

Tuberculosis. There were 3,943 new active and 622 reactivated cases of tuberculosis reported in Canada in 1971 — a total of 4,565 cases. Of 9,610 tuberculosis patients being treated at the end of 1971, 1,894 were hospital patients and 7,716 were being treated by drugs on an out-patient basis. In addition, 11,504 persons received preventive out-patient drug therapy as a safeguard against their developing active forms of the disease. Summary information appears in Table 6.25.

Notifiable diseases. The notifiable diseases most predominant in 1971, as in 1970, were venereal diseases (36,897 cases), rubella (12,567 cases), streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever (10,814 cases), infectious and serum hepatitis (8,784 cases), and measles (7,454 cases). Table 6.26 shows the number of notifications and the rates per 100,000 of all notifiable diseases, by province, in that year.

Cancer. Statistics Canada started a national cancer incidence reporting system on January 1, 1969, in co-operation with the National Cancer Institute and the nine existing provincial tumour registries; a registry has not yet been organized in Ontario. Participating provinces send a simple notification card with basic patient and diagnostic information for each new primary site of malignant neoplasm discovered. Data provided by this system for 1970 are given in Table 6.27.

Therapeutic abortions. The ten provinces and Yukon Territory reported that hospitals under their jurisdictions performed 18,817 therapeutic abortions during the six-month period January to June 1972, 18,801 of them on patients giving Canada as their place of residence. This was 4,629 more than the 14,188 therapeutic abortions during the same six-month period of 1971. In terms of rates per 100 registered live births, the 18,801 therapeutic abortions reported for Canadian residents amounted to 10.1% of live births for the period January to June 1972, as against an abortion rate of 7.6% of live births for the same period in 1971. The number of therapeutic abortions and abortion rates per 100 live births for Canadian residents by province and by quarter during 1971 and 1972 are shown in Table 6.28.

6.9 Veterans services

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers most of the legislation known collectively as the Veterans Charter and also provides administrative facilities for the Canadian Pension Commission, which administers the Pension Act and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; for the War Veterans Allowance Board, which administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; and for the Secretary General (Canada) of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The principal benefits now available to veterans are medical treatment for those eligible, land settlement and home construction assistance, education assistance for the children of the war dead, general welfare services, disability and dependants pensions and war veterans allowances. The work of the Department, except the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 18 district offices and four sub-district offices in Canada and one district office in England; the benefits of the Veterans' Land Act are administered through seven regional offices and 26 district offices across Canada.

6.9.1 Pensions and allowances

6.9.1.1 Disability and dependants pensions

Canadian Pension Commission. The Canadian Pension Commission administers the Pension Act (RSC 1970, c.P-7) and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act (RSC 1970, c.C-20). Members are appointed by the Governor in Council who may also impose upon the Commission duties in respect of any grants in the nature of pensions, etc., made under any statute other than the Pension Act. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Commission has district offices in principal cities across Canada with a senior pension medical examiner in charge.

The Pension Act. The evolution of Canada's pension legislation can be traced chronologically through special material usually appearing after major modifications in the laws affecting veterans pensions and through the statistical presentations to be found each year in earlier editions of the *Canada Year Book*. The Pension Act was the subject of major modification in 1971 and details of the principal changes are described in subsequent paragraphs within this Section.