

# Annual report of

- ▼ **THE UNITED STATES**
- ▼ **NATIONAL COMMITTEE**
- ▼ **ON VITAL AND**
- ▼ **HEALTH STATISTICS**
- ▼ **Fiscal Year 1961**

Reproduced and distributed for the Committee by the  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

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The United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, created in 1949 at the recommendation of the First World Health Assembly, includes among its objectives the following:

- (a) To delineate statistical problems of public health importance which are of national or international interest.
- (b) To promote studies of such problems by other organizations and agencies whenever possible, and to make investigations of such problems through subcommittees appointed for the purpose.
- (c) To review the findings submitted by other organizations, agencies, and the Committee's subcommittees, and to make recommendations for national and/or international adoption.
- (d) To cooperate with other committees or organizations concerned with public health statistics in the United States in an effort to serve as a clearinghouse for activities dealing with public health statistics problems.
- (e) To serve as a link between the organizations in the United States engaged in public health statistics and the statistical secretariat of the World Health Organization and other international agencies concerned with public health statistics.
- (f) To cooperate with national committees of other countries in the study of problems of mutual interest.

MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

P. K. Whelpton, Director, Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (Chairman)

I. M. Moriyama, Ph. D., Chief, Office of Health Statistics Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. (Secretary)

Odin W. Anderson, Ph. D., Research Director, Health Information Foundation, New York, N.Y.

Harold F. Dorn, Ph. D., Chief, Biometrics Research Branch, National Heart Institute, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bethesda, Md.

C. Horace Hamilton, Ph. D., Professor of Rural Sociology, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N.C.

Albert E. Heustis, M.D., Commissioner, Michigan Department of Health, Lansing, Mich.

John P. Hubbard, M.D., Professor of Preventive Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

Forrest E. Linder, Ph. D., Director, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Brian MacMahon, M.D., Professor Department of Epidemiology, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

Edward R. Schlesinger, M.D., Asst. Commissioner for Special Health Services, New York State Department of Health, Albany, N.Y.

Margaret Shackelford, Director, Division of Statistics, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma City, Okla.

# Activities during

FISCAL YEAR 1961

The U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics<sup>1</sup> devoted, for the third year, a major part of its program to the preparation of technical revision proposals for the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases. The Subcommittee on Classification of Causes of Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality culminated its activities over the past 4 years by submitting a final draft of a proposal for the classification of diseases peculiar to the perinatal and early infancy periods. The Subcommittee on Classification of Cardiovascular Diseases entered into the final phases of its activities after testing and reviewing revision proposals developed in collaboration with representatives of the United Kingdom. Significant progress was made during the year in developing a classification of external causes of accidents and other violence and of mental diseases. Also during the year, the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics authorized the establishment of a subcommittee on the classification of congenital malformations. This subcommittee will be expected to take into account the fast developing interests of geneticists in problems of congenital malformations.

Entrusting the preparation of revision proposals on various sections of the International Classification of Diseases to independent technical groups working concurrently has given rise to certain problems of coordination. These

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<sup>1</sup>For review of activities over the past decade, see *Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1960*.

problems were dealt with on a current basis by the Secretariat and by an over-all subcommittee on the International Classification Revision established for that purpose.

Arrangements were made with the corresponding subcommittees of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Registrar General to collaborate on revision proposals on cardiovascular diseases and on mental diseases. It is anticipated that there will be at least one joint United Kingdom-United States proposal to be submitted for the consideration of the Subcommittee on Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Health Statistics scheduled to meet in November 1961. The WHO revision proposals will be circulated to countries for review, and further modifications will be made on the basis of the comments received. The present revision timetable should provide maximum opportunity for national participation in preparation for the Eighth Revision Conference to be held in 1965.

In addition to the activities on the classification of diseases, the U.S. National Committee has long been concerned with the problems of classifying physical impairments. The classification initiated by the Subcommittee on Physical Impairments has been further developed by a subcommittee of the Association for the Aid to Crippled Children. This system for coding impairments has been tested by selected agencies in various cities of the United States. The test results have been evaluated, and publication of a proposed classification by the Association for the Aid to Crippled Children is expected sometime during the next fiscal year for broader field tests.

During fiscal year 1961, the Subcommittee on National Divorce Statistics completed its deliberation on ways and means of developing national statistics on divorces. Also

during the year, the National Committee indicated its interest in a new area by constituting a Subcommittee on Health Economics. This Subcommittee will explore the need for developing statistics on the uses of, and expenditures for, medical care and health services and will outline the needs for such data.

### Classification of Causes of Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality

Extensive tests were made in fiscal year 1959 on the application of the draft classification to diagnostic information reported on fetal death certificates and death certificates for infants in the neonatal period. During the past fiscal year, further tests were made utilizing morbidity data from the clinical records of six hospitals in several areas. On the basis of the test results, the draft classification was again revised. The draft proposal was then circulated for comments to health agencies, schools of medicine and public health, and professional organizations and individuals concerned with problems of perinatal morbidity and mortality. The comments received were studied by the Subcommittee; further changes were made in the proposed classification; and a final proposal was prepared for submission to the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics with the recommendation that the revision proposed be adopted.

In the original assignment, the Subcommittee was to consider also the classification of congenital anomalies and malformations. The Subcommittee recommended that another group be constituted which would be better able to undertake the study of a congenital malformation classification from the standpoint of genetic and other interests.

The Subcommittee also discussed the problem of the several definitions of "perinatal" now in use and recom-



mended the adoption of the definition of the Committee on Maternal and Child Care of the American Medical Association for use in computing perinatal rates by vital statistics offices.

### Classification of Cardiovascular Diseases

An outcome of a joint meeting with the representatives of the United Kingdom Subcommittee on Cardiovascular Disease Classification in June 1960 was agreement on a single classification from the several that had been proposed. This draft classification came under study, and further modifications were suggested to the British Subcommittee.

The joint proposal of the United Kingdom-United States Subcommittees was circulated for review to agencies, organizations, and individuals in the United States interested in the cardiovascular disease classification. Responses to this circularization have been received, and the comments will be reviewed to determine what further revisions are needed in the draft classification.

### Classification of Mental Disorders

The Subcommittee had been confronted with the difficult problem of reconciling the basic concepts underlying the classification of the American Psychiatric Association with those held by psychiatrists in other countries. As a result of informal discussions with the Nomenclature Committee of the American Psychiatric Association, it has been possible for the Subcommittee to begin the development of a classification of mental disorders which has the possibility of acceptance internationally. A first draft of a classification was completed, and an informal exchange of

views is now being conducted with the United Kingdom Subcommittee on the basis of this draft classification.

### Classification of Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence (External Causes)

A draft classification of the external cause of injury was prepared. This draft takes into consideration many needs of accident prevention programs and provides greater specificity regarding the circumstances of the accident, place of accident, and, in certain cases, the activity of the injured. Definitions and inclusion and exclusion notes are being prepared for a thorough test of the classification on morbidity and mortality data.

### Quantification of Wellness

After exploring the possibilities of developing statistics on "wellness," the Subcommittee concluded that it was not feasible for optimum progress to be made by continuing to pursue this project on a theoretical and abstract basis. Suggestions were made for empirical field research which might provide answers to some of the questions raised by the Subcommittee or bring out directional indicators which would ultimately lead to such answers.

### Fertility and Population Statistics

The Subcommittee considered the needs for a quinquennial population census and prepared a report outlining the health need for a periodic census taken more than once a decade. The Subcommittee recommended support for the proposed quinquennial census of population provided that the detail data obtained in the decennial censuses are not affected.

## National Divorce Statistics

Work was started on the preparation of the final report including recommendations on ways and means of making possible the central collection of divorce data in each State as a step toward developing national statistics on divorces. The Subcommittee report will be based on several surveys that had been made to determine the various needs for divorce statistics and to ascertain the cost of maintaining central files of divorce records. The advantages of a system of central collection of divorce records are not purely statistical. It will be a matter of great convenience and economy to individuals and agencies in securing documentary evidence of a divorce decree and the time and terms of the divorce for legal and administrative proceedings.

SUBCOMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES  
OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1961

*Military Health Statistics*

Appointed - September 1949

Assignment - To work on the problems of national and international importance referred to or undertaken by the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics in which the Armed Forces are expected to have an interest or are able to make contributions.

Members - Eugene L. Hamilton, Chief, Medical Statistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. (Chairman)

H. M. C. Luykx, Sc. D., Chief, Biometrics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

W. V. Charter, D. P. H., Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

## *Fertility and Population Statistics*

Appointed - December 1949

Assignment - To outline types of statistics (special and general) needed to study various aspects of fertility in the United States; to recommend studies of how to obtain these statistics; and to outline the kinds of population statistics needed for health study purposes; to study the kinds and methods of providing more detailed birth data on a current basis than is at present available.

Members - P. K. Whelpton, Director, Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. (Chairman)

Harold F. Dorn, Ph. D., Chief, Biometrics Research Branch, National Heart Institute, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bethesda, Md.

Wilson H. Grabill, Chief, Fertility Statistics Section, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Paul C. Glick, Ph. D., Chief, Social Statistics Branch, Population Division, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Robert D. Grove, Ph. D., Assistant Chief, National Vital Statistics Division, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Joseph Schachter, Chief, Natality Statistics Branch, National Vital Statistics Division, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

*Classification of Physical Impairments*

Appointed - February 1951

Assignment - To determine current practices in coding physical impairments and the type of classification needed for statistical studies of data from hospitals, clinics, disability plans, and public health programs.

Members - Eugene L. Hamilton, Chief, Medical Statistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. (Chairman)

Louise E. Bollo, Nosologist, National Health Survey Division, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Henry H. Kessler, M.D., Newark, N.J.

Aaron Krute, Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Baltimore, Md.

Marjorie E. Moore, Ph. D., Chief, Division of Research and Special Studies, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Maya Riviére, Ph. D., Project Associate, Association for the Aid of Crippled Children, New York, N. Y.

Barkev S. Sanders, Ph. D., Chief, Community Research in Public Health Practice, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

*Classification of Causes of Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality*

Appointed - June 1956

Assignment - To recommend a method of classifying causes of fetal death as reported on vital and hospital records; to review existing classifications of causes of fetal death and causes of neonatal death; to develop a satisfactory classification after studying the interrelationships of existing classifications; and to determine the need for a nomenclature to use in reporting fetal deaths.

Members - Abraham M. Lilienfeld, M. D., Division of Chronic Diseases, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, Baltimore, Md. (Chairman)

Philip S. Barba, M.D., Associate Dean, School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Marian Crane, M.D., Chief, Research Interpretation Branch, Division of Research, Children's Bureau, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Anthony D'Esopo, M.D., Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

James F. Donnelly, M.D., Obstetrics Consultant, North Carolina State Board of Health, Raleigh, N.C.

Carl L. Erhardt, Director, Bureau of Records and Statistics, City of New York Department of Health, New York, N.Y.

Edith L. Potter, M.D., Pathologist, Chicago Lying-in Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

William Silverman, M.D., Associate Pediatrician, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, Babies Hospital, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, N.Y.



*National Divorce Statistics* \*

Appointed - September 1956

Assignment - To recommend ways and means of making possible the central collection of divorce data in each State as a step toward developing national statistics on divorces.

Members - Ernest W. Burgess, Ph. D., Director, Family Study Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. (Chairman)

Julius A. Jahn, Ph. D., Professor of Research, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, 2410 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Max Rheinstein, Dr. Utr. Iur., Professor, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Ill.

Edwin A. Robson, LL.B., Judge, U.S. District Court, Chicago, Ill.

Conrad Taeuber, Ph. D., Assistant Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Melvin R. Wise, Director of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, Phoenix, Ariz.

Miriam Yeazell, Chairman, Board of Directors, National Association of Clerks and Recorders, Springfield, Ohio

## *Classification of Mental Diseases*

Appointed - August 1957

Assignment - To develop a classification of mental illness within the framework of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death.

Members - Benjamin Pasamanick, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia Receiving Hospital and State Institute of Psychiatry, University Health Center, Columbus, Ohio (Chairman)

Henry Brill, M.D., Deputy Commissioner, New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, Albany, N.Y.

Leon Eisenberg, M.D., Children's Psychiatric Service, Harriet Lane Home for Children, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Moses M. Frohlich, M.D., University Hospital, Veterans Readjustment Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Morton Kramer, Sc. D., Chief, Biometrics Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Joseph Zubin, Ph. D., Principal Research Scientist (Biometrics), State Department of Mental Hygiene, New York, N.Y.

## *Classification of Cardiovascular Diseases*

Appointed - January 1958

Assignment - To study the problems in revising within the framework of the present classification the section of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death relating to Diseases of the Circulatory System.

Members - George Baehr, M.D., Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, N.Y. (Chairman)

Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., Medical Director, Heart Disease Epidemiology Study, National Institutes of Health, Framingham, Mass.

Charles E. Kossmann, M.D., New York University College of Medicine, New York University Bellevue Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

Dean Krueger, National Heart Institute, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bethesda, Md.

Harold E. B. Pardee, M.D., New York, N.Y.

David D. Rutstein, M.D., Department of Preventive Medicine, Harvard University Medical School, Boston, Mass.

David M. Spain, M.D., Director of Laboratories, Beth-El Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jeremiah Stamler, M.D., Director, Heart Disease Control Program, Chicago Board of Health, Chicago, Ill.

*Quantification of Wellness*

Appointed - August 1958

Discharged - January 1961

Assignment - To explore ways and means of obtaining measures of positive health beginning with an examination of the material available from the National Health Survey.

Members - Eugene L. Hamilton, Chief, Medical Statistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. (Chairman)

Harry Auerbach, M.P.H., Division of Biological and Medical Research, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, Ill.

Col. Taylor Drysdale, Chief, Research and Analysis Division, D/Development Planning, DCS/D, Department of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Bernard G. Greenberg, Ph. D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Lawrence E. Hinkle, Jr., M.D., Cornell University Medical College, New York, N.Y. (resigned January 1960)

Sidney M. Jourard, Ph. D., The J. Hillis Miller Health Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

Herbert Ratner, M.D., Director, Department of Public Health, Village of Oak Park, Ill.

*International List Revision*

Appointed - May 1959

Assignment - To coordinate activities in the United States with regard to the Eighth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death.

Members - Harold F. Dorn, Ph. D., Chief, Biometrics Research Branch, National Heart Institute, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bethesda, Md. (Chairman)

Benedict J. Duffy, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry, Jersey City, N.J.

Eugene L. Hamilton, Chief, Medical Statistics Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

F. K. Mostofi, M. D., Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C.

*Revision of the Classification of Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence*

Appointed - May 1960

Assignment - To review the present section of the International Statistical Classification dealing with accidents, poisonings, and violence (external causes) to determine the needs for revision.

Members - Arthur J. McDowell, Chief, Health Examination Survey, National Health Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. (Chairman)

Robert A. Calhoun, Ph. D., Director, Public Health Statistics, State Board of Health, 1330 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Albert P. Iskrant, Chief, Operational Research, Accident Prevention Program, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Frank S. McElroy, Chief, Industrial Hazards Division, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Jules V. Quint, Supervisor, Occupation and Accident Statistics, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, N.Y.

J. L. Recht, Senior Statistician, National Safety Council, Chicago, Ill.

Joseph W. Spelman, M.D., Medical Examiner,  
City of Philadelphia Department of Public  
Health, Philadelphia, Pa.

H. C. Steed, Jr., Director, Accident Preven-  
tion Section, Environmental Health Branch,  
State Department of Health, Atlanta, Ga.

John H. Vinyard, Jr., Chief, Biostatistics and  
Health Education Division, District of Colum-  
bia Department of Public Health, Washington,  
D.C.

*Reports of the*

UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
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*United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics*, October 1949

*International Recommendations on Definitions of Live Birth and Fetal Death*, Public Health Service Publication No. 39, 1950

"Statistics Needed Concerning Fertility," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 33, No. 11, 1952

"Major Problems in Fetal Mortality," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 33, No. 13, 1952

*Proposal for Collection of Data on Illness and Impairments: United States*, Public Health Service Publication No. 333, 1953

"Using Hospital Morbidity Data to Study Morbidity in Communities," *Hospitals*, Vol. 27, No. 9, 1953

"Recommendations for the Improvement of Fetal Death Statistics," *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 70, No. 11, 1955

"Progress in Development of Fertility Statistics and Population Estimates," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 39, No. 8, 1956



“National Vital Statistics Needs,” National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 45, No. 11, 1957

“Fertility Studies Based on Data for the 1960 Census Period,” National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics—Special Reports*, Vol. 47, No. 5, 1959

*Medical Certification of Medicolegal Cases*, Public Health Service Publication No. 810, 1960

*The First Annual Report of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1950*, Public Health Service Publication No. 40, 1950

*Annual Report of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1956*

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