

services are provided or supervised by a regional health unit. A regional structure intermediate between provincial departments and local health units may provide technical advice. Some urban boards of health in metropolitan areas have been amalgamated to increase their effectiveness.

**Maternal and child health.** All provincial health departments have established maternal and child health consultant services that co-operate with the public health nursing services. The maternal and child health services also undertake studies in maternal and child care, including hospital care, and help train nursing personnel. At the local level, public health nurses provide preventive services to mothers, the newborn and children through clinics, home and hospital visits and school health services.

**Nutrition and health education.** Provincial health departments and some municipal or regional health departments employ nutrition consultants to extend technical guidance and education to health and welfare agencies, schools, nursing homes, various community service agencies and other institutions and hospitals. They also provide diet counselling to selected patient groups such as diabetics, and conduct nutritional surveys and other research. Most provincial health departments have a division or unit of health

*Health education programs are directed to good nutrition, accident prevention, and to changing habits harmful to health such as smoking and excessive use of alcohol and other drugs.*

education under a full-time professional health educator to promote public knowledge of health needs and measures. These divisions provide educational materials to other divisions of the health department, local health authorities, schools, voluntary associations and the public. Many educational activities are directed to accident prevention and to changing habits harmful to health, such as smoking and the excessive use of alcohol and other drugs. All health workers carry out health education as part of their normal activities.

**Dental health.** Although public health programs at the provincial level have been largely preventive, increasing emphasis is now being given to dental treatment services. Dental clinics conducted by local health services are generally restricted to pre-school and younger school-age groups. A number of provinces send dental teams to remote areas lacking such services. All provinces have dental care schemes of varying coverage for welfare recipients. Other dental health programs are directed to the training of dentists, dental hygienists, dental nurses, dental therapists and dental assistants, the conducting of dental surveys and extension of water fluoridation.

**Communicable disease control.** The larger provincial health departments have separate divisions of communicable disease control headed by full-time epidemiologists; in others this function is combined with one or more community health services. Local health authorities organize public clinics for immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, smallpox and measles. They also engage in case-finding and diagnostic services in co-operation with public health laboratories and private physicians. Special services for tuberculosis and venereal disease have already been described.

**Public health laboratories.** All provinces maintain a central public health laboratory and most have branch laboratories to assist local health agencies and the medical profession in the protection of community health and the control of infectious diseases. Public health bacteriology (testing of milk, water and food), diagnostic bacteriology and pathology are the principal functions of the laboratory service, with medical testing for physicians and hospitals steadily increasing.

**Rehabilitation and home care.** Rehabilitation services are provided by a wide range of public and voluntary agencies. Physical medicine and rehabilitation services are based in