

Their Health... Our Business

. . . Cook County Department of Public Health



**ANNUAL
REPORT
1949**

BOARD of HEALTH

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1949



William N. Erickson
President



Elizabeth A. Conkey
Secretary



Michael J. Flynn
Clerk



William Busse



Christ A. Jensen



George F. Nixon



Mario Tonelli



Clayton F. Smith



John Mackler



John E. Traeger



Arthur X. Elrod



Edward M. Sneed



Frank Bobrytzke



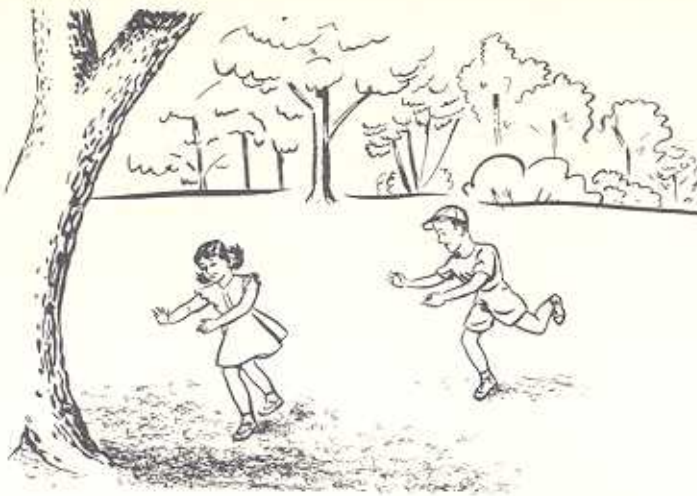
George A. Miller



Daniel Ryan



James F. Ashenden



If, some Sunday, you should meet Mr. Average Citizen and his family on their way to a picnic in the Forest Preserve and ask him, "Who takes care of your health?" he'd probably reply, "Why, my wife--and our doctor and our dentist."

His matter-of-fact tone would tell you that he's scarcely aware of the day-to-day health services provided by a public health organization which are basic to the life of every citizen. Those services aren't any farther away than the water tap in his kitchen sink where he had a drink just before he left--or the water in the Forest Preserve well, where the children will drink before the picnic is over.

Somebody must stand guard over the health of all citizens in a community. Somebody must prevent and control disease. Somebody must spread the word about how to keep healthy.

In Suburban Cook County, that somebody is the Cook County Department of Public Health.

A staff of 68 professional workers--doctors, nurses, sanitary engineers, nutritionist and health educator--make up the Department's team. Except for Chicago, Evanston, Wilmette-Kenilworth-Glencoe and Oak Park, which have their own health departments, the Cook County Department provides cradle-to-grave health services for more than 700,000 Cook County residents and for the countless number of Chicagoans who visit the suburban areas in search of recreation. These services are provided in an area covering 735 square miles.

BEFORE THE BABY COMES

Actually, such services start before the cradle. For example, a prenatal blood test is required of every expectant mother seen by a physician.



Your health department will help keep the baby healthy

Mrs. Average Citizen, who delivers her baby in a hospital, is assured of protection against infection through the Department's regular inspection of maternity hospitals and equipment. Suggestions are made to the hospital staff for improving medical and nursing service so that mother and baby may be safe at delivery time.

For expectant mothers, the Department operates prenatal clinics. Mothers-to-be are urged to come to the clinic early in their

Public Health in Adams Co.

Adams Co. Health Dept. located in the Mayfield Bldg.

and are for all citizens without charge.



Regular inspections of equipment and procedures in maternity hospitals

pregnancy. Physicians give complete physical examinations and laboratory tests. Classes for expectant mothers stress the importance of wholesome family life, the influence of the mother's physical condition upon her emotional health, ^{instructions} instructions about diet and meal planning, the importance of preparing the family for the baby's arrival, and instructions about caring for infants. ^{insert} x insert

SERVICES FOR NEWBORNS

The birth of every ^{home} suburban Cook County baby is a legal, as well as a family, affair. All births are reported to the Department through the cooperation of the local hospital and adjacent health departments. ^{home to health} x insert

If the new mother and baby need special care, a public health nurse visits in the home after the birth to supervise the baby's care. A special feature of this program is instruction in mental health: the mother is helped to understand the emotional needs of her baby as well as the physical demands. Aiding this important project is the Illinois Mental Hygiene Committee which sends monthly letters to parents of newborn's with helpful suggestions about caring for and understanding their new baby.



Preparing for the arrival of the new baby



A lesson for expectant mothers



Instruction in the home



Transportation for premature infants



Early protection



Instruction in nursing care

What if the baby is a premature? The Department stands ready to act immediately when it receives a report of the birth of a baby weighing less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. These babies may be taken to the premature center at Cook County Hospital in Chicago by the County Sheriff's police in special incubators. Or they may be cared for at a local hospital where special facilities are provided. Once the baby is up to normal weight and back home, a Department nurse visits regularly to instruct the mother in feeding and measures for protection against diseases. For the third year in 1949, the Department has cooperated with the Division of Maternal and Infant Hygiene, Illinois Department of Public Health, in a 10-year study of premature infants.

Because contagious disease is no respecter of babies, the Department carries on a full-scale program of immunization. Local communities and health organizations often secure help from the Department in order to provide protection against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus. Biologicals are supplied to physicians by the Department.

Child health conferences call parents attention to the importance of immunization for infants and pre-school youngsters. Here each baby gets a careful check-up, and each mother learns more about caring for her youngsters.

When a baby gets other than mother's milk sold in bottles or cartons, the Department is on hand to see that only pasteurized milk of high quality is available for him. (Cook County was the first County in Illinois to pass an ordinance requiring pasteurization of all milk and milk products sold for human consumption.) Similar careful inspection of food is another function of the Department.

HEALTH COMES TO SCHOOL

x insert
Starting to school is a big occasion in every child's life. The health department and school

Checking growth and development





Dental inspection

officials have carefully planned for these happy days. Water, sewage disposal and food handling facilities have been inspected, as well as the heating, lighting and ventilation in the classroom. These are important factors in helping

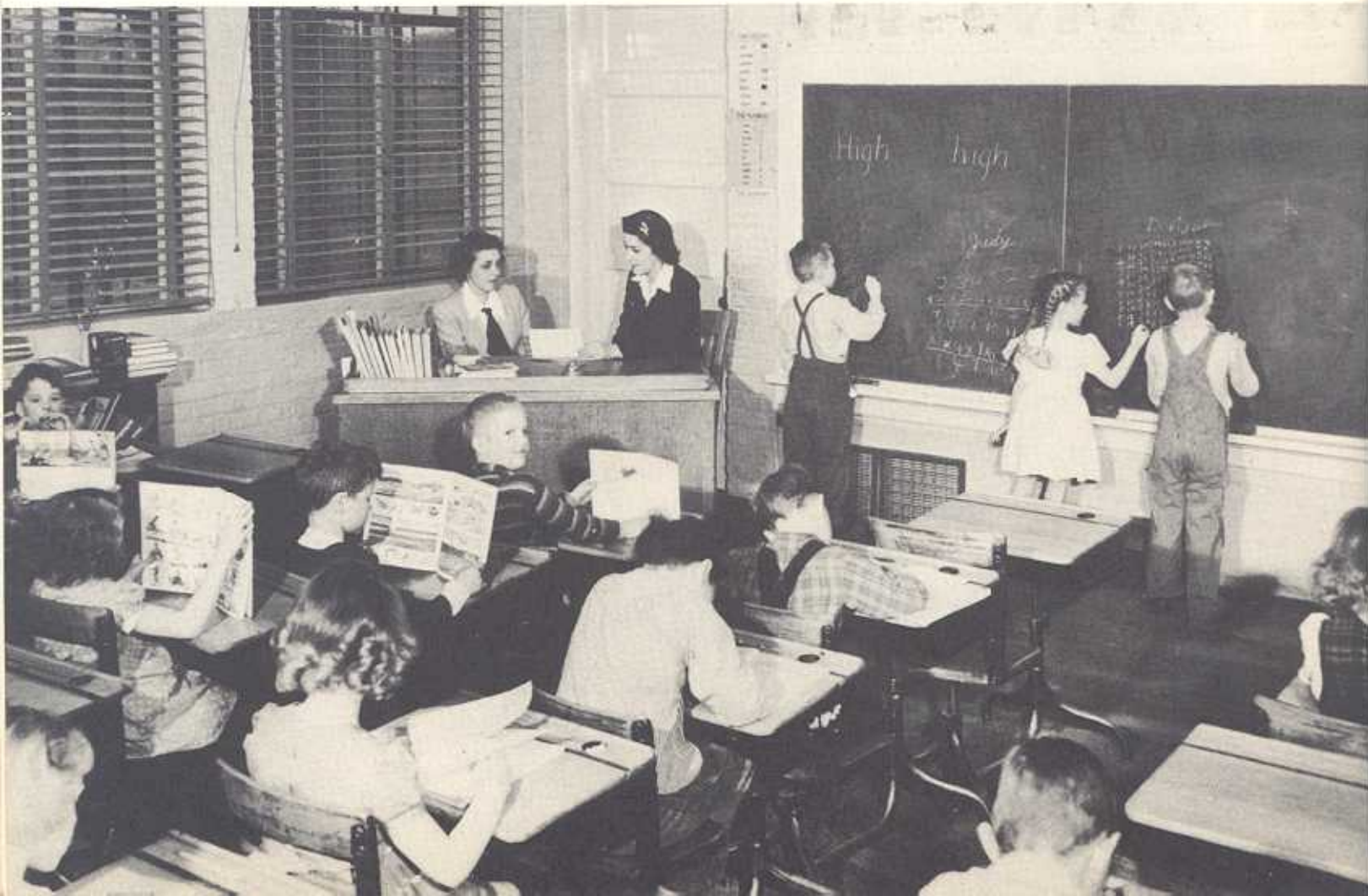


Physical examination

each child grow, learn and keep pace with his classmates. The school health service often begins before a child enters school, when the Parent-Teacher Association and the health department plan the summer round-up. Here children are given a physical examination including vision and hearing tests, checking height and weight, and reinforcement of immunization for smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping

Teacher-nurse conference

and health history



cough. Illinois State Law requires regular health examinations of all school children before entrance to school and every four years thereafter. Schools may plan for these services with the health department, local physicians or child specialists. But better still, Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen should take their child to the family physician. *dentist for complete examination*

X insert
An important member of the health team in the school program is the teacher. It is by daily observation of her pupils and by vision, hearing, height and weight screening tests that early signs of illness and communicable disease may be detected.

School health services have been developed according to need and also the interest of each community in the county. In one area a school health council with teachers, students, parents and Department personnel study health problems and plan necessary action; in another



Screening hearing

“Teaching the teacher to teach health” isn’t just a catch phrase, but a real honest-to-goodness training program. Lectures, demonstrations and workshops are planned for

Health education in the classroom



it's the health department, school officials and medical society. No matter how it is planned, it is always with the thought in mind that the child must be given the best opportunity in life to grow healthfully.

teachers to study child growth and development, hearing and vision screening techniques, and the most effective use of health education films, pamphlets, and posters.



The lunchroom—a part of the school's nutrition education program



School lunch conference

There is plenty of food for thought in the school lunch conferences held for lunchroom managers, cooks, teachers, administrators and parents. Helpful hints on menu planning, food service and preparation, and lunchroom sanitation are all part of behind the scene planning for improving the diets of the school age child. The Chicago Nutrition Association has been working with the Department arranging these conferences.

PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

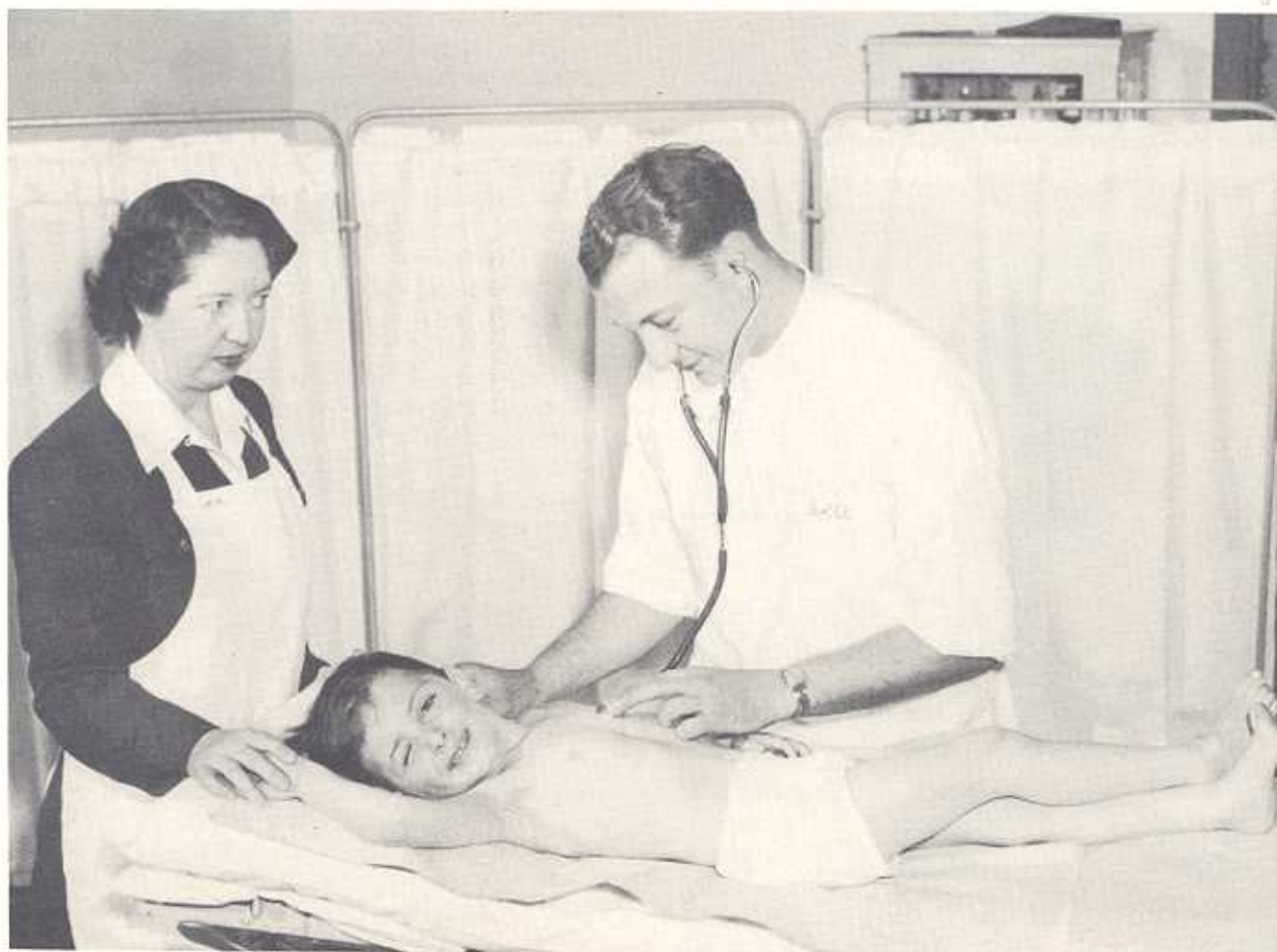
No area of service provides a greater challenge to the skill of the public health worker than planning for the handicapped child.

The Health Department and community agencies provide a whole chain of special services for the patient with epilepsy, polio, rheumatic fever, cerebral palsy, speech defect, hearing loss, or an orthopedic condition. The ultimate aim is always to help the handicapped child to overcome or adjust to his condition.



Physical therapy

For diagnosis the Division of Services for Crippled Children, University of Illinois, and the Department conduct three clinic centers (Glenview, Evergreen Park, and Chicago Heights). Pursuant to the doctor's directions, a physical therapist from the Department gives



Check-up for rheumatic fever

special care in the home or at one of the six treatment centers (Glenview, Evergreen Park, Berwyn, Maywood, Harvey, Chicago Heights).

Even special medical care including hospitalization, purchase of braces, artificial limbs or hearing aids, and remedial services may be provided by the Division of Services for Crippled Children or the Cook County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

In the case of rheumatic fever, only patients referred by a physician are accepted at the clinic at St. James Hospital, Chicago Heights. Here a specialist skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease gives each child a complete physical examination including laboratory tests. In order that patients can receive all the necessary diagnostic services only 12 to 15 appointments are scheduled for the all-day clinic session held twice a month.

The fight against VD



ADULT HEALTH SERVICES

As the child advances to adulthood, the health department promotes a ~~three-point plan to combat venereal disease~~, ^{insect} provides for routine blood tests for its discovery, chest x-ray examination for tuberculosis and periodic health examination.

If the Department were to place a classified ad in the daily press, it would read, WANTED.....all unreported cases of syphilis and gonorrhea to apply for treatment of their own accord to their family physician or at one of the five health department clinics (Berwyn, Maywood, Chicago Heights, Robbins, Harvey). Progress has been made in controlling venereal disease, but the fact remains that V. D. is still unbeaten. For every reported case of malaria, diphtheria, pneumonia, tuberculosis and infantile paralysis, there are nearly twice as many reported cases of syphilis and gonorrhea.

The three point plan in effect in Cook County includes: first, inform people about these diseases through community education, the harm they can do and how they can be prevented, treated and cured; second, find and treat every infectious case of venereal disease; third, prevent the spread of venereal diseases.

Cook County's fight against V. D. was carried to the listening public last year via WGN in a series of dramatizations. The series of eight special broadcasts was sponsored by the health department and the Venereal Disease Division, Illinois Department of Public Health.

A premarital blood test is required of everyone applying for a marriage license. Anyone having unusual or positive findings of the blood, must secure a special marriage permit from the health department. It is only after thorough investigation and consultation that such a permit is issued. This is just another way the health department has of protecting Mr. Average Citizen and his neighbors.

Although latest statistics show that twice as many men as women have tuberculosis, the emphasis on the community chest x-ray program in Cook County is for everyone 15 years of age and older, women as well as men, to have a chest x-ray once a year. Education, finding of cases, clinic services and sanitarium care are all provided for in the program in effect for Suburban Cook County residents. The Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago and Cook County, The Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis



Special marriage permit

Sanitarium District and the Health Department each have a share, working together, in helping to prevent tuberculosis.

What price disease! If you or any one of your family has ever had a serious illness you know the price in time, human suffering and money which a disease can demand. As part of the health education program of the Department, every adult is urged to have an annual physical check-up by the family physician.

Care of the sick is always a concern of the health department. It may be that nursing care in the home or help in planning for hospital and clinic care are necessary.

In February 1949, a grant of funds from the American Cancer Society (Illinois Division) made it possible to expand nursing service to cancer patients in a heavily populated area where little work has been done in cancer control.



Dressing a cancer patient

HEALTH FOR THE AGED

As the individual enters the "golden years" of life, selection of a nursing home may be necessary. Inspections of such establishments are made regularly to insure that proper physical facilities and nursing care are provided.



Chest x-ray every adult

BETTER LIVING IN EVERY COMMUNITY

In order to maintain and enjoy health, an individual must live in a sanitary environment. The water he drinks, the food he eats, the waste he creates, the air he breathes, all are a part of the environment and can affect the health of Mr. Average Citizen and the entire community.

In 1949, Cook County was threatened with one of the worst polio epidemics in its history. Community agencies developed closer teamwork in providing facilities for diagnosing, treating and rehabilitating children attacked by this still mysterious disease. Consultation to private physicians in the diagnosis of polio was given by the Department's physicians. Reported cases were promptly visited and nursing care and physical therapy treatment was given in accordance with the family physician's instruction.

Heavy flood waters during the spring season exposed many wells in areas throughout Cook County to possible contamination. Since epidemics of typhoid fever can result from contaminated water, emergency immunization centers were set up where anyone exposed to typhoid fever could receive the necessary protection.

Constant vigilance is required in locating and lessening health hazards and nuisances resulting from improper disposal of sewage.

The housing shortage and the desire of many families to live in the less crowded areas have resulted in a migration to suburban and rural areas in the county. Many families who have purchased residences in areas where private water supplies and sewage systems have to be used seek guidance from the Department in planning these facilities. Permits for construction of private water supplies and sewage disposal systems call for compliance with specifications issued by the health department.

Many other families now reside in trailers. An ordinance passed last year requires compliance with certain minimum sanitation and safety standards. Every camp is inspected to make sure that trailer spaces, sewage and safe water facilities, fire extinguishers and plumbing fixtures comply with these standards.

Enjoyment of the environment implies that Mr. Average Citizen can obtain safe water to drink when he visits the Forest Preserve, the country club, or neighbors; that he can swim with safety in the publicly operated or privately owned swimming pool; that an unsafe natural



Inspecting dish-washing equipment

swimming area has been posted with warning signs; that food served in a public eating establishment will not spread disease. The health department enforces a county ordinance intended to protect Mr. Average Citizen from being sold or served horseflesh unless it is inspected and properly identified.

Man can be man's worst enemy. This is all too evident in the many requests for assistance in lessening sanitary nuisances created by willful or thoughtless individuals in the disposal of waste materials or in business operations. Feeding of garbage to hogs, refuse dumps, raw or partially treated sewage in ditches, these and many other situations



Better nutrition—better health



Trailer camps need operating permits



Enforcing horse flesh ordinance

require inspections followed by recommendations for voluntary corrective action, and in certain instances, by referral to the prosecuting authorities.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES

Of unusual interest and vital importance in Cook County have been the large number of animal bites and positive laboratory examinations for rabies. All persons bitten by any

Wells in recreational areas inspected



Testing water in swimming pool

animal are possibly exposed to rabies. The sanitary inspector makes an immediate investigation to determine whether the animal has been quarantined according to the State Health Department regulations and whether the person bitten is under a physician's care.

Whenever there is a report that a dead animal has been found to have rabies, persons exposed are strongly advised to place themselves under the care of their physician for treatment; the physician is also contacted and the situation explained to him.

While professional education for prospective public health workers cannot be considered a health service in a direct sense, it raises the caliber of personnel available for the performance of health service. The health department has actively participated in the public health training of medical students, public health nurses, student dieticians, and health educators.

* * * * *

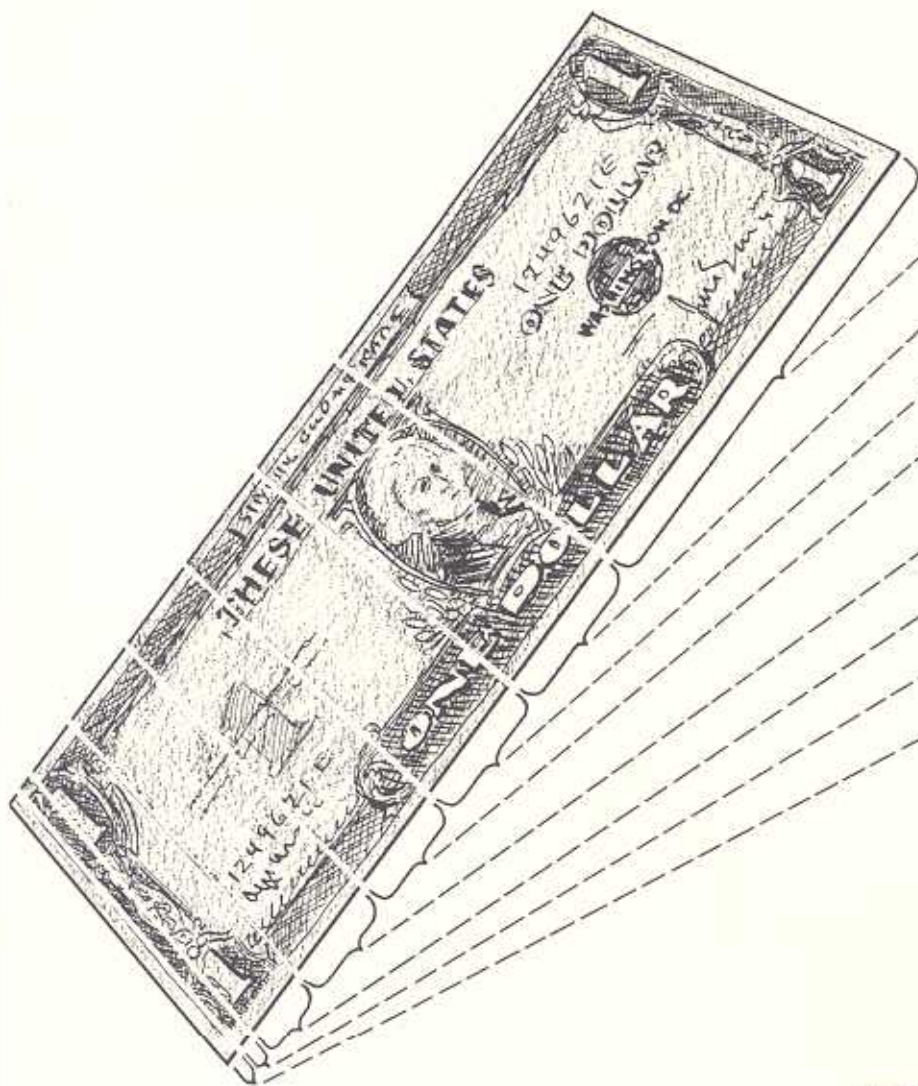
It would be difficult for Mr. Average Citizen to compute in dollars and cents, the saving in human lives, the reduction in deaths, disability, and loss of time due to preventable diseases alone.

Facts and figures are important for the record. However, a statistical review of the services of the Department fails to reveal the hidden record of accomplishments in prevention of disease, and promotion of better health. It is not possible to count the number of cases of illness or deaths which did not occur because of the day by day efforts of the Health Department. There is no measure for evaluating these services.

Through the discharge of these day by day duties, the staff of the health department quietly, but constantly has been protecting Mr. Average Citizen against dangers he never sees or suspects.

BUDGET

DISTRIBUTION OF COOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DOLLAR



- 43.1% NURSING
- 15.2% TRANSPORTATION
- 11.8% MEDICAL
- 10.2% ADMINISTRATION
AND CLERICAL
- 9.5% SANITARY ENGINEERING
- 7.6% SUPPLIES
- 1.4% HEALTH EDUCATION
- 1.2% NUTRITION

COOK COUNTY.....	\$158,347
STATE-FEDERAL	129,043
OTHER	18,489
TOTAL	\$305,879

FIELD SERVICES

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHICAGO

Central Administrative Office
737 South Wolcott Avenue
CHESAPEAKE 3-5833

HARVEY

South District Office
Venereal Disease Clinic
Physical Therapy Treatment Center
15430 Park Avenue
Harvey 6

MAYWOOD

West District Office
Venereal Disease Clinic
Physical Therapy Treatment Center
1900 St. Charles Road
Maywood 6052

DESPLAINES

North District Office
Physical Therapy Treatment Center
1044 Lee Street
DES PLAINES 1131

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

Venereal Disease Clinic
Physical Therapy Treatment Center
Crippled Children's Diagnostic Clinic
Rheumatic Fever Clinic
1423 Chicago Road
Chicago Height 3200

EVERGREEN PARK

Southwest District Office
3411 West 95th Street
Crippled Children's Diagnostic Clinic
2800 West 95th Street
Evergreen Park 7424

GLENVIEW

Crippled Children's Diagnostic Clinic
1930 Prairie Avenue
Glenview 1700

ROBBINS

Venereal Disease Clinic
Maternal Clinic
Tuberculosis Clinic
139th & St. Louis Avenue
Blue Island 4251

BERWYN

Venereal Disease Clinic
Physical Therapy Treatment Center
6600 West 26th Street
Stanley 6600

The Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Director John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary Edward A. Piszczek, M.D., M.P.H.*
Administrative Clerk A. Victoria Kossak
Receptionist Milton Breault
Bess Bezemek

DIVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION

Chief Irene Fahey, Ph.B., M.P.H.
Secretary Barbara Mann

MEDICAL

DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Chief John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.

Secretaries

Lorraine Johnson Mildred Coughlin Patricia Kenealy

Cooperating Clinicians

Emile J. Bunata, M.D. M. C. Higgins, M.D. Hugo Long, M.D.
W. M. Winston, M.D. W. H. Young, M.D.

DIVISION OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HYGIENE

Chief Robert Dessent, M.D., M.P.H.

Cooperating Pediatricians

Mildred Jackson, M.D. Richard L. Marks, M.D. H. T. Nagel, M.D.
Francis Kodl, M.D. Carl Merrienfeld, M.D. Paul F. Wehlre, M.D.
Anne C. Leonard, M.D. W. M. Winston, M.D.

Cooperating Obstetricians

O. R. Ennis, M.D. John B. Nettles, M.D.
Davis Johnson, M.D. Nicholas Revis, M.D.

DIVISION OF NUTRITION

Chief Lillian Nash, B.S., M.S.
Secretary Donna Kenealy

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Chief Madeline Roessler, R.N., Ph.B., M.A.
Assistant Chief Thelma Cline, R.N., Ph.B., B.S.
Supervisor, Nurse Education Program Myrtle Sorenson, R.N., B.S., M.Litt.
Supervisor, Maternal Program Mabel Murray, R.N., B.S.
Supervisor, Handicapped Program Esther Dahlstrom, R.N., R.P.T.
Orthopedic Nurse Margaret Duffy, R.N., R.P.T.
Physical Therapist Eileen Hewstone, R.P.T.**
District Supervisor Bridget Campbell, R.N., B.S.
District Supervisor Sibyl Davis, R.N., B.S., M.A.
District Supervisor Esther Doyle, R.N., B.S.
District Supervisor Mary Lynch, R.N., B.S., M.A.
District Supervisor Edith Nyden, R.N., B.S.

District Staff Nurses

Lorraine Bertolini, R.N.	Edith Heide, R.N.	Margaret Phelan, R.N.
Caroline Blankshain, R.N., B.S.	Margaret Hogan, R.N., B.S.	Florence Pronobis, R.N., B.S.
Gladys Bruce, R.N., B.S.	Dephane Jensen, R.N.	Hilda Schulze, R.N., B.S.
Helen Burgh, R.N.	Myrtle Klimoff, R.N.	June Schwantos, R.N., B.S.
Virginia Davis, R.N., B.S.	Evelyn Kuehnle, R.N.	Dorothy Seeman, R.N.
Alice Devinney, R.N.**	Marian Larson, R.N., B.S.	Harriette Shapro, R.N.
Luella Feezor, R.N.	Olive MacDougall, R.N., B.S.	Elizabeth Sirlin, R.N., B.S.
Mary Flynn, R.N.	Lucille Mauer, R.N., B.S.	Mildred Tesch, R.N.
Irene Gregg, R.N., B.S.	Lorraine Means, R.N., B.S.	Myrtle White, R.N.
Bell Guber, R.N., B.S.	Devona Nichols, R.N., B.S.	Eunice Wickstrom, R.N., B.S.
June Hall, R.N., B.S.	Irene O'Connor, R.N.	Martha Willis, R.N., B.S.

Secretaries

Mossie Perry Rose Keenan Mary Louise Murphy
Catherine Lucas Vern McDonough Ellen Kenny

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

DIVISION OF SANITARY ENGINEERING

Chief Benn J. Leland, B.S., M.S.

District Engineers

Robert R. de Jonge, B.S. Steven W. Nich, B.S.

Assistant District Engineers

Cecil W. Browning, B.S., M.S. Robert J. Wollschlager, B.S., M.S.

Sanitarians

Joseph W. Svec John F. Schultz
Secretary Helen Ligocki

*Resigned December, 1949

**On leave of absence

STATISTICAL REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION SERVICES

Regular and emergency inspections at:

- 77 public water supplies
- 11 public sewage treatment plants
- 70 tourist camps
- 60 swimming pools
- 59 institutions (maternity hospitals, nursing homes, child welfare homes, private mental homes)

Inspections at schools and golf and country clubs presently made only upon receipt of request. The following number are located in the health department jurisdiction:

- 285 public and parochial elementary schools
- 35 public and parochial secondary schools
- 86 golf and country clubs

Inspections made following receipt of request or complaint:

- 301 sanitary nuisances
- 111 private water supply or sewage disposal systems

Administration of program for collection of samples, interpretation of laboratory results and preparation of reports:

- 2,760 samples from public water supply systems
- 200 samples from swimming pools
- 1,420 samples from private wells
- 159 samples from Forest Preserve wells

Samples of milk from 10 dairy plants (Grade A—pasteurized) collected monthly, or oftener as necessary, directly from delivery trucks.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Total number of schools.....	169
Total number of teachers.....	841
Total number of pupils.....	26,766
Pupils Immunized:	
Diphtheria.....	20,205
Smallpox.....	20,496
Physical Examinations:	
School physicians.....	6,046
Private physicians.....	3,316
Health department.....	808
Vision tests.....	17,176
Hearing tests.....	13,455
Dental examinations.....	21,871

CLINIC SERVICES

Maternal clinic sessions.....	24
Attendance.....	735
Child health conferences.....	732
Attendance.....	9,567
Physical therapy treatment center sessions.....	241
Attendance.....	1,052
Crippled children's clinic sessions.....	10
Attendance.....	422
Rheumatic fever clinic sessions.....	23
Attendance.....	259
Veneral disease clinic sessions.....	520
Attendance.....	4,786
Typhoid fever immunization center sessions.....	8
Attendance.....	410

SPECIAL SERVICES

Premature infants transported to hospitals.....	16
Premarital blood tests (not including veneral disease).....	497
Special marriage permits issued.....	148
Protective immunization and certification for foreign travel.....	308
Chest x-rays.....	5,354

FIELD TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Medical students (3 months).....	2
(2 weeks).....	76
Public health nurses (4 months).....	7
(2 months).....	3
Public health educators (3 months).....	3
Sanitary engineers (1 month).....	1
Student dieticians (2 days).....	24

HOME AND OFFICE VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Communicable diseases.....	2,581
Veneral diseases.....	1,116
Tuberculosis.....	1,778
Maternal.....	5,135
Infant.....	6,800
Preschool.....	1,156
School.....	4,902
Morbidity.....	2,061
Handicapped.....	1,390
Physical therapy.....	1,710
Dental.....	440

VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN NURSING PROGRAMS

Volunteers.....	241
Hours of service.....	7,472

NUTRITION SERVICES

Home calls and office visits.....	258
Rheumatic fever clinic.....	165
School lunch programs.....	26
Planning programs.....	38

HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES

Film showings.....	110
Pamphlets.....	8,750
Posters.....	285
Radio programs.....	12
Exhibits.....	38
Planning programs.....	18
School health council meetings.....	10

MAJOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED IN 1949

Animal Bites.....	465	Poliomyelitis.....	196
Chickenpox.....	1,830	Scarlet Fever.....	368
Diphtheria.....	1	Smallpox.....	0
Gonorrhea.....	335	Syphilis.....	517
Measles.....	341	Tuberculosis.....	263
Meningitis.....	22	Typhoid Fever.....	3
Mumps.....	973	Whooping Cough.....	319
Pneumonia.....	154		

Healthful Living

