

Non-medical use of drugs. The objectives of the Non-medical Use of Drugs Directorate may be described under four main headings: prevention, to develop and stimulate programs intended to prevent mind-altering drugs being used in ways that may result in physical, mental and social health problems; treatment, to stimulate the development of effective means of dealing with the immediate physical and mental problems caused by the use of mind-altering drugs; rehabilitation, to stimulate the development of effective means of restoring casualties of mind-altering drugs to health; and education, to develop and promote information and education programs aimed at preventing drug abuse and at persuading smokers to stop and young persons not to start.

Environmental health. The Environmental Health Directorate is responsible for studying the adverse effects on human health of the chemical and physical environment, and for ensuring the safety, effectiveness, and non-fraudulent nature of medical devices. The Directorate is responsible for developing health hazard assessments for the work and home environments, household products, and air and water criteria. Research on radiation hazards is conducted and environmental and occupational exposures are monitored. The Directorate is responsible for the enforcement of the Radiation Emitting Devices Act and that portion of the Food and Drugs Act dealing with medical devices and radioactive pharmaceuticals. Additionally, the Directorate jointly administers the Hazardous Products Act with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Disease control. The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control Directorate is involved in the development and implementation of improved laboratory diagnostic procedures and other measures to combat communicable disease agents. Activities entail developing methods for detecting and preventing disease, producing and distributing standardized diagnostic reagents to federal, provincial and other health organizations, and providing a national reference service for identification of disease-producing bacteria, viruses and parasites.

The Directorate also maintains surveillance of birth defects, poisonings, and adverse drug reactions. Epidemiological research is carried out on both communicable and non-communicable diseases. A program is also under way to assess the effect of social and environmental change on health including the calculation of risk factors due to lifestyle.

5.1.3 Research, planning, standards and consultation

Medical research. Most federal grants supporting health science research in universities and hospitals are channelled through the Medical Research Council. The work of the Council and of the Health Research and Development Program in the Department of National Health and Welfare are described in Chapter 9.

Health statistics and economics. Health statistics are collected by the Health Division, Statistics Canada, as well as by various units in the Department of National Health and Welfare, with co-ordination by an Interdepartmental Committee. Plans are under way for a jointly operated continuing Canada Health Survey including a household interview component and a medical examination component.

Statistics Canada has established collection systems for data on vital statistics, special diseases, health manpower, and hospital and institutional care. Units in the Health Protection Branch of National Health and Welfare are concerned with data on health products, health hazards, and certain disease areas. In the Health Programs Branch, the Health Economics and Statistics Division operates a medical care data bank, and integrates health statistical data from various sources. The Division undertakes socio-economic research in a variety of fields including medical and hospital care, community health, health expenditures and resources, and other matters relating to health costs and utilization. These studies support departmental health planning, as well as the production of publications designed to increase public understanding of the organization, cost and performance of Canada's health services and resources.

Health planning. The Long Range Health Planning Branch is responsible for continuously assessing the over-all orientation of health services and the organization of resources and factors influencing the health of Canadians. The Branch also collaborates with other branches of the Department in developing proposals for implementing the general program. The operating branches are responsible for the detailed development, implementation and