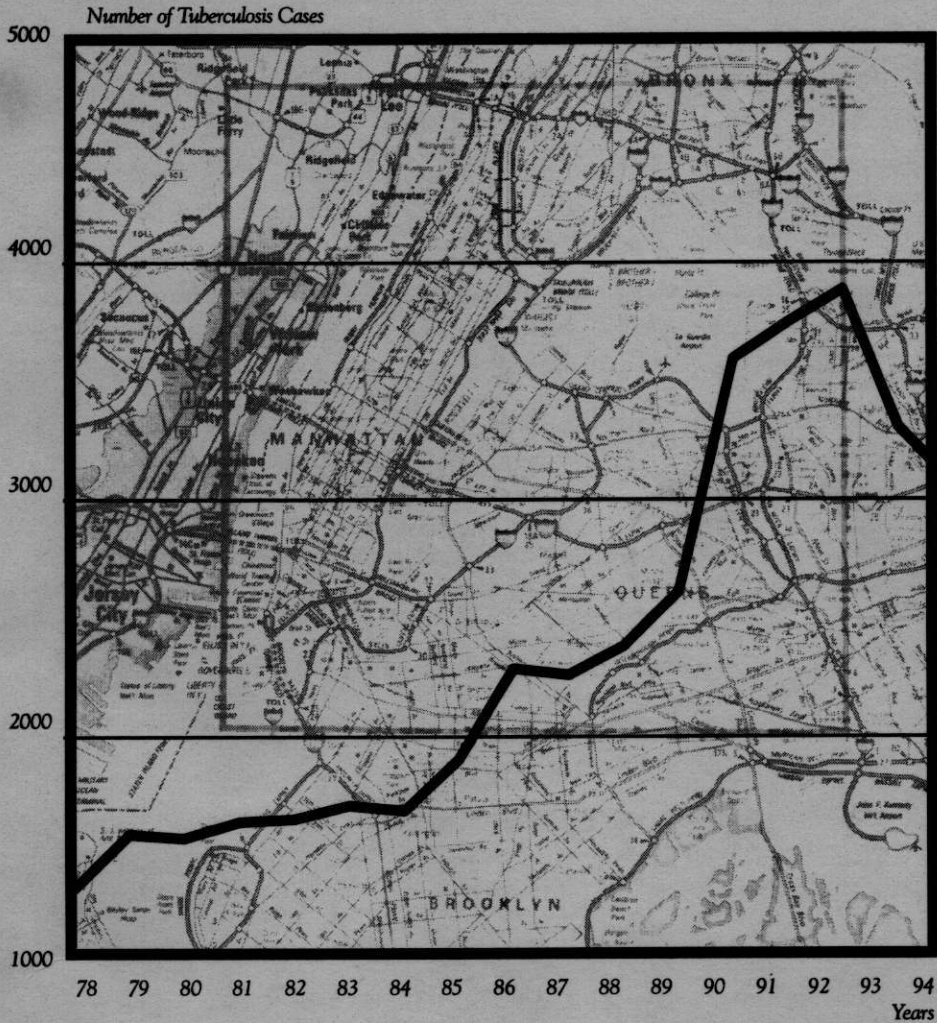


BUREAU OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



INFORMATION SUMMARY 1994

HIGHLIGHTS

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL IN NEW YORK CITY, 1994

Progress:

- In 1994, 2995 individuals in New York City were diagnosed with tuberculosis. This is a decrease of 7.4 per cent from the number reported in 1993 (3235) and of 21.4 per cent from the number reported in 1992 (3811), at the peak of the current epidemic.
- In 1994, the number of tuberculosis patients with positive cultures decreased even more dramatically than did overall cases: there were 2479 tuberculosis patients with positive cultures in 1994, compared with 2854 in 1993 and 3446 in 1992—decreases of 13.1 per cent and 28.1 per cent respectively.
- In 1994, 176 reported tuberculosis patients had strains of the microorganism which were multidrug-resistant. This is a decrease of 40.5 per cent from the 296 multidrug-resistant cases reported in 1993, and of 60.0 per cent from the 441 reported in 1992.
- Of individuals first diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1993, 89 per cent completed anti-tuberculosis therapy in 1994; in the late 1980s, fewer than 50 per cent of tuberculosis patients completed their treatment.

Continuing challenges:

- The number of tuberculosis patients who were foreign-born increased by 29.1 per cent, from 739 reported in 1993 to 954 in 1994.
- Of the 2995 tuberculosis patients reported in 1994, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status was unknown for 44.3 per cent. Health care providers should encourage all their tuberculosis patients to undergo voluntary HIV testing.

The New York City Department of Health Bureau of Tuberculosis Control thanks health care providers throughout the city for their work in controlling the tuberculosis epidemic and their compliance with reporting requirements.

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control is to prevent the spread of tuberculosis and eliminate it as a public health problem in New York City. The goals of the tuberculosis control program are:

- 1 To assure identification and appropriate treatment of all individuals with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis disease;
- 2 To ensure that high risk individuals (e.g., contacts, immunocompromised persons, foreign-born persons from areas of high tuberculosis prevalence) who are infected with tuberculosis but without tuberculosis disease receive preventive treatment and do not develop disease.

The Bureau achieves its goals through direct patient care, education, surveillance and outreach. Mandated activities include:

- 1 Ensuring that suspected and confirmed cases of tuberculosis identified in all facilities in New York City are reported to the Bureau and documented on the computerized, confidential tuberculosis disease registry;
- 2 Conducting intensive case interviews and maintaining an effective outreach program so that tuberculosis cases remain under medical supervision until completion of a full course of treatment, and that identified contacts receive appropriate medical care;
- 3 Monitoring and documenting the treatment status of all individuals with active tuberculosis;
- 4 Setting standards and guidelines, and providing consultation, on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis infection and disease in New York City;
- 5 Operating free chest clinics throughout New York City to provide state-of-the-art care for persons with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis disease and their close contacts; and
- 6 Ensuring free care for persons who have or are suspected of having active tuberculosis disease, in accordance with New York State Public Health Law 2202, Article 22, Title 1.