

COST OF TUBERCULOSIS

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COST OF TUBERCULOSIS

Available evidence points to the fact that each year public and private health and welfare agencies in New York City expend many millions of dollars on one communicable disease -- tuberculosis. The exact sum has never been fully ascertained for the City as a whole. It was estimated several years ago that the annual cost of tuberculosis in the City was 50 million dollars. Today the cost may be around 25 million dollars, the major part of the burden being carried by the official agencies.

In the most recent budget of the City of New York the appropriations for the control, care and treatment of tuberculosis amount to 20 million dollars. (Ref.e) This does not include the anticipated expenditures by the Department of Welfare for assistance to the tuberculous. The budget of the three Tuberculosis and Health Associations for the current fiscal period is \$1,382,000. The activities of these latter organizations are mainly in the field of tuberculosis.

Therefore, the ascertainable cost of tuberculosis in New York City is nearly 22 million dollars annually.

If we were to take into account the additional monies expended on the behalf of private patients in non-public hospitals, those under care of private physicians, other voluntary and official health and welfare agencies who in one way or another assist tuberculous persons, (i.e., the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Selective Placement Division of the New York State Department of Labor, and others), the loss of personal income incurred by individuals and families, as well as their expenditures due to tuberculosis, and the Department of Welfare financial assistance, the total sum would be markedly increased.

CITY OF NEW YORK:-DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Tuberculosis Control Activities

Service	Appropriations authorized 1961-62
Personal Service	\$1,977,553
Other than Personal Service	339,960
Total Tuberculosis Control Activities..	\$2,317,513

Note: Appropriations authorized for 1960-1961 were \$2,305,514.

The Department of Health (Tuberculosis Control Activities) conducts programs for the control and prevention of tuberculosis; maintains a register for all known cases of tuberculosis in the City; operates 30 chest clinics throughout the City, providing diagnostic service, and antibacterial treatment in cooperation with hospitals, for ambulatory patients, consultation service for physicians and their private patients; augments case-finding operations through clinic x-ray services and mass chest x-ray activities covering diverse groups, including community groups, workers in industrial organizations, government employees, and schools.

Maximum personnel 1961-1962 -- 337 positions; 27,512 Physician sessions; 880 Public Health Nurse sessions; 1,800 Clerk days.

CITY OF NEW YORK:-DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS

Tuberculosis Care Hospitals*

Service	Appropriations	
	As Modified 1960-61	Proposed 1961-62
In-Patient Service	\$14,697,069	\$14,326,646
Out-Patient Service	396,464	421,604
Total appropriations	\$15,093,533	\$14,748,250

*Bellevue Tuberculosis Unit, Nathan B. Van Etten, Kings County Tuberculosis and Chronic Disease, Triboro, Sea View (1961-1962 extensions reduced to reflect further partial closure of facility as a tuberculosis hospital).

CITY OF NEW YORK:-PAYMENTS TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS
 Services to Medically Indigent, Sick and Infirm
 Care, Maintenance and Treatment of Medically Indigent
 Sick and Infirm in Hospitals and Sanatoria

Item	Days	Rate Per Diem	Authorized 1961-1962
Tuberculosis	242,890	\$11.00	\$2,671,790
TB (plus med. or surg. for non-related conditions)	6,060	24.00	145,440
Surgical treatment of TB patients	1,350	24.00	32,400
The Tuberculosis Preventorium for Children (Farmingdale, N.J.)	53,000	6.00	318,000

Note: The City of New York provides payments on a per diem basis to voluntary hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria for care, maintenance and treatment in general and special hospitals of medically indigent sick and infirm, including convalescent and chronic patients.

SUMMARY, APPROPRIATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, 1961-1962

Department of Health	\$2,317,513
Department of Hospitals	14,748,250
Charitable Institutions	3,167,630
Total	\$20,233,393

Note: For direct services and does not include welfare costs.

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The extent of care, services and assistance given by some of the agencies for which specific cost figures are not available is indicated by the following.

Department of Welfare, The City of New York: During the period June 1959 to May 1960 there were in New York City 2,350 "tuberculosis families" and 3,786 "tuberculosis, unattached persons" who were receiving assistance from the Department. Since there were approximately 3.8 persons in each tuberculosis family the total number of individuals receiving some assistance was 12,716.

According to the Commissioner of the Department of Welfare "This information relates to the number of families and unattached persons who are receiving a therapeutic diet allowance for the tuberculous condition. It can be assumed that in most family situations at least one member of the family has tuberculosis. That person may be in the home or hospitalized. There will be some situations where the original tuberculous member has died or left the family but the family is still receiving an allowance for the therapeutic diet. According to policy, a diet allowance is given to the active tuberculous person and the contacts during the period the tuberculous person is diagnosed as active, and to all for the five-year period following the date on which the tuberculous person is diagnosed as arrested. The allowance is continued for a five-year period even if the original source is no longer in the home." (Communication, July 21, 1960)

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The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Education Department, New York City District Office, serves annually between 750 and 800 tuberculosis patients. From May 1960 through April 1961 this agency served 726 tuberculosis patients. Patients are eligible for service if their disease is classified as arrested, inactive, active-improved, apparently cured or apparently arrested; patients are ineligible for service if they have active tuberculosis, positive sputum or no activity permitted. Most tuberculosis patients applying to D.V.R. need to develop a skill. This may be either a completely new skill or brush-up of a skill acquired prior to illness, or may be "hardening" for training or employment. Tuberculosis patients applying to D.V.R. today are usually unskilled.

The Selective Placement Division, New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment, New York City, indicated that during one week in October 1960, 145 individuals with pulmonary tuberculosis were receiving service. This would be approximately 7,540 persons per year. The division usually places one out of every four applicants with disabilities, regardless of the disability.

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Tuberculosis Associations: The combined budgets of the three Associations serving the five New York City boroughs, Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association, New York Tuberculosis and Health Association (Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island), Queensboro Tuberculosis and Health Association, for the fiscal year 1961-1962, are \$1,382,000. Activities of these organizations are mainly in the field of tuberculosis.

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Federal appropriations for the Tuberculosis Program, Public Health Service, Fiscal year 1962 are: Direct operations \$2,493,000, Grants to States \$3,500,000 (New York State \$334,700 estimated allocation), Special project grants \$500,000. Special project grants will be used in those areas where the tuberculosis problem is most serious. (Ref.i)

The last available estimate, by the Public Health Service, indicated that for the year 1956 the cost of tuberculosis in the United States and its territories was more than \$725 million. (Ref.j)