

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Washington County Health Council (Mo.).**  
**381**      **Papers, 1932-1969.**  
            **Eighteen folders and two volumes.**

### **MICROFILM**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are financial records, minutes of meetings, and miscellaneous papers of the Washington County Health Council, a volunteer organization which began in 1937 as the Advisory Council of Public Health and Child Welfare. The collection includes papers of the Washington County Nursing Service, 1939-1942, and the annual reports of the Washington County Health Department, 1949-1958.

The Advisory Council of Public Health and Child Welfare was organized at Potosi in 1937. It was a volunteer group composed of citizens concerned with community health matters, with particular attention paid to school-age children in the old mining areas of Washington County. The council sponsored the employment of a child welfare worker and county health nurse. The council assisted in arranging funding for these workers, whose salaries had formerly been paid by the state and federal government. After 1940, the local area provided one-third of the necessary funding for the program, which was administered as the Washington County Health Unit. The Washington County Farm Bureau sponsored the unit in 1949 and 1950.

The health unit was reorganized in the 1950s as the Washington County Health Department, a permanent, tax-supported operation. The Advisory Council evolved into the Washington County Health Council, an advisory group without administrative authority. It was composed of private citizens and representatives of service organizations, volunteer agencies and professional groups. Its primary purpose was to facilitate health planning in Washington County, and to assist in coordinating the efforts of private, local, state and federal public health initiatives.

The Washington County Health Council and allied organizations consistently supported child-care and disease prevention programs. The earliest efforts, in concert with the Washington County Nursing Service, involved pre-natal care, birth registration, infant care, and home hygiene. Through the schools and by community clinics, diagnosis and treatment were offered to sufferers of tuberculosis, trachoma, polio, rheumatic fever, and venereal disease. Immunization programs were begun, and fluoride treatments and dental care were made available for school children. Clinics were also offered for crippled and retarded children.

The papers of the Washington County Health Council consist of financial records and minutes of meetings of the advisory and health councils, miscellaneous papers and photographs, annual reports of the Washington County Health Department, and scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings concerning the various public health programs and organizations which operated in Washington County. Most of the collection pertains to activities from 1939 to 1969, but the earliest items are two photographs of the Washington County tonsil clinic held at the courthouse in Potosi in 1932. There are only a few records for the early 1950s. The scrapbooks are the most useful items for an overview of public health programs in Washington County.

*r458 23 October 1989*

*Mine Au Breton Historical Society*

*Loaned for microfilming*

### Shelf List

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Folders 1-5: Advisory Council of Public Health and Child Welfare/Washington County Health Council, 1939-1969.

Folder 1: Advisory Council of Public Health and Child Welfare, treasurer's book, 6 May 1949 -- 11 May 1950.

Folder 2: Washington County Health Unit, treasurer's book. 6 May 1949 -- 11 May 1950.

Folder 3: Washington County Health Council, minutes of meetings, 26 November 1946 -- 15 August 1950.

Folder 4: Washington County Health Council, minutes of meetings, 18 July 1961 -- 4 March 1969.

Folder 5: Washington County Health Council, miscellaneous papers, ca. 1949-1954.

Folders 6-14: Washington County Health Department, 1949-1960.

Folder 06: Annual Report, 1949.

Folder 07: Annual Report, 1950.

Folder 08: Annual Report, 1955.

Folder 09: Annual Report, 1956.

Folder 10: Annual Report, 1957.

Folder 11: Annual Report, 1958.

Folder 12: Guest Register, Open House, 1959-1960.

Folder 13: Health Plan, 1 January 1959 -- 30 June 1960.

Folder 14: Health Plan, 1 July 1960 -- 1 July 1961.

Folders 15-16: Miscellaneous papers and photographs, 1932-1960.

Folder 15: Photographs, 1932--ca. 1960.

Folder 16: Medical Economic Survey of Potosi, Mo., Sears-Roebuck Foundation, n.d.

Folders 17-18: Washington County Nursing Service.

Folder 17: Scrapbook, 25 February 1939 -- 21 November 1940.

Folder 18: Annual Report, 1942.

Volumes 1-2: Scrapbooks, Washington County health programs.

Volume 1: Scrapbook, 18 June 1941 -- February 1951.

Volume 2: Scrapbook, 1 January 1960 -- 30 March 1967.

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