

Provincial health departments support the local programs by health grants and the provision of technical consultant services. Most of the mental and tuberculosis hospitals and clinics are provincially operated, as are treatment services for the venereal diseases, cancer, alcoholism and other specific diseases, and the provincial laboratories that aid in diagnostic and control procedures. The provincial agencies are primarily responsible for the collection and analysis of vital statistics and the study of the epidemiological and related social and economic conditions that affect health conditions. They also give leadership in such fields as occupational health, nutrition, health education and pollution problems in collaboration with national health agencies. In order to maintain and improve health services, the provincial health departments recruit and train professional and technical personnel for the health fields and support public health research. Through agreement with the Federal Government, live oral poliovirus vaccine (Sabin) as well as Salk vaccine is made available by provincial health departments for immunization against poliomyelitis.

Maternal and Child Health.—All provincial health departments have established consultant services on maternal and child health; five provinces have separate divisions under medical direction, and nine have public health nursing divisions that work with the local health services in this field. The specialized divisions also undertake studies in maternal and child care, including hospital care, and assist in the training of nursing personnel.

Dental Health.—All provincial health departments have dental health divisions that administer varying programs directed mainly to the training of dentists and dental hygienists in public health, the operation of children's preventive and treatment clinics, and dental health education. In general, dental care is restricted to pre-school and the younger school age groups, although mobile dental clinics are extended to children living in remote areas where no dentist is available. Several provinces have set up, in conjunction with their dental schools, special courses for dental hygienists. A locally sponsored plan in which the cost of dental services for children is shared by the community and the provincial health department is in operation in more than 90 communities in British Columbia.

Nutrition.—Consultants in nutrition extend technical guidance and education to health and welfare agencies and hospitals, and diet counselling to selected patient groups; they also conduct nutritional surveys and other research.

Subsection 1.—Public Health Services

Environmental Health.—The control of factors in the environment that are harmful to health is an expanding area of public health. Much of the work in community sanitation involves inspection duties to maintain safe milk, water and food supplies and sanitary conditions in sewerage and waste disposal systems and in public areas such as campsites and swimming pools. Air pollution, water pollution, radiation exposure and the use of pesticides have become major environmental problems, necessitating the co-operative efforts of governments and other agencies in research and in planning effective control measures. Special water authorities in Ontario and Quebec have responsibility for all aspects of public water supply, sewerage systems and stream pollution, and in six other provinces special water agencies exercise similar functions jointly with the health departments.

Occupational Health.—Services designed to prevent accidents and occupational diseases and to maintain the health of employees are common to provincial health departments, labour departments, workmen's compensation boards and industrial management. Provincial agencies regulate working conditions and offer consultant and educational services to industry. All provinces have legislation (Factory Acts, Shop Acts, Mines