

It is largely responsible for the development of a co-operative health program and for the establishment of services by the Federal Government to assist the Provincial Health Departments. Federal-provincial committees of the Council deal with specific aspects of public health.

Certain Divisions of the Department provide technical information and advice and, independently and in co-operation with other departments and agencies, conduct surveys in research and development, the evaluation of programs and procedures, and the establishment of standards. These Divisions include Blindness Control, Child and Maternal Health, Industrial Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Dental Health, Epidemiology, Hospital Design, the Laboratory of Hygiene, Information Services, and Research.

Section 2.—Provincial and Municipal Health Activities

Health services are administered in different ways in the various provinces, but provincial functions commonly include central planning and administration; the operation of special programs affecting the entire province in such fields as cancer, mental health, tuberculosis and laboratories; consultant service to local authorities; the administration of regulations governing local services; the provision of basic services in areas without municipal organization; and participation in the work of local health units in areas where that type of administration has been developed.

At the local level, responsibility for services varies widely, but municipalities in most provinces provide a range of basic public health services and participate in the costs of hospital care for indigents. In recent years there has been a rapid growth of health services in smaller centres and rural areas through the organization of health units with full-time staff serving counties or other combinations of local government areas. This type of organization, which concentrates on a generalized health program that includes public health nursing, sanitary inspection, communicable disease control, child, maternal and school hygiene and health education, is characteristic of most provinces; financial and administrative responsibility is shared by the provincial and local authorities involved. In spite of a trend towards greater provincial participation in these local units, many remain under local administration as do the highly developed health departments found in the larger cities. Outside of fully organized health-unit areas, municipalities usually appoint part-time medical officers and other personnel while the provincial authorities assume responsibility in the areas lacking municipal organization.

Newfoundland.—Health measures in Newfoundland are centrally administered by a Department of Health. Its main functions include the operation of tuberculosis, communicable disease and venereal disease control programs, nutrition and sanitary inspection services, and the provision on a prepayment basis of medical, hospital and nursing care in certain regions.

The Provincial Tuberculosis Dispensary at St. John's provides free diagnostic and treatment services and acts as the centre for tuberculosis control. The Province subsidizes separate tuberculosis control programs conducted in the northern areas by the International Grenfell Association and the Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital, and assists the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association, which maintains a sea-borne X-ray unit, with surveys in other areas.