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# Medical Care In Greene County

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## *Summary*

1. Greene is one of twenty-six counties in North Carolina without hospital facilities.
2. In 1945 there were five doctors in the county to serve 18,548 people. This means 3,710 people per doctor as compared with approximately 800 per doctor for the United States as a whole.
3. Other medical care personnel consisted of one dentist, one pharmacist, two nurses, and five midwives. Public health personnel consisted of the health officer that served in the county two days per week, one nurse and a sanitarian.
4. One out of five (21.8 per cent) Greene County families received hospital care during the year as compared with approximately one out of every two families in the United States.
5. One out of every 21 individuals received hospital care as compared with one out of about ten in the United States.
6. The people of Greene County used hospitals at the rate of .53 days per capita per year as compared with .91 days for the United States as a whole.
7. White people received more hospital care than Negro people; females received more than males; non-agricultural people received more than agricultural people; and, members of farm owner families received more hospital care than members of farm tenant families.
8. More than half (56.7 per cent) of the hospitalized persons received surgical care.
9. Three per cent of the families carried health, hospital or accident insurance.
10. The amount of general practitioner care received per person decreased as the size of family increased.
11. Greene County had five doctors, but it needs eighteen on the basis of one effective physician per 1,000 people.
12. About half (48.4 per cent) of the Greene County people had medical care needs that were not being met.
13. About nine out of ten (87.2 per cent) of the family heads interviewed stated that they favored the principle of receiving medical care according to need and paying in proportion to ability.

## Appendix A: The Sample

The four neighborhoods surveyed were selected in the following manner: (1) four communities, consisting of a cluster of neighborhoods, were selected to insure geographical coverage of the county; and, (2) one neighborhood from each community was selected at random.

Every household in the four neighborhoods was visited and a record obtained. The interviewing was done during the early months of 1946. The medical care data obtained were for the 1945 calendar year.

The 266 records represented a 7.5 per cent sample of the occupied households in 1940.

Comparison of the Sample Households with the 1940 Population and 1945 Agricultural Census, Greene County, North Carolina.

Item	Sample	1940 Census
Persons per occupied household	5.24	5.22
White	4.74	4.91
Negro	5.79	5.67
Percentage distribution by sex (male)	51.2	50.5
White (male)	49.5	49.9
Negro (male)	52.7	51.2
Percentage distribution by age		
Under 20 years	50.5	49.9
20-44 years	35.6	35.8
45 years and over	13.8	14.2
Percentage Negro households	47.4*	40.1
Percentage distribution of farm operators**		
Owners	26.3	18.9
Tenants	11.3	22.4
Croppers	62.3	58.7
Percentage of white farm operators**	53.0	56.2

\* This may not have been an overenumeration as Negro sharecroppers increased by 427 or 79.4 per cent from 1940 to 1945; and, Negro tenants increased by 112 or 83 per cent.

\*\* 1945 Agricultural Census.

## Appendix B: Supplementary Tables

Table 1. Distribution of Total Families and Individuals and Hospitalized Families and Individuals by Race and Occupation, Greene County, North Carolina, 1945.

Occupation	Total			Hospitalized		
	Total	White	Negro	Total	White	Negro
	<b>Families</b>					
Total .....	266	140	126	58	41	17
Owner* .....	65	59	6	20	19	1
Tenant .....	28	17	11	4	4	0
Cropper .....	154	55	99	30	16	14
Other** .....	19	9	10	4	2	2
	<b>Individuals</b>					
Total .....	1,394	664	730	67	47	20
Owner* .....	265	245	20	24	23	1
Tenant .....	182	99	83	5	5	0
Cropper .....	886	289	597	34	17	17
Other** .....	61	31	30	4	2	2

\* Includes full owners, part owners, and managers.

\*\* Includes farm laborers and nonagricultural workers.

Table 2. Distribution of Total Population and Hospitalized Population by Race, Sex, and Age, Greene County, North Carolina, 1945.

Age	Total		White		Negro	
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	<b>Total Population</b>					
Total .....	1,394	714	680	664	329	335
Under 15 .....	563	302	261	251	126	125
15-29 .....	359	164	195	160	70	90
30-44 .....	278	153	125	152	84	68
45-59 .....	107	52	55	59	29	30
60-up .....	85	41	44	42	20	22
Unknown .....	2	2	0	0	0	0
	<b>Hospitalized Population</b>					
Total .....	67	20	47	47	14	33
Under 15 .....	16	7	9	12	5	7
15-29 .....	20	2	18	15	2	13
30-44 .....	21	6	15	13	3	10
45-59 .....	7	3	4	6	3	3
60-up .....	3	2	1	1	1	0

Table 3. Distribution of Hospitalized Individuals by Length of Stay, Race, and Sex, Greene County, North Carolina, 1945.

Number of days hospitalized	Total		White		Negro	
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total .....	67	20	47	47	14	33
Under 5 .....	18	5	13	14	4	10
5-9 .....	22	9	13	18	7	11
10-14 .....	15	3	12	9	1	8
15-19 .....	4	0	4	2	0	2
20-24 .....	4	1	3	1	0	1
25-up .....	4	2	2	3	2	1