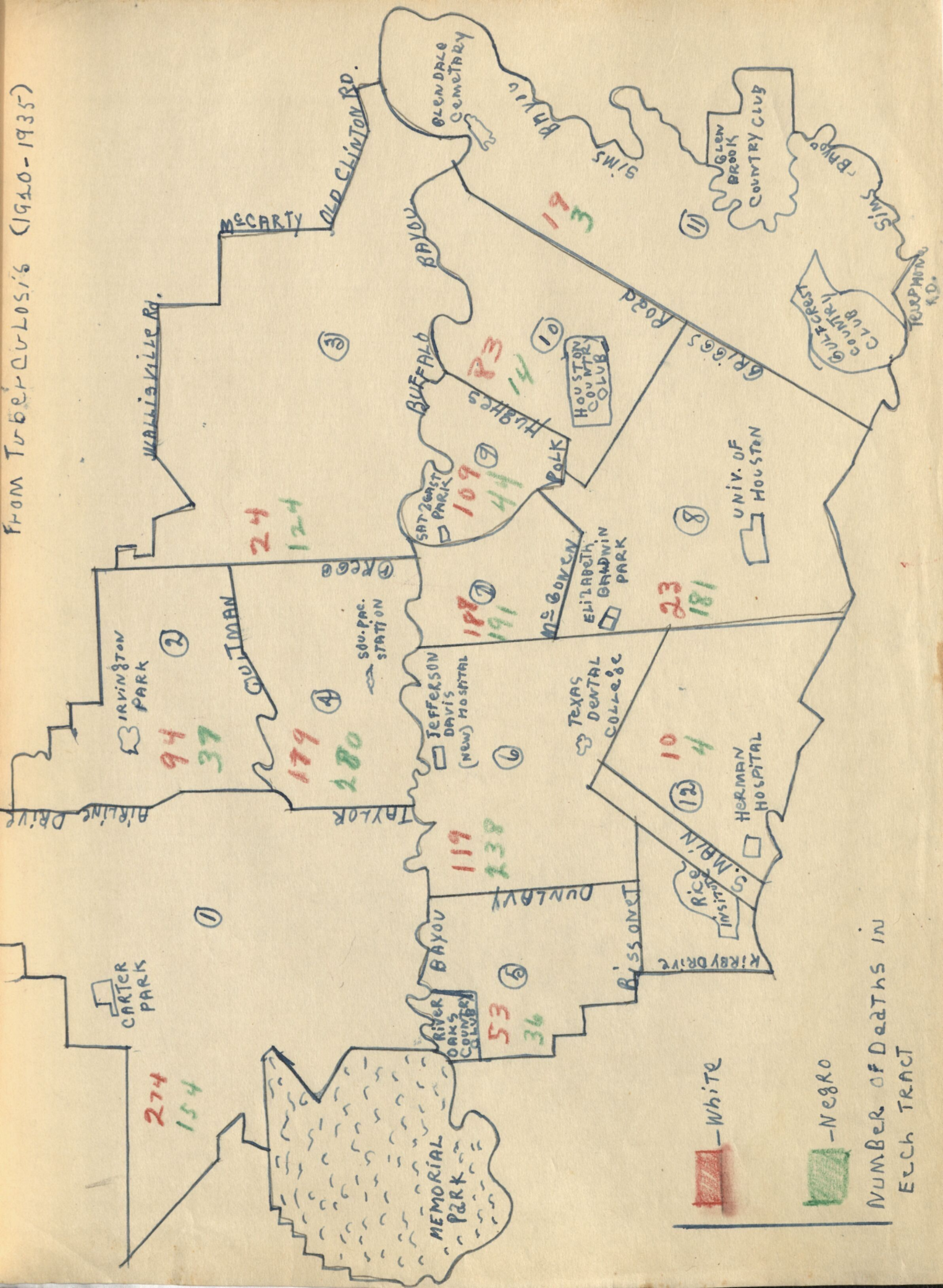




Figure 1



FROM TUBERCULOSIS (1920-1935)



 - White
 - Negro

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN EACH TRACT

Figure 2



Comparative Deaths from Syphilis among Negroes and Whites in Houston, Texas, from 1930-1940

SYPHILIS

Reliable urban statistics show about 19.74 and 7.66 syphilis rates for whites and colored respectively.

The colored comprises about 78 per cent of the total population and is computed to be more than 20 per cent of the total syphilitic cases reported in Houston.

The failure to report many white cases in private practice, whereas negroes, servants for the most part, are reported and the fact that many household domestic and industrial employees are now being examined on request of the employer should be taken into consideration.

Further, the examining physicians, in many instances, report all cases of syphilis and tuberculosis in the negro population, whereas the same is not so pronely broadcast of their white private patients.

Syphilis during the past few years has taken its place among the communicable diseases of major importance. It has emerged from beneath the cloak of the social diseases to be universally recognized as a major infectious disease.

The total number of Negro deaths due to syphilis as recorded from death certificates of the City Board of Health are 151 for the nine-year period.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCIES

"The study of the distribution of Juvenile delinquency in a given community may be regarded as an important first step in a cultural approach

to the study of delinquent behavior among juveniles". This first step (study of geographic location) reveals the areas in which delinquency occurs most frequently and therefore marks off the communities which should be studied intensively for factors related to delinquent behavior.

BOY OFFENDERS

The 251 cases of boy delinquents cover a period of two years from January, 1934, through December, 1935. For securing the information, a card 5 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, having blanks for name, address, date of arrest, court, offense charged, name of judge, age, sex, disposition of case, occupation, previous court record, previous institutional or charity record, home conditions, with remarks on history of the case on the reverse side, was used. The records were copied by two male college students from those of the probation officer in his office.

The information obtained has been tabulated according to ages and charges, disposition of cases, previous court and institutional records and home conditions. Names and addresses have been used only to compare with delinquency areas and to ascertain if possible the connection between location and crime. Table follows:

TABLE XVII
CHARGES AGAINST 251 BOYS IN HOUSTON COURT

Charge	Under						Over 16	Not Stated	Total	% Total
	12	12	13	14	15	16				
Petty Larceny	5	3	5	10	14	16	0	1	54	21.5
Grand Larceny	3	1	2	6	4	4	0	1	21	8.4
Running Away	1	4	8	4	13	6	0	0	36	14.3
Assault	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	8	3.2
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Riding Bicycle on Walk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Sex Perversion on Boys	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0.8
Sex Perversion on Animals	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1.2
Disorderly Conduct	1	0	3	0	1	5	5	1	11	4.4
Gambling	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	2.4
Not Specified	13	8	15	18	20	27	27	6	108	43.0
Total	23	17	33	44	53	71	71	9	251	100.0
% Total	9.2	6.8	13.1	17.5	21.1	28.3	21.1	3.6	100	

TABLE XVIII
ARTICLES STOLEN BY 75 BOYS

Article	Number Stealing It
1. Aluminum	2
2. Automobile	3
3. Auto Parts:	1
Lights	1
Wheels and Ties	1
Radiator	2
4. Bananas	1
5. Brass	4
6. Bottles	5
7. Bicycles	16
8. Cakes	1
9. Chickens	1
10. Cigarettes	2
11. Clocks	1
12. Clothing	1
13. Copper	2
14. Dry Goods	2
15. Good	4
16. Fountain Pens	1
17. Guns	2
18. Grindstone	1
19. Junk	4
20. Lawn Mowers	1
21. Miscellaneous	24
22. Money	3
23. Newspapers	2
24. Paint	1
25. Radios	2
26. Sacks	1
27. Waffle Irons, Percolators, Cream Pitchers	1
28. Watches	2
Total	95 *

* Some boys stole more than one article.

Of the charges specified, stealing stands at the head of the list with 21.5 per cent petty larceny and 8.4 per cent grand larceny. Running away stands second with 14.3 per cent. The 43 per cent with unspecified charges were probably picked up because they were standing idly around the streets and were for the most part of school age. There was only one case of rape and that was done by a boy 16 years old. The cases of sex perversion arouse thought especially those relating to animals. The two boys so accused were in a cow lot on the out-skirts of the city tampering with cows. Disorderly conduct includes such happenings as throwing tomatoes and water melon rinds in the farmers' market, and slipping in the Majestic Theatre without a ticket. Running away includes riding freight trains and sleeping in a wagon at the back of Sears Roebuck store, sleeping on the porch at the Post Dispatch building and wandering through the streets.

Table XVIII, page 51, lists the articles stolen by boys. It shows 95 thefts whereas Table I shows 75. This, of course, means that in several cases one boy stole more than one article. For example, one boy stole a fountain pen, junk, milk bottles, and a clock. The articles fall into three classes: food, clothing and articles which could be converted into ready cash either by direct selling or by pawning. Food taken from back porch ice boxes -- bananas, cakes, stolen from a bakery wagon, and chickens are the items of food listed. The fact that one boy out of 75 stole chickens does not fit in so well with the old Negro chicken-stealing myth.

Food, clothing, money! Perhaps herein is indicated that the economic condition of the family had something to do with these crimes. It would

seem that necessities were lacking in their homes. Money was stolen generally from relatives -- mothers and sisters. One boy stole \$35.00 from his mother, bought a bicycle and ran away. Another took a Dollar bill to get change for a man and did not return with it. There are two cases of pilfering. One, shop lifting from Kress's store. Another, stealing from a stand in the City Auditorium.

Grand larceny is construed to mean the stealing of articles which cost more than \$50.00. There are three cases of automobile theft. The value of a 1931 Ford is given as \$200.00. Watches, rings, and radios are included in this lot. In three cases, boys were accused of entering houses and stealing. In one case, cigarettes were stolen from a store. Brass was taken from the Houston Gas Company.

Economic distress and poor housing conditions are an impetus to crime. Low rentals are indicative of sub-standard housing and blighted areas, or slums; and in numerous instances are associated with congestion and a heterogeneous population. These conditions are contributing factors to a high rate of arrests. It seems logical to conclude that sub-standard living conditions and economic distress are among the major factors for the cause.

TABLE XIX
PREVIOUS RECORD -- BOYS

Ages	Court Record		Previous Institutional Record		Charity Record		Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Under 12 Years	4	19	0	23	0	23	23
12 Years	7	10	1	16	0	17	17
13 Years	9	24	1	32	1	32	33
14 Years	10	34	1	43	0	44	44
15 Years	10	43	0	53	0	53	53
16 Years	14	57	3	68	1	70	71
Over 16 Years	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Not Stated	2	7	0	9	0	9	9
Total	56	195	6	245	2	249	251
% Yes	22.3		2.4		0.8		25.4

Table XIX indicates that 56 or 22.3 per cent of these 251 boys had previous court records. 6 or 2.4 per cent had been in an institution previous to the arrest here recorded. 2 or 0.8 per cent had been recipients of charity (their families were on relief). One 13-year old boy was brought in for truancy in March. A few days later in the same month he was brought in for wandering the streets. In September he was arrested for stealing junk. Another boy of the same age group was first caught in a cafe; next he pulled a fire alarm. Third, he slept all night in the Post Dispatch building. Finally, he was arrested for stealing radiator caps. A third boy, age 13, stole a bundle of clothes from his mother and sold them in May, 1934. In June, 1935, he was implicated in the stealing of several bicycles.

A 16-year old boy seems to have stayed in jail 2 months for stealing bicycles. His mother sent him to Louisiana when he was released. A few

months afterwards in October, he was picked up in a picture show on McKinney Avenue. Another boy of this older-age group stole \$5.00 and a ring worth \$20.00 on December 1. On December 15 he stole \$3.00. On January 1 he stole \$4.00. The record date seems to indicate that he stayed in jail 3 days after which he was released to his father who sent him to Port Arthur. A third boy of this group disturbed the peace and was caught with a gun on December 14. Two days later he was arrested for stealing \$14.00.

TABLE XX
HOME CONDITIONS -- BOYS

Ages	Good Homes	Broken Families and Step Parents	Common-Law Marriage	Not Stated	Total
Under 12 Years	19	0	0	4	23
12 Years	10	4	0	3	17
13 Years	19	7	0	7	33
14 Years	26	9	1	8	44
15 Years	37	6	0	10	53
16 Years	36	19	0	16	71
Over 16 Years	0	0	0	1	1
Not Stated	4	1	0	4	9
Total	151	46	1	53	251
% Total	60.2	18.3	0.4	21.1	100

151 or 60.2 per cent of the homes represented by these 251 boys are considered normal. 46 or 18.3 per cent were broken families. There was 1 common-law marriage and 53 records made no mention of home conditions. These facts should be thought of in connection with the 199 boys who were

released to their homes.

GIRL OFFENDERS

COURT CASE GROUP: The court case group comprises 139 girls arrested over a period of 12 months, January, 1935 to January, 1936. It will be noticed from Table VI that 139 girls are charged with 293 complaints, over 2 complaints per girl. For instance, one girl is charged with wandering the streets, associating with immoral persons, and running away from home. Another is charged with the above three complaints and truancy and disorderly conduct, give charges in all. One of the worst cases has seven charges: wandering the streets, associating with immoral persons, running away from home, theft, truancy, incorrigibility, and pregnancy. However, since no girl is accused of the same misconduct twice, the percentages are done on the base 139.

The ages of the girls range from 11 to 17 years with one 18 years old. Approximately 60 per cent of the girls are between 14 and 16 years old. 50 out of 139 or 35.9 per cent were guilty of wandering the streets. 73 or over half associated with immoral persons. 17 had venereal diseases. 40 ran away from home, while 29 or 20.8 per cent were pregnant. Of this last group, 2 were 12 years old and 2 were 13 years old.

Sundry reports include fighting, drinking, threatening life, and soliciting. It will be noticed that 19 cases of truancy were so pronounced as to be brought to the attention of the court. Truancy is generally handled by the truant officer through the census office of the public schools.

TABLE XXI (A)
HOME CONDITIONS OF 139 GIRL OFFENDERS

Condition	Under								Not Stated	Total	% Total
	12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Good	3	5	6	9	7	10	5	0	3	48	34.5
Fair	5	2	4	9	20	19	7	1	5	72	51.8
Poor	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	2.9
Not Recorded	2	1	2	5	1	2	0	0	2	15	10.8
Total	10	9	12	23	30	31	13	1	10	13	100.0

TABLE XXI (B)
HOME CONDITIONS OF 139 GIRL OFFENDERS

Conditions	Under								Not Stated	Total	% Total
	12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Live with Mother	2	1	4	9	12	4	7	1	2	42	30.2
With Mother and Step Father	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	7	5.0
Both Parents	6	6	3	7	8	11	3	0	3	47	33.8
Relatives or Others	0	0	2	0	5	3	3	0	2	15	10.8
Not Recorded	2	2	2	5	3	12	0	0	2	28	20.2
Total	10	9	12	23	30	31	13	1	10	139	100.0

According to Table XXI (A), 48 out of 139 girls came from so-called good homes. 72 or 51.8 per cent of the 139 came from homes called fair, while only 4 or 2.9 per cent came from homes called poor. Since good, fair and poor

and relative terms and depend upon judgment, and since there is nothing in the record to indicate whether or not the condition refers to economic, social, or moral conditions, perhaps the data in Table XXI (B), page 57, are more meaningful.

From this table may be seen that 42 or 30.2 per cent of the girls live with their mothers, having neither father nor step fathers. 7 or 5 per cent live with their mothers and step fathers. 15 in number or 10.8 per cent live with relatives or other people. No information is had about the homes of 28. 47 in number or 33.8 per cent live with both parents. Thus, it is apparent that 46 per cent of them live in broken homes and it is probable that some of the 28 or 20.2 per cent also belong in this group.

UNMARRIED MOTHER GROUP: The facts gathered about this group were obtained from the Jefferson Davis Hospital. The records cover a period of 16 months from October, 1934, to February, 1936. Records of ages were not available, but the nurse who gave the information said that they were all minors and between 14 and 18 years old. A questionnaire having blanks covering the following points were used:

- Name of School
- Name and Address of Girl
- Grade of Leaving School
- Age
- Other Signs of Delinquency
- Present Location
- Hospital Care
- Remarks on Home Condition and Previous Institutional and Charity Record.

Such information as was available is recorded in the following two tables.

TABLE XXII

DISTRIBUTION AS TO LOCATION OF HOMES OF 119 UNMARRIED MOTHERS
JEFFERSON DAVIS HOSPITAL

October, 1934 - February, 1936

Ward	Number of Girls Living in It	Per Cent
First	9	7.6
Second	1	0.8
Third	32	26.9
Fourth	22	18.4
Fifth	34	28.6
Sixth	2	1.7
Suburban	10	8.4
Location not Recorded	9	7.6
Total	119	100.0

TABLE XXIII

SEASONABLE DISTRIBUTION OF CONFINEMENT
OF 119 UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Season	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Total
Number	10	30	15	64	119
Per Cent	8.4	25.2	12.6	53.8	100.0

TRUANTS -- BOYS AND GIRLS

The truant records cover a period of six weeks only -- the third weeks' period in the current school year. That is, from about the First of December (allowing for the Christmas holidays) to about the First of February. The record is perhaps not quite complete, for when it developed that because of work in the census office, it was expedient to hasten the copying of the records, the Director suggested to the investigators not to take any more cases under the Fifth grade. This explains why perhaps only 19 schools are represented in the study.

A questionnaire covering the following points were used:

- Name of School
- Name of Child
- Address of Child
- Date of Truancy
- Reason Given for Being Out of School
- Whether or not Pupil is a Habitual Truant
- Previous Dates of Truancy
- What Disposition the Truant Officer has made of the Case with
What Results
- Information Covering Home Conditions and Previous Institutional
and Charity Records

Not all of this data was available. More of it could have been obtained by follow-up work, but our project closed before we got to that. Moreover, one of the conditions of our project was avoidance of house-to-house visitation of any sort. The material collected, however, did cover school, sex, grade and reasons for absence. This has been summarized into five tables. They follow.

TABLE XXIV
 TRUANTS IN 19 NEGRO SCHOOLS IN HOUSTON
 SIX WEEKS PERIOD

School	Boys	Girls	Total
1. Atherton	1	0	1
2. Blackshear	2	1	3
3. Bruce	6	1	7
4. Burrus	5	0	5
5. Crawford	10	1	11
6. Douglass	2	2	4
7. Dunbar	3	1	4
8. Eighth Avenue	1	2	3
9. Gregory	10	1	11
10. Harper	12	6	18
11. Highland Heights	2	1	3
12. Langston	1	2	3
13. Luckie	4	1	5
14. No School	8	6	14
15. Twenty-Third	1	0	1
16. Washington High	63	23	86
17. Wheatley High	108	26	134
18. Woodcrest	2	1	3
19. Yates High	102	29	131
Total for 19 Schools	343	104	447
% Total	76.7	23.3	100.0

TABLE XXV
 TRUANTS IN ELEMENTARY GRADES
 SIX WEEKS PERIOD

School	Under Fifth Grade			Fifth Grade			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1. Atherton	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
2. Blackshear	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	3
3. Bruce	2	1	3	4	0	4	6	1	7
4. Burrus	0	0	0	5	0	5	5	0	5
5. Crawford	10	1	11	0	0	0	10	1	11
6. Douglass	0	0	0	2	2	4	2	2	4
7. Dunbar	2	0	2	1	1	2	3	1	4
8. Eighth Ave.	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3
9. Gregory	7	0	7	3	1	4	10	1	11
10. Harper	1	1	2	2	0	2	3	1	4
11. Highland Hts.	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	3
12. Langston	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	2	3
13. Luckie	3	0	3	1	1	2	4	1	5
14. No School	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	4
15. Twenty-third	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
16. Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Wheatley	0	0	0	9	3	12	9	3	12
18. Woodcrest	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
19. Yates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	11	44	30	10	40	63	21	84

TABLE XXVI

TRUANTS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADES
SIX WEEKS' PERIOD

School	Sixth Grade			Seventh Grade			Eighth Grade			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Harper	0	0	0	6	2	8	3	3	6	9	5	14
No School	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	4	1	5
Washington	5	1	6	17	5	22	22	8	30	44	14	58
Wheatley	28	9	37	35	7	42	18	5	23	81	21	102
Yates	7	1	8	34	10	44	29	2	31	70	13	83
Total	40	11	51	96	25	121	72	18	100	208	54	262

TABLE XXVII

HIGH SCHOOL TRUANTS
SIX WEEKS' PERIOD

School	Ninth Grade			Tenth Grade			Eleventh Grade			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Washington	13	6	19	6	3	9	0	0	0	19	9	28
Wheatley	12	2	14	6	0	6	0	0	0	18	2	20
Yates	25	9	34	7	5	12	0	2	2	32	16	48
No School	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Total	53	19	72	19	8	27	0	2	2	72	29	101

TABLE XXVIII
SUMMARY OF TRUANTS IN 19 SCHOOLS

School	Boys	Girls	Total	% of Total
Elementary	63	21	84	18.8
Junior High	208	54	262	58.6
Senior High	72	29	101	22.6
Total	343	104	447	100.0

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAM DESIGNED
TO PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE HOUSING ILLS

Since man first began to congregate in cities, housing conditions of those of low income has been a major problem of government and of those of our citizens who are concerned with the plight of their less fortunate neighbors.

The crowding of families of the poor into the older and more dilapidated sections of the cities has resulted in slum housing and slum living conditions which have had the effect of not only blighting the property in the areas, but also of affecting the morale, moral and health standards of the families forced to live there. The awakening social conscience of America has demanded that these conditions be eliminated.

The United States Housing Authority and the Houston Authority of the City of Houston are the agencies through which our government, in cooperation with local citizens, is charged with the mission of correcting these conditions in our community. It is their purpose to provide safe, healthy, and modern living quarters at rentals these families of low income can afford and to destroy old housing units that are unfit for human habitation.

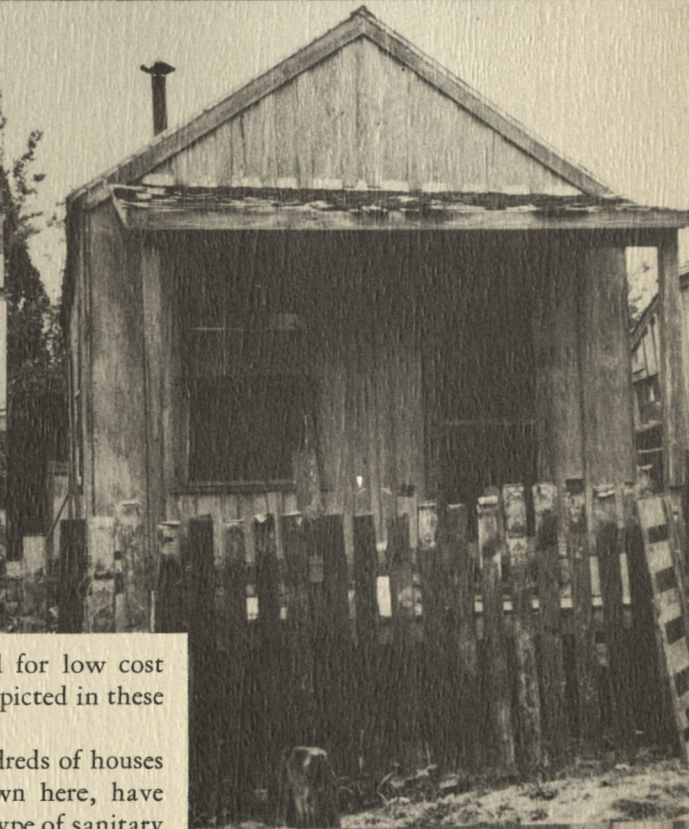
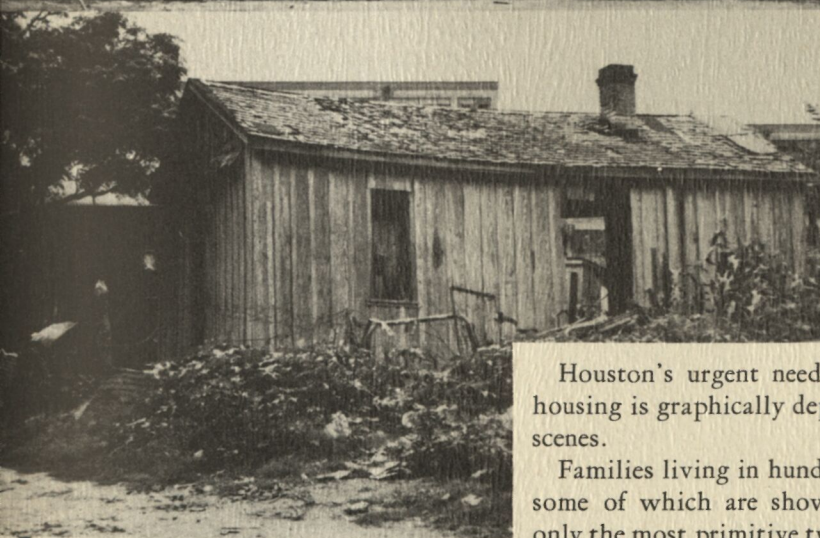
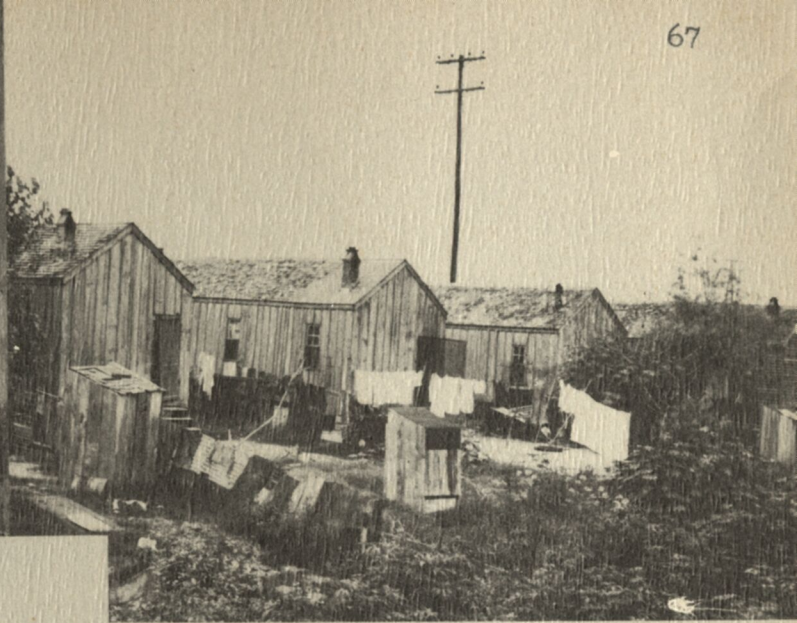
While the authority has planned projects to be constructed in different sections of the city where bad housing exists, one of its principal goals has been to re-design and re-construct the old San Felipe District. This has been for years a section in which hundreds of families lived under the worst of sub-standard conditions. This section lies almost under the shadow of Houston's magnificent new two-million dollar city hall, and has heretofore defied all attempts that have been made to beautify or modernize it.

Slums are due to definite and specific causes, the operation and effect to which could have been prevented by foresight and courage. Houston should correctly diagnose the causes of which slums are merely the symptoms and apply those remedies which will not only limit the spread of this infection, but will also prevent its operation in other areas of the city.

Low Rent Housing is a part of the program of the Housing Authority of the City of Houston to provide modern sanitary living quarters for families that have in the past lived in undesirable surroundings because their incomes were not enough to pay for other necessities and at the same time pay enough rents to get better places in which to live. It will provide homes of which the community can be proud. Every family will be asked to help make it a place in which to enjoy living.

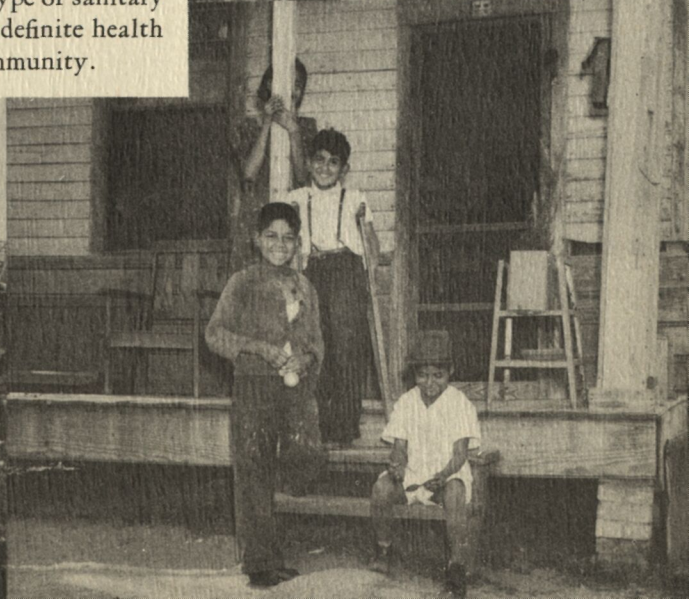
Texas projects are as follows: Cuney Homes, a Negro project, located on a 25.93-acre site, and more than 60 per cent completed, consists of 63 buildings that will contain 360 dwelling units. Cuney Homes Addition, which

is known as Texas 5-1A, also a Negro project, located on 9.81 acres adjoining Cuney Homes which is known as Texas 5-1, will consist of 17 buildings or 204 dwelling units. Texas 5-2 A, Kelley Courts, another Negro project, is to be in the Lyon-Nance area and on a 22.71-acre site and is to consist of 61 buildings and 344 dwelling units.



Houston's urgent need for low cost housing is graphically depicted in these scenes.

Families living in hundreds of houses some of which are shown here, have only the most primitive type of sanitary facilities and constitute a definite health menace to the entire community.





This kind of environment will be done away with.

Children from homes like these will be given a chance to become better citizens by the program of the Houston Housing Authority.

WHITE

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Family Income)

FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL ALL INCOMES	ANNUAL INCOME (DOLLARS)												NR.
		Under NONE	200	399	400 599	600 799	800 999	1000 1199	1200 1399	1400 1599	1600 1799	1800 1999	2000 OVER	
All Families	12666	471	192	543	1098	1533	1455	1626	1521	1389	483	894	1455	6
2 Persons	4659	306	72	240	441	678	540	627	495	471	144	276	363	6
3 Persons	3681	75	63	126	327	411	501	468	489	363	141	267	450	0
4 Persons	2322	51	21	81	159	255	183	306	315	384	90	195	282	0
5 Persons	1134	24	18	45	81	102	147	138	123	135	63	93	165	0
6 Persons	420	9	9	27	36	51	39	54	51	6	27	33	78	0
7 Persons	249	3	6	12	27	21	33	21	36	12	9	12	57	0
8 or More	201	3	3	12	27	15	12	12	12	18	9	18	60	0

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

NEGRO

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Family Income)

All Families	10227	414	447	1350	2088	2469	1500	993	429	252	120	69	96	0
2 Persons	4161	294	225	627	882	981	552	333	135	96	18	12	6	0
3 Persons	2364	45	93	321	498	558	354	240	105	69	30	21	30	0
4 Persons	1506	30	72	186	246	387	237	180	84	33	24	15	12	0
5 Persons	1008	30	33	93	207	261	162	99	54	18	24	12	15	0
6 Persons	492	6	9	60	111	111	84	57	15	9	9	6	15	0
7 Persons	351	6	6	18	78	102	60	36	18	15	6	3	3	0
8 Persons or More	345	3	9	45	66	69	51	48	18	12	9	0	15	0

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

MEXICAN

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Family Income)

All Families	2787	135	102	369	543	609	396	321	99	84	51	33	45	0
2 Persons	474	48	24	99	102	93	48	42	3	6	6	3	0	0
3 Persons	513	27	24	60	129	96	81	54	15	15	6	3	3	0
4 Persons	507	27	18	72	90	132	63	39	30	12	6	12	6	0
5 Persons	396	12	12	42	72	111	54	51	15	6	6	6	9	0
6 Persons	264	6	6	18	66	51	33	51	9	12	6	3	3	0
7 Persons	228	9	9	18	45	48	42	15	12	12	6	0	12	0
8 Persons or More	405	6	9	60	39	78	75	69	15	21	15	6	12	0

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

Pictures taken in the San Felipe area on the exact location selected for the erection of the Authority's housing project, Tex 5-4. The completion of this project will eliminate one of Houston's ugliest slum spots, with all of its attending squalor, filth, bad streets and unhealthy sanitary conditions.



THE SAN FELIPE AREA

An architect's drawing of the proposed Tex 5-4 project imposed on an air view of the San Felipe area, replacing the deplorable conditions pictured on the left with modern, permanent, beautifully landscaped residential structures surrounded by parkways, paved driveways and playgrounds.



WHITE

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Monthly Rental)

FAMILY SIZE	TOTAL	MONTHLY RENT (DOLLARS)							
		LESS THAN \$5.00	5.99 9.99	10.00 14.99	15.00 19.99	20.00 24.99	25.00 29.99	30.00 39.99	40.00 OR MORE
All Families	12666	84	420	1263	2454	3222	2421	2121	681
2 Persons	4659	33	189	558	1005	1260	840	606	168
3 Persons	3681	15	84	315	765	921	762	621	198
4 Persons	2322	12	69	198	366	558	426	513	180
5 Persons	1134	6	33	96	180	288	219	231	81
6 Persons	420	12	21	45	54	108	87	60	33
7 Persons	249	6	18	27	42	57	42	45	12
8 Persons or More	201	0	6	24	42	30	45	45	9

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

NEGRO

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Monthly Rental)

All Families	10227	90	1344	3219	2925	1725	609	225	90
2 Persons	4161	72	750	1281	1095	621	183	93	66
3 Persons	2364	9	276	774	621	432	189	57	6
4 Persons	1506	3	159	471	462	273	102	27	9
5 Persons	1008	3	72	321	348	165	60	30	9
6 Persons	492	0	36	147	183	111	12	3	0
7 Persons	351	0	39	111	105	66	27	3	0
8 Persons or More	345	3	12	114	111	57	36	12	0

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

MEXICAN

TENANT FAMILIES LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLINGS (Classified by Race, by Family Size, by Monthly Rental)

All Families	2787	114	756	891	648	234	93	42	9
2 Persons	474	42	144	147	75	39	12	15	0
3 Persons	513	9	156	153	135	36	12	9	3
4 Persons	507	24	180	159	93	24	18	6	3
5 Persons	396	9	99	135	99	33	15	6	0
6 Persons	264	9	51	90	81	21	12	0	0
7 Persons	228	12	51	60	60	33	9	0	3
8 Persons or More	405	9	75	147	105	48	15	6	0

This table was taken from the Real Property Survey made by the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Houston.

CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS

The writer has tried to show in this Thesis the following things:

(1) That there is an accumulating body of information which cast doubt on the very generally accepted belief that the big city is the most efficient organization from the standpoint of the creation of economic values for the Negro.

(2) That his physical welfare is jeopardized by living too much away from the open country.

(3) That the cultural or spiritual organization needed to develop the black man's capacities to a point far beyond our present attainments is by no means inseparably bound up with the crowded life of our larger cities, the lack of space is so keenly felt and the intensity of the strain of merely getting along is so great that they have little time and inclination for, and even less means of, participating in the higher life of the city.

In the matters of health, the Negro is clearly in a position of a people compelled to undergo great physical hardships. The very natural consequence of this is that he has a high death rate and suffers greatly from debilitating illnesses, which greatly reduce his economic and social efficiency. The Negro in Houston is over-crowded. He works long hours and participates too much in night life.

It is quite possible that the Negro is more subject to certain diseases than the White man. For example, he is prey to five types:

1. Those diseases resulting from unsanitary conditions.
2. Those diseases resulting from faulty diet.
3. Those diseases resulting from puerperal state.
4. Those diseases transmitted from parent to offspring.
5. Those diseases resulting from micro-organisms.

SUMMARY

This study, which has been limited to some factors influencing the health of the Negro in Houston, Texas, reveals some very significant findings. The period covered in the survey is from January, 1930, through December, 1940.

In general, there seems to be two divergent points of view regarding the health of the Negro by outstanding authorities in the field of Negro health. One group are the exponents of the theory that the general health condition of the Negro is due to social and economic conditions prevailing. The other group are exponents of the theory that racial and physiological factors of the Negro are of such a nature that he may or may not be susceptible to poor health. Data concerning this information is summarized on page 8.

The Negro population of Houston is heavily concentrated in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Wards. 90 per cent of the Fifth Ward is occupied by Negroes, making a total of 90,000 Negro population for Houston.

In the consideration of the average number of persons per family, it was found that in the Third and Fifth Wards the families are larger and the Fourth Ward families are smaller.

It is also found that in these heavily populated Negro sections, rents are considerably lower and that the sanitary conditions are worse.

In the study of arrests in juvenile delinquency, the per centage is high in areas where the economic status is low as judged by the average monthly rentals.

In consideration of the number of deaths from syphilis and tuberculosis, there were 151 deaths from syphilis and a decline in the death rate from tuberculosis. In both cases of diseases, the high death rates were found in the census tracts having a large Negro population but it has already been seen that these tracts are characterized by a generally low economic status. This would seem to indicate that high rate from communicable disease are correlated poverty, congestion, poor housing and ignorance. These conditions are however most acute in those areas where Negroes reside. The influence of these factors upon health is demonstrated by the high syphilis death rate for the Negro residing in these depressed areas.

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DETAIL OF TRACT BOUNDARIES

Tract 1

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits, from Cortlandt to Airline Drive.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou from Taylor west to City limits, where Post Oak Road crosses the Bayou.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will begin at the City limits at 40th and extend south over Airline Drive to Watson, to Taylor, to Buffalo Bayou.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits, from intersection of Post Oak Road and Buffalo Bayou to 40th and Cortlandt.

Tract 2

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits from Airline Drive at Pierson to Linn.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will start at Watson and White Oak Drive and extend east along the Drive over Wrightwood, South and Quitman Streets to Gregg Street.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will start at Quitman and run north over Gregg and Linn Streets to the City limits at Bay.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Airline Drive starting at Pierson and running south over Watson to White Oak Drive.

Tract 3

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits starting at Brill and Linn and running east to Deepwater.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou starting where the City limits cross the Ship Channel at Fidelity Island and follow the Bayou west to Gregg.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will follow the City limits starting at Wallisville Road and ending where the City limit line crosses the Houston Ship Channel at Fidelity Island.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Gregg Street from Buffalo Bayou north to the City limits, at Brill and Linn.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Dunlavy extending from Bissonnet Street to Buffalo Bayou. Tract 4

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will start at Watson and White Oak Drive and extend east along the Drive over Wrightwood, South and Quitman Streets to Gregg Street.

SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou from Gregg Street west to a point where a continuation of Taylor Street would meet it.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be Gregg Street extending from Buffalo Bayou to Quitman Street.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will start at Buffalo Bayou and follow Taylor Street north to White Oak Drive opposite Watson Street.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks from Buffalo Bayou to Wallace Street at McKinney Avenue.

Tract 5

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will start at McGowan and McGowan and run due north to Frederick Street and over Frederick to the point where

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will follow Buffalo Bayou from Dunlavy west to the City limits.

SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Bissonnet Street from Dunlavy west to the 2800 block.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be Dunlavy Street from Bissonnet Street to Buffalo Bayou.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits from the 2800 block of Bissonnet Street north to Buffalo Bayou.

SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits and Griggs Road, starting where Parsons Street meets the City limits, and extending east to Dandy Street.

Tract 6

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks from Dandy Street and Griggs Road to Calhoun, over Calhoun to Milby, along

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou extending from Dunlavy Street east to where a continuation of Frederick Street would intersect Buffalo Bayou.

- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will start at Dunlavy Street and extend east over Bissonnet, Main and Palm Streets to where Palm and Delano Streets meet.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will start where a continuation of Frederick Street would meet Buffalo Bayou and run due south to the point where Palm and Delano Streets meet.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Dunlavy extending from Bissonnet Street to Buffalo Bayou.

Tract 7

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will follow Buffalo Bayou, starting where a continuation of Frederick Street would meet it, and extending east to the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks that cross at Kaiser Street.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be McGowen Avenue from Caroline east to the I. & G. N. Railroad tracks on Velasco Street, and along them to McKinney Avenue.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks from Buffalo Bayou to Velasco Street at McKinney Avenue.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will start at Caroline and McGowen and run due north to Frederick Street and over Frederick to the point where a continuation of Frederick would meet Buffalo Bayou.

Tract 8

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will follow McGowen Avenue from Caroline east to the I. & G. N. Railroad tracks on Velasco Street, and along them to McKinney Avenue.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be the City limits and Griggs Road, starting where Peerless Street meets the City limits, and extending east to Dansby Street.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be the Interurban tracks from Dansby Street and Griggs Road to Calhoun, over Calhoun to Milby, along Milby to Polk Avenue, and along the Belt tracks to Velasco and McKinney Avenue.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be from McGowen Avenue at Caroline due south to the City limits at Peerless Street.

Tract 9

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou from Kaiser Street to the point where a continuation of Mack Street would meet the Bayou.

SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Polk Avenue from Milby to Hughes.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be from a point on Buffalo Bayou where a continuation of Mack Street would meet it, over Mack and Hughes to Polk Avenue.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks from Polk and Milby to Buffalo Bayou, at Kaiser Street.

Tract 10

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Polk Avenue from Milby to Hughes and over Hughes and Mack to the point on Buffalo Bayou where a continuation of Mack would meet it.

SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Griggs Road from Dansby to Cypress Street and over Cypress to Buffalo Bayou.

EAST BOUNDARY - Line will follow Buffalo Bayou, starting at a point where a continuation of Mack Street would meet it, to the point where Cypress Street meets it, opposite Brady Island.

WEST BOUNDARY - Line will follow the Interurban tracks from Dansby Street and Griggs Road to Calhoun, over Calhoun to Milby, and along Milby to Polk Avenue.

Tract 11

NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will follow Griggs Road northeast from a point where the H. B. & T. and G. H. & S. A. Railways cross, to Cypress, and over Cypress to Buffalo Bayou.

- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Sims Bayou extending from Telephone Road to Buffalo Bayou.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will be Buffalo Bayou from Cypress to Sims Bayou.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Telephone Road to Long Drive and over it and the City limits from Sims Bayou to Griggs Road.

Tract 12

- NORTH BOUNDARY - Line will be Bissonnet Street from Milby Drive to Main, up Main to Palm, and over Palm to Delano.
- SOUTH BOUNDARY - Line will follow the City limits from Kirby Drive east to Peerless Street.
- EAST BOUNDARY - Line will begin at Palm and Delano Streets and extend due south to the City limits at Peerless Street.
- WEST BOUNDARY - Line will be Kirby Drive south from Bissonnet Street to the City limits.

Tract 13

- DEFINITION - It includes that territory outside the boundaries of the City of Houston in Harris County that lies within Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1.

Death, Birth and Stillbirth Certificates are filed from this territory in the office of the Registrar of the City of Houston, in City Hall.

Crude

- DEFINITION - The term "Crude" as used in this study pertains to Deaths, Births and Stillbirths occurring in families temporarily located in Houston whose homes are outside of Tracts 1 through 13.

The certificates of these non-residents are recorded in the office of the Registrar in the City of Houston if a death, birth or stillbirth occurs while they are within the boundaries of Tracts 1 through 13.