

# People to People



cook county  
department of  
public health  
annual report  
1957

# FACING UP

**Suburban Cook County is growing . . .** one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. The Cook County Department of Public Health is charged with the responsibility for providing health protection for 895,900 people living in its health jurisdiction.

Shortages of professional health personnel . . . increased demands for health services . . . budgetary limitations . . . spotlight the problems faced by the Board of Health stemming from suburbia's mushrooming population.

The health department falls far short of meeting the total health needs of the county. Public health programs can be planned only on an emergency basis. In an attempt to fill the gaps in services, many communities and boards of education have employed their own health personnel. It is generally conceded that coordinated health planning through a county health department is the most efficient, effective, and economical means for providing health protection.

Shifting emphasis in public health today clearly focuses on the need for more intensive planning for mental health . . . community wide education in the prevention of home accidents . . . care and rehabilitation of the chronically ill and disabled . . . additional services to be devoted to the growing segment of our population—the aged.

Of increasing concern to the department is

the inability with our present staff to provide bedside nursing service to patients with long term illnesses who are medically indigent or on marginal income

the lack of awareness on the part of the public of public health services

the competition for professional personnel in a tight employment market

the increased number of requests from physicians for physical therapy and rehabilitative nursing in disease conditions such as fractures, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, strokes and arthritis

the need for more effective integration of the efforts and resources of voluntary and official agencies.

If the health department is to keep pace with new and changing health needs then community understanding, endorsement, and participation are necessary.

Tomorrow's gigantic Cook County suburban area is taking shape today. You don't need a crystal ball to see the pattern. Can the health department with its present plan of organization measure up to the task.



**GROWING GOLDEN AGE.** Although the blessings of an extended life expectancy rate are many, increases in the older population are a matter of concern for the health department. Current hospital facilities are not adequate for the care of long term illnesses presented by the degenerative chronic diseases of the aged. Under the supervision of the department, nursing homes are meeting the rising need of care for diseases of old age. Sixty-nine such homes are now operating in the suburban area.

Directly responsible for the supervision of these homes is a three-member team consisting of a sanitarian, nursing supervisor and nutritionist.

The sanitarian's work starts before the home begins practice. On the first visit to the institution, he measures the complete floor plan and makes a scale drawing of the entire building. Floor area per bed and window area is computed to see if space allocation stand-

ards are met. Bathroom facilities, sewage treatment, and water supply are checked for general sanitation. Ventilation, lighting, and closet space are taken into careful consideration along with the general construction of the building.

Kitchen facilities are checked for such things as adequate food storage, dishwashing procedure, dish storage, refrigeration and garbage storage and disposal. Oxygen storage must be considered in homes treating serious illnesses.

The second member of the public health team, the nursing supervisor, works closely with nursing home directors to see that patients receive adequate care. This includes medical supervision given to all residents, qualifications of personnel, methods of dispensing medications, bedding, linen, general supplies and equipment, and health of employees. She is also concerned

with the emotional needs of the patient, recreational facilities, and the happiness, comfort and contentment of the residents.

The third member of the health department team visiting nursing homes regularly is the nutritionist. Her primary concern is the diet of the residents. She supervises both preparation methods and meal planning. Suggestions for menu planning and food purchasing are made. Special consideration is given to meals of patients on special diets. The importance of serving attractive, appetizing meals is also emphasized.

For the most part nursing home administrators are aware of the need for expanded services, better buildings and more recreational facilities. Nursing homes are a community service facility and organized community effort could do much to improve the services they offer.

The influx of new families into the suburbs and of postwar babies into the schools has increased the enrollment in suburban schools. 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.



More physical examinations, immunizations and dental inspections are being done in the offices of the private physician and dentist. Vision and hearing screenings are the responsibility of the nursing staff and are carried on by volunteer workers whenever possible. Follow-up, when indicated, is done through either home visits by the nurse, or by nurse and teacher in school visits by the parents, or directly by the physician at the time of the physical examination. Nursing services are directed toward planning for the overall health program with the administrator and faculty which includes a plan for emergencies and first aid, physical and dental examinations, teacher-nurse conferences, various screening programs and the health needs of children with physical and emotional handicaps.





TB continues to be a major public health problem. Although fewer people are dying from tuberculosis, the cases being found and treated have not decreased.

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

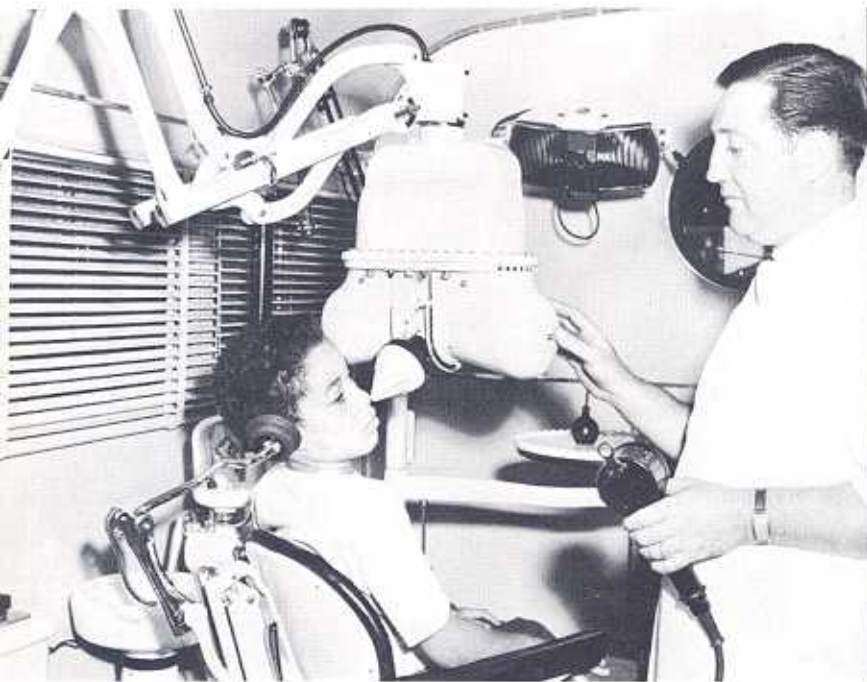


Detection of exposure to TB among children can lead to adults who have the disease without knowing it. The tuberculin testing programs conducted in the elementary schools have been streamlined on the basis of knowing the tuberculin status of each school child. It is usually concentrated in the first and fifth grades, which is the time the physical examinations are done. Each child whose test shows a positive reaction is examined further and members of his family are X-rayed to determine if active TB is present.



In 1957 one member of the nursing staff in each district office made a visit monthly to the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District Hospital in behalf of the hospitalized patient and his family. These visits serve as a liaison between the family and the patient, and the family and the hospital. They may well be a factor in the patient remaining in the hospital for the prescribed period of time, decrease the need of home visits, or make the home visit by the nurse more fruitful.

**Dental Clinic on Wheels** travels about the county for the hard-to-reach children of rural areas. Dental corrective services are provided for children from 2 to 16 years in clinics, health centers and schools in communities where families are unable to afford private dental care.





"CRUTCH GAIT" taught by the physical therapist is an important part of muscle rehabilitation.

**Two physical therapists** whose services are reimbursed by the Cook County Chapter, National Foundation For Infantile Paralysis, treat patients recovering from polio who are in need of special rehabilitative services. Under physician's orders the physical therapists teach the patient and his family how to assist the patient in performing the exercises. The program may be carried on in the home, or, for those able to travel, at treatment centers.





**MOTHER AND BABY CARE** was the subject of a series of classes taught in conjunction with the child health conference at East Chicago Heights. Mothers learned some of the fine points of infant care, ways to develop good food habits, home accident prevention as well as what the young one will need to make him grow into a healthy, happy person.



**SOAP MAY FLOAT BUT BABY WON'T.**

Nearly half of the childhood deaths caused by accidents occur in the home. Removal of accident hazards depends on the adults within the home. Much attention is focused by the public health nurse in her home visits and in child health conferences. Unfortunately, there is no "vaccine" to prevent accidents—their prevention requires full-time caution.

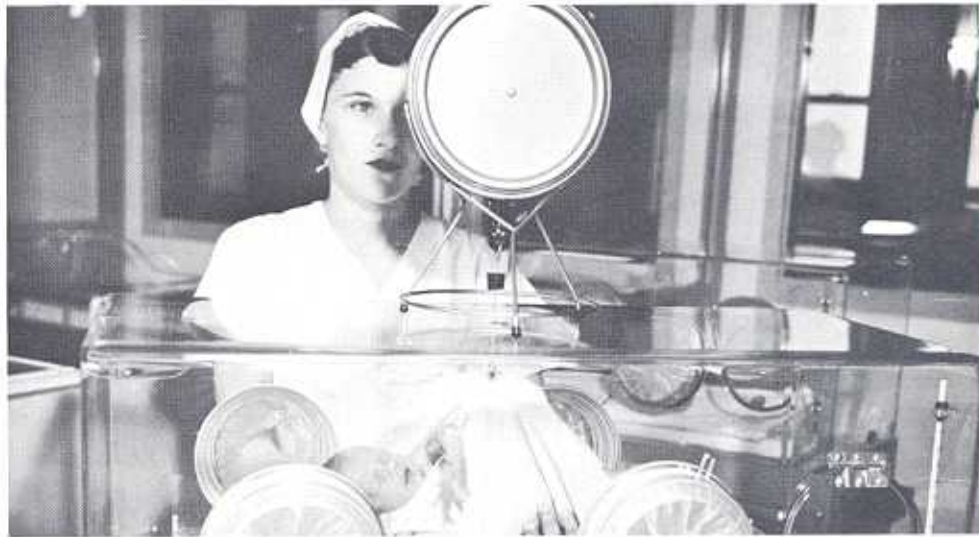


**THIRTY CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCES**

are sponsored by the department. Children from birth to their fourth birthday, who are not under the care of a private physician and whose parents have limited income, are eligible for this care. Physical examinations are done regularly and immunizations completed. Counseling of the mothers and a continuing appraisal of the health status of the child is the aim of the doctors and nurses.



**THE SUBURBAN BABY BOOM** has done a great deal more than merely increase population figures. The need for maternal and child health services is constantly increasing. Some 28,000 babies are born each year to suburban residents. The births are reported to the health department. Many families of these infants look to the department for health counseling, guidance, and service.



**First-Aid-to-the-Stork.** About 900 babies a year arrive prematurely to suburban residents, bringing with them special medical and nursing problems. They may be speeded by private ambulance service provided by the department to hospitals equipped for their care in specially designed incubators. Premature births are reported immediately by the seven hospitals within the health department's jurisdiction. This information guides the public health nurses in their home visits, both before and after the infants are sent home from the hospital, by helping to prepare the mother and family in the care of the new baby.



**Some services of necessity** are limited, but the great need for medical care for the expectant mother has long been recognized. At the present time only one area has the services of a maternal clinic. Medical care during pregnancy may mean the difference between life and death, both to the mother and child. Physical examinations, laboratory tests, as well as plans for delivery of the baby are routine services.



**Septic tank approvals** issued—1613—during 1957 ran about 30 per cent behind 1956. This is not unusual since there is a noticeable recession in small home construction in the Cook County area. Undoubtedly, the building trades will remain slack for the first part of 1958 and will pick up again in the latter part of 1958. More and more building will be done in the unincorporated areas since building sites in incorporated areas are either non-existent or at a premium.

**Swimming pools** are inspected and graded each year and a complete report written. The 64 indoor pools are routinely sampled monthly, and the 20 outdoor pools, semi-monthly. Eight new pools were proposed for the area.

**Nuisance investigations** were made as the result of 375 nuisance complaints to the Central Office. These are new complaints and do not include reinspections of old complaints or complaints made directly to the district sanitarian through the district office.



## WATER SUPPLIES

The 117 public water supplies which include both municipal and subdivision supplies, are all on a routine monthly water sampling program. Results are reported out by the health department. Inspections should be made annually, however, this program has fallen behind due to lack of personnel.

Private water supplies are sampled, analyzed and reports mailed at the rate of approximately 100 a month. During disasters or flood conditions, this number rises sharply. For example, from July 12th to September 1, 1957, 890 water samples were processed, about 300 per cent above normal due to an abnormally wet summer.

## SEWAGE TREATMENT

The sewage treatment program is a cooperative one between the health department staff and the Metropolitan Sanitary District. The Sanitary District is charged with the responsibility of issuing permits for plants discharging to ditches streams, etc. Since sewage treatment is an integral part of such establishments as trailer parks, restaurants and nursing homes, the health department staff also makes inspections and gives technical advice on the operation of such plants. Many times, the issuance of a license is dependent upon the operation of these plants.

## STREAM POLLUTION

Stream pollution is an integral part of sewage treatment. The sanitation staff works closely with the Cook County Clean Streams Committee in finding cases of stream pollution and obtaining correction of these violations. This also necessitates close cooperation with the State's Attorney's office since, in many instances, cases are taken to court before final compliance is obtained.

**Trailer parks and motels** are inspected at least once a year and licensed by the county. Many parks require repeated visits before qualifying for a license. In the suburban area there are 107 trailer camps with 6,190 units, and 90 motels with 1,334 units.

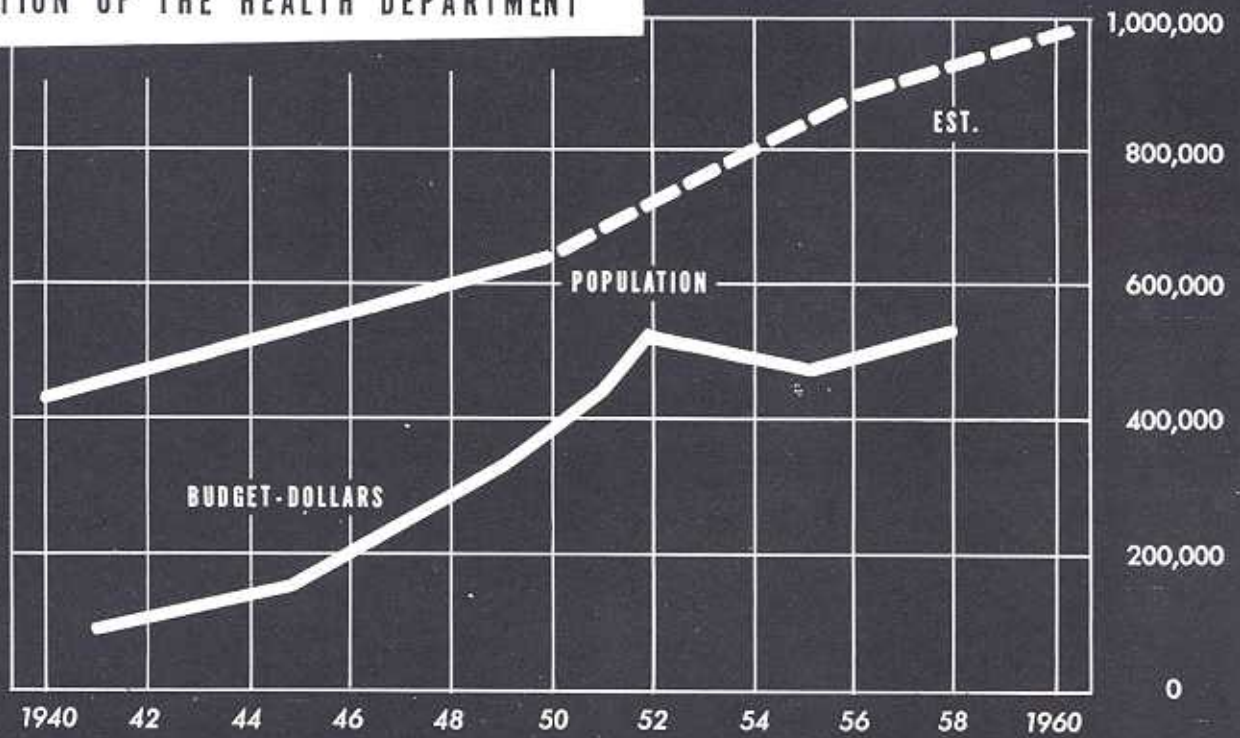


**School inspections** are not made except on a request basis, due to lack of personnel.

**Restaurant inspections** are made only on request since no county restaurant ordinance exists. Advisory service is given to cities and villages that have their own restaurant program.



TRENDS IN POPULATION AND BUDGET SINCE ORGANIZATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT



*for*  
*public*  
*health*

Cook County\* spends  
**53c** per person

\*in jurisdiction of Cook County Dept. of Public Health

*for*  
*public*  
*health*

recommended\*\* — minimum  
**\$1.50** per person

\*\*American Public Health Association

# for the Record

In the area of the health department jurisdiction, there are:

- 98 incorporated communities
- 12 hospitals
- 69 nursing homes
- 10 children's homes
- 484 schools
- 117 public water supplies
- 84 swimming pools
- 107 trailer parks
- 90 motels

## Child Health Conferences

- 348 conference sessions
- 1,378 new admissions
- 6,056 visits to conferences

## Maternal Clinics

- 48 clinic sessions
- 199 new admissions
- 914 visits to clinic

## Major Communicable Diseases Reported 1957

- 2,382 Chickenpox
- 0 Diphtheria
- 680 German measles
- 434 Measles
- 40 Meningitis (all types)
- 1,263 Mumps
- 8 Psittacosis
- 363 Scarlet fever
- 0 Smallpox
- 307 Strep throat
- 0 Typhoid fever
- 19 Whooping cough

- 4,897 Animal bites reported
- 5 Rabid animals

## Poliomyelitis Cases and Deaths Reported 1957 — 1956

	Cases	Deaths
1957	48	1
1956	220	7

## Tuberculosis

- 399 patients hospitalized
- 11,115 streptomycin injections
- 1,760 home visits to diagnosed cases
- 2,374 home visits to suspect cases or contacts
- 1,968 interviews about patients

## Leading Causes of Death 1956

- 3,331 Heart disease
- 1,413 Cancer
- 711 Vascular lesions of C.N.S.
- 469 Diseases of early infancy
- 397 All accidents
- 202 Motor Vehicle
- 195 Other
- 267 Influenza, pneumonia
- 138 Diabetes mellitus
- 102 General arteriosclerosis
- 95 Suicide
- 84 Cirrhosis of liver
- 81 Nephritis and nephrosis
- 40 Tuberculosis

## Vital Statistics 1956

- 27,870 Live births
- 371 Stillbirths
- 7,806 Deaths

## POPULATION INCREASE IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

	1956* — 1950	per cent increase
1956*	1,125,000	
1950 census	887,830	26.7
suburban health department jurisdiction	895,900	40.3

\* Chicago community inventory (estimated)

79.6 per cent of total population in suburban area is under jurisdiction of Cook County Department of Public Health.

20.4 per cent of population is in five other health jurisdictions.

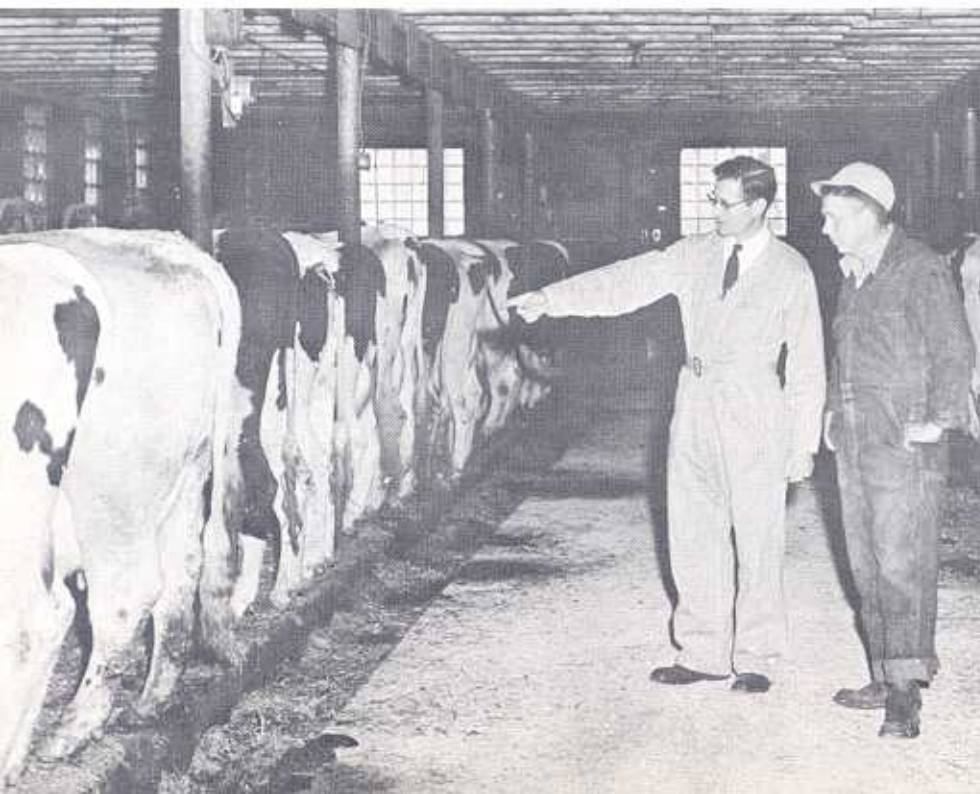
Given high priority in the department's program is the eradication from cattle of the disease brucellosis, thus eliminating the possibility of it being transmitted through milk to humans. It is hoped the disease will soon be reduced to less than one per cent infected animals in the 850 herds of 15,000 cattle in Cook County.



Blood samples are collected for laboratory analysis to determine if animals are free from brucellosis.



After the blood samples have been examined in the laboratory, the results are recorded on a herd test chart. The veterinarian reviews with the herd owner the results of the laboratory test.



The public health veterinarian works with the herd owner in helping establish and maintain proper sanitation and health procedures that will not only keep the herd from becoming infected with brucellosis, but will also prevent the cattle from becoming infected with other diseases.



# Board of Health

DANIEL RYAN, President

ELIZABETH A. CONKEY,  
Secretary

EDWARD J. BARRETT, Clerk

JAMES F. ASHENDEN

FRANK BOBRYTZKE

CHARLES F. CHAPLIN

JERRY DOLEZAL

JOHN J. DUFFY

ARTHUR X. ELROD

WILLIAM N. ERICKSON

FRED FULLE

CHRIST A. JENSEN

JOHN MACKLER, JR.

CLAYTON F. SMITH

EDWARD M. SNEED

JOHN J. TOUHY

## The Staff

### Administration

Director..... John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.  
Frederic W. Brodie, M.D., M.P.H., District  
Health Officer; Jessie Pierson, Administrative  
Clerk; Paul Higgins\*, Custodial Worker.

### HEALTH EDUCATION

Chief..... Irene Fahey, M.P.H.  
Health Educator.. Addie Reninger, M.P.H.\*

### SECRETARIAL DIVISION

Chief..... Lorraine Johnson  
Betty Allen, Rose Berry, Bessie Bezemek,  
Mossie Blanton, Edith Cech\*, Irene Erick-  
son, Josephine Iacuzzi, Rose Keenan, Fred-  
rika Kirkling, Lillian Klose, Doreen Kotrba,  
Agnes Mulvihill, Mary J. Priebe\*, Nanette  
Rechord, Cele Riffkind, Dolores Salvatore,  
Mildred Stockling, Jule Sullivan, Thelma  
Tarrant.

### Environmental Health

#### SANITARY ENGINEERING

Chief..... Robert R. deJonge, B.S.  
Assistant Chief..... Steven W. Nich, B.S.

PROGRAM SUPERVISING ENGINEERS  
LeRoy V. Dzierzanowski, B.S., Robert J.  
Wollschlager, M.S.

#### SANITARIANS

Morris Albaum, Sylvan Kahn, B.S., Bruno  
Mannella, Joseph W. Svec, John F. Schultz.

### Medical

#### PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

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

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Chief..... William M. Hanrahan,  
M.D., F.A.C.S.

#### COOPERATING PEDIATRICIANS

Mehmet J. Erden, M.D., William J. Hogan,  
M.D., Francis Kodl, M.D., Anne C. Leon-  
ard, M.D., Isidro L. Perez, M.D., Alice  
Racher, M.D., Helen L. Rhetta, M.D., W.  
M. Winston, M.D.

#### COOPERATING OBSTETRICIANS

Burwyn C. Abright, M.D., Richard H.  
Blankshain, M.D., Detetrias G. Gianako-  
poulos, M.D., Jonas Kalpokas, M.D., Irene  
Kerstein, M.D.

#### VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Chief..... Clarence Hostetler, D.V.M.

#### DENTAL

Seymour Gould, D.D.S., W. C. Lukaszew-  
ski, D.D.S., Frank Nuccio, Chauffeur.

#### NUTRITION

Chief..... Martha J. Thomason, M.S.  
Nutritionist..... Martha M. Tosti, M.S.

\*Resigned

\*\*Deceased

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Katherine Ase, B.S., Myrtle Benton, Harriet  
Blain, B.S., Dorrence Brooks, Eleanor  
Coghlan, B.S., Mary Dawson, Annelle Dur-  
renberger, Rosella Fingert, Catherine D. Fla-  
herty, Margaret Gerretie\*, Willa Mae Hin-  
son, Elizabeth Huessers, B.S., Lorraine Kalb-  
fell, Margaret Koenig, B.S., Mary Maloney,  
Mary Jane McElligott, June Middo, Frances  
Oakes, B.S., Irene O'Connor, May Omura,  
B.S., Frances Peterson, Eugenia Richard\*,  
Beryl Rhoads, B.S.\*, Gertrude Ruehrdanz,  
B.S., Rosemary Slattery, Rosella Sloyan, B.S.,  
Margaret Stypul, B.S., Ardene Taylor\*,  
Patricia Tivnan, B.S., Dolly Tsang, B.S.,  
Wilma Wood.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

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

..... Myrtle Sorenson, M. Litt.

### SUPERVISING NURSES

Bridget M. Campbell, M.A., Supervisor;  
Maria Coburn, B.S., Assistant Supervisor;  
Esther Doyle, B.S., Supervisor\*\*; Eleanor  
Fackler, Assistant Supervisor; Faye Krauss,  
Assistant Supervisor; Elaine Nemoto, B.S.,  
Assistant Supervisor\*; Edith Nyden, B.S.,  
Supervisor.

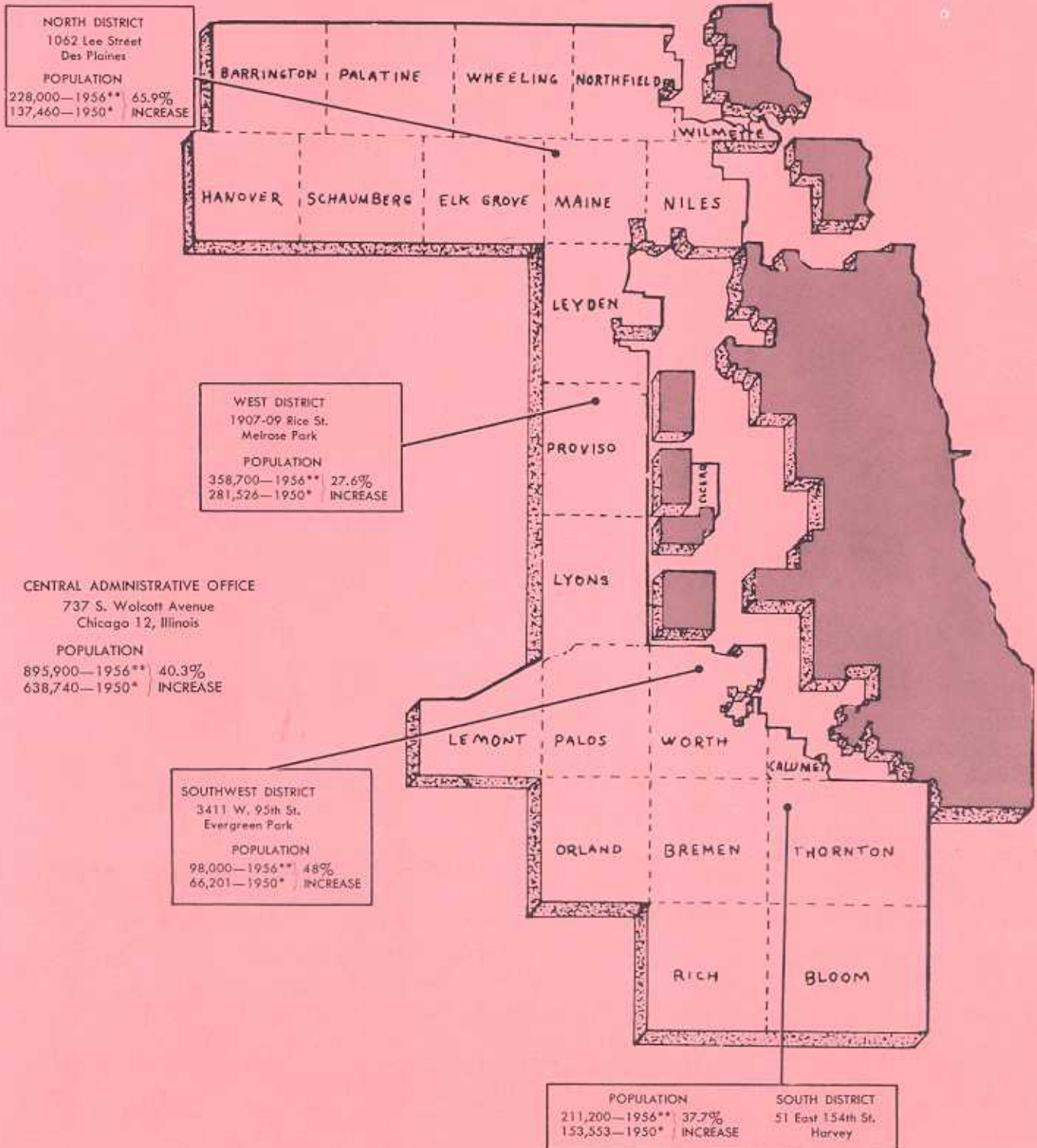
### PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Marjorie Hart, B.S.  
Donna Thiemann, B.S., (Part Time)

# COOK COUNTY, SUBURBIA, U. S. A.

## COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

(Jurisdiction in all of Cook County, except areas where there are full-time health departments)



\*1950 Census

\*\*1956 Estimated Population— Chicago Community Inventory

