

## Public Health

Public Health comprises those institutions, services and activities that are concerned with the health of the community as a whole, rather than health care for individuals. It includes 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; the safety of drugs; 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. Health indicators include not only vital statistics and statistics on contagious diseases but indices of hospital morbidity and utilization of medical services and drugs.

### *Tuberculosis*

Since 1956, the incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis decreased from 49 in 100,000 to 18.3 in 100,000 of the population in 1971, while the death-rate fell from 7.8 to 2.5 in 100,000 of the population.

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

### *Cancer*

The standardized cancer death-rate has been rising steadily for many years, to 137.5 in 1970. Public and voluntary agencies engage in detection, treatment, public education and research. Free diagnostic and treatment services are now available in all provinces, supported by hospital and medical-care insurance. The larger general hospitals operate special cancer clinics.

### *Mental disorders*

Provincial mental-health divisions administer or support diagnostic and treatment services for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. Out-patient departments and psychiatric units of general hospitals, which provide short-term in-patient treatment, and separate community mental-health centres are established in most cities and larger towns. The large mental hospitals admit those patients who need long-term care, and the hospitals for the mentally defective care for the more severely retarded.

Although not so readily available, diagnostic and treatment services for emotionally-disturbed children, for the mentally-retarded, for persons with alcohol or drug addiction, and for court offenders have been established in most large cities.