

SANITARY MONOGRAPH OF HOLBAV – AND THE SANITARY CAMPAIGN FROM 1938

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Abstract: *Developing sanitary campaigns in Romania in the first half of the 20th century was one of the most important activities related with the public health develop in our country. In that context county of Braşov was an example of developing this activities and the sanitary monograph of different zone could be an example of understanding the sanitary problem. In that context we will present the sanitary monograph of Holbav, with valuable information source even within current period.*

Key words: *Holbav, sanitary campaign, sanitary monograph, Braşov medicine history.*

1. Introduction

Studying the history of medicine is not only a duty but also a way to understand evolution and development of society at certain times. Medical history, like other disciplines' history, provides identification of parameters that can appreciate the past, thru which we can identify the progressive stages and know the causality of decline or stagnation moments.

A focus on the past, can help us to appreciate the present, gives us confidence in the future and cultivates respect for scientists, for their work done in this area, as well as healthcare. History of medicine gives everyone the opportunity to appreciate the achievements that were made in the past [1, 2, 4, 5].

Brasov city has always been concerned with developing a coherent medical system that has developed the health care insurance as much as that was concerned

with the development of health surveillance [7, 8].

2. Public health campaign in Holbav and its sanitary monograph

As Rogozea L. mention in his studies Sanitary Monograph of Râşnov Town and the Sanitary Campaign from 1938: “Out of the public health campaigns developed in Braşov, the most complex is the one from 1938, presented in Gazeta de Transilvania numbers: 58, 61, 64, 79, 80, 88 and 89.” [7].

The campaign was developing by the Ministry of Health and local authorities under the title “Sanitary Offensive”. The campaign was realized in village like Raşnov or Holbav [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15].

Analyzing the demographic structure of population in town Holbav in 1938 we found that of those 1603 people, most were women (845). Of the total 761 people were married, 142 widowed.

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Table I and II of the monograph show that most were Romanian (1517), the rest being Hungarian and German. In addition 45 people Baptists, others were of Orthodox religion.

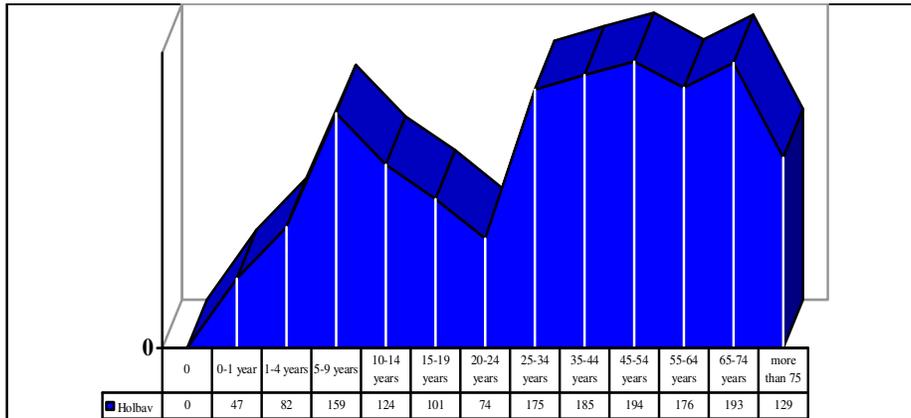


Chart 1. Population by age group

In Holbav there were no hospitals, clinics and care homes. Health service was served by a district doctor, who inspected twice a month the village, and a midwife. Health budget is allocated 3-5% of the village; public health cost per capita is 14 lei.

Table 3 of the monograph analyzes the movement of population during 1928-1937, observing that the average birth rate is 33.45%, average mortality is 12.45%,

ranging from 11% in 1933 and 27% in 1929 and infant mortality average is 14.6%, ranging from 10% in 1933 and 26% in 1932. Researching infant mortality by age and month of the period 1928-1937, we can see that most deaths occurred between 1-5 months as shown in the following graph:

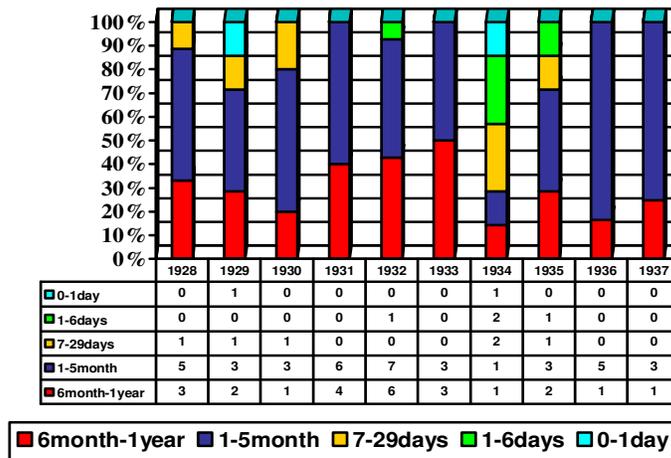


Chart 2. Number of deaths by age group

Regarding deaths by month, we find that most deaths occurred in July, and as season most deaths occurred during the summer.

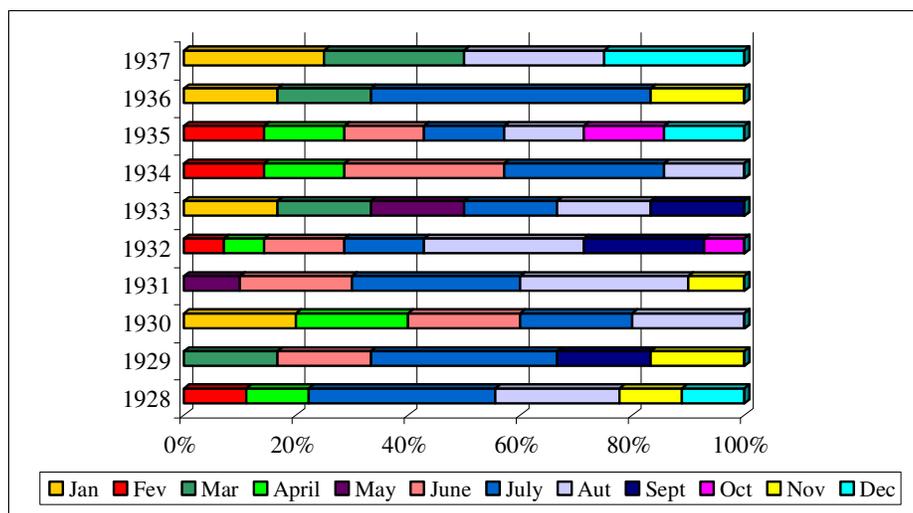


Chart 3. Overall mortality between 1928-1937

In Holbav, like other towns, most infant deaths occurred during summer, probably due to the higher risk of infectious and contagious diseases. Unfortunately the health monographs are insufficient to have verifiable information from this point of view; however we know that the main causes of death in children are infectious and contagious diseases and especially dysentery.

Infant mortality in 10 years in Holbav

Table1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1928	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	1
1929	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0
1930	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
1931	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	0	0	1	0
1932	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	4	3	1	0	0
1933	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
1934	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
1935	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
1936	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
1937	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

In Holbav, overall mortality affects extreme ages, mostly male. Most deaths, 50 in number, were recorded in 1932, of which 14 deaths at age 0-1 year and 12 aged over 70 years.

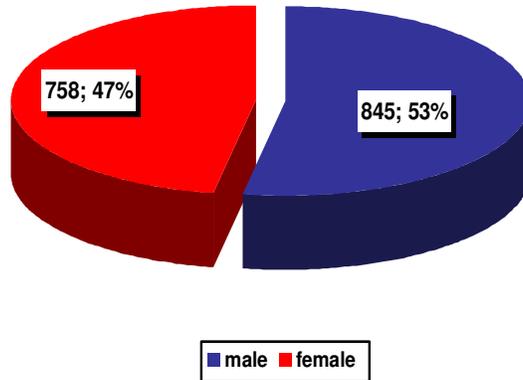


Chart nr. 4. *Overall mortality by sex*

Ages at which morbidity leads to death are the extremes: children and elderly, fact that can be connected to inadequate care, poor sanitary conditions. However because

there is a relatively large number of people that death is more than 65 years, leads us to say that life was not reduced in this area.

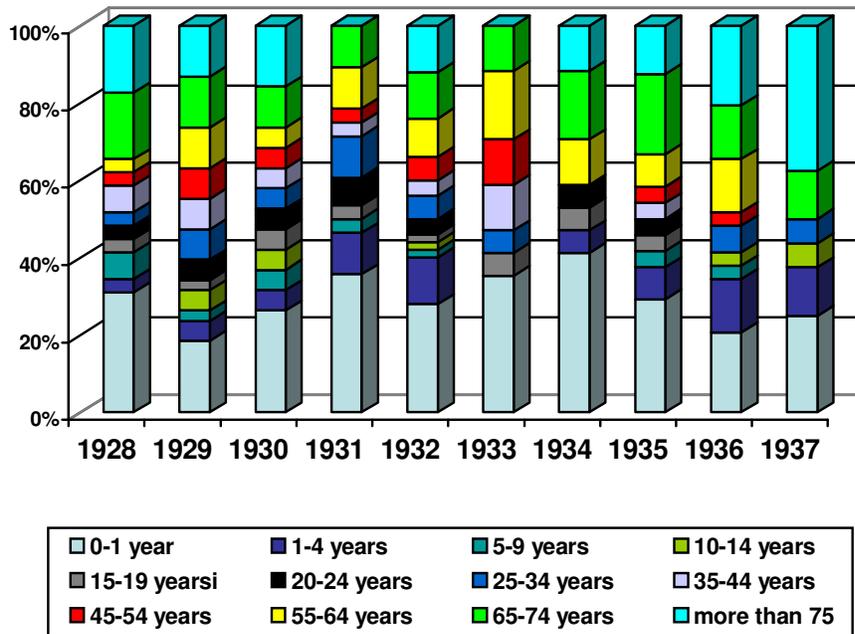


Chart.5. *Overall mortality by age during 1928-1937*

The main causes of death were: for children - childhood diseases and dysentery, and for adults - respiratory disorders (pulmonary tuberculosis,

pneumonia). The most common infectious diseases in the period 1928-1937 are scarlet fever (28 cases), dysentery (30 cases), and cough (20 cases).

Social diseases affecting the population were tuberculosis, cancer and syphilis, the latter reaching a peak of incidence in 1937 (36 cases).

During this period there was no case of: malaria, typhus, smallpox, chicken pox, erysipelas.

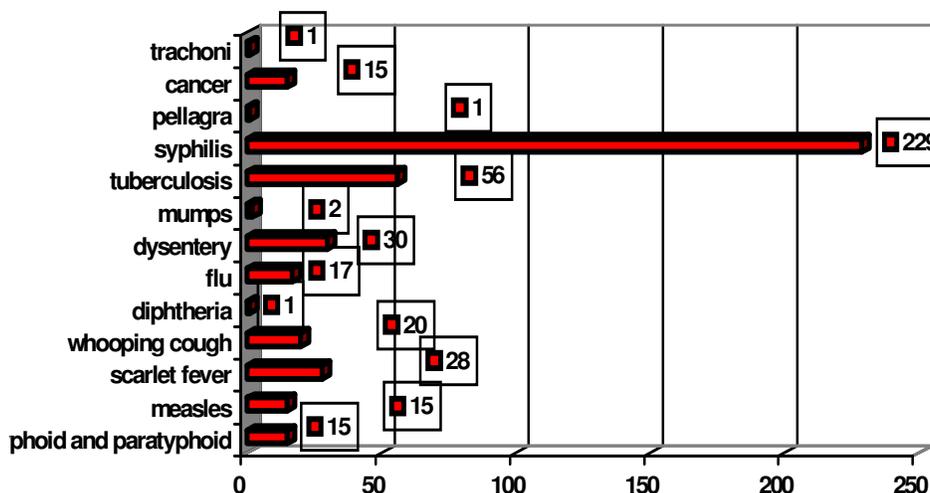


Chart 6. *Frequency of medical and social diseases*

Conclusions

Health campaigns in 1938 were a model of organizing health assessment of the situation in Romania, and monographs results are still important sources of information [3, 6].

Development of monographs based on the same methodology is also a source of information not only medical but also of social nature [16].

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