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problems of children and adolescents with chronic and severe emotional disorders. The National Institute for Handicapped Research, in the Department of Education, has funded two projects with a focus on the problems of chronically ill and disabled children. One of these is a workshop on "Youth in Transition," to be convened in Minneapolis this summer, and the other is a project at the University of Connecticut to establish a research and training center focusing on children in need of habilitative services. The National Center for Health Services Research has funded a study to assess the trends and determinants of chronic illness in childhood through detailed analysis of existing data from the National Health Interview Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. In fiscal year 1983, 15 of the 65 proposals submitted to the Division of Maternal and Child Health for funding related to children with chronic illness or disabling conditions. A number of these proposals were stimulated by the Surgeon General's Workshop.

I am grateful to the staff of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, who planned, convened, and sup-

ported the Surgeon General's Workshop; supervised the writing and dissemination of the final report (2); carried out many of the recommendations; and recently prepared a followup report for the participants.

The record of activities I have outlined shows that we are still a caring and compassionate society. I am proud, as a public servant and as Surgeon General, that we are making a difference in the lives of many hundreds of children and their families.

C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD  
Surgeon General

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1. Koop, C. E.: Meeting the health care needs of children with disabilities [Editorial]. *Public Health Rep* 98: 105-107, March-April, 1983.
2. *Public Health Service: Report of the Surgeon General's Workshop on Children with Handicaps and Their Families.* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1983.



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mal education or to have completed college.

*Copies of "Characteristics of Asian Births, United States, 1980," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 32, No. 10, Supplement, are available from the National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.*

### NCHS Seeks Input from Data Users on U.S. Standard Certificates and Reports

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) will soon be evaluating the U.S. Standard Certificates and Reports of Live Birth, Death, Fetal Death, Marriage, Divorce, and Induced Termination of Pregnancy.

The standard certificates and reports are developed by Federal and State vital statistics officials in a joint effort and serve as models for the States in developing the forms they use to report these events. In addition to serving a variety of legal uses, the State forms are the

source of local, State, and national vital statistics data critical for program planning and evaluation in both the public and the private sectors.

NCHS evaluates the U.S. standard forms periodically to ensure that the information they include meets current needs. Questionnaires soliciting suggestions for items to be retained, deleted, added, or modified in the standard forms will be mailed by NCHS in the final quarter of 1984 to those persons and organizations that have expressed a desire to comment. To receive a questionnaire, write to the following address, indicating which certificates or reports are of interest: George A. Gay, Chief, Registration Methods Branch/DVS, National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East-West Highway, Rm. 1-44N, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

### Status of Some Liver Transplants Recognized as 'Nonexperimental'

The Reagan Administration has decided to recognize liver transplantation as a "nonexperimental" procedure for chil-

dren with biliary atresia and other rare congenital defects. Edward N. Brandt, Jr., MD, Assistant Secretary for Health, made the announcement in recent testimony before the House Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Ways and Means.

Changing the status of some liver transplant operations from experimental to nonexperimental will permit reimbursement for the operation through such Federal programs as CHAMPUS.

Federal regulations will be announced soon for CHAMPUS, the program that covers military personnel and their dependents, since liver transplants for some children will be covered by this program.

Under Medicaid, the Federal-State program for poor Americans, some States now reimburse for liver transplantation. The Administration's decision is expected to encourage other States to change their reimbursement policies.

The costs associated with a liver transplant have been estimated at \$55,000, but have sometimes run over \$200,000. Although precise figures are not available, it is estimated that 500-600 infants are born every year with biliary atresia.

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