

**Tuberculosis
in New York City
1979**

The New York Lung Association is pleased to publish TUBERCULOSIS IN NEW YORK CITY 1979 from data collected by the Division of Tuberculosis of the New York City Department of Health.

At the start of the century, we took the lead in a major battle against tuberculosis which was then attacking more than 13,000 New York City residents every year. Despite remarkable success through the years, tuberculosis still exists amongst our city's population and, therefore, it continues to be a major concern of the Association.

Our efforts on behalf of tuberculosis control will continue until we attain the objective of zero new cases.

Edith Ewenstein, CAE
General Director
New York Lung Association

NEW YORK  LUNG ASSOCIATION

22 East 40th Street

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

(212) 889-3370



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

125 WORTH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10013

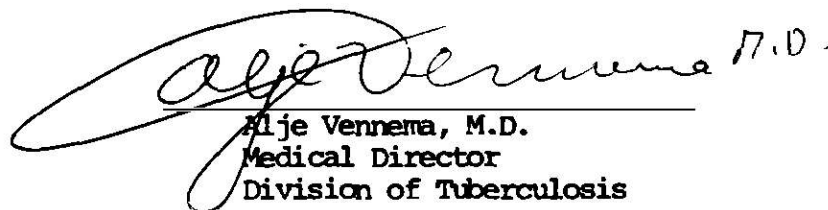
Telephone:

TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK CITY:

It will become quite apparent to anyone who reads this Annual Report on the status of tuberculosis in New York City for 1979 that the disease thought by many to be disappearing is still very much with us. You will note that a 17% increase in newly reported cases has been documented for 1979. You will also observe that tuberculosis has been diagnosed among the younger population and in particular in young children under the age of four. Cases occurring among the young is evidence that tuberculosis is being actively transmitted in our city and dispels the theory that tuberculosis is disappearing as a public health problem.

The existence of extensive knowledge on tuberculosis makes it a controllable and eradicable disease, but because of funding shortages and inadequate resources tuberculosis remains a serious public health problem in our city. A new interest and dedication regarding tuberculosis has emerged during 1979. It is hoped that if a consistent and sustained control effort can be maintained through the 1980's transmission will be prevented, case rates will decrease and tuberculosis can in a practical sense be eradicated. To maintain the required tuberculosis program, resources to a very large extent will depend on the interest and concern exhibited by the citizens of this city.

If we are all truly committed to the eradication of TB in this city, it can and will be done.

 M.D.

Alje Vennema, M.D.
Medical Director
Division of Tuberculosis

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