



“Public Health is Everybody’s Job”

Cook County
Department of
Public Health

Annual Report 1955

TO THE CITIZENS OF SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to send to you this report highlighting our services during 1955. The health of the public is our business.

Since the department was organized in 1940 the population has increased 32 per cent, and it is estimated to increase another 23 per cent by 1960. . . . 262,000 persons will pour into the 98 incorporated communities, 16,000 others to unincorporated areas. With the increase in population there is also a need and demand for more public health services. Of growing concern to the department are the gaps in health services that now exist due to shortages of trained personnel and budgetary limitations.

Shifting emphasis in public health today focuses on the need for more intensive planning for mental health . . . housing . . . accident prevention . . . chronic diseases and the health problems of the aged. It takes a lot of planning and substantial budget to do a high quality job of providing health protection for 800,000 people. We need your support and active participation in helping to prevent disease, prolong life and promote good health for the citizens of suburban Cook County.

May I suggest that you drop in at one of our health department offices and get to know at first hand the public health services for suburban

Cook County.

John B. Hall M.D.
Director

Accidents . . . Number One Killer of Children

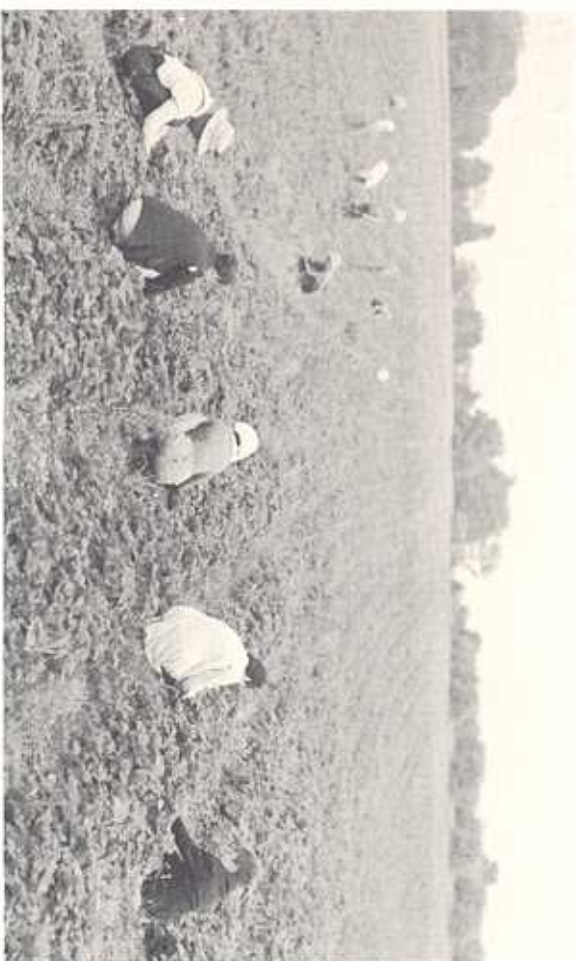
Accidents . . . not polio, rheumatic fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis, communicable diseases . . . are the chief killers of Cook County children today! Nearly half of these accidents occur at home. Information from death certificates indicate that home accidents claim the lives of more children between 1 and 4 years than any other single cause. At ages 5 to 14 there are almost twice as many deaths from motor accidents as from home accidents and together these causes account for over one-third of all deaths.

The public health nurse through her home visits and in child health conferences and schools has a unique responsibility in accident prevention. Being observant to accident hazards, and in giving warning about persons and home remedies so accessible to small children, the nurse readily stresses parental caution in her family health counseling job.

During 1955 the health department participated in a Poisoning Control Program sponsored by the U. S. Public Health Service and the American Academy of Pediatrics. A combined research and teaching project, the public health nurse visits the homes where children have accidentally taken poisons in the forms of household cleaning agents and home remedies. No home is safe until the people who live there make it so.



Helping Migrant Families on the Road to Better Health



- Nutrition education
- ... immunization
- ... physical examinations ... dental care
- ... family health counseling
- are ways in which the department
- provides services for migrant
- workers and their families.

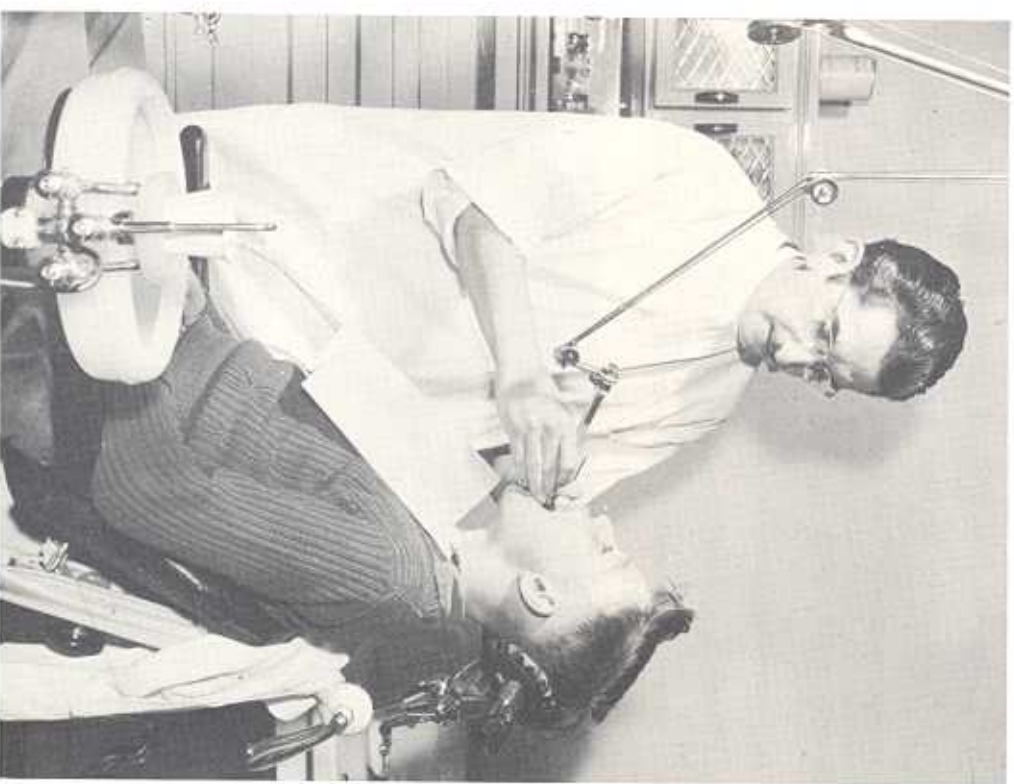
During the truck farming season thousands of laborers migrate to the Cook County area to harvest crops. When the season is over many of these families return to the Southern States. However, while they are in the area the department has a responsibility for the health of this transient but important segment of its population. Working with the Illinois Commission on Migrant Workers, health personnel are exploring ways to improve the health, housing and sanitation of these people.

Tooth Decay . . . Widespread Dental Disorder Among Children

Dental examinations conducted during the past year by the department revealed 92 per cent of school age children needed dental care. In fifteen school districts, where families are unable to afford to go to a private dentist, complete dental care was provided for children from 2 to 16 years.

Clinics are set up in schools and health centers and a traveling dental unit serves the rural areas. As part of a health program for migrant workers dental care was provided for the children of these families.

Although the corrective dental service is important, it is through health education that children and adults are guided in developing wholesome attitudes regarding care of the teeth. Dentists, nurses and health educators work together in promoting dental health programs.



Eating Habits of Teen-Agers Need Improvement

School administrators, teachers and community leaders are becoming more and more concerned about the food habits of school children. "Nutrition for the Teens" is gathering interest, not only in Cook County but in many areas of the country.

In a survey conducted by General Mills of the food habits of 59,727 children in 38 states, the results showed that 33 per cent

of the children were eating a good diet, 27 per cent a fair diet, and 40 per cent a poor diet. Two out of three children reported diets needing improvement, and two out of five children reported diets that were actually poor.

Some school administrators and teachers in rural and suburban Cook County made similar surveys in classrooms with the help

and guidance of the nutrition division of the department. The results were on a par with those of the countrywide survey. Younger children, the survey demonstrated, are better than their older brothers and sisters. Participants are small amounts of green, yellow and other vegetables, fruit, milk, eggs and little or no breakfast.

Throughout the growing period children should establish good eating habits which will continue during adult life.

The results of the surveys were used to plan the nutrition education activities in the classroom and the school. The nutritionists attended teachers' meetings to help plan the survey, to evaluate it, to discuss with the teachers nutrition activities and teaching materials. Many teachers informed parents of the survey. In this way both the school and the home together can strengthen the program of nutrition education. A number of schools now include nutrition education in their curriculum.



With special medical and nursing care the lives of premature babies can be saved. During the past year efforts were directed toward intensifying the training of hospital nurses in the care of these infants. A three-day conference highlighting the recent advances in the care of the premature infant was attended by hospital and public health nurses, hospital administrators, and physicians.

SPECIALIZED CARE FOR PREMATURE INFANTS

In the regular visits to hospital maternity divisions by the doctor-nurse team from the department, hospital administrators and nursery supervisors were urged to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered for nurses in specialized care of premature babies. Three to six week intensive courses at premature centers are sponsored by the department in cooperation with the state health department.



Chronic Diseases... Requests for Nursing Care on the Increase

Requests for nursing care come to the department from families in suburban Cook County. Perhaps it is a patient recently discharged from the hospital with a heart condition, or cancer, or arthritis, perhaps a surgical condition or the tuberculous following sanatorium care. The public health nurse gives, or demonstrates actual nursing care to the family, encourages self care and helps to allay the many anxieties that go with any illness. Her care may include intramuscular injections, surgical dressings; suggestions for the comfort, the nutrition of the patient as well as adjustment to the illness by the individual and his family. Two physical therapists offer actual physical therapy to post-polio patients either in their homes or at our treatment centers.

Most patients with long term illness do not need care continuously in institutions. This can be given at home provided the family is prepared to take the responsibility. Many patients are happier at home. Care in hospitals is expensive. It is not desirable or are there beds available to keep these patients in general hospitals when special facilities of hospitals are no longer needed.

The warm interest, the personal care, and the feeling of confidence are the human assets which the nurse brings to the patient and family. Giving physical and mental comfort to an ailing or dependent person is the basic responsibility of the public health nurse. Along with her function of health counseling in prevention of illness and in health maintenance, the giving and demonstrating of nursing care provides a well-rounded public health nursing service to local communities.



Polio Vaccine ... 255

A Highlight of

One of the most promising occurrences of the past year has been the introduction and use of polio vaccine. After years of research certain scientific developments have made the production of a vaccine possible. In 1954 a field trial of material developed by Dr. Jonas Salk indicated a reduction in paralytic polio following the administration of vaccine. Extensive polio vaccination programs were carried on in 1955. Although production difficulties retarded the development of the vaccine, it is expected that in the near future a consistent safe and potent vaccine will be available.

In April, 1955, 46,000 first and second grade children received their first injection of poliomyelitis vaccine, furnished by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and their second injection in November, 1955, with no unfavorable results. In November, 1955, more vaccine became available through State and Federal sources for children in the 5 to 14 age group. The department distributed an additional 15,000 cc for this latter program. As more vaccine is processed it is hoped that it will be available for all children whose parents desire they receive it.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN POLIOMYELITIS CONTROL

consultation on request medical consultation was given to physicians at homes and in hospitals.

hospitalization at Cook County Hospital.

biologics Salk polio vaccine was distributed free for school programs of first and second grade children. Vaccine was also distributed to the preferred age group of five to fourteen years, and pregnant women. This latter was administered by the family physician. Polio globulin for contacts to polio cases was distributed to physicians without charge.

records complete epidemiological records of all cases of polio, as well as records for globulin and vaccine distribution were filed in the department.

rehabilitation two physical therapists follow-up on post-polio patients in cooperation with physicians and the Cook County Chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

education a continuous program of teaching in medical schools, consultation with doctors, lay and other professional groups was carried on about all phases of the program, including diagnosis and treatment of patients, newer knowledge about polio, gamma globulin and vaccines.

FAULTY SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS

Water supply and sewage disposal are basic to an environmental sanitation program. In established communities, these fundamentals have acquired routine status, requiring a minimum of supervision by the department engineering personnel. However, in the growing suburban area, these fundamental facilities are a major concern.

The unprecedented rate of population growth in the municipalities and subdivisions in suburban Cook County during 1955 created many water supply and sewage disposal problems.

Public water supply systems are being constructed to serve new subdivisions. Water mains are being extended from existing water supply systems to serve areas under development in the municipalities and in the unincorporated areas. Reservoirs and booster pump stations are being built to receive and store water during the off-peak hours to be available for use during periods of high demand. Of what use is it to permit extension of a water distribution system to serve a group of new homes, if the existing facilities are not adequate to properly serve the homes already connected to the system?

The department has developed a program for review of plans for proposed public water supply improvements, for collection of samples for analysis by the Chicago branch laboratory of the state health department, for routine inspection of all the public water supplies in suburban Cook County and for furnishing technical advice to operators, consulting engineers, municipal officials and all others concerned with the supplying of adequate amounts of safe water. This program involving 74 water supplies in municipalities and 32 water supplies in unincorporated subdivisions has been developed in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health, in order to effectively enforce the Illinois Public Water Supply Control Law.

COUNTY BOARD WARMS ON UNFIT SEPTIC TANKS

Seeks New Code to Halt Abuse

BY TONNIZUM
In a move to halt sewerage pollution in Cook county, the board's called for a new code to regulate septic tanks in unincorporated areas.

COUNTY BOARD ORDERS SEPTIC TANK BONDING

Also Limits Lot Size in Health Peril

The Cook county board yesterday unanimously approved regulations of septic tanks in unincorporated areas until new health measures. In a resolution, the board instructed the zoning board in order to postpone consideration of new subdivisions of less than 20,000 square feet on which septic tanks be used.

Septic Sanity

COUNTY Commissioner Charles F. Chaplin is to be congratulated for the determined fight he is waging against the efforts of home builders to install septic tanks on lots of 10,000 square feet. This area is about that of a lot 60 by 160 feet.

At his insistence public service commission, at least until special rezoning, homes that are developers.

Urge Curb on Septic Tanks as Health Precaution

Charles F. Chaplin, chairman of the building commission of Cook county board, proposed yesterday that septic systems be outlawed for homes built on lots of less than 20,000 square feet in a rezoning.



Chaplin

merous complaints of sewage nuisance problems in subdivisions where such systems have been installed for each new home. In recent years, Chaplin said, many builders have reduced lots in new subdivisions to 10,000 square feet or less. The county's zoning law specifies 20,000 square foot lots when land is rezoned from farming to residential use. When small lots are desired, there must be special action by the zoning board and the county board.

The proposed law would require builders to provide plans

Open Work Poorly

CAUSE HEALTH HAZARDS

During the past year, 122 inspections of public water supply systems were made and 210 sets of plans for proposed improvements reviewed and approved. The program for distribution of approximately 4500 sample bottles to the responsible public officials was administered by the engineering division.

Many new suburbanites' homes are in areas presently not served by sanitary sewer systems. These suburbanites, many of whom are served by public water supply systems, others by individual wells, are dependent upon individual systems for disposal of sewage. This sewage carrying the wastes, is laden with bacteria, some of which are disease producing, and with organic matter causing odor nuisance and stream pollution.

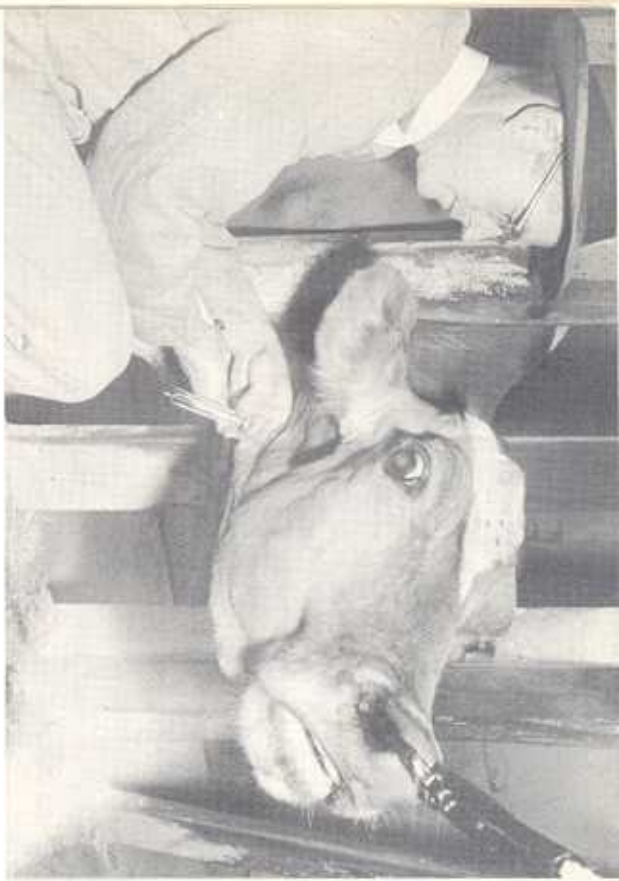
The disposal of sewage in an unsewered municipality or subdivision is attempted by means of septic tank and seepage fields, generally located in the yard back of each residence. While such systems, during previous years, were considered of rural nature, there are many developments in Cook County where these systems are placed on lot after lot after lot. With proper design, proper installation, and proper maintenance, these seepage fields can dispose of the sewage by soaking the septic tank effluents into the soil in the back yards. However, tight clay soils in much of Cook County, limited lot areas, and other factors have resulted in many failures of these systems. Backing up of plumbing fixtures, sewage pools in the backyards or in ditches, and odor nuisances have served as the basis of many complaints to the health department. During the past year, 898 investigations of such complaints have been made.

The Cook County Board of Commissioners oppose creation of new

subdivisions where individual sewage disposal systems are proposed unless soil conditions and other factors are adequate. An ordinance passed in March, 1954, requires that reports on percolation tests by registered professional engineers be submitted if individual systems are to be used. During 1955, there were fifty-three such reports submitted and reviewed by the department.

The Cook County Board of Commissioners also is imposing more stringent regulation of the installation of these individual sewage disposal systems. The sanitation personnel have been charged with additional responsibilities in the review and approval of plans for all proposed individual sewage disposal systems and in the inspection of same during installation. This activity in the unincorporated areas is in conjunction with the Building and Zoning Bureau. Similar services have been made available by the department to the incorporated municipalities and are being utilized by several. The programs for review and approval of plans for individual sewage disposal systems where Federal Housing Authority or Veterans Administration insured loans are used, has been continued. Programs are pursuant to request from these governmental agencies.

Considerable time has been devoted to securing septic tank-seepage field systems which will function properly and to obtaining correction of the systems which have failed and are causing nuisance. However, every effort is made to encourage and convince public officials and developers that the only long range realistic solution to this troublesome problem is the installation of sanitary sewers with connection to a Sanitary District of Chicago interceptor sewer or to a municipal or subdivision sewage treatment works.



By July 1, 1955 all herds supplying milk for the Grade "A" market were given a brucellosis test and the reactors removed from the herd. This has been a big step forward in the eradication of this disease. Every effort is being made at this time to bring all herds of cattle in Cook County into the brucellosis eradication program where every herd is brucellosis tested and the infected animals removed. Subsequent tests are made at regular intervals until the herd is free from the disease on two successive 60 day tests.

BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION NEAR IN COOK COUNTY

The goal is the accreditation of Cook County as a modified bovine brucellosis free area, which means there would be less than one infected animal disclosed for every 200 cattle tested. Through a vigorous testing program and the immunization of calves between four months and eight months of age young animals are being protected from the disease as they mature and are exposed to infection.

To carry this program on it is important to have the cooperation of the practicing veterinarians and the farm organizations in the county. This, to date, has been excellent.

Public Health Services

- Register births and deaths
- Assist with school lunch programs
- Help mothers with feeding problems
- Provide a health informational service
- Teach nutrition to children and adults
- Distribute drugs, biologicals and vaccines
- Give and demonstrate nursing care in illness
- Conduct dental inspections of school children
- Provide dental corrective service for indigent children
- Provide consultation to physicians, hospitals and schools
- Conduct an educational program on animal disease control
- Assist families with marketing, meal planning and budgeting
- Provide health guidance to all age groups in sickness or in health
- Aid in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and control of brucellosis
- Plan dental health education programs for schools and community groups
- Guide mental and physical development of infants in child health conferences
- Give consultation to school personnel in the development of sound health programs
- Aid in the prevention and elimination of animal diseases transmissible to humans
- Aid in the prevention of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases in livestock
- Provide medical supervision and instruction through the prenatal period at the maternal clinic
- Offer technical advice on design and operation of public and private sanitary facilities, and encourage their installation
- Aid in the prevention and control of communicable diseases by epidemiological investigations of certain diseases, immunizations and education
- Inspect public and private water supply and sewerage systems, institutions, schools, swimming pools, trailer camps, restaurants, sanitary nuisances and stream pollution situations



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.

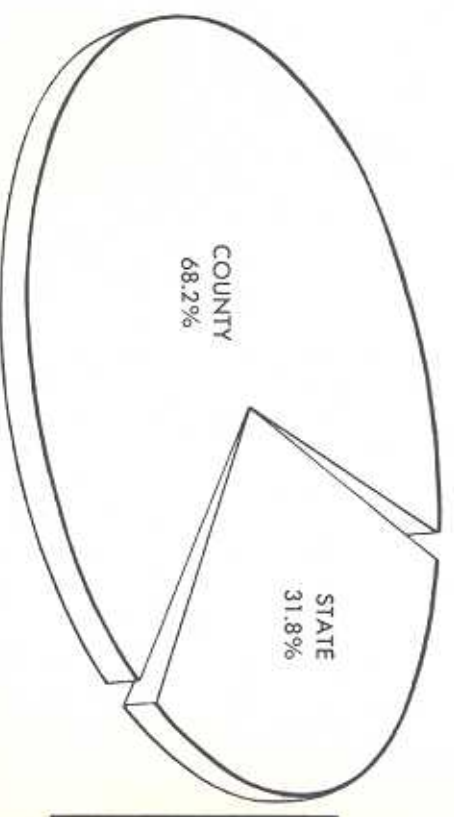
It was set up as a unit of the Bureau of Public Welfare, and conducted the activities of the health department under public welfare legislation. The Public Health Unit was empowered by the Illinois Department of Public Health to enforce State health rules and regulations, as there were no provisions 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

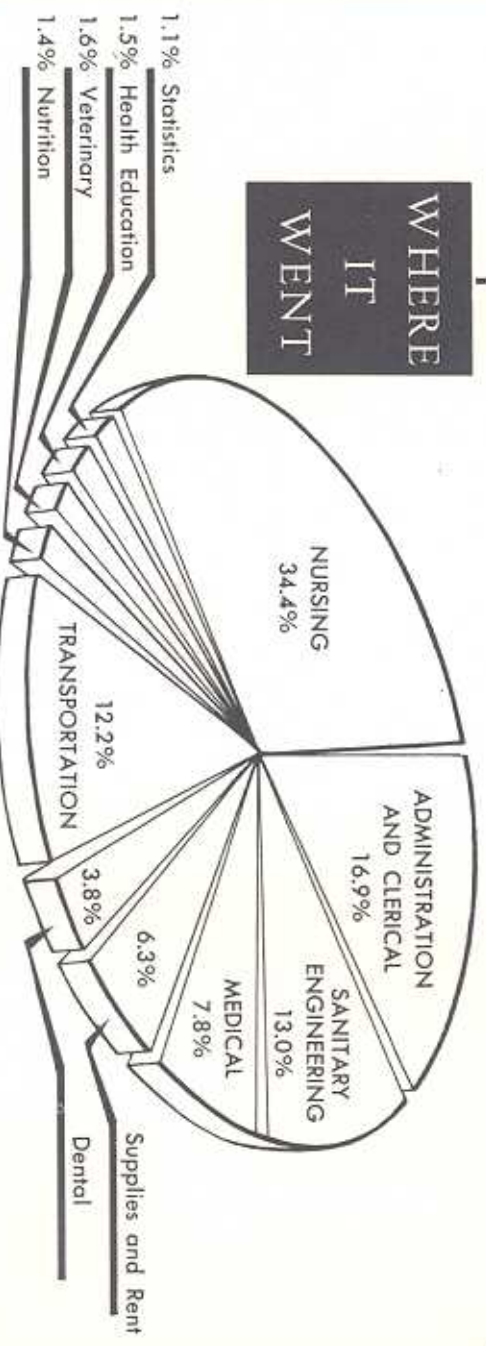
- CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**
737 South Wolcott Avenue, Chicago 12
Chesapeake 3-5833
- NORTH DISTRICT**
1062 Lee Street, Des Plaines
Vanderbilt 4-8182
- WEST DISTRICT**
1900 St. Charles Road, Maywood
Fillmore 4-6052
- SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**
3411 West 95th Street, Evergreen Park
Garden 2-7424
- SOUTH DISTRICT**
51 East 154th Street, Harvey
Edison 3-0006

THE BUDGET DOLLAR



WHERE IT CAME FROM

WHERE IT WENT



HOW THE DOLLAR WAS BUDGETED

INCOME	COOK COUNTY	STATE OF ILLINOIS	TOTAL
	\$325,885	152,175	\$478,060

PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATION

JOHN B. HALL, M.D., M.P.H., Director
CHARLES A. LANG, M.D., M.P.H., District Health Officer
JESSE PIERSON, Administrative Clerk
JERRY HARROLD, Custodial Worker†
GAETANO PRIOLA, Custodial Worker

HEALTH EDUCATION

IRENE FAHEY, M.P.H., Chief
WILLIAM T. BRENNAN, M.S.P.H.†

STATISTICS

ROGER L. ROBERTSON, M.A., Chief†

SECRETARIAL DIVISION

LORRAINE JOHNSON, Chief
ROSE BERRY
BESSIE BEZEMEK
EDITH CECCH
RUTH DAVIS
IRENE ERICKSON
JOSEPHINE IACUZZI
ROSE KEENAN
FREDRIKA KIRKLING
DOREEN LAMBERSKY
AGNES MULVHILL
MARY LOUISE MURPHY
MOSSIE PERRY
MARY J. PRIEBE
NANETTE RECHORD
CELE RIEFRIND
DOLORES SALVATORE
JULE SULLIVAN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

SANITARY ENGINEERING

BENN J. LELAND, M.S., Chief

DISTRICT ENGINEERS

ABRAHAM BRANITZKY, B.S.
LEROY V. DZIERZANOWSKI, B.S.
PAUL C. LEVIN, B.S., M.P.H.
EDWARD C. RUBIN, B.S.

PROGRAM SUPERVISING

ENGINEERS

ROBERT R. DE JONGE, B.S.
STEVEN W. NICH, B.S.
ROBERT J. WOLLSCHLAGER, M.S.

SANITARIANS

ANTHONY J. GARO
BRUNO MANNELLA
JOSEPH W. SVEC
JOHN F. SCHULTZ

† Resigned * Deceased

MEDICAL

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

ROBERT DESSENT, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
ALBERT E. WOELTJEN, M.D., Resident

DENTAL

SEYMOUR GOULD, D.D.S.
W. C. LUKASZEWSKI, D.D.S.
FRANK NUCCIO, Dental Assistant

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

CLARENCE HOSTETLER, D.V.M.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

WILLIAM M. HANRAHAN, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chief

COOPERATING PEDIATRICIANS

EUGENE J. AHERN, M.D.
MARY A. HALPIN, M.D.
HANORIA H. HARDY, M.D.
JOHN HYDE, M.D.
FRANCIS KODL, M.D.
VILIS KRUZE, M.D.
ANNE C. LEONARD, M.D.
RICHARD I. MARKS, M.D.
IRVING PLOTNICK, M.D.
ALICE RACHER, M.D.
HELEN I. RHETTA, M.D.
W. M. WINSTON, M.D.

COOPERATING OBSTETRICIANS

GEORGE FRICKE, M.D.
CHARLES E. BLACK, M.D.
ROBERT C. BURCHELL, M.D.
C. JOHN ORTER, M.D.

NUTRITION

LILLIAN N. FITZ-SIMMONS, 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.
ALICE MICHALAK, B.S.
EDITH NYDEN, B.S.
SIVYL D. WARD, M.A.*

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

MARGORIE HART, R.P.T.
ALICE OKRAFOSMART, R.N., R.P.T.
DONNA THIEMANN, R.P.T.†

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

KATHERINE ASE, B.S.
MYRTLE BENTON
ARDENE BRATON
DORRENCE BROOKS
MARIA COBURN, B.S.
ELEANOR COGHLAN, B.S.
PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM†
DORIS DAWSON†
MARY C. DAWSON
LAVERNE DOMBROSKY†
GOLDIE DURCHER, B.S.
ANNELLE DURENBERGER
ELEANOR FACKLER
LUELLA FEEZORT
CATHERINE FLAHERTY
MARY FLYNN†
MARTHA GRILL
RUBY HARVEY†
WILLA MAE HINSON
MARY JAROS
LORAIN KALBPELL
MARY LOUISE KAVANAUGH
MARGARET KOENIG, B.S.
FAVE KRAUSS
DETORES LIST, B.S.
ALDONA LUKOSIUS*
MARY MALONEY
MARTHA McCABOY†
MARY JANE McCELLIGOTT
LORRAINE MEANS, M.A.†
ELAINE NEMOTO, B.S.
IRENE O'CONNOR
EUGENIA RICHARD
GERTRUDE RUEHDANZ, B.S.
PATRICIA TYNNAN
VERONICA STARSINICK, B.S.
FRANCES UTRICH



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FRANK BOBBRYTZKE

FRED A. FULLE

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CHRIST A. JENSEN

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EDWARD M. SNEED

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JOHN J. TOUHY

EDWARD J. BARRETT, *Clerk of the Board*