

maintenance and restoration of the health of Canadians, through its research and development program.

The program encourages the development of ideas and proposals generated by qualified individuals and agencies (other than federal government departments and employees); and the maintenance of a body of competent Canadian research investigators in health care, including health hazards of the environment, the biology of human populations, lifestyle and the organization of health services.

Health statistics. The health division of Statistics Canada has established collection systems for data on vital statistics, special diseases, health manpower and hospital and institutional care. Units in the national health and welfare department are concerned with data on health products, health hazards and certain disease areas. The department also operates a medical care data bank, and integrates health statistical data from various sources. Socio-economic research is carried out 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 to increase public understanding of Canada's health services and resources.

Health planning. The national health and welfare department assesses the orientation of health services and the organization of resources and factors influencing the health of Canadians. Proposals are developed by specialists in medicine, pharmacy, epidemiology, economics, sociology, demography, political science, statistics and administration.

Standards and consultation. The NHW department extends technical advisory services to provincial agencies, universities and other organizations for health programs, health manpower and health research.

The department co-operates with provinces, professional associations, universities and other organizations to establish and promote standards and directives for health services, clinical practice and health personnel. Health consultants study the health-related needs of Canadians, the means available to meet those needs, and the use of health resources. They provide information and consulting services particularly about health systems, plans and tenders for facilities, hospital administration, health personnel, community health and health promotion. Other technical advice is available through programs directly operated by the department for health protection including the safety of foods, drugs, and health appliances, environmental health, disease control and other specialized areas.

Canada health survey. The Canada health survey was a joint responsibility of the national health and welfare department and Statistics Canada. It was developed to obtain better data on the health status and risk exposure of the Canadian population and to complement existing information which comes primarily from vital statistics and medical care records. It monitored not just disease and disability but relevant facts on lifestyle, environment and socio-economic factors. Information came from an interview and questionnaire. Observed information came from physical measurements and blood tests. The project, initially planned as a continuing survey, was reduced to a one-year study conducted from May 1978 to April 1979. Approximately 12,000 homes (38,000 individuals) were visited. One-third of the households participated in the physical measures portion of the survey.

5.7 Mental health and illness

Among provincially operated health services, mental health activities are one of the largest administrative areas in expenditure and employees.

No adequate measure of mental disorders exists, but in 1977 there were 129,397 admissions to psychiatric in-patient facilities. Separations numbered 131,650, and the year-end census of patients on books totalled 48,238. There has been a gradual decline in all of these indicators in recent years. Table 5.20 contains information on patient movement in the various types of psychiatric facilities. Beyond these hospitals and clinics, however, are many other cases.