



**NEW YORK CITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**BUREAU OF TUBERCULOSIS**

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**TUBERCULOSIS IN**  
**NEW YORK CITY - 1987**

**1987 STATISTICS**  
**1987 - 1988 PROGRAM**  
**ACTIVITIES**

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Published by



**New York Lung Association**



# NEW YORK LUNG ASSOCIATION

*A Constituent of the American Lung Association*

432 Park Ave South • New York, New York 10016 • (212) 889-3370

## Message to the Community

February 1989

The New York Lung Association is pleased to publish this report as a service to our fellow New Yorkers, to the medical community and public health workers, and to the Department of Health.

Data and program activities described in the report were collected and prepared by the Bureau of Tuberculosis of the New York City Department of Health. Its publication by the New York Lung Association is illustrative of the long standing history of collaboration between us. We are joined in a common goal, and an increasingly strengthened working relationship.

NYLA conducts several other programs aimed at eradicating tuberculosis. They include extensive public education, conferences for health care professionals, and assistance with TB screening.

We are pleased to note a small decline in new cases during 1987 and look toward continuation of this. Our goal is to reduce the case rate for New York City from its present 31.1 per 100,000 to the goal established by the Centers for Disease Control which is to achieve a case rate of 3.5 per 100,000 by the year 2000. Given that we have the necessary knowledge about cause and cure, control of TB is within our grasp.

Edith Ewenstein  
General Director

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH  
Stephen C. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H.



125 WORTH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

January 1, 1989

To the Mayor and the Citizens of New York City:

Tuberculosis control remains one of the highest priorities of the Department of Health. There were 2,197 cases reported in 1987, which was not an increase over the number reported the previous year. The New York City case rate is more than three times the national average, and the disease is most prevalent among persons 25 to 44 years of age.

Two screening programs were conducted in 1987 because of the concern that a high rate of disease in the child bearing age group might adversely affect the health of the city's children. A screening of children in randomly selected schools and one conducted in family hotels provided some information on infection in children.

Research projects are continuing to study the relationship between tuberculosis and AIDS/HIV infection. All Department of Health chest clinics are offering confidential HIV testing to infected and diseased persons on a voluntary basis so that appropriate therapy can be prescribed and maintained.

A review of the city's tuberculosis program by the Department of Health, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control, has provided the impetus for several new program activities, including the creation of a citywide Expert Panel on Tuberculosis.

This year's initiatives in tuberculosis control include appointment of a new Bureau Director, Dr. Jack J. Adler, a project to house homeless men with tuberculosis, x-ray screening in the homeless shelters, field follow-up on high risk preventive patients, and updated computer technology with which to follow tuberculosis patients.

This report details the epidemiology of tuberculosis in New York City and describes the activities of the Department of Health in identifying, treating and following tuberculosis cases and their contacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Joseph".

Stephen C. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health

SCJ:DR:mb  
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