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*Public Health Reports* is published bimonthly by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Rm. 725-H, Hubert Humphrey Bldg., 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201. Second-class postage paid Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Otis R. Bowen, MD, *Secretary*



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS  
(USPHS 324-990)  
ISSN 0033-3539

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*Public Health Reports* is published six times a year. Opinions expressed are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of *Public Health Reports* or the Public Health Service. Trade names are used for identification only and do not represent an endorsement by the Service.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 1988.

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Rockville, MD 20857  
AC 301: 443-0762

**Subscription Information**

*Public Health Reports* is for sale for \$9 a year domestic and \$11.25 foreign. Single copies are \$4.75 domestic and \$5.94 foreign. Purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

## To the Readers of *Public Health Reports*

The journal of the Public Health Service, now in its 110th year, is possibly the oldest continuously published scientific, peer-reviewed journal of its kind. The journal records the results of research, studies, demonstrations, projects, and policies that influence the practice of public health in this country. The journal's role is to help prepare for the challenges.

A public health threat of historic proportions confronts us. The HIV pandemic is changing our lives profoundly. To help assess where we are and look to the future, the journal's May-June issue will address the question of AIDS from the viewpoints of community, State, national and international, government, medical research, patient treatment, health care provider, health economics, information and education, and social concerns.

Dr. Otis R. Bowen, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, overviews the Department's AIDS-related efforts. Dr. Jonathan Mann, AIDS coordinator of WHO, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, and Dr. Michael Samuels of PHS describe world health priorities in containing the spread of HIV infection. Dr. Samuel Broder and Dr. Anthony Fauci, of the National Institutes of Health, assess progress in developing drug therapies for AIDS. Dr. John Petricciani, Deputy AIDS Coordinator of the Public Health Service, and Dr. Jay S. Epstein of the Food and Drug Administration, view the safety of the blood supply. Dr. David N. Sundwall, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, discusses the treatment needs of AIDS patients. Dr. Abe M. Macher, of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, provides an overview of the pathology of the disease. The parts being played by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials are described.

On another important and timely topic, the journal plans a special supplement this year on osteoporosis, a disease of growing and vital concern, which affects more than a third of the population. This will be a companion publication to last year's supplement on women's health. In 1987, *Public Health Reports* carried more than 70 articles on injury, including those summarizing presentations to the 1987 Conference on Injury in America. Injury is the leading cause of both mortality and morbidity among certain younger age groups.

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Robert E. Windom, MD  
Assistant Secretary for Health  
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Executive Editor

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# HEALTH UNITED STATES 1987

Homosexual and bisexual males account for 70 percent of AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) cases reported as of December 31, 1987, among adolescent and adult males. Male intravenous drug users account for 14 percent, and males who are both homosexual and intravenous drug users account for an additional 8 percent of cases. Among females, 51 percent of the cases relate to intravenous drug use and 29 percent to heterosexual contact.

These AIDS data are among the statistics that appear in "Health, United States, 1987." Each year since 1975 the Secretary of Health and Human Services has issued a report to Congress concerning national health trends. The volume for 1987 was compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control, with members of the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics serving as reviewers.

For the first time in the series, "Health, United States" presents tables on AIDS. The four in the 1987 report show number of cases and deaths, States with high numbers of cases, and case characteristics.

Further, the report provides data on nursing home use and charges. Such data for the United States had not been available since 1977.

The report also presents 119 detailed tables focusing on health status and determinants, supply and use of health resources, and health care expenditures. Sixteen charts with accompanying text portray changes in selected measures of health status across successive birth cohorts.

Some highlights of the 1987 report follow.

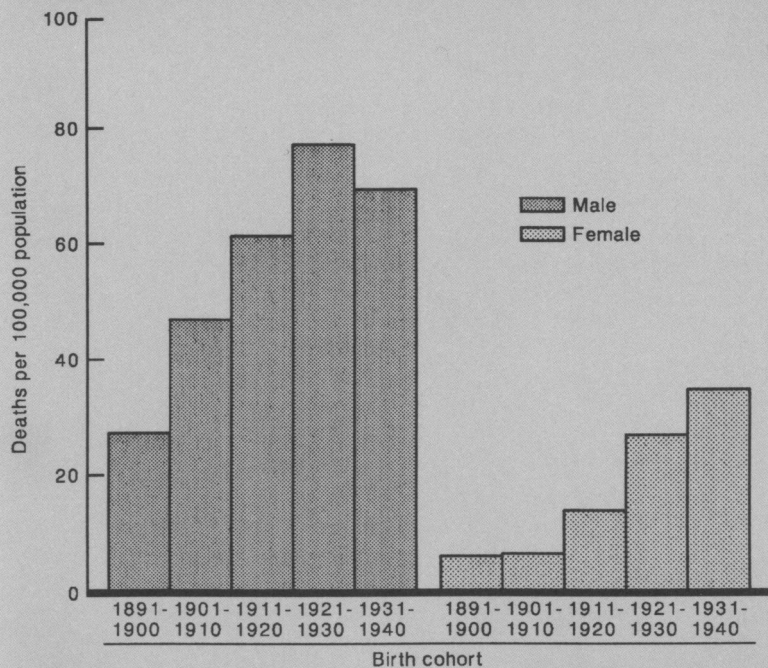
## Chartbook

- For all Americans, regardless of sex or race, life expectancy at birth has increased substantially between 1900 and 1985, ranging from an increase of 25 years for white males to an increase of 40 years for black females.
- For males, lung cancer mortality at ages 45–54 years increased for each successive birth cohort from 1891 to 1900 until the 1931–40 cohort when it decreased (see chart). For females, lung cancer mortality increased for each of the five successive cohorts. When compared across successive birth cohorts, smoking and lung cancer mortality show strikingly similar patterns. Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of lung cancer.

## Health Status and Determinants

- Infant mortality declined by 2 percent between 1984 and 1985, reaching 10.6 deaths

Death rates for lung cancer among persons 45-54 years of age, according to sex: United States, selected birth cohorts 1891-1940



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

per 1,000 live births. Although the mortality rates for both black and white infants have improved each year since 1965, the 1985 decline was the smallest since 1965. Furthermore, the mortality rate for black infants (18.2) remains almost twice as high as the rate for white infants (9.3).

- Between 1970 and 1985, the age-adjusted death rate for heart disease, the leading cause of death, declined by 29 percent. For stroke, the third leading cause of death, it declined by 51 percent. In contrast, the age-adjusted death rate for cancer, the second leading cause of death, increased slightly, and lung cancer mortality among women increased substantially.

## Health Care Resources

- In 1985, there were 1.3 million nursing home residents at least 65 years old, up from 1.1 million in 1977 and 962 thousand in 1973–74. The increasing numbers primarily reflect the growing elderly population. Only 1 percent of Americans 65–74 years old compared with 22 percent of those 85 years and older were institutionalized in nursing homes in 1985.

- The proportion of women enrolled in schools for health professions traditionally

dominated by men increased sharply between 1971–72 and 1985–86. Women constituted one-third of total enrollment in schools of medicine and optometry, one-fourth in dentistry and podiatry, and over one-half in pharmacy and veterinary medicine in 1985–86.

## Health Care Expenditures

- Hospital care expenditures continue to claim the largest share of health care dollars, accounting for 39 percent of health care expenditures in 1986. Physicians' services have accounted for about one-fifth of expenditures since 1950. Nursing home care has increased its share of the total from 1.5 percent in 1950 to just over 8 percent since 1980.
- In 1986, an estimated 32,446,000 persons less than 65 years old had no health insurance. The age-adjusted proportion with no health insurance rose from 12.5 percent in 1980 to 15.3 percent in 1986.

Copies of "Health, United States, 1987" may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The stock number is 017-022-01032-1. Price \$13.

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