

**the  
exciting  
story  
of  
people**

**cook county department of public health  
annual report  
1960**

# public health services for 1,400,000 people



Daniel Ryan (left), President, Cook County Board of Health, and John B. Hall, M.D. (right), Director, Cook County Department of Public Health, discuss health needs of suburban Cook County residents.



**PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION** is a service branch assisting all divisions in their efforts to inform, motivate and involve the public in measures for personal and community health; and directs the educational and informational activities of the agency.

**C**OOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH is the largest county health department in the State of Illinois . . . it serves the largest population of any county health department in Illinois . . . 1,400,000 people . . . it covers an area of 725 square miles. Of the 122 incorporated communities in the suburban area, 114 are within the health department's jurisdiction.

Many of these communities are in a state of ferment, eager to improve health services and facilities. They look to the health department for guidance and leadership. Until we are staffed to provide the variety and volume of services which people expect from the department, the trend toward employment of local sanitarians, nurses and other public health workers by municipalities will probably continue.

Our progress has been painfully slow in the past 20 years, but our steps forward help us to maintain optimism for the future. Scientific progress has been rapid, but we have not kept pace in applying the newer knowledge.

Changing times call for a new approach and readjustment in public health programs. More attention needs to be given to problems peculiar to our age . . . chronic illness, rehabilitation, air pollution, mental illness, obesity and radiological hazards . . . less attention to the conventional public health programs of diminishing significance.

Many major public health problems could be solved with present knowledge and technics, if sufficient staff and funds were available . . . these include, cervical cancer, tuberculosis, promotion of use of seat belts, extension of home nursing services, prevention of blindness, control of dental caries through fluoridation of public water supplies, venereal disease, reduction of immobilization disability, and control and reduction of population exposure to medical and dental radiation.

## rehabilitation

On the increase are requests for physical therapy and rehabilitative nursing for fractures, and in disease conditions such as polio, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, strokes, and arthritis.



## radiological health hazards

Radiation exposure that may affect the public health and safety is of growing concern to the Department.

In 1960 two survey teams from the state health department began inspecting and testing all radiation installations in the area to encourage the constructive uses of radiation and to prohibit and prevent exposure to radiation in amounts which may be detrimental to health.

Included in the surveys are nuclear reactors as well as industrial, medical and dental installations. In Cook County (including Chicago) the total registered installations number about 3,800.

Radiation and its sources can be instrumental in the improvement of the health of the public if properly utilized, and may be destructive or detrimental if carelessly or excessively employed.

## accidental poisoning

An alarming increase in the number of accidental poisoning cases is being reported to the Department. In 1960, there were 611 cases reported as compared with 484 in 1959. Children under three years of age were the patients in more than 70 per cent of the cases reported during 1960. Over 96 per cent occurred in children under five years. Reports of the poisonings were received from poison control centers located in hospitals in the suburban Cook County area.

Medications were the top cause of poisoning, accounting for over half of the cases reported. Aspirin was by far the greatest cause. All those poisoned by aspirin were young children, many of whom had swallowed candy aspirin. Other substances children were reported as swallowing, with very serious consequences, were household preparations, liquid powders, sprays, and pastes.

The 4-point program of the Department involves: (1) health education to prevent accidental poisoning from occurring through alerting parents to potential dangers; (2) follow-up visits by public health nurses who visit homes where poisoning has been reported in an attempt to pinpoint the causes of the poisoning and prevent further accidents; (3) cooperation with hospitals by assisting them to establish poison control centers; (4) compile statistical data from poison control centers, and relay information to national agencies.





## home nursing care

There is an ever widening gap between the number of nurses and the demands for nursing service because of an increase in the number of persons disabled by chronic disease—physical, emotional, and mental. In addition, more home care is required because patients are leaving hospitals after short periods and continuity of care between hospital and home takes on an added significance.

### NURSING SERVICES

Patients admitted to nursing services	10,755
Home visits to patients	16,387
Office visits by patients	1,847
Visits to nursing homes for licensure	78
Visits to schools to implement programs	1,594

### CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCES

Number of sessions held	202
Number of locations	8
Children registered	672
Under 1 year	481
1 to 4 years	191
Visits	2,588
Under 1 year	2,048
1 to 4 years	540

### MATERNAL CLINICS

Sessions per year	48
Pregnant women registered	111

## mother and baby care classes

All expectant mothers having their first babies are expected to attend a series of six mother and baby care classes held in connection with the prenatal clinic at the Robbins Health Center. These classes are entirely informal. Mothers learn how baby grows, fine points of infant care, ways to develop good food habits, home accident prevention as well as what the new baby will need to make him grow into a healthy, happy person.



## dental health

A recent survey showed that 90 per cent of the children in low-income families were in need of dental care. Through the Department's clinics, treatment is given to children under 16 years of age whose parents are unable to afford private dental care. Eight clinics are operated in health centers, hospitals and schools, and a mobile dental unit is used in areas where transportation is not accessible to the clinics. With the present staff of dentists and operating equipment dental services are of necessity limited.

The high rate of occurrence of dental decay and the mounting accumulation of dental defects indicates the need for a wider use of preventive measures as the most realistic and economic approach to this problem.

Fluoridation of the public water supply is considered one of the most practical and effective public health measures for the prevention of dental decay. About 58 per cent of the people living in the health department jurisdiction drink water to which fluorides have been added.



(Max Tharpe Photo)

## nursing homes and homes for the aged

With the increase in population and in life expectancy, there is an increase in the number of persons in the older age groups, where there is a higher incidence of chronic illnesses

including heart diseases, cancer, diabetes, arthritis and physical handicaps. Many chronically ill and infirm patients depend for care upon nursing homes and homes for the aged.

Minimum standards for the care of patients in these homes have been established by the State health department, and cover nursing care, sanitation, safety, nutrition, personnel and equipment. A license is required for any establishment housing three or more persons who "by reason of illness or physical infirmity are unable properly to care for themselves."

Inspections for licensing the 70 homes in the area have been delegated to the health department. These facilities are inspected by a team composed of a nurse, engineer and nutritionist, to assure residents good personal care in an environment which is safe and comfortable.

A central registry with current information about resources and facilities for care of chronically ill and aged persons is on file in the department and is available to anyone seeking this information.



## sanitary engineering

As the suburban areas continue to grow and become more congested, the problems of sanitation become increasingly more complex.

Water supplies serving ten or more units are under the control of the State Public Water Supply Control Law. There are 133 public supplies serving the incorporated and unincorporated areas, 68 of which draw water from their own wells and the remaining 65 draw water from Lake Michigan through Chicago and other lake front communities. The public water supply program includes plant inspection, routine monthly water sampling, review of plans involving proposed main extensions, new water supplies, and expansions to existing supplies, and rendering technical advice.

Analyses of approximately 10,500 samples from public and private water supply systems, swimming pools, private wells, new main installations and Forest Preserve District wells are made for quality control purposes.

Much of Cook County is within the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago which collects and treats sewage from the highly populated areas. The primary concern of the Department is with sewage treatment plants serving trailer parks, restaurants, motels, etc., and with private sewage disposal systems serving individual homes. Investigations of approximately 155 treatment works were made in 1960 and about 90 stream pollution inspections.

To install a private water supply and sewage disposal system, an approval must first be obtained from the Department. On May 1, 1959, a further restriction was instituted and now, prior to issuance of an approval, a field survey of the lot is made by a staff member. Subsequent to the health department approval, the Cook County Building Department issues the building permit and makes all field inspections of the installation. Approximately 525 approvals were issued exclusive of revisions and rejections.

New subdivision regulations have been promulgated and, upon passage, should result in a tighter control over proposed subdivisions with resultant living benefits to the future home owner.

There are 98 outdoor and 34 indoor public swimming pools in suburban and rural Cook County. In addition, a



number of new pools are proposed. These pools are inspected and graded each year by sanitation personnel under the State Swimming Pool Law. Pools not measuring up to the minimum standards are either closed or warned not to reopen the following year.

Trailer parks and motels are regulated by the Department through enforcement of the County Tourist Camp Operating Ordinance. The Department also acts as the agent for the Illinois Department of Public Health in the enforcement of the State Trailer Coach Park Law passed in 1953. There are 92 trailer parks and 87 motels in Cook County.

Requests for service or abatement of nuisances are constantly received in connection with environmental sanitation. Investigations are made, information is furnished and corrective action is requested. In some cases, failure to secure voluntary correction, necessitates enforcement proceedings through the State's Attorney and the County Courts. About 375 nuisance complaints have been received in the Central Office of which 75 per cent of the cases have been corrected and closed.

Air pollution is becoming more and more of a problem. The Department has been able to cope, in some degree, with these complaints but it will be necessary in the future





All wells in the Forest Preserve District are sampled for bacteriological safety every year and those wells not considered safe are taken out of service.

Food handlers course for local sanitarians and food handlers. Many such schools are conducted throughout the year.

to hire additional men familiar with the technical aspects of air pollution control.

Through cooperative programs, the Sanitary Engineering Division makes inspections and prepares reports on all sanitation facilities of establishments in Cook County which are the responsibility of the State Health Department. These reports serve as the basis for action by the State Health Department. There is no countywide ordinance for regulation of sanitation of food handling establishments. A number of requests have also been received in the past year from incorporated areas for help in training village employed personnel as restaurant inspectors. Without question there is a definite need for a countywide food handling ordinance.

Consulting service is furnished upon request to people interested in problems affecting environmental sanitation. Many meetings are held with official, community, and private groups who solicit consulting services from the Sanitation Division.

To insure that sanitation facilities comply with accepted standards of design, the sanitary engineers review and approve plans and specifications for many proposed engineering projects. This is in conjunction with specific laws and county regulations.



Rivers and streams in Cook County are not considered safe for swimming purposes although efforts by the health department and other interested agencies have reduced pollution to the point where they are able to sustain aquatic life.

## meat inspection

This year marked the beginning of a program that will help insure wholesome meat and meat products for the people in Cook County. Regulations that went into effect on July 1, 1960 make it mandatory that all meat shipped into or processed in Cook County must pass a rigid inspection.

This means that all animals must be observed by veterinary inspectors when they are received at the packing plants to make sure that only healthy animals are used for food. After the animals reach the packing house, they are under continuous inspection throughout the entire meat producing operation.

After passing these inspections, the meat is stamped "inspected and passed" by the veterinary inspector.

The Cook County Department of Public Health veterinary services include a constant check to make sure that only meat bearing the inspection stamp for wholesomeness is offered for sale in the county.



A veterinarian observes a pen of cattle for health status shortly before they are sent on to a packing plant.



Animal infected with brucellosis is marked for special handling and disposition by a veterinary inspector.



A beef carcass receives a stamp for wholesomeness by a veterinary inspector after it has received a thorough inspection.

# personnel

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

Business Manager ..... Leo V. Hennessy  
Administrative Assistant ..... Jessie Pierson

## PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Chief ..... John B. Hall, M.D., M.P.H.  
Resident in Public Health ..... Colette Rasmussen, M.D.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

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

## VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

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

## DENTAL HEALTH

Supervisor ..... Seymour Gould, D.D.S.  
W. C. Lukaszewski, D.D.S.  
Dental Assistant ..... Frank Nuccio

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Chief ..... Thelma Cline, R.N., M.A.

### ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Elaine Nemoto, R.N., M.A., Myrtle Sorenson, R.N., M.Litt.

### SUPERVISORS

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M.A., Faye Krauss, R.N., C.P.H.N., Edith Nyden, R.N., B.S.

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Mary Dawson, R.N., C.P.H.N.  
Annelle Durrenberger, R.N., C.P.H.N.  
Janet Flood, R.N., B.S.  
Nancy Folan, R.N.\*  
Rosella Honey, R.N., B.S.\*  
Elizabeth Howard, R.N., B.S.  
Lois Jarnigan, R.N., B.S.  
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Mary Elizabeth Joyce, R.N., B.S.  
Joan Kostick, R.N., B.S.\*  
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Carol Mallie, R.N., B.S.  
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Mary McCann, R.N.  
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Helen Snella, R.N., B.S.  
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Patricia Ragusin, R.N., B.S.\*  
Grace Zirbel, R.N., B.S.

### PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Alice Okrafosmart, R.N., R.P.T., B.S.  
Donna Thiemann, R.P.T., B.S.

## PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Chief ..... Irene Fahey, M.P.H.  
Health Educator ..... John Pendergast, M.P.H.

## NUTRITION

Chief ..... Martha M. Tosti, M.S.  
Martha Thomason, M.S.\*

## SANITARY ENGINEERING

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

### PROGRAM SUPERVISING ENGINEERS

LeRoy V. Dzierzanowski, B.S.  
Robert J. Wollschlager, M.S.

### DISTRICT ENGINEERS

Abraham Branitzky, B.S.  
John F. Schultz

Chief Sanitarian ..... Joseph W. Svec

### SANITARIANS

Morris Albaum ..... Sylvan Kehn, B.S.\*  
Stanley Gizewski ..... Bruno Manella\*  
William Hoffmann ..... Stephen Shemanski

## SECRETARIAL DIVISION

Chief ..... Lorraine Johnson

Elizabeth Allen	Rose Keenan
Bess Bezemek	Fredrika Kirkling
Mossie Blanton	Ruth Lloyd
Alice Buck	Margaret Moulding
Jeanette Buffie	Agnes Mulvihill
Mylah Diffay	Cele Riffkind
Jennie DiPofi	Diane Rosone
Kathleen Doran	Marilyn Rosone
Irene Erickson	Sandra Russo
Barbara Guzy	Mildred Smith
Lavern Heidenfeldt	Jule Sullivan
Josephine Iacuzzi	Thelma Tarrant
Dolores Judge	Adeline Uidl

### CUSTODIAL WORKERS

Nathaniel Jones  
Leo V. Hennessy, Jr.

\*Resigned

## *the exciting story of people annual report 1960*

### COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## vital statistics

The Department of Vital Statistics administers the birth and death registration system in the suburban area. Since its establishment in November, 1953, there has been a continuous increase in the number of records filed. Births, stillbirths and deaths registered have almost tripled in the past seven years: In 1960 they totaled 9,061 as compared with 3,480 in 1954.

Copies of all vital records are made for the county clerk and files of the health department. In connection with death registration, permits are issued for the interment, transportation, and the disinterment-reinterment of human bodies. Certified copies are prepared at a fee of one dollar per copy for persons having a legitimate interest in these vital records. In 1960, fees collected for certified copies amounted to \$17,141 as compared with \$7,774 in 1954.

### LIVE BIRTHS, DEATHS, ALL CAUSES; AND TWELVE LEADING CAUSES SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY:\* 1958 and 1959

	Number	
	1958	1959
POPULATION, Estimated	1,178,000**	1,220,687
LIVE BIRTHS	30,966	32,349
DEATHS, All causes	8,862	8,964

#### TWELVE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH Ranked according to 1959 experience

Heart Disease	3,754	3,780
Cancer	1,566	1,629
Vascular lesions of central nervous system	837	884
Congenital malformations and certain diseases of early infancy	584	586
All accidents	410	382
(Motor vehicle)	(206)	(173)
(Other accidents)	(204)	(209)
Influenza and pneumonia	322	279
Diabetes mellitus	168	163
General arteriosclerosis	115	149
Cirrhosis of liver	94	110
Suicide	108	104
Hypertension, without heart involvement	74	72
Nephritis and nephrosis	70	69

\*Health Department Jurisdiction

\*\*Chicago Community Inventory

## communicable disease control

With the advent of polio vaccination the prevalence of this disease has been reduced in recent years. There have been no outbreaks of serious communicable diseases in 1960. One case of diphtheria and one case of leprosy were reported during the year. Cases of typhoid fever have been reported and investigated. Since water and food are protected in this metropolitan area, the origin of these cases has been in foreign countries.

Constant attention must be paid to the original immunization of infants against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox, plus booster injections through school age and repeat boosters against tetanus and smallpox throughout life. These biologics are furnished free to physicians. The Department has set up clinics to immunize children of families unable to afford the services of a private physician.

Although venereal diseases have decreased markedly and treatment has been improved, they still represent a major communicable disease problem. Prompt treatment of all known cases is important in order to reduce the number who become infected as well as the number who progress to later stages of the diseases. The County Board of Health approved the expenditure of funds for paying physicians to treat persons unable to pay for medical care. Each infectious person is interviewed and investigations made to find those persons named as contacts.

The supervision of persons bitten by animals is another important program. Rabies in animals is rare in suburban Cook County. Under the State Rabies Control Law of 1955, all dogs must be immunized yearly. However, the possibility of rabies being imported into the area is always present and all biting animals must be impounded. The person bitten is placed under medical supervision until the final status of the biting animal is determined. In 1960, there were 6,263 animal bites reported to the Department.

### SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES\* 1959 - 1960

DISEASE	1959	1960
Diphtheria	—	2
Encephalitis	11	23
Gonorrhea	147	136
Leprosy	—	1
Measles	501	3,878
Meningitis (all types)	37	54
Poliomyelitis	18	9
Rheumatic fever	109	159
Strep infections (including scarlet fever)	1,222	677
Syphilis	202	214
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	3	1

\*Cases reported to the health department.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

Administered in:

Child health conferences.....	3,611
District office clinics.....	2,562
Total .....	6,173

# board of health of cook county

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Secretary

Edward J. Barrett  
Assistant Secretary

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John Mackler, Jr.

Clayton F. Smith

Edward M. Sneed

John J. Touhy

\*Deceased

