

In the Northwest Territories, health programs for the white population include treatment for tuberculosis and venereal disease as well as dental care for children under 17 years of age and hospital care for the mentally ill. Cancer diagnosis is provided through the Edmonton Clinic. Indigent residents are eligible for medical, dental and optical services as well as for general hospital care.

Section 2.—Health Statistics

Statistical information on the health of Canadians is at present limited to the well established and highly standardized mortality, communicable disease and institutional statistic series, all of which have been available for a long period. As compared with these records, other national health statistics are still in an early stage of development. So far, the only source of information on general illness, health services and personal expenditure for health care is the Canadian Sickness Survey of 1950-51. Other projects deal with specific health problems or selected groups of the population, such as Civil Service illness and the activities of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Much statistical information is also available from provincial and other health sources.

Statistics on causes of death are given in the Chapter on Vital Statistics, pp. 217-220; those on hospital statistics in Subsection 1 following; and those on notifiable diseases and illness in the Civil Service in Subsection 2. A brief outline of the scope and methods of the Sickness Survey of 1950-51 is given in the 1955 Year Book and some of the results are published in the 1955, 1956 and 1957-58 editions. Details are available in bulletin form (Catalogue Nos. 82-501 to 82-511).

Subsection 1.—Hospital Statistics*

There were 1,503 hospitals operating in Canada in 1959; their rated capacity (not including bassinets for the newborn) was 192,948 beds and cribs. One year earlier, 101 fewer institutions were operating as hospitals throughout the country, and there were 9,543 fewer beds and cribs available for patients.

Two methods of hospital classification are used in the tables of this Subsection: one based on admission policy, i.e., public, private or federal; and the other based on type of service provided, i.e., general, special, mental or tuberculosis. Both classifications are combined in Tables 1 and 2, which show the number of hospitals of each type and their bed capacities, distributed provincially. In 1959 almost two of every three institutions recognized by provincial authorities as hospitals were 'general' hospitals—hospitals either devoted primarily to the active treatment of a wide range of illnesses or having an active treatment unit. They accounted for at least two of every three hospitals in each province except Quebec (where the ratio was somewhat less than one in two) and British Columbia (where the ratio was about three in five). As might be expected, the ranking of the provinces according to population corresponds closely with their order in number of hospital beds, but not with their rank in number of hospitals. Saskatchewan has many small hospitals and, in 1959, ranked next after Ontario and Quebec in number of general hospitals available to the public. Bed capacity of public hospitals per 10,000 population was highest in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and the Territories (all over 100.0). Except for Newfoundland's 74.5, capacity per 10,000 population ranged between 87.2 and 94.5 in the other provinces.

* Prepared in the Institutions Section of the Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Detailed information will be found in the following DBS publications: *Hospital Statistics, Vols. I and II* (Catalogue Nos. 83-202 and 83-203); *Mental Health Statistics* (Catalogue No. 83-204) and *Financial Supplement* (No. 83-205); *Tuberculosis Statistics* (No. 83-206) and *Financial Supplement* (No. 83-207).