

Through agreements with the Federal Government, all provincial health departments have made Salk vaccine available for free immunization of children and adults; similarly, in 1962, live oral poliovirus (Sabin) vaccine was used extensively in seven provinces. During 1959, the incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis rose in all provinces to its highest level since vaccination began but in 1960 it dropped by more than one half and in 1962 reached a record low. Very few who had received the prescribed number of inoculations contracted the disease.

*Maternal and Child Health.*—Most provincial health departments have Maternal and Child Health Divisions under medical direction or have made other administrative arrangements to provide consultant services in this field. In addition, six of the provinces have consultant nursing services within these divisions. Provincial divisions provide advisory services to local health departments and to hospitals, conduct studies of local problems and needs, and assist in the training of health personnel and in the administration of National Health Grants, including the Child and Maternal Health Grant.

Local health departments serving a very high proportion of the population carry out generalized public health programs, including the provision of maternal and child health services. The basic staff consists of a medical officer of health, public health nurses and sanitary inspectors. Programs and services for mothers and children may include prenatal education, home visiting, child health conferences and school health services. Other health personnel—dentists, nutritionists, health educators and social workers—share interests in the promotion of family health.

*Dental Health.*—All provincial health departments have dental health divisions which administer programs, varying under local conditions but directed almost entirely to health education and the care of children. Training of dentists and dental hygienists in public health, the operation of children's preventive and treatment clinics, and health education are being undertaken in all provinces. Water fluoridation projects involving a total of more than 1,780,000 people are in operation in seven provinces. Four provinces—Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia—have set up, in conjunction with their dental schools, special courses for dental hygienists. In all ten provinces clinical care is provided for children in remote rural areas. A successful locally sponsored plan in which the cost of dental services for children is shared by the local community and the provincial health department is in operation in more than 90 communities in British Columbia.

*Nutrition.*—Services include technical guidance, education, consultation and research. In some provinces, school lunch programs are sponsored and dietary supplements distributed. Five provinces have special nutrition divisions; in other provinces, consultants in nutrition come under a broader grouping of departmental services.

*Health Education.*—In most provinces a professional full-time 'health educator' is a member of the public health team. A basic concern of provincial health information services is to stimulate public interest in important health needs.

*Public Health Laboratories.*—The public health laboratory was one of the earliest provincial services developed to assist local public health departments in the protection of community health and the control of infectious diseases. New central and branch laboratories have been set up in recent years and the scope of services expanded beyond the routine, but necessary, bacteriological examination of water, milk and food samples. Clinical bacteriology and special pathological services, including medical testing for physicians and hospitals, are steadily increasing in volume. Efforts to co-ordinate public health and hospital laboratory services, special measures to bring laboratory facilities to rural areas, and devices to reduce the direct cost of clinical laboratory procedures to the individual are notable in the growth of public laboratory services.