

the health officials and officials responsible for assessment and control of the environment. Co-ordination of the many activities within provinces and between the provinces and the Federal Government is usually provided by advisory boards and committees.

Health research is conducted or supported by a number of federal agencies: The Medical Research Council, the Defence Research Board, the Departments of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The National Research Council conducts studies in radiation biology and other life sciences important to health. The principal federal agencies concerned with health statistics are Statistics Canada, the Health Economics and Statistics Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, and, as a by-product of program activities, certain other units in that Department.

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, which is concerned with the 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 regarding 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; alcohol and drug addiction; mental illness and 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 The incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis decreased from 49 in 100,000 of the population in 1956 to 17.9 in 100,000 in 1972, while the death-rate during that period fell from 7.8 to 2.1 in 100,000.

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 100,000 of the population in 1970, but the rate declined slightly in 1971 to 136.2. For females, the rate fell from 114.2 to 111.5. For males, the 1971 rate was virtually unchanged at 160.3. Public and voluntary agencies