

Other important measures to improve the health of Canadians include public education programs on smoking (to reduce the incidence of lung cancer and other diseases attributable to cigarette smoking), on maternal and child health (to reduce infant and maternal mortality), and on environmental health (to strive to eliminate harmful industrial and other chemical wastes from the environment). The Department has also developed a comprehensive program to protect the public from harmful radiation resulting from the use of radioactive materials. Pollution control in Canada has traditionally been a provincial responsibility, but the Department of National Health and Welfare gives consultative and technical assistance for the investigation and control of specific pollution problems in many parts of the country. It has established a national sampling network to provide useful information on the quality of the air in Canadian cities. The Department also has direct responsibility to assist the International Joint Commission in coping with air pollutants crossing the Canadian-American border.

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

Public health comprises those institutions, services, and activities that concern the health of society, rather than health care for individuals. They include environmental sanitation, dealing with purity of air, water, and soil; occupational hazards to health, including protection from radiation, work and traffic safety, and noise abatement; the control of infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and venereal disease; case-finding activities for diabetes, glaucoma, tuberculosis, and cancer; control of food standards, food contamination and food additives; drug control; maternal and child health; preventive activities concerning cancer; addiction to alcohol and drugs, mental illness, and mental retardation; poison-control centres; quarantine; and health education. They also include vital statistics and statistics on contagious diseases.

### *Tuberculosis*

Since 1956 the incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis decreased from 49 in 100,000 to 21 in 100,000 of the population in 1969, and the death-rate fell from 7.8 to 2.5 in 100,000.

The provinces maintain case registries, supervise preventive and case-finding activities and provide free treatment in tuberculosis sanatoria, general hospitals, and outpatient clinics. Voluntary organizations promote case-finding and health-education activities.