

COST OF TUBERCULOSIS

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COST OF TUBERCULOSIS

EACH year public and private health and welfare agencies in New York City continue to expend millions of dollars on one communicable disease -- tuberculosis. The exact sum is not known and it has never been fully ascertained for the City as a whole. In 1955 it was estimated that the annual cost of tuberculosis in the City was 50 million dollars. Today the total "cost" may be around 25 million dollars, the major part of the burden being direct expenditure for case detection, care and treatment by the official agencies.

In the 1962-63 budget of the City of New York the appropriations for the control, care and treatment of tuberculosis amount to almost 18 million dollars. (Ref.j) These municipal appropriations do not include the anticipated expenditures by the Department of Welfare for assistance to the tuberculous. The combined budget of the three Tuberculosis and Health Associations for the 1962-63 fiscal period is \$1,417,857. Activities of these voluntary health organizations are mainly in the field of tuberculosis.

Therefore, the ascertainable cost of tuberculosis in New York City is well over 19 million dollars annually.

If we were to take into account the additional monies expended on behalf of private patients in non-public hospitals, those under care of private physicians, services rendered by voluntary and official health and welfare agencies who in one way or another assist tuberculous persons, financial assistance by the Department of Welfare, the loss of personal income incurred by individuals and families and added expenditures due to tuberculosis, the total sum would be increased markedly.

* * * * *

CITY OF NEW YORK:-DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Tuberculosis Control Activities

| Service | Appropriations authorized 1962-63 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Personal Service | \$2,134,191 |
| Other than Personal Service | <u>433,290</u> |
| Total Tuberculosis Control Activities | <u>\$2,567,481</u> |

Note: Appropriations authorized for 1961-1962 were \$2,317,513.

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 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 1962-1963 -- 328 positions; 26,335 Physician sessions; 880 Public Health Nurse sessions; 2,686 Clerk days.

CITY OF NEW YORK:-DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS
Tuberculosis Care Hospitals*

| Service | Appropriations | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | As Modified 1961-62 | Proposed 1962-63 |
| In-Patient Service | \$15,373,052 | \$12,627,648 |
| Out-Patient Service ... | 429,428 | 428,365 |
| Total Appropriations. | \$15,802,480 | \$13,056,013 |

*Bellevue Tuberculosis Unit, Nathan B. Van Etten,
Kings County Tuberculosis and Chronic Disease,
Triboro.

TUBERCULOSIS UNITS, DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS
Gross Cost*, 1961

| Tuberculosis Units | Total Institutional Cost | In-Patient Cost | Out-Patient Cost |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bellevue TB Unit | \$2,519,111 | \$2,341,447 | \$177,664 |
| City Hospital at Elmhurst TB Unit | 185,462 | 185,462 | ... |
| Harlem TB Unit | 432,741 | 432,741 | ... |
| Kings County TB Unit | 4,458,059 | 4,386,971 | 71,088 |
| Metropolitan TB Unit | 1,208,309 | 1,208,309 | ... |
| Sea View TB Communicable Unit | 1,463,453 | 1,463,453 | ... |
| Triboro Hospital | 3,325,894 | 3,283,119 | 42,775 |
| Nathan B. Van Etten Hospital | 2,985,290 | 2,881,537 | 103,753 |
| Total | \$16,578,319 | \$16,183,039 | \$395,280 |

| Tuberculosis Units | In-Patient Average Daily Cost | In-Patient Days | Bed Capacity | Out-Patient Average Cost Per Visit | Out-Patient Visits |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| Bellevue TB Unit | \$22.33 | 104,866 | 351 | \$6.69 | 26,546 |
| City Hospital at Elmhurst TB Unit | 28.41 | 6,528 | 20 | ... | ... |
| Harlem TB Unit | 32.87 | 13,165 | 46 | ... | ... |
| Kings County TB Unit | 21.51 | 203,973 | 664 | 14.19 | 5,010 |
| Metropolitan TB Unit | 20.00 | 44,756 | 99 | ... | ... |
| Sea View TB Communicable Unit | 44.86 | 32,617 | 34(†) | ... | ... |
| Triboro Hospital | 18.34 | 178,980 | 557 | 6.70 | 6,388 |
| Nathan B. Van Etten Hospital | 22.73 | 126,785 | 471 | 18.03 | 5,756 |
| Total | \$22.74 | 711,670 | 2,242 | \$9.05 | 43,700 |

*Gross cost rounded to nearest dollar, year ended December 31, 1961.

†Reduced to 18 beds as of May 1962. (Ref.k)

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 1962-1963 |
|--|---------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuberculosis | 137,030 | \$12.00 | \$1,644,366 |
| TB (plus med. or surg. for non-related conditions) | 2,940 | 26.00 | 76,440 |
| Surgical treatment of TB patients | 260 | 26.00 | 6,760 |
| The Tuberculosis Preventorium for Children (Farmingdale, N.J.) | 68,000 | 6.50 | 442,000 |

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.

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 SUMMARY, APPROPRIATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, 1962-1963

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Department of Health | \$2,567,481 |
| Department of Hospitals | 13,056,013 |
| Charitable Institutions | 2,169,566 |
| Total | \$17,793,060 |

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). The Division of Medical Care of the Department of Welfare notes that in a recent year a total of 10,250 diets for tuberculous patients and contacts were given; 7,470 diets were included in the budgets of 1,850 families and in the cases of unattached tuberculosis clients there were 2,780 diets included.

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.

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THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION, New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment, New York City, indicated that during one week in October 1961, 128 individuals with pulmonary tuberculosis were receiving service. This would be approximately 6,656 persons per year. The age distribution of the 128 persons mentioned above was: under 20 years = 3, 20-44 years = 77, 45 years and over = 48. There were 28 job placements of those individuals or approximately 1,456 during the year. Approval by a physician for 8 hours in competitive employment is the single eligibility for service by this agency. 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 1962-1963 are \$1,417,857. Activities of these organizations are mainly in the field of tuberculosis.

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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.1)

It may be of interest that one large insurance company made 0.4 percent (\$2,112,000) of its total death claims disbursements in 1961 for policyholders who died from tuberculosis; 20 years ago in 1941 the proportion was 4.1 percent (\$7,257,000). (Ref.m) The tuberculosis death rate for industrial policyholders of this company was 5.1 in 1961, 5.7 for the total United States.

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FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL, 1963. Congress has acted on the appropriation for the Tuberculosis Program of the Public Health Service for fiscal 1963. The amount available for the entire program, including direct operations as well as grants to states and project grants, totals \$6,993,000. This total represents an increase of \$500,000 over the Administration request. The amount available for formula and project grants will be \$3,250,000 and \$1,250,000, respectively. The amounts requested for these programs were \$2,500,000 and \$1,500,000. Although subsequent Congressional action increased the amount for formula grants and decreased that for project grants, the latter program will receive a substantial increase over the 1962 appropriation while formula grants will receive a slightly decreased amount. In 1962, its initial year of operation, the project grant program received \$500,000. The 1962 appropriation for formula grants was \$3,500,000. (National Tuberculosis Association report: Legislation, 87th Congress, Second Session, August 14, 1962.)