Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan has emphasized development of personal health care services and the integration of public health and medical care for a dispersed rural population. Some programs are decentralized through health regions, medical care districts and hospital districts; most others are centrally administered by the Department of Public Health and several special agencies.

General Public Health.—Full-time community public health services are provided to 65 p.c. of the population through nine health regions, the Northern Administration Health District, and city health departments in Regina and Saskatoon; elsewhere provincial staff supply partial services. Administrative authority in the health regions is vested in regional boards, but public health staff are appointed by the Province; under joint financing arrangements the provincial Health Department pays two-thirds of public health costs in most regions.

The provincial Regional Health Services Branch has the dual function of co-ordinating policies and services within health regions, and supervising the activities of the technical divisions including Sanitation, Nursing Services, Communicable Disease Control, Venereal Disease Control, Nutrition, Child Health and Dental Health. The Provincial Laboratories supply free public health tests through the central laboratory in Regina and operate a mail order clinical testing service for physicians and small hospitals in rural areas.

Hospital and Medical Care.—Under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, which is a universal compulsory hospital insurance scheme, residents are eligible for in-patient public ward care through the annual prepayment of a personal tax of $20 by all persons 18 years of age or over, and of $5 for each dependant under 18 years of age, with a maximum family tax of $45. Additional funds are provided, from general revenue as needed, including part of the proceeds of a 3 p.c. sales tax. The Medical and Hospital Services Branch is responsible for the operation of the Hospital Service Plan, supervises the operations of the municipal doctor programs and the Air Ambulance Service. It administers a program of health care services to public assistance recipients and their dependants.

The Medical Services Division administers a broad range of medical, dental and optical services and provides drugs (subject to deterrent charges) for public assistance recipients through arrangements with the health professions. Persons and their dependants receiving blindness or mothers' allowances, provincial supplementary allowances to the universal old age pension, certain social aid cases and provincial wards are eligible. The Province pays the full cost and, for most of the eligible cases, the hospital insurance tax as well.

At the local level, municipal doctor plans in about 160 municipalities supply a varying range of medical care benefits to about 170,000 persons, while another 50,000 are covered by the Swift Current Health Region prepaid medical care plan which includes general practitioners and specialist services and dental care for children under 12 years of age. Services are financed by personal and property taxes plus provincial grants.

Mental Health.—The Psychiatric Services Branch operates two mental hospitals, a psychiatric unit in a general hospital and a training school for mentally deficient persons; in addition it administers all community psychiatric services, including three full-time and seven part-time clinics. Free care is given for all mentally ill and mentally defective persons requiring hospitalization.

Tuberculosis.—The tuberculosis control program, operated by the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League, includes preventive and case-finding services financed mainly by voluntary subscriptions, and free treatment for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases, financed by provincial per diem grants and municipal levies. The League operates three sanatoria as well as mobile and stationary clinics.

Cancer.—The Saskatchewan Cancer Commission co-ordinates all cancer control measures and maintains cancer clinics at Saskatoon and Regina providing free diagnosis and therapy, including surgery.