

**TUBERCULOSIS
IN NEW YORK CITY
1959**

NEW GAINS AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

♦

A review by

ANTHONY M. LOWELL

OR 3-3935

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**NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS
AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.**



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260 Park Ave. South
New York 10, N.Y.

1960

TUBERCULOSIS HIGHLIGHTS
NEW YORK CITY
YEAR 1959

TUBERCULOSIS, among 7,700,000 New York City residents, was responsible for

- 779 deaths
- 4,924 newly reported with active disease
- 16,909 known active "cases" on record during
the year
- 9,270 persons still requiring medical care or
supervision on December 31.

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Thousands of other New Yorkers were going about the city, with unknown active tuberculosis, unaware of serious illness. Among these people the disease is a continuing menace to their own health and life as well as that of their families and other Associates.

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Among 299,389 patients having x-ray examinations at the time of admission to General Hospitals there were 1,589 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Department of Health and the Tuberculosis Associations took 511,899 x-rays in case-finding programs.

Specific antibacterial drug treatment for tuberculosis by the Department of Health alone was provided to 5,716 individuals at the end of the year.

Of the 9,270 residents with active tuberculosis at year-end, 4,653 were in hospitals and sanatoria, 2,770 attending clinics, 625 under private physicians' care, and 1,222 under other types of supervision.

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TUBERCULOSIS TODAY

Once again it is gratifying to report further progressive gains against tuberculosis in New York City. New milestones have been reached and there is hope that, with the present rate of progress, in a generation or two we may see tuberculosis as a comparatively minor cause of illness and death. Tuberculosis is no longer one of the ten leading causes of death. This in itself is an achievement of major importance. Whereas only a few years ago the annual mortality was measured in the thousands, today we count the deaths in hundreds. Last year there were 779 deaths recorded as compared to 833 in 1958 and 2,321 in 1950.

During 1959 there were 4,924 newly reported cases of tuberculosis that came to the attention of public health authorities. The number reflected a ten percent decline from the year before.

On December 31, 1959 there were still 9,270 persons with active tuberculosis listed on the Department of Health tuberculosis register as under treatment or supervision. The majority of these persons were under care of hospitals and sanatoria (4,653), and various tuberculosis clinics (2,770) within the city.

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Special acknowledgments are due the Bureau of Tuberculosis, the Bureau of Records and Statistics of the Department of Health and also the Department of Hospitals, the City of New York, who have generously made available important detailed statistics of their community-wide activities. Thanks are also due the cooperating tuberculosis hospitals throughout the New York Metropolitan Area, and other authorities who have continued to furnish reports and have assisted in providing basic information on tuberculosis. -- A.M.L.