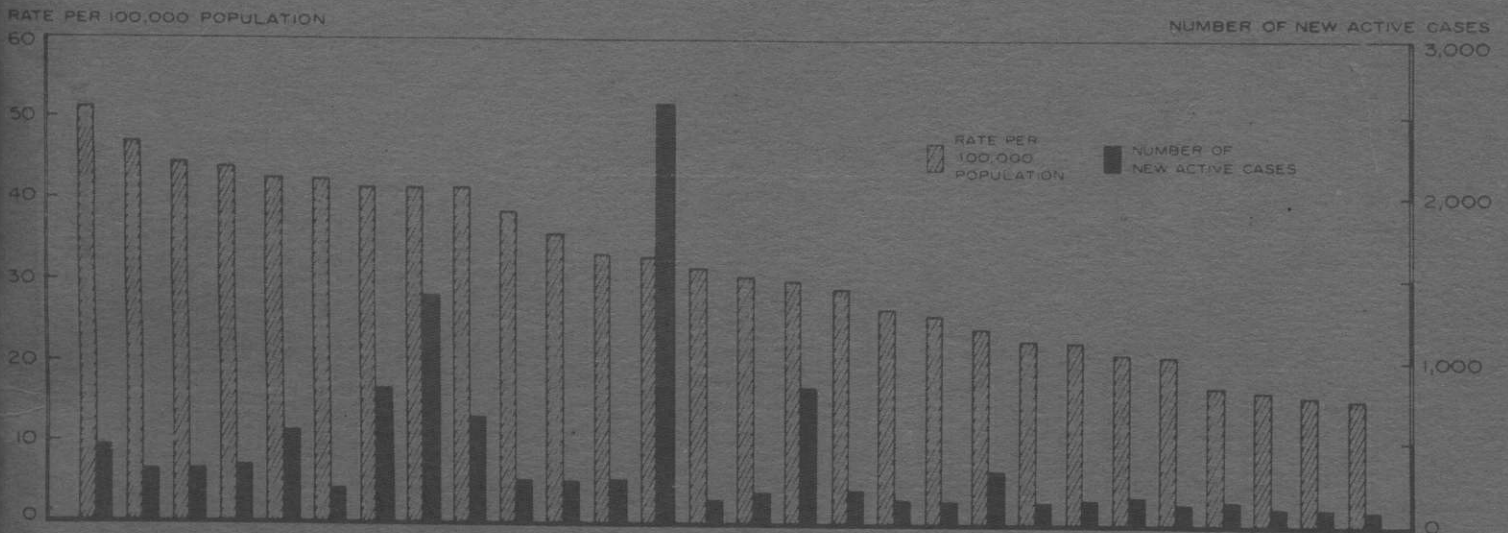


Tuberculosis in New York City 1971

A Report to the Mayor
and the Citizens of the City of New York



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and the Citizens of the City of New York**

Acknowledgements are extended to:

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Notes:

1. Except for the census years 1960 and 1970, tuberculosis case rates and death rates are based on population estimates.
2. Definition of ethnic groups:
 - Puerto Rican - a person who was either born in Puerto Rico or whose mother was born in Puerto Rico - irrespective of racial characteristics.
 - Nonwhite - a person who is not white and not Puerto Rican as defined above. Well over 90 per cent of this group is black.
 - White - a person who is white and not Puerto Rican as defined above.



HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
125 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013

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TO THE MAYOR AND THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:

We are pleased to present this fourth annual review of tuberculosis in New York City.

As you will note, great progress has been made in the battle against tuberculosis. Yet these accomplishments must not obscure the fact that tuberculosis remains a serious health problem.

An estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers are currently infected with the tubercle bacillus--a fact of great concern since a majority of next year's tuberculosis patients will come from this population.

In 1971, 2,572 New Yorkers developed active tuberculosis, and 310 residents died. Both the number of cases and the rate based on population were down slightly from 1970--in a year when these statistics increased for nine major U.S. cities. Deaths in New York City also decreased during 1971.

But it is important to note that tuberculosis is nearly always a curable disease. Of the top 20 causes of death in the United States, it is the only one that is almost completely understood. We know its pathogenesis, we know how it is transmitted, and we know how to prevent the infected individual from coming down with active disease. No new discoveries are needed to prevent most of New York's cases of tuberculosis.

The prevention and cure of tuberculosis in New York City continues to be a major task, requiring the expenditure of forty million dollars of taxpayer's money each year.

But it is hoped that with the continuing implementation of the recommendations of the Mayor's 1968 Task Force on Tuberculosis in New York City, the situation will show continued improvement.

Gordon Chase, Administrator
Health Services Administration

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