

TUBERCULOSIS  
IN  
NEW YORK CITY  
1962

Tuberculosis Continues To Be A  
Major Public Health Problem

A Compilation and Review  
by  
ROLAND S. MERCHANT, M.A., M.S.

NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS  
AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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260 Park Ave. South  
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## FOREWORD

The New York Tuberculosis and Health Association sponsors and publishes this yearbook as a public service. Mr. Merchant, our statistician, has taken pains to verify the accuracy of the data and to arrange them in an orderly and easily accessible form. We believe that the availability of this information in such detail is necessary in New York City where the prevalence of tuberculosis is relatively great and its incidence is rising.

Provisional figures from the Department of Health at the end of 1963 add up to 4,967 "new" active cases reported during the previous 12 months, representing an increase of 529 cases, or 12 percent over the number reported in the year 1962. This demands an intensified attack on the disease and a thorough investigation of its resurgence, since effective measures of prevention depend on clear recognition of underlying factors.

J. Burns Amberson, M.D.  
General Director

March 6, 1964

## PREFACE

This 1962 edition of "Tuberculosis in New York City" describes many aspects of the New York City tuberculosis problem and program and provides a record of tuberculosis morbidity and mortality by age, sex, ethnic group and geographic location; as well as information concerning New York Tuberculosis and Health Association activities in the fight against tuberculosis. A large portion of the data contained in this Yearbook was supplied by the Bureau of Tuberculosis and the Bureau of Records and Statistics of the New York City Department of Health. Consequently, the diagnostic standards and classification of the data presented in this publication follow the practice of the Department of Health.

The content of this statistical report is useful for developing effective measures and programs by those who are active in the fight against tuberculosis, for reference, and as source material for epidemiological investigation or research studies. It indicates the direction of tuberculosis morbidity and mortality during past years and is, therefore, of immediate help in the analysis of present trends.

Special thanks are herewith given to Dr. Arthur Robins and Dr. Carl Erhardt, directors respectively of the Bureau of Tuberculosis and the Bureau of Records and Statistics of the Department of Health, for their advice on the type of data that should be included in this publication.

R. S. M.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special acknowledgments are due the following organizations which have generously made available detailed statistics included in this report:

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Bureau of Administration  
Bureau of Medical and Hospital Services,  
Medical Statistics and Records Service

Department of City Planning, The City of New York

Department of Welfare, The City of New York

Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association

Queensboro Tuberculosis and Health Association

New York State Department of Health  
Tuberculosis Control Program

New York State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

New York State Department of Labor, Selective Placement  
Division, Division of Employment, New York City

New Jersey State Department of Health  
Public Health Statistics Program

New Jersey Tuberculosis and Health Association

Community Council of Greater New York  
Research Department  
Bureau of Community Statistical Services

Regional Plan Association

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Public Health Service  
National Center for Health Statistics

U. S. Bureau of the Census

Commissioners of Health and Other Public Health Authorities  
of Large Cities

National Health Officials of Selected Countries

**I - SUMMARY**  
**TUBERCULOSIS HIGHLIGHTS**  
**NEW YORK CITY**  
**YEAR: 1962**

TUBERCULOSIS, among 7,780,000 New York City residents, was responsible for:

- 740 . . . deaths in 1962 compared to 738 in 1961
- 4,437 . . . persons newly reported to have active disease; 4,360  
the year before
- 6,349 . . . residents with active disease under medical care on  
December 31, 1962 compared with 6,842 in 1961.

\* \* \*

Of the 6,349 residents with active tuberculosis at the end of 1962, 3,185 were in hospitals and sanatoria, 2,060 were attending clinics, 388 were under private physicians' care, and 716 were under other types of supervision.

Among 314,222 patients having chest X-ray examinations at the time of admission to 40 General Hospitals there were 1,567 persons with active tuberculosis, including 948 previously not registered.

The Department of Health and the Tuberculosis Associations made 485,191 chest X-ray examinations for tuberculosis, which include case finding survey and follow-up of patients in clinics.

Specific antibacterial drug treatment for tuberculosis by the Department of Health alone was provided to 7,549 individuals at the end of the year. These included persons with active tuberculosis, some with inactive tuberculosis on long-term chemotherapy and a lesser number of infected persons who were receiving prophylactic drug treatment. In the Department of Hospitals clinics, there were approximately 4,000 such patients. Therefore, approximately 11,500 persons were under drug treatment by municipal clinics. These figures do not include persons receiving treatment from the following: private physicians, voluntary hospital clinics, and in-patients of municipal and voluntary hospitals.

Tuberculosis cost residents of New York City approximately 25 million dollars last year in items that can be estimated. Other expenditures incurred because of losses to the general economy as a direct result of tuberculosis will increase the total cost by millions.

It is estimated by the National Tuberculosis Association that one-fifth of the people in the United States is infected with the tubercle bacillus. Since New York City's new case rate and death rate are higher than the national rates, it seems likely that the tuberculosis infection rate for New York City would exceed the infection rate for the nation.

## TUBERCULOSIS IN 1962 THE REVERSAL OF A DECREASING TREND IN NEWLY REPORTED CASES

In 1962, the number of new cases of active tuberculosis reported in New York City increased for the first time since 1953. The number of new cases of active tuberculosis reported in 1962 were 4,437 compared to 4,360 in 1961 or a 1.8 per cent increase.

With about 4.2 per cent of the United States population, New York City was the location for 8.0 per cent of the new cases of tuberculosis in the United States; and 7.8 per cent of the deaths from tuberculosis in the United States occurred in New York City. Thus New York City contributed more than its proportionate share of tuberculosis to the national total.

Since the advent of chemotherapy, although there was a general decline in death rate from tuberculosis, there were fluctuations in terms of increases for the years 1957, 1960 and 1962 (increases of 2%, 4% and 1% respectively). However, the new case rate has declined steadily until in 1962 when there was the first increase since 1953. We cannot meaningfully discuss a single year variation or give specific reasons for the 1962 increase. However, the preliminary figure for 1963 has indicated a 12% increase in the newly reported cases of active tuberculosis for the first 8 months of 1963 over the number reported for the same period in 1962.

This increase is significant and warrants epidemiological investigation to find the source of the new cases and the reasons for the increase. With interest centered on tuberculosis for centuries, a cure or a preventive was actively sought and specific drugs became available in 1944. Since the discovery and use of anti-tuberculosis drugs, there has been a great tendency to think that our task has been accomplished. Undoubtedly there has been public apathy and indifference to the tuberculosis problem in New York City, arising from over-confidence in and misunderstanding of the efficacy of anti-tuberculosis drugs if not properly administered -- the danger of reactivation and of developing an increasing number of drug resistant tuberculous patients (due to poor regimens of chemotherapy or through the non-co-operation of the patients) is very real.

Dr. George James\*, Commissioner of Health, New York City, said the following:

"We are also witnessing the specter of drug resistance as the tubercle bacillus fights for survival. We have a number of patients for whom the possibility of cure with any drug has apparently been exhausted. The resistant organisms, furthermore, can be transmitted from one person to another, spreading a new and worse strain of tuberculosis. Patients believed to be beyond cure by drugs are a very small part of the total

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\*In a speech before the Tuberculosis and Health Associations of New York City, The New York State Committee on Tuberculosis and Public Health, and the New York Trudeau Society, in New York City on April 25, 1963.

number treated for tuberculosis -- less than one per cent -- but they are a substantial proportion of the patients hospitalized and seen in tuberculosis clinics."

From 1955 to 1960 an increase in drug resistant tubercle bacilli occurred in New York City in patients with newly discovered untreated pulmonary tuberculosis.<sup>1</sup>

Last year 740 New York residents died from tuberculosis, 4,437 became newly reported victims, 6,349 were receiving care and treatment for active tuberculosis at year-end, and literally thousands more with arrested and inactive tuberculosis were under medical supervision. It is estimated that every third person in New York City is infected with the tubercle bacillus, and from this group will come a large proportion of the new cases of active tuberculosis.

The control of tuberculosis as a major public health problem in New York City requires unflagging vigilance in maintaining and stepping up proven public health measures and techniques against tuberculosis.



Table 1.  
**TUBERCULOSIS MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, CITY OF NEW YORK, 1961 AND 1962**  
 A - New Cases of Tuberculosis Reported in Each Borough

Boroughs	Number of New Cases			Case Rate per 100,000		
	1961	1962	Change 1961-1962	1961	1962	Change 1961-1962
Manhattan .....	1,832	1,746	- 86 = - 4.7%	107.9	105.8	- 2.1 = - 1.9%
Bronx .....	704	770	+ 66 = + 9.4%	49.4	53.8	+ 4.4 = + 8.9%
Brooklyn .....	1,318	1,380	+ 62 = + 4.7%	50.2	52.9	+ 2.7 = + 5.4%
Queens .....	458	504	+ 46 = +10.0%	25.3	27.1	+ 1.8 = + 7.1%
Richmond .....	48	37	- 11 = -22.9%	21.6	16.1	- 5.5 = -25.5%
New York City .....	4,360	4,437	+ 77 = + 1.8%	56.0	57.0	+ 1.0 = + 1.8%

B - Mortality From All Forms of Tuberculosis, By Boroughs

Boroughs	Deaths within City			Death Rate per 100,000		
	1961	1962	Change 1961-1962	1961	1962	Change 1961-1962
Manhattan .....	299	276	- 23 = - 7.7%	17.7	16.7	- 1.0 = - 5.6%
Bronx .....	84	93	+ 9 = +10.7%	5.9	6.5	+ 0.6 = +10.2%
Brooklyn .....	198	214	+ 16 = + 8.1%	7.5	8.2	+ 0.7 = + 9.3%
Queens .....	93	105	+ 12 = +12.9%	5.1	5.6	+ 0.5 = + 9.8%
Richmond .....	13	7	- 6 = -46.2%	5.8	3.0	- 2.8 = -48.3%
N.Y. City Residents ...	687	695	+ 8 = + 1.2%	8.8	8.9	+ 0.1 = + 1.1%
Total Recorded† .....	738	740	+ 2 = + 0.3%	9.4	9.5	+ 0.1 = + 1.1%

†Including non-residents (1961=24, 1962=21) and persons with unknown addresses (1961=27, 1962=24).

C - Cases of Active Tuberculosis on Health District Rosters  
 By Type of Current Care as of December 31, 1962

Classification	New York City	Manhattan	Bronx	Brooklyn	Queens	Richmond
Institutions in city .....	2,609	1,150	454	718	264	23
Out of town in sanatoria .....	576	363	50	105	52	6
Total hospitalized .....	3,185	1,513	504	823	316	29
Health Department clinics .....	1,617	540	299	565	205	8
Other clinics .....	443	218	82	107	36	0
Attending clinics .....	2,060	758	381	672	241	8
Private physicians .....	388	84	62	131	99	12
"Pending"† .....	624	417	80	89	36	2
Out of town, not in hospital .....	22	17	1	2	0	2
No Medical or Clinic care .....	70	36	13	16	5	0
Total in Register .....	6,349	2,825	1,041	1,733	697	53

†Type of care not confirmed, unassigned or in process of change of care.

POPULATION: Estimated, July 1, 1962: New York City, 7,780,000; Manhattan, 1,650,000; Bronx, 1,430,000; Brooklyn, 2,610,000; Queens, 1,860,000; and Richmond, 230,000.

TUBERCULOSIS, NEW CASES AND DEATHS, NEW YORK CITY, 1945-1962

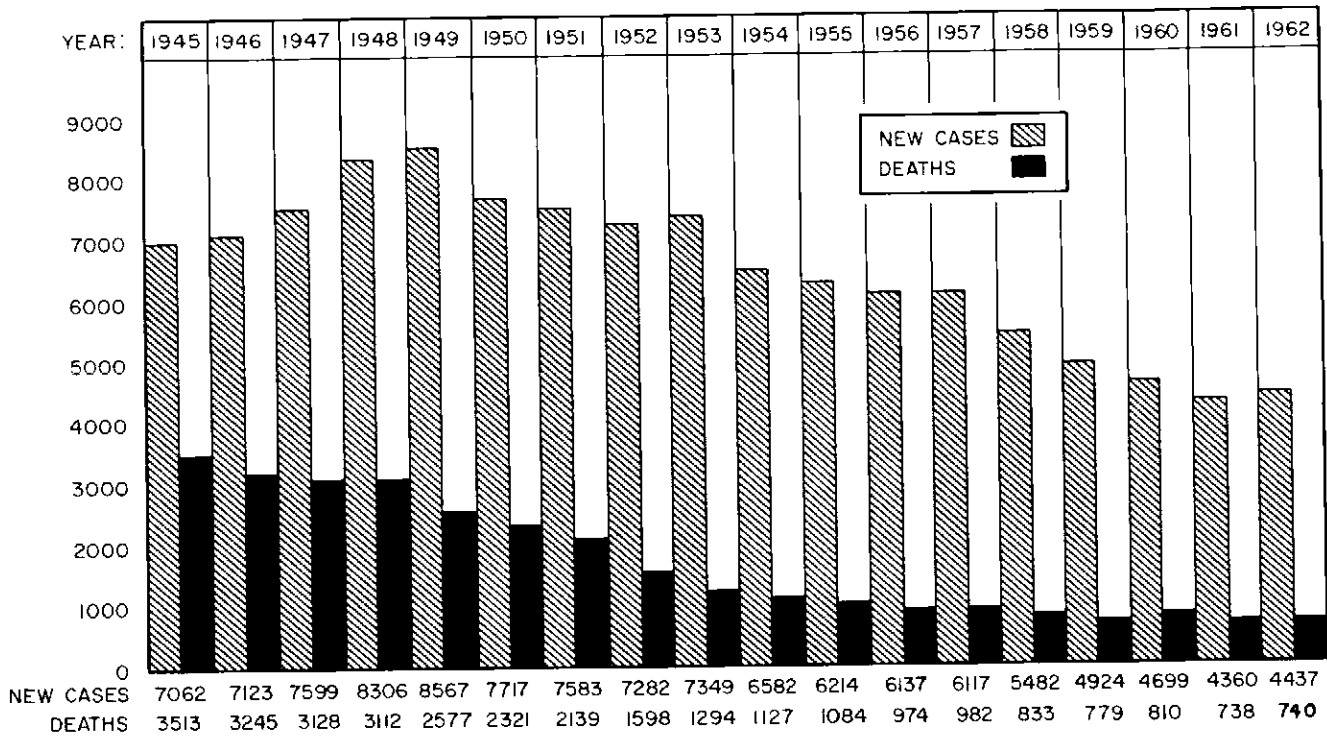
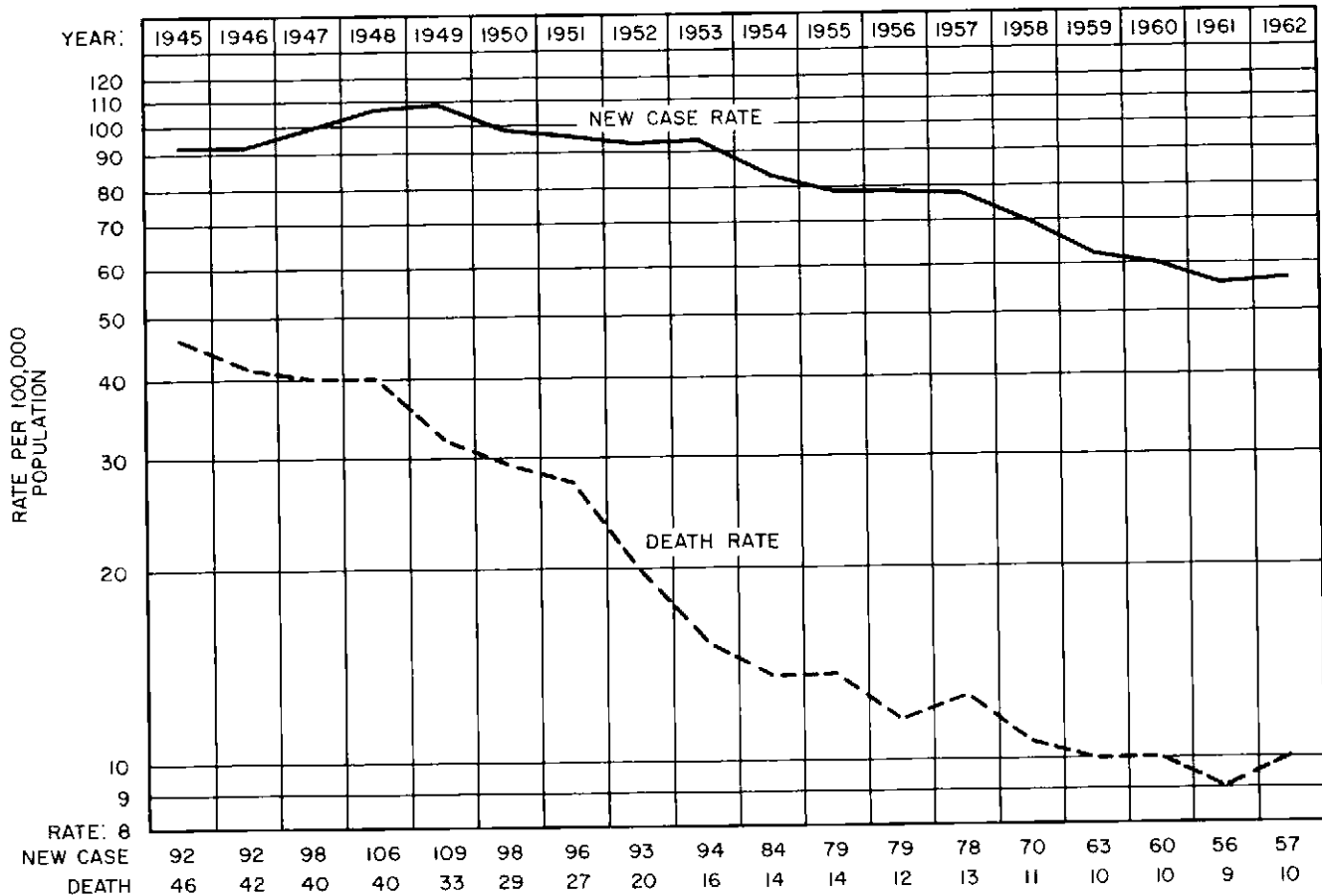


CHART 2

TUBERCULOSIS, NEW CASE RATE AND DEATH RATE, NEW YORK CITY 1945-1962



BASED ON REPORTS BY COURTESY OF THE BUREAU OF RECORDS AND STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CITY OF NEW YORK.

CHART 3

DEATH AND CASE RATES (PER 100,000 POPULATION) FROM TUBERCULOSIS: NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK STATE, NEW YORK STATE (EXCLUSIVE OF NEW YORK CITY), AND UNITED STATES, 1952-1962

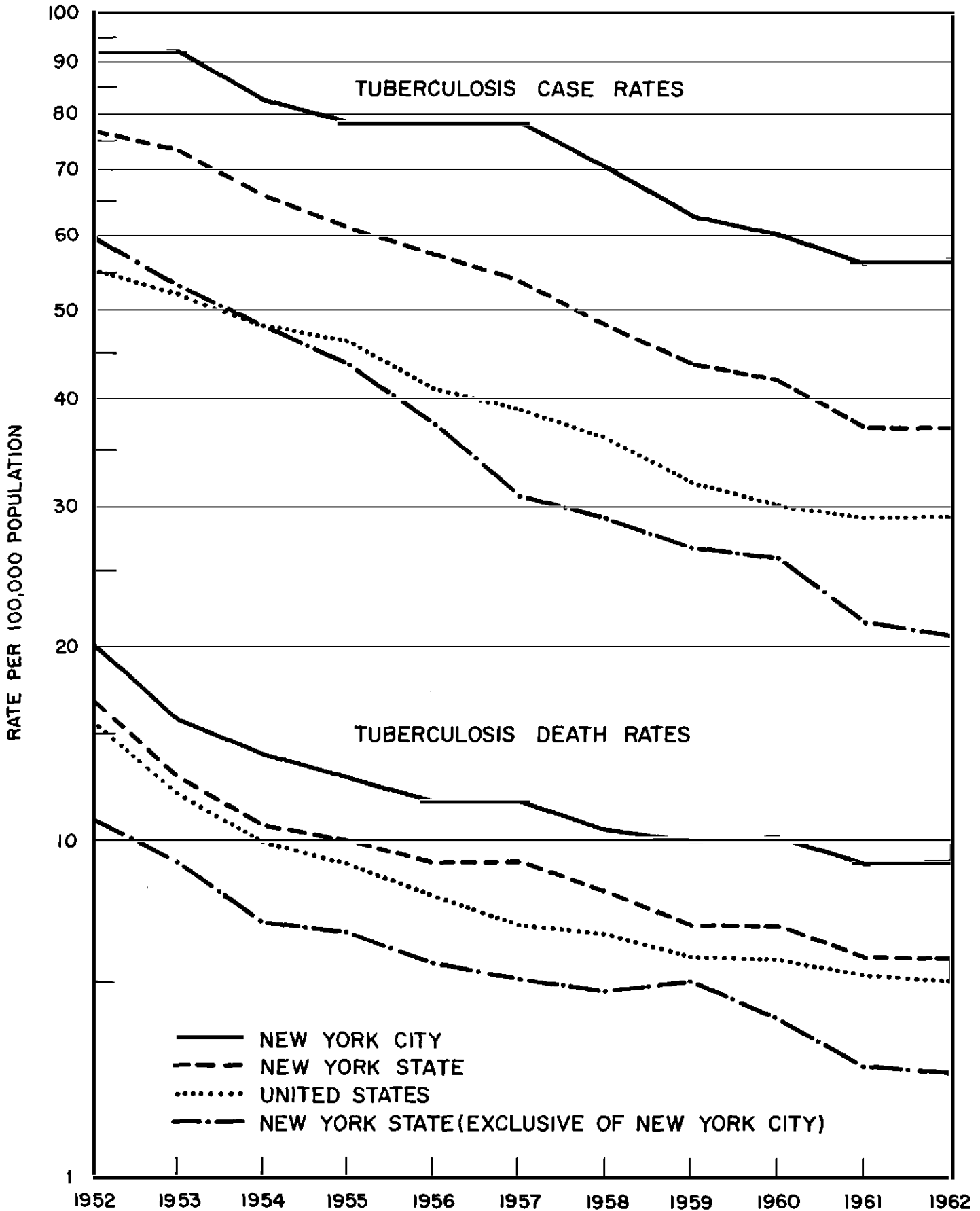


Table 2.  
**TUBERCULOSIS MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, 1962**  
 Tri-State New York Metropolitan Region

State County	New Cases			Tuberculosis Deaths All forms		Estimated Population 1962
	Total New Cases Reported	Active and Probably Active		Number	Rate*	
		Number	Rate*			
<b>NEW YORK</b>						
New York (Manhattan) ..	1,783	1,746	105.8	276	16.7	1,650,000
Bronx .....	800	770	53.8	93	6.5	1,430,000
Kings (Brooklyn) .....	1,421	1,380	52.9	214	8.2	2,610,000
Queens .....	526	504	27.1	105	5.6	1,860,000
Richmond .....	42	37	16.1	7	3.0	230,000
New York City .....	4,572	4,437	57.0	740†	9.5	7,780,000
Dutchess .....	53	53	31.7	2	1.2	167,369
Nassau .....	254	254	18.6	30	2.2	1,364,795
Orange .....	42	42	22.4	16	8.5	187,829
Putnam .....	5	5	14.4	2	5.8	34,649
Rockland .....	32	32	22.1	3	2.1	144,510
Suffolk .....	172	172	23.9	19	2.6	718,560
Westchester .....	157	157	18.5	25	2.9	849,997
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>						
Fairfield .....	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>						
Bergen .....	373	72	8.7	23	2.8	825,800
Essex .....	514	382	41.1	77	8.3	928,900
Hudson .....	319	216	35.7	60	9.9	604,500
Middlesex .....	99	74	15.9	23	4.9	464,900
Monmouth .....	116	83	23.5	10	2.8	353,800
Morris .....	43	37	13.2	6	2.1	280,600
Passaic .....	178	101	24.0	23	5.5	420,000
Somerset .....	50	29	19.1	3	2.0	152,000
Union .....	227	154	29.3	30	5.7	526,100
<b>Tri-State Region§ .....</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15,804,309</b>

\*Per 100,000 population. †Deaths for New York City counties are of residents who died in city, total for the City includes residents, non-residents and persons with unknown address. ‡Not available. §22 counties. Based on reports by courtesy of authorities of respective areas.

#### THE NEW JERSEY-NEW YORK-CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN REGION

The New York Metropolitan Region is a 22-county metropolis spreading roughly fifty miles from Times Square in every direction, and covering parts of three states. The Region was defined in 1922 for the purpose of research studies leading to the Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs and has been used since then for economic, population and land-planning research by the Regional Plan Association.

The Region's land area is approximately 7,000 square miles of which New York City covers 320 square miles. The Region's 1960 population was 16,139,000.