

ANNUAL REPORT OF

**The United States National Committee
on Vital and Health Statistics**

Fiscal Year 1972

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
Health Services and Mental Health Administration**

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The U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics was established in 1948 at the request of the Department of State in accordance with recommendations of the First World Health Assembly to advise on matters relating to vital and health statistics and to promote and secure technical developments in this field.

Specifically the functions of the National Committee are to:

Delineate statistical problems of public health importance which are of national or international interest;

Stimulate studies of such problems by other organizations and agencies whenever possible, or make investigations of such problems through subcommittees appointed for the purpose;

Review findings submitted by other organizations and agencies or by its subcommittees, and make recommendations for national and/or international adoption;

Cooperate with and advise other organizations on matters relating to vital and health statistics in the United States especially with reference to definitions, statistical standards, and measurement problems;

Advise on problems relating to vital and health statistics of national and international concern; and

Cooperate with national committees of other countries and with the World Health Organization and other international agencies in the study of problems of mutual interest.

ACTIVITIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 1972

The U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics stepped up its preparatory activities during fiscal year 1972 for the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases. Present plans include the submission of proposals to the World Health Organization in late 1972. The Uniform Hospital Abstract Form Subcommittee submitted its final report to the National Committee. The Financial Data Year Planning Subcommittee's activities have been devoted to obtaining information about the uncoordinated sets of financial data on health services that are now being collected by various governmental agencies and private organizations.

The Subcommittee on the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases has been concerned with drafting proposals for submission to the World Health Organization (WHO) in the areas of infective and parasitic diseases; endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases; mental disorders; malignant neoplasms; diseases of the circulatory system; diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue; and sudden infant death syndrome. Recommendations in these areas will be submitted to WHO in the early fall of 1972. Draft proposals are also being developed in the areas of diseases of the digestive system; diseases of the respiratory system; complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium; diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue; congenital anomalies; and accidents, poisonings, and violence.

The Subcommittee has discussed the need of and expectations from a classification of environmental and social factors causing or affecting disease. Hospitals, outpatient departments, and other health-care systems concerned with morbidity are particularly in need of some way to classify the problems which patients present. While these are often not diseases, they are conditions that need treatment, and these conditions have to be accounted for.

The Subcommittee on Financial Data Year Planning devoted most of its efforts to obtaining information about the uncoordinated sets of financial data on health services that are now being collected by various government agencies and private organizations. This information is pertinent to each of the responsibilities assigned to the Subcommittee. The draft report of the Subcommittee has been delayed because of the need to rethink certain issues facing the Subcommittee, mainly in the area of techniques for measuring the effects of changes in public policy, and the need to take advantage of information on changes now being made by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in the medical components of the Consumer Price Index.

The final report of the Uniform Hospital Abstract Form Subcommittee was accepted by the National Committee for publication as a Committee document. The Subcommittee will be on a standby basis pending completion of the field tests (now being carried out in six areas) to allow for any necessary revisions in the future.

In its final report, the Subcommittee recommended that three items be dropped from the tentative minimum basic data set. "Marital status" (with living arrangements) was suggested for inclusion in the basic data set as affecting ease of discharge of specific patients. This item was considered less suitable for the stated purpose because it provides information only with respect to legal status of the patients, which differs from living arrangement in many instances for many different reasons. "Service to which admitted" in larger hospitals is classified for internal administrative purposes by site within the facility where care is rendered. Some abstracting systems record the service to which the patient was admitted and have the further capability of reflecting transfers within the institution and allocation of time spent during a particular admission. These are considered desirable options but not at this time to be considered essential items for a basic data set. "Total charges" was the only data set which is not routinely available in the medical records department of the typical hospital and which would, if included, duplicate the information available from the projected concomitant billing form. Since it was felt that a primary purpose of the basic data set was to provide a means by which to furnish accurate information to support a claim for payment and that it would also have a number of other uses, the inclusion of the total charge for the hospital stay on the discharge abstract appeared to be an unnecessary duplication.

The National Conference on Ambulatory Medical Care Records (sponsored by the National Center for Health Services Research and Development, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the Johns Hopkins University) held in Chicago, April 18-22, 1972, recommended that the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics establish a panel and one or more task forces "...to determine the content, terms, definitions, classification schemes and codes to be employed and to consider problems of maintaining reliability and of legitimizing the use of the basic data set" for data on patients, providers, and services in ambulatory services. The National Committee accepted this responsibility and authorized the formation of a technical consultant panel to be concerned with the technical questions of data items, definitions, and classifications.

A draft charge for a proposed technical consultant panel concerned with social indicators was reviewed. The Committee agreed that the responsibilities of this panel should not be restricted entirely to health

indicators. However, its emphasis should be on health indicators and other indicators related to health. Mr. Robert Parke, Jr., whose term on the National Committee expired this year, agreed to accept chairmanship of the panel.

The National Committee reviewed a charge for a panel on needed statistics and statistical data systems for formulation of a national population policy. The charge was discussed in relation to research recommendations in the report of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. The Committee recommended that the charge to the panel be more limited in scope and more specific and emphasize the kinds of analyses of data that are needed. When revised, the charge will be circulated to members of the Committee for final approval and a technical consultant panel will be established.

Establishment of a panel with responsibility for developing a proposal for analytic activity within the National Center for Health Statistics to include a statement on policy, organization and staffing pattern, development of analytic techniques, and provision of technical assistance was authorized.

The World Health Organization has planned a second international conference of national committees to be held in October 1973; location has not yet been determined. The U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics has offered to assist in the planning of this conference.

- Subcommittee* - *Uniform Hospital Abstract Form*
- Established - October 1969
- Assignment - To deal with the technical problems of developing an abstract form for recording hospital discharges and prepare needed definitions of terms and classification.
- Members - Howard West, Director, Division of Health Insurance Studies, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Washington, D.C.* *Chairman*

Edward J. Connors, Director, University Hospital, The University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, Mich.

James M. Ensign, Executive Director, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wis.

Siegfried A. Hoermann, Director, Division of Health Resources Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.*

Dean E. Krueger, Acting Director, Office of Health Statistics Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.* *Ex officio*

Sue Meads, Medical Records Advisor, Division of Health Resources Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.* *Secretary*

David Robbins, Director, Statistics and Control Division, Health Insurance Association of America, New York, N.Y.

Sidney Shindell, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Division of Preventive Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis.

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Mary-j Waterstraat, Executive Director, Medical Record Association, John Hancock Center, Chicago, Ill.

Subcommittee - *Revision of the International Classification of Diseases*

Established - April 10, 1970.

Assignment - To recommend, through the U.S. National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, proposals for the revision of the present International Classification of Diseases to be submitted to the World Health Organization.

Members - Dean E. Krueger, Acting Director, Office of Health Statistics Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.*
Chairman

Mary E. Converse, Director, Central Office of ICDA, American Hospital Association, Chicago, Ill.

Alice B. Dolman, Medical Codification Specialist, Office of Health Statistics Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.* *Secretary*

Robert Dyar, M.D., 614 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley, Calif.

Eugene L. Hamilton, 3830 Fairfax Parkway, Alexandria, Va.

Vergil N. Slee, M.D., President, Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, Ann Arbor, Mich.

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Subcommittee - *Working Party on Classification of Neoplasms of the Revision of the International Classification of Diseases Subcommittee*

Established - April 10, 1970

Assignment - To develop proposals for revision of the classification of neoplasms for consideration by the Subcommittee on Classification of Diseases.

Members - Louis B. Thomas, M.D., Chief, Laboratory of Pathology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.*
Chairman

John W. Berg, M.D., Head Epidemiologic Pathology Unit, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.*

William M. Haenszel, Chief, Biometry Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.*

George Linden, Chief, California Tumor Registry, State of California Department of Public Health, Berkeley, Calif.

William I. Lourie, Jr., End Results Section, Biometry Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.*

Constance L. Percy, Biometry Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.* *Secretary*

Subcommittee - *Financial Data Year Planning*

Established - June 29, 1970

Assignment - To develop a proposal for getting solid baseline financial data related to health services for 1 year to serve as a basis for discussion with various agencies.

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

- Members - Herbert E. Klarman, Ph.D., Professor, Graduate School of Public Administration, New York University, New York, N.Y. *Chairman*
- Jacob J. Feldman, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.
- Dorothy P. Rice, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Washington, D.C.*
- Anne A. Scitovsky, Research Associate, Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation, Palo Alto, Calif.
- Morris Silver, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chairman, Economics Department, City College of New York, New York, N.Y.
- Sheldon Starr, Staff Assistant, Division of Health Resources Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.* *Secretary*
- Milton Turen, 11407 Clover Hill Drive, Silver Spring, Md.
- Karl D. Yordy, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- Subcommittee* - *Working Party of Classification of Mental Disorders of the International Classification of Diseases Subcommittee*
- Established - January 7, 1971
- Assignment - To develop proposals for revision of the classification of mental disorders for consideration by the Subcommittee on Classification of Diseases.
- Members - Henry Brill, M.D., Director, Pilgrim State Hospital, West Brentwood, N.Y. *Chairman*

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Jack R. Ewalt, M.D., Bullard Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Herbert J. Grossman, M.D., Director, Illinois State Pediatric Institute, 1640 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Ill.

Morton Kramer, Sc.D., Chief, Biometry Branch, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, National Institute of Mental Health, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.*

Dean E. Krueger, Acting Director, Office of Health Statistics Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.*

Benjamin Pasamanick, M.D., Associate Commissioner for Research, New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, Albany, N.Y.

Dane G. Prugh, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, Colo.

Robert L. Spitzer, M.D., Director, Evaluation Section, Biometrics Research, State of New York Department of Mental Hygiene, New York, N.Y.

Carl A. Taube, Chief, Survey and Reports Section, Biometry Branch, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, National Institute of Mental Health, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Rockville, Md.* *Secretary*

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Reports of the

UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON VITAL
AND HEALTH STATISTICS

United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, October 1949

International Recommendations on Definitions of Live Birth and Fetal Death, Public Health Service Publication No. 39, 1950

The First Annual Report of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1950, Public Health Service Publication No. 40, 1950

"Statistics Needed Concerning Fertility," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 33, No. 11, 1952

"Major Problems in Fetal Mortality," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 33, No. 13, 1952

Proposal for Collection of Data on Illness and Impairments: United States, Public Health Service Publication No. 333, 1953

"Using Hospital Morbidity Data to Study Morbidity in Communities," *Hospitals*, Vol. 27, No. 9, 1953

"Recommendations for the Improvement of Fetal Death Statistics," *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 70, No. 11, 1955

"Progress in Development of Fertility Statistics and Population Estimates," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 39, No. 8, 1956

"Fertility Studies Based on Data for the 1960 Census Period," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 47, No. 5, 1960

Medical Certification of Medicolegal Cases, Public Health Service Publication No. 810, 1960

"Improving National Divorce Statistics," National Office of Vital Statistics, *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 47, No. 13, 1962

United States Statistics on Medical Economics, Public Health Service Publication No. 1125, 1964

Fertility Measurement, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 1, September 1965

National Vital Statistics Needs, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 2, September 1965*

Report of the Fifteenth Anniversary Conference of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 4, June 1966

History of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, 1949-64, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No.5, June 1966

Use of Vital and Health Records in Epidemiologic Research, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 7, March 1968

Migration, Vital, and Health Statistics, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 9, November 1968

Use of Hospital Data for Epidemiologic and Medical-Care Research, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 11, June 1969

Needs for National Studies of Population Dynamics, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 12, April 1970

Report of the Twentieth Anniversary Conference of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Public Health Service Publication No. 1000-Series 4-No. 13, September 1970

Annual Report of the United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Fiscal Year Ending June 30

1956	1960	1964	1968
1957	1961	1965	1969
1958	1962	1966	1970
1959	1963	1967	1971

*Reprint of *Vital Statistics-Special Reports*, Vol. 45, No. 11, July 1957

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