

in financial need. The federal contribution to these health programs is approximately half of total expenditure.

Over the years, federal departments have provided direct health care to certain groups: the Department of National Health and Welfare administers health services to Indians, Eskimos and other residents of the two northern territories, to immigrants, to seamen and to other groups; the Department of Veterans Affairs operates a nation-wide system of hospital, treatment and domiciliary care services for sick, disabled and indigent veterans.

Control and regulatory functions relating to matters of national health concern, also carried out by the federal health department, include: a program to ensure the purity and safety of food and drugs; the activities of the national Environmental Health Centre, which provides research, control, and advisory services on such matters as water-resources management, air pollution and other environmental health problems; a radiation-protection program; and the testing and research advisory services of the Laboratory of Hygiene. The Department of Agriculture also carries specific responsibilities connected with food production to protect the public health.

Health research is conducted or supported by a number of federal agencies: the Medical Research Council, the National Research Council, the Defence Research Board, and the Departments of National Health and Welfare and Veterans Affairs. The principal federal agencies concerned with health statistics are the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Research and Statistics Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Public Health Services

Provincial health departments, together with city health departments and district or regional health units, carry out the basic preventive health services and specialized services for specific diseases and various health problems. The traditional public health services comprise environmental sanitation, communicable-disease control, maternal and child health, nutrition, dental health, occupational health, public health laboratories and vital statistics. Also well established are the provincial programs for treatment of the venereal diseases, tuberculosis, cancer, alcoholism, mental illness, mental retardation and specialized services for institutional and community or home care of the chronically ill, some of which are operated by voluntary agencies aided by public grants.

More emphasis is being given to the newer environmental health problems of air, water and soil pollution, protection of radiation workers, and the hazards of pesticides. Special programs to deal more effectively with specific health problems include traffic-safety measures, poison-control centres, mass health-screening programs for tuberculosis, diabetes, glaucoma and other chronic diseases, rehabilitation of the chronically ill and disabled, health education on the effects of drug abuse and smoking, and family-planning services.

Tuberculosis Services: During the period 1956-1967, the incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis of all forms decreased by over 50 per cent from 49.4 in 100,000 of the population (7,930 cases) to 23 in 100,000 (4,601 cases); corresponding death-rates dropped from 7.8 to 3.2, a record low. Despite the decline in the incidence of tuberculosis and associated disability,