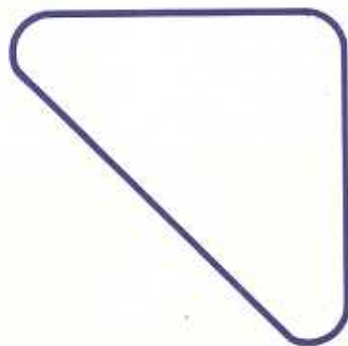


# ANNUAL REPORT

1954



*cook county*

*department of public health*



JOHN B. HALL, M.D., M.P.H., DIRECTOR  
COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Suburban Cook County is a booming conglomeration of cities, towns, villages, unincorporated communities and more or less isolated homes. Upwards of 800,000 people live in the health department jurisdiction. Since 1940 the population jumped 34 per cent (five times greater than Chicago's increase). Since 1950 many areas have doubled or trebled in size. The rapid expansion continues . . . by 1960 it is reasonable to estimate suburban Cook County will approach the million mark . . . by 1980 a million and a half or more.

Post-war home building roars on at a record level. Tailor-made towns have been built from scratch. Many tiny villages have been transformed into thriving suburbs. The home building rate is 280 per cent over Chicago's.

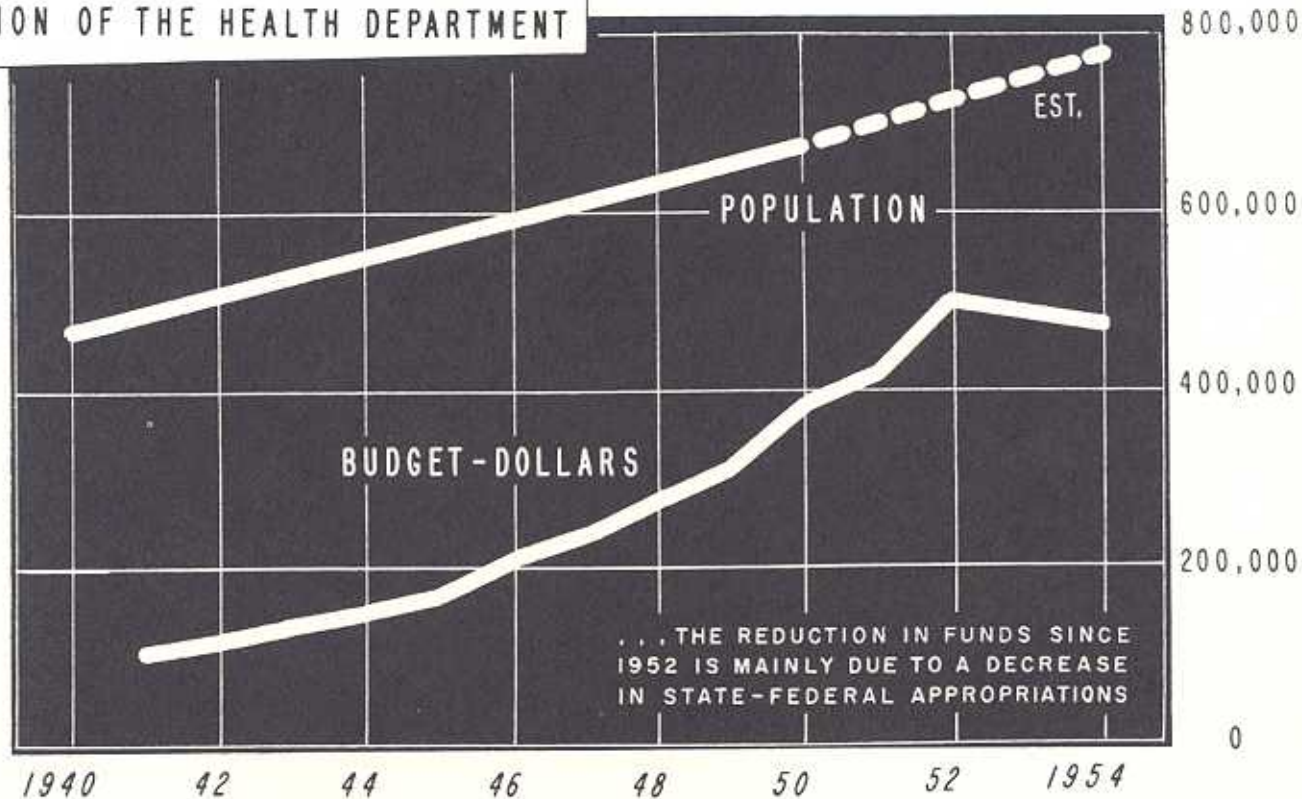
The growth of industry in the suburban area has attracted workers eager to settle near their place of employment, but it has also brought an influx of people seeking other advantages of suburban living—a home of their own, less crowded neighborhoods, better schools for their children. Many of those who seek the suburbs are young with growing families and a need for more space.

Throughout the country public health has lagged behind population needs. The Cook County Department of Public Health has attempted to keep pace with the growing needs, but additional personnel will be necessary to keep abreast of the increased demands. Many services can be handled only on an emergency basis. The growth of the suburban population poses many problems for the Board of Health in financing and expansion of health facilities.

This report to the citizens of suburban Cook County is to help them realize the value of their investments in health services, and to determine what additional investments must be made to keep pace with the changing health needs of an increasing population.



TRENDS IN POPULATION AND BUDGET SINCE ORGANIZATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT





# maternal and child

## PREMATURE PROGRAM

Saving the lives of premature infants born in suburban Cook County is a round-the-clock service. Premature infants in need of expert care are transported by the County Sheriff's Police in specially designed incubators provided by the health department to hospitals with special facilities for the care of premature infants. A nurse from the hospital where the birth occurs attends the baby on the trip to the hospital. During the past year 1,253 premature infants were born to suburban Cook County residents at 69 hospitals.



The public health nurse visits these premature twins and the mother to help in their feeding and care.



# health program

## CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCES

At the child health conferences, health counselling and supervision, physical examinations, and immunizations are provided for well children from birth through the pre-school age who are not under private medical supervision. Mothers are given assistance with feeding problems, and in understanding physical and emotional development of growing children. These conferences are staffed by pediatricians and University of Illinois pediatric residents. Every month 52 child health conferences are sponsored by the health department and community groups.



Volunteer worker assists at the child health conference.

To insure the protection of mother and baby at the time of delivery regular inspections are made of maternity hospitals and equipment.





#### MATERNAL CLINIC

Medical care during pregnancy is of the utmost importance as it contributes to the well being of mother and baby. Physical examinations, laboratory tests, and instruction on diet and meal planning, plans for delivery of the baby and health counselling are routine services at Robbins Maternal Clinic. During the past year 269 expectant mothers were registered at the Maternal Clinic.

Home visits by public health nurses are made on a selective basis to prenatal mothers, and to mothers and babies after discharge from the hospital. With the limited hospital stay young families have many concerns about the care of the new babe, and the public health nurse is available to give counsel and demonstrate care in any phase of baby care.



# rehabilitation

Of growing concern is the increasing number of requests from physicians for physical therapy and rehabilitative nursing in disease conditions other than polio such as fractures, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, strokes, and arthritis.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Cook County Chapter, has continued to subsidize the salaries of two physical therapists. Their activities are entirely devoted to physical therapy treatment to post-polio patients in their homes, or in the treatment centers held at district offices of the health department, and at St. James Hospital, Chicago Heights.



Physical therapy treatment helps the polio patient to recovery.



Nursing care at home saves hospital beds.



# school



School lunch programs are planned as part of nutrition education.

The influx of new families into the suburbs — and of postwar babies into the schools — has increased the enrollment in some suburban schools as much as 70 per cent over last year. Total elementary school enrollment was up 10 per cent; high schools have shown an increase of 4½ per cent. An appraisal of school health needs in the last several years has changed the focus of health department services in schools from the actual performance of direct service to the more sound practice of an advisory and health counselling service to school personnel. Through joint planning by school administrators and the public health staff programs of health instruction, health services, and healthful environment are being carried on. Planning is always done on an individual basis as part of the community health program.

Planning the school health program.





# health

Students learn to control weight gain by eating a well balanced diet.



Nutrition education through learning about two little rats and how they grow.

School inspections include checking lighting, ventilation, water, food handling . . . things that affect the comfort and health of every child.





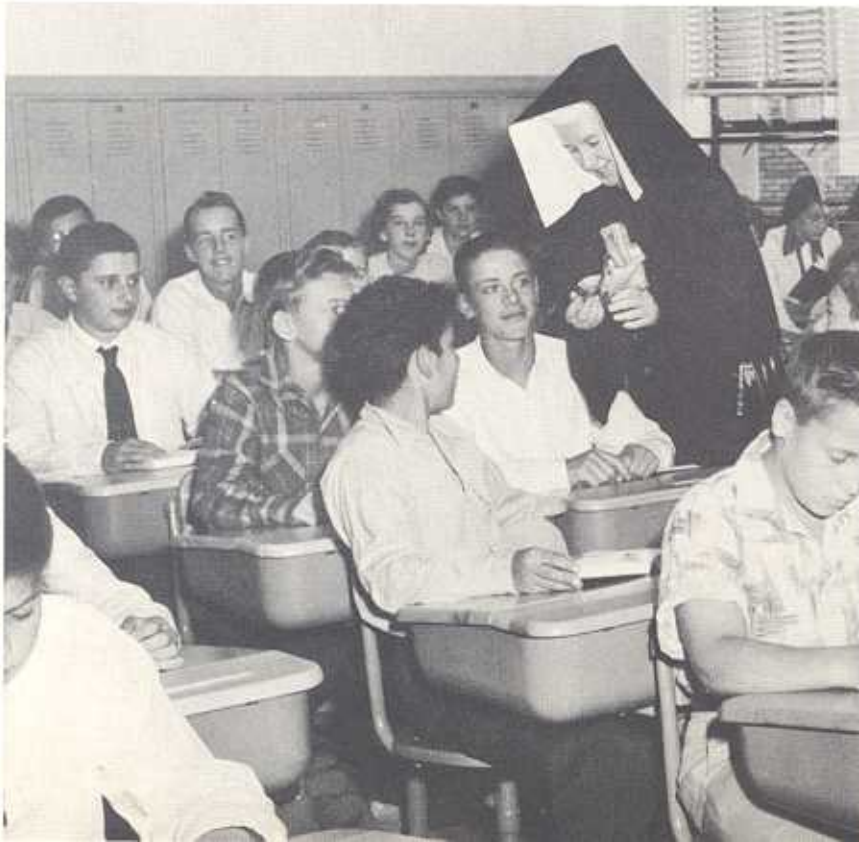
Teachers discussing health material at faculty meeting with health educator.

Teacher - nurse conference provides opportunity to discuss health status of each child.



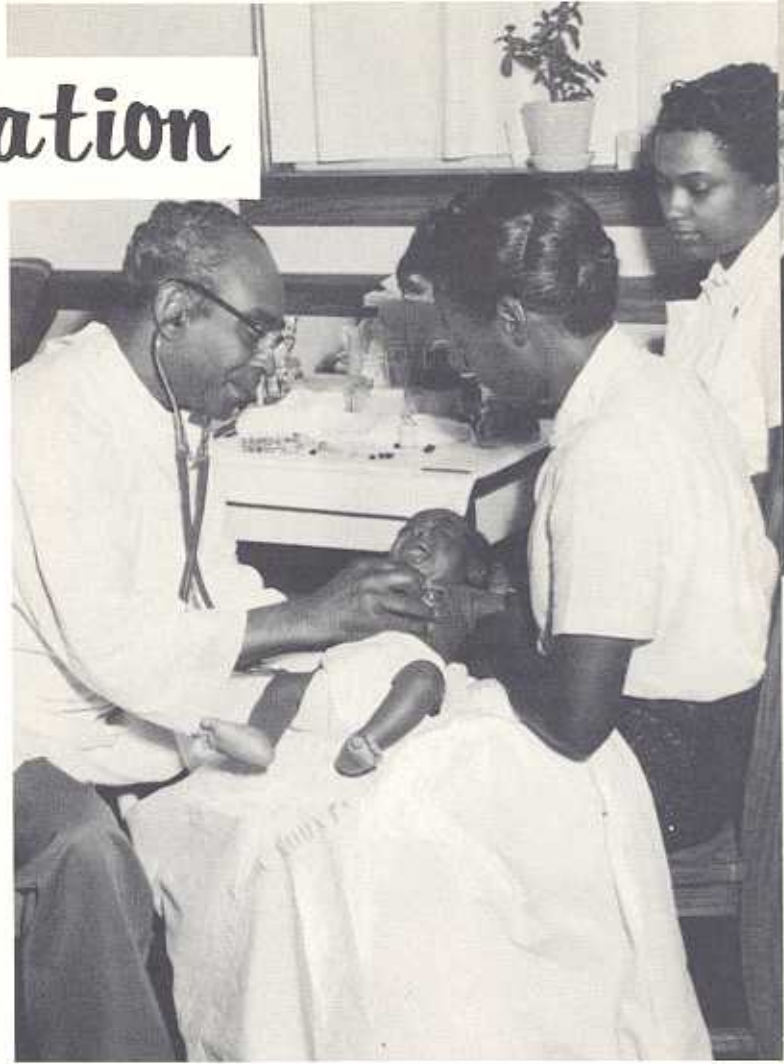
Health instruction helps boys and girls to develop desirable health habits and attitudes toward healthful living.

Volunteer, taught by the public health nurse, conducts vision screening.



# professional education

One of the difficult problems facing the department today is the shortage of personnel trained in public health for the performance of health services. Increasing requests to provide field experience for students are being received by the department from Schools of Public Health, Medical and Nursing Schools, Hospitals and Universities. Student guidance is a stimulating experience to all staff and serves as a recruiting method for personnel as well. The department is one of two health departments in Illinois approved for residency training in Preventive Medicine and Public Health by the American Medical Association. Field experience and observation has been provided during the past year for physicians, medical and nursing students, nutritionists, health educators, and dietetic interns.



Students learn by observation and practical experiences in health department programs.



# communicable



Biologicals are furnished free to physicians. Over 70,000 cc. of gamma globulin was distributed during 1954.

A growing population means greater need for protective immunizations and control of communicable diseases. During the past year there were increased requests for services in connection with these programs.

Immunization, environmental sanitation, new drugs, and a better informed public have helped to reduce the severity and incidence of many communicable diseases. Medical consultation is available to physicians in diagnosis and treatment. Investigations are made of major communicable diseases to determine the source and method of spread and to see that contacts are protected. Communicable disease control is carried on largely in immunization by the family physician or in child health conferences and special programs in schools and communities.



Immunization.

## RABIES CONTROL

Because of the high incidence of rabies among animals the whole Cook County area was placed under quarantine by the state department of agriculture February, 1954. One death occurred from human rabies during 1954. Forty-six animals were positively identified as having died of rabies during the past year. All rabies control in the County is under the direction of a Rabies Control Officer appointed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.



Current methods in the care and treatment of tuberculosis patients has increased the need for public health nursing services in the administration of streptomycin treatments.

# disease control

## VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL

The treatment of patients with venereal disease was discontinued December 1, 1953 in clinics sponsored by the health department. At that time a special program was set up in conjunction with the medical society whereby patients are referred to private physicians for treatment. Although the clinics were discontinued during the past year considerable time of the staff was required in the investigation of contacts, and follow-up services to prevent the spread of these diseases, and in providing information and health counselling to individuals in this problem.

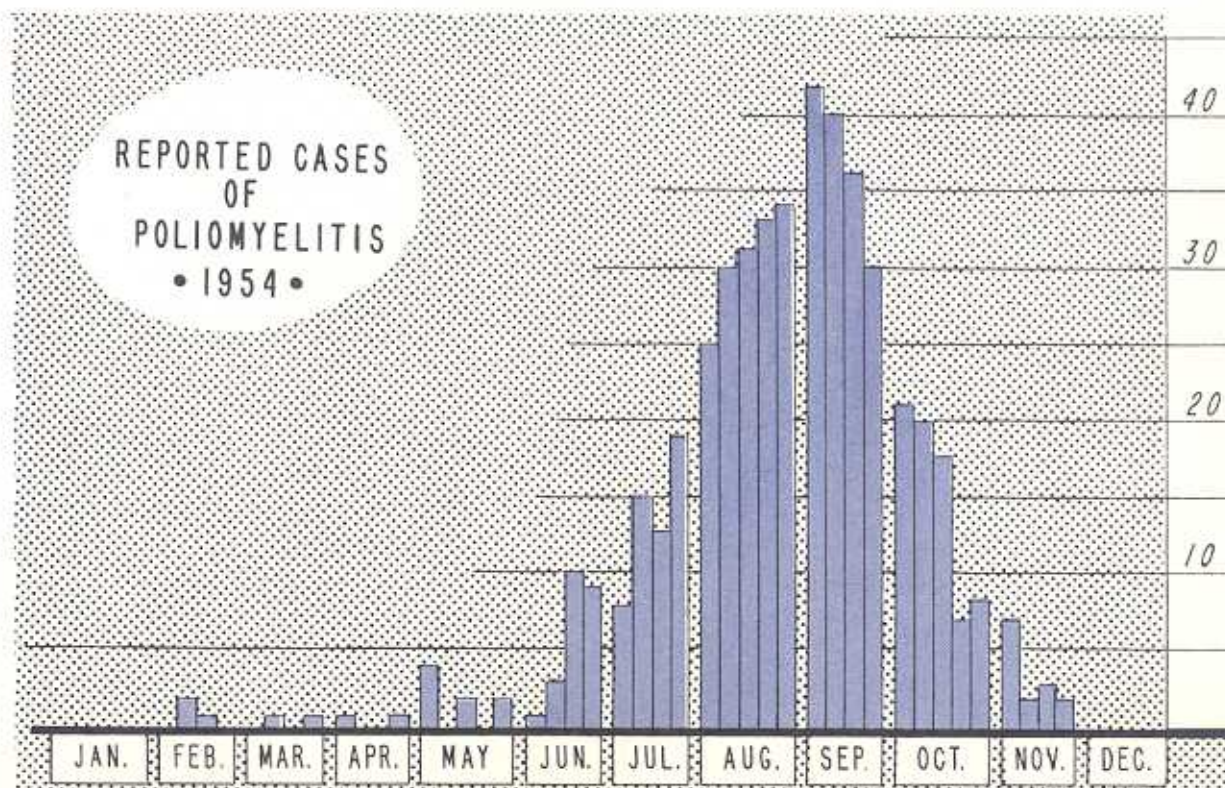
## TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

Despite publicity about the lowered death rate in tuberculosis, there is an increase in the case rate which makes tuberculosis a major public health problem. During the past year 216,040 persons were x-rayed with 70 mm. films in screening programs. This represents a 27 per cent increase over 1953. Since the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District began operation in 1949, it has been possible to hospitalize every tuberculous patient needing such care and treatment.



Health counselling and instruction in nursing care is given in the home to the family.

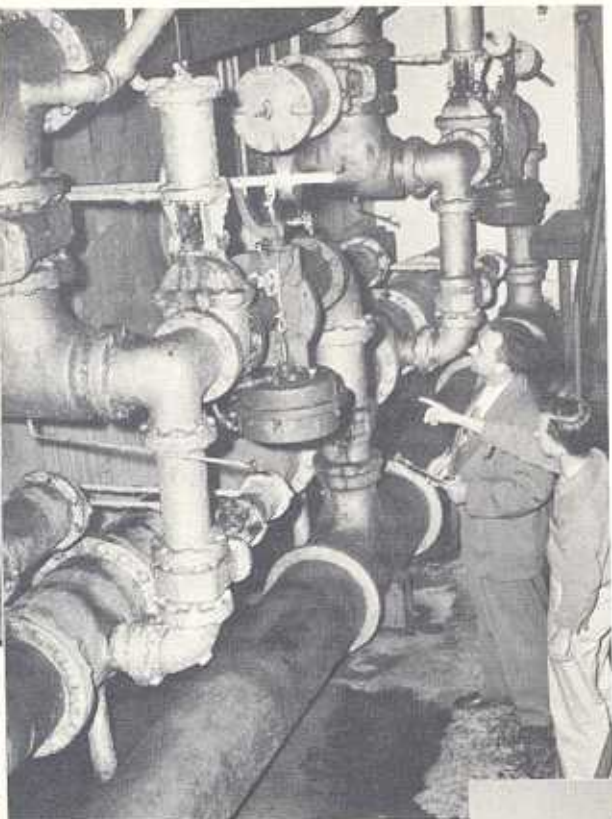
Reported cases of polio totalled 485 during 1954 — the second highest number on record.



# environmental

The rapid increase in population in suburban Cook County has resulted not only in more, but in intensified environmental health problems. Many of these problems result from locating of homes, industries, eating establishments, trailer parks and recreational facilities in areas lacking public water supply and sewage disposal systems. Situations that may have caused little concern in sparsely populated areas are now potent problems in suburbanized Cook County.

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 an individual and the entire community. The health department sanitary engineers and sanitarians are constantly on the alert through routine inspections, consultations, and technical advice on design and operation of public and private sanitary facilities, and encouraging their installation. These facilities include public and private water supply and sewerage systems, institutions, schools, swimming pools, trailer camps and restaurants.



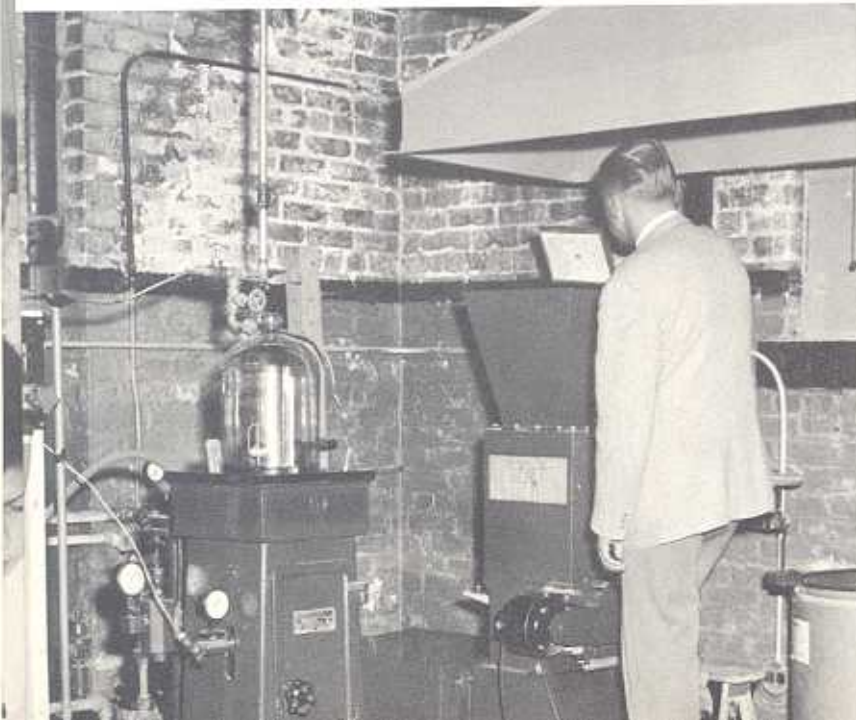
Inspecting control equipment in pipe gallery filtration plant.



Collecting a sample from a drinking fountain to assure safety of water.

Checking chemical feed equipment to safeguard quality of public water supply.

Looking at filter in public water supply softening plant.



# health

Discussing procedure for chemical control test in municipal sewage treatment works.



Observing operation of trickling filter at municipal sewage treatment works.



Discussing sanitary landfill procedure for disposal of garbage and refuse.

Checking storm sewer outlet for evidence of stream pollution.



Running a percolation test to determine ability of soil to absorb sewage from private residence in area where public sanitary sewers are not available.





Collecting water sample for bacteriological analysis and chlorine test at swimming pool.



Reviewing plans for proposed subdivision.

Observing operation of sewage treatment facilities at a trailer park.



Checking temperature in restaurant refrigerator.

Discussing effectiveness of cleansing procedures.





# nursing homes

Gains in the older age population have created new public health problems—a need for more nursing homes, and programs for the aged and aging. The 46 nursing homes in the suburban area are visited at least once a year by a public health nurse, nutritionist, and sanitary engineer to review the nursing care, food service and environmental sanitation conditions for issuance of the operating license by the Illinois Department of Public Health.



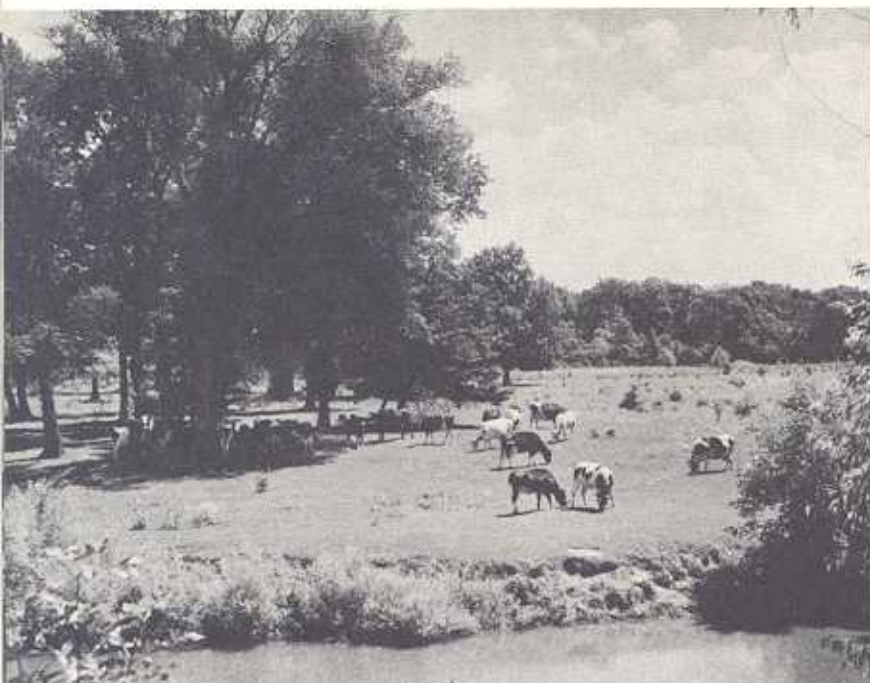
The public health nurse discusses provisions for medical and nursing care.

Inspection of food services and facilities is made routinely by sanitation personnel.



Suggestions on food purchase and menu planning are made by nutritionist.

# veterinary



All cattle producing milk for Grade A use must be free from brucellosis

Veterinary medicine places emphasis on prevention of animal diseases that affect human health. This requires constant effort to eradicate infectious and contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis and brucellosis, that now infect some of the cattle in the county. The health department must be alert to prevent the introduction and spread of any disease that might infect the livestock in the area. In Cook County the cattle population numbers 20,000 in 1,100 herds.

## BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL

The bovine brucellosis control program is dependent on the immunization of calves between the ages of 4 and 8 months, and the testing of cattle for brucellosis with prompt removal of infected animals from the herd. An Illinois State Law requires that milk sold as Grade "A" must be produced in brucellosis free herds after July 1, 1955.

Use of the tuberculin test is an effective measure in eradicating bovine tuberculosis.



# medicine

## LIVESTOCK EXHIBITED AT 4-H FAIRS

Cook County is both urban and rural. With all its cities, it also has many farms where today's farm youth are growing up as modern farmers. Many belong to 4-H clubs and exhibit livestock at the two 4-H fairs held in Cook County each year.

Since all livestock exhibited must be free from infectious and contagious diseases, veterinary services are supplied to inspect and supervise the health of all livestock prior to and while being exhibited at the fairs.



A certificate of health must accompany every animal exhibited at the 4-H fairs.

## BOVINE TB ERADICATION

All breeding cattle are tuberculin tested at least once every three years with prompt removal of infected animals and disinfection of the premises. Infected herds are placed under proper supervision until the disease is stamped out.

An ear tag identifies animals vaccinated for brucellosis.



A blood sample is collected for laboratory diagnosis to determine if an animal is infected with brucellosis.





# vital statistics

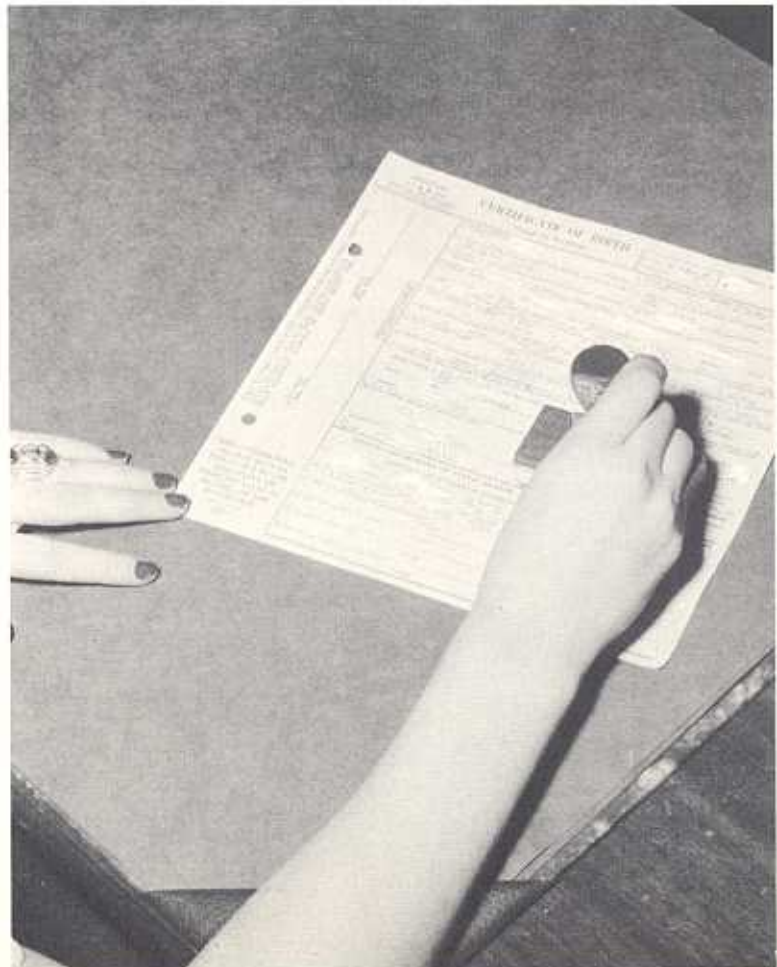
## VITAL STATISTICS

Births and deaths occurring in most of suburban Cook County are registered by the health department. More than 3,000 of these certificates were filed in 1954. Just as records of births and deaths are essential to planning for schools, hospitals, and other community services, current information about these records are important in planning public health services and facilities.

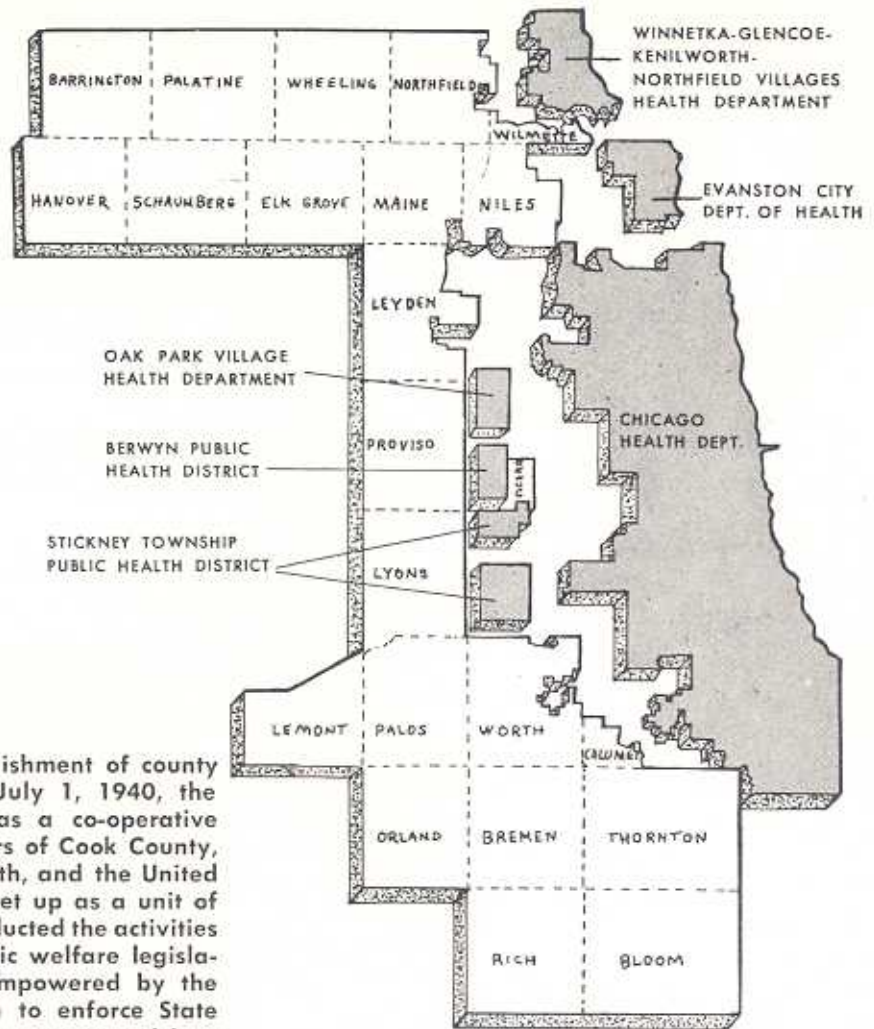
More than 7,000 certified copies of these birth and death records were prepared during 1954. Fees of one dollar per copy were received and turned over to the County Treasurer.

These copies were requested for many different purposes. A certified record of birth is needed, for example, when a child begins school or when, as a teen-ager, he applies for his first job. Certified copies of death records are often required in the settlement of an estate or in the collection of insurance benefits by one's survivors.

Since the certificates of birth and death become permanent legal records, the health department is in constant touch with many physicians, maternity hospitals, and funeral directors, making every effort to insure that the records are true and correct in every detail.



## HEALTH JURISDICTIONS in COOK COUNTY



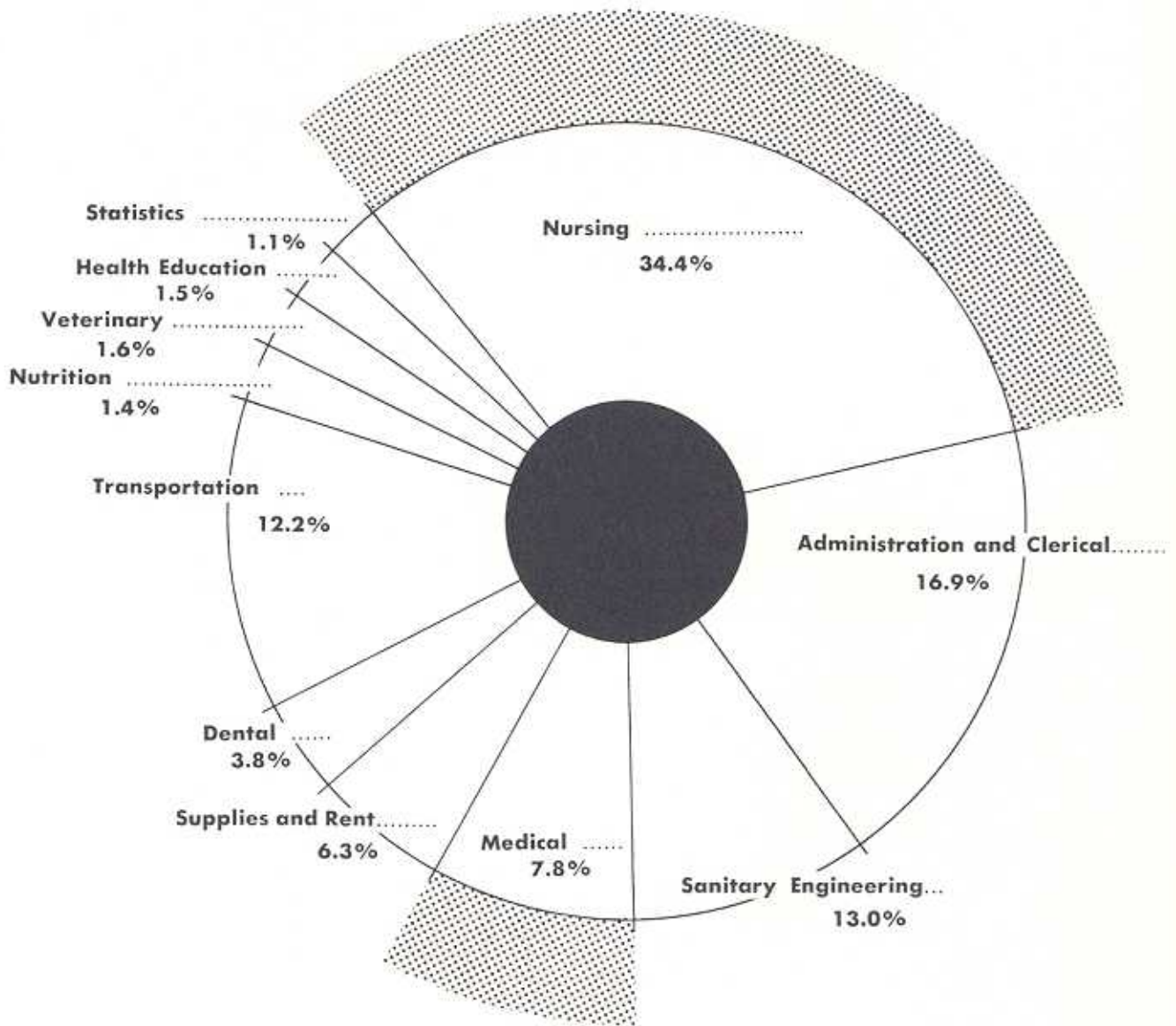
Cook County pioneered in the establishment of county health departments in Illinois. On July 1, 1940, the Public Health Unit was organized as a co-operative agency of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the United States Public Health Service. It was set up as a unit of the Bureau of Public Welfare, and conducted the activities of the health department under public welfare legislation. The Public Health Unit was empowered by the Illinois Department of Public Health to enforce State health rules and regulations, as there was no provisions at the time for county health ordinances.

On December 10, 1945, the Cook County Department of Public Health was established by unanimous resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County. It has its legal authorization in the County Health Act of 1943 (The Searcy-Clabaugh Act) and a special 1945 amendment to this Act. The Commissioners and County Clerk serve as the Board of Health.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS

- Central Administrative Office, 737 South Wolcott Ave., Chicago 12, CHesapeake 3-5833.
- North District, 1062 Lee Street, Des Plaines, VAnDerbilt 4-8182.
- West District, 1900 St. Charles Road, Maywood, Fillmore 4-6052.
- Southwest District, 3411 West 95th Street, Evergreen Park, GArden 2-7424.
- South District, 41 East 154th Street, Harvey, HARvey 6.

# budget



INCOME		Per Cent
COUNTY	\$325,885	68.2
STATE	152,175	31.8
TOTAL	\$478,060	100.0

# personnel

## ADMINISTRATION

John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H., Director  
Jessie Pierson, Administrative Clerk  
John McElligott, Maintenance Assistant†  
*Health Education*  
Irene Fahey, M.P.H., Chief  
William T. Brennan, M.P.H.,  
*Statistics*  
Roger L. Robertson, M.A., Chief  
*Secretarial Division*  
Lorraine Johnson, Chief  
Rose Berry  
Bessie Bezemek  
Donna Christian†  
Edith Cech  
Rosemary Davis  
Ruth Davis  
Dorothy Donovan  
Irene Erickson  
Ellen Grams  
Rose Keenan  
Fredericka Kirkling  
Edna Latson  
Patricia Love†  
Joan Melvin  
Mary Louise Murphy  
Mossie Perry  
Cele Riffkind  
Julia Sullivan  
Thelma Tarrant†  
Marta Tracey†  
Margaret Zummo†

## MEDICAL

*Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology*  
Robert Dessent, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Charles A. Lang, M.D., Resident†  
Albert E. Waeltjen, M.D., Resident  
*Preventive Dentistry*  
Seymour Gould, D.D.S.  
W. C. Lukaszewski, D.D.S.  
Frank Nuccio, Dental Assistant  
*Veterinary Medicine*  
Clarence Hostetter, D.V.M.  
*Maternal and Child Health*  
William M. Hanrahan, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chief  
*Cooperating Pediatricians*  
Eugene J. Ahorn, M.D.  
Eugene W. Black, M.D.†  
Mary A. Halpin, M.D.  
Helen D. Heinen, M.D.†  
Vivian C. Hughes, M.D.†  
John Hyde, M.D.  
Francis Kodl, M.D.  
Anne C. Leonard, M.D.  
Michael A. Limosani, M.D.  
Richard L. Marks, M.D.  
Irving Plotnick, M.D.  
Helen L. Rhetta, M.D.  
Frank Rosen, M.D.  
W. M. Winston, M.D.  
*Cooperating Obstetricians*  
G. K. Balukas, M.D.  
Henry O. Kase, M.D.  
Michael P. Pill, M.D.  
*Nutrition*  
Lillian Nash, M.S., Chief  
Martha J. Thomason, M.S.

## Public Health Nursing

Hertha Larsen, M.A., Chief  
Thelma Cline, Ph.B., B.S., Assistant Chief  
Myrtle Sorenson, M.Litt., Educational Director

## Supervising Nurses

Bridget M. Campbell, M.A.  
Esther Doyle, B.S.  
Edith Nyden, B.S.  
Sibyl D. Ward, M.A.  
*School Health Advisory Nurses*  
Olive MacDougall, B.S.†  
Lorraine Means, M.A.

## Physical Therapists

Alice Okrafosmart, R.N., R.P.T.  
Donna Thiemann, R.P.T.‡  
Lorena James, R.P.T.†

## Public Health Nurses

Myrtle Benton  
Caroline Blankschain, B.S.†  
Dorrence Brooks  
Eleanor Caghan, B.S.  
Patricia Cunningham  
Doris Dawson  
Mary C. Dawson  
Loretta Dixon, B.S.†  
LaVerne Dombrosky  
Goldie Durichok, B.S.  
Annelle Durrenberger  
Eleanor Fackler  
Luella Fezor  
Catherine Flaherty  
Mary Flynn\*\*  
Ruby Harvey  
Mary Jaros  
Eugenia Richard  
Lorain Kalbfell  
Mary Louise Kavanaugh  
Faye Krauss  
Delores List, B.S.  
Aldona Lukosius  
Mary Maloney  
Harryetta Matthews†  
Martha McAboy  
Mary Jane McElligott  
Alice Michalak, B.S.  
Margaret Phelan‡  
Irene O'Connor  
Doris Reese, B.S.†  
Barnice Smith†  
Veronica Starsinick, B.S.  
Mildred Tesch, B.S.†

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Sanitary Engineering

Benn J. Leland, M.S., Chief  
*Program Supervising Engineers*  
Robert R. de Jonge, B.S.  
Steven W. Nich, B.S.  
Arthur F. Vandrick, B.S.†  
*District Engineers*  
LeRoy V. Dzierzanowski, B.S.  
Paul C. Levin, B.S.†  
Edward C. Rubin, B.S.  
Robert J. Wellschlager, M.S.  
*Sanitarians*  
Anthony J. Gara  
Joseph W. Svec  
John F. Schultz  
Richard B. Kennedy  
Perry Vaornas†

\*\*Sick leave    †Resigned    ‡Deceased    §Part time



# Board of Health ... 1954

**James A. Ashenden  
Frank Bobrytzke  
William Busse  
Elizabeth A. Conkey  
Richard J. Daley  
John J. Duffy  
Arthur X. Elrod  
William N. Erickson  
Christ A. Jensen  
John Mackler, Jr.  
George A. Miller  
George F. Nixon  
Daniel Ryan  
Clayton F. Smith  
Edward M. Sneed  
John J. Touhy**

