

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES*
1947-1949

More mothers and children were reached under the maternal and child health programs in 1949 than in either of the two preceding years in almost every type of service on which reports are received from the State agencies. The largest increases were reported in the number of children who were given dental inspections and in the number of women who received postpartum medical examinations. The number of infants and preschool children who received medical service at well-child conferences and the number of school children given examinations by physicians also showed large increases. The only major decrease in services in 1949 as compared with 1947 occurred in the number of persons immunized against smallpox. The attached table summarizes the data on maternal and child health services for the three-year period 1947-1949 as reported by State agencies for services under their administration or supervision.

In 1949 over 168,000 women attended prenatal clinics, an increase of more than 11 percent over 1947. During each of the three years, there was an average of approximately 3 visits per year for each woman who received antepartum medical service at the clinics. The increase in the number of cases given postpartum medical examinations was proportionately greater than for antepartum cases; over 56,000 women were given postpartum medical examinations in 1949, representing an increase of approximately two-fifths over the number of such cases in 1947.

There was also an increase in the number of children who received medical service. In 1949, 295,000 infants and more than 398,000 preschool children attended well-child conferences, which was an increase of one-fifth in infant cases and almost one-fourth in preschool cases over 1947. The number of visits at the conferences each year averaged approximately 3 per infant and 2 per preschool child. More than 2,300,000 examinations of school children were made by physicians under the maternal and child health programs in 1949, an increase of 22 percent over 1947.

A larger number of mothers and children received nursing service in 1949 than in either 1947 or 1948. Approximately 242,000 women received antepartum nursing service in 1949, and close to 243,000 mothers received postpartum nursing service. The increase of 13 percent in cases receiving postpartum nursing service in 1949 as compared with 1947 was about double the increase found in cases who received antepartum nursing service. For each woman who received antepartum nursing service the average number of nursing visits in each year of this period fell between 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3; the ratio of nursing visits

*Services administered or supervised by State health agencies under the Social Security Act, Title V, Part 1.

to cases receiving postpartum nursing service remained constant at approximately 2 visits each year. Less than 6,000 women were given nursing service at delivery under the programs in 1949; the volume of this service has declined considerably as compared with a decade ago, due principally to the increase in hospital deliveries.

In 1949 nursing service was given to approximately 553,000 infants and almost 577,000 preschool children, the former receiving close to 1,540,000 nursing visits and the latter 1,370,000 visits. However, the volume of nursing service was larger for school children than for any other single group--in 1949, approximately 2,672,000 nursing visits were provided to school children, an increase of almost 22 percent over 1947. Each year during the three-year period there was an average of almost 3 nursing visits for each infant receiving nursing service, and about 2½ nursing visits for each preschool child who received nursing service.

The number of persons receiving immunizations decreased in the three-year period. In 1947 approximately 2,072,000 persons were immunized against smallpox; the number declined in 1948 to less than 1,403,000, and in 1949 increased to approximately 1,562,000, still appreciably below the 1947 figure. These fluctuations are not, however, unusual, since the number of persons immunized against smallpox under the programs has varied considerably from year to year. The number of persons immunized against diphtheria was approximately 1,597,000 in 1947, decreased to about 1,551,000 persons in 1948 and then increased again to almost 1,598,000 in 1949. Throughout this period approximately one-sixth of the persons immunized against diphtheria were under one year of age, and about two-fifths were under 5 years.

The reports on dental service show a marked increase in the number of dental inspections by dentists and dental hygienists. Forty-seven percent more inspections of school children and 35 percent more inspections of preschool children were made in 1949 than in 1947. The number of school children who received dental inspections increased from about 1,575,000 in 1947 to approximately 2,315,000 in 1949; for preschool children the number of dental inspections increased from almost 56,000 in 1947 to over 75,000 in 1949.

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**Services Administered or Supervised by State Health Agencies
 Under the Social Security Act, Title V, Part 1**

Type of service	Number reported ^a			Percent change 1947-49
	1949	1948	1947	
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Maternity service				
Cases admitted to antepartum medical service	168,313	152,774	151,117	+11.4
Visits by antepartum cases to medical conferences ..	510,832	458,032	465,807	+ 9.7
Cases given postpartum medical examination	56,243	44,534	40,391	+39.2
Infant hygiene				
Individuals admitted to medical service	294,998	263,819	245,514	+20.2
Visits to medical conferences	864,561	762,110	741,543	+16.6
Preschool hygiene				
Individuals admitted to medical service	398,360	379,472	320,263	+24.4
Visits to medical conferences	838,654	744,681	689,617	+21.6
School Hygiene				
Examinations by physicians	2,299,259	2,071,829	1,877,951	+22.4
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES				
Maternity service				
Cases admitted to antepartum nursing service	242,050	228,695	227,073	+ 6.6
Field and office visits to and by antepartum cases .	639,522	626,818	646,066	- 1.0
Cases given nursing service at delivery	5,966	6,716	6,153	- 3.0
Cases admitted to postpartum nursing service	242,932	223,314	214,745	+13.1
Nursing visits to postpartum cases	506,159	458,032	449,059	+12.7
Infant hygiene				
Individuals admitted to nursing service	552,617	530,183	516,374	+ 7.0
Field and office nursing visits	1,538,869	1,471,616	1,482,933	+ 3.8
Preschool hygiene				
Individuals admitted to nursing service	576,913	541,539	494,883	+16.6
Field and office nursing visits	1,369,016	1,273,197	1,188,246	+15.2
School hygiene				
Field and office nursing visits	2,671,774	2,427,199	2,199,012	+21.5
IMMUNIZATIONS				
Smallpox	1,561,852	1,402,829	2,071,742	-24.6
Diphtheria, total	1,597,857	1,551,221	1,597,407	(b)
Under 1 year	256,993	236,475	262,922	- 2.3
1 through 4 years	353,536	320,918	336,179	+ 5.2
5 years and over	792,067	840,864	891,393	-11.2
Age not reported	195,261	152,964	106,913	+82.6
DENTAL INSPECTIONS				
Inspections by dentists or dental hygienists				
Preschool children	75,424	52,652	55,877	+35.0
School children	2,314,530	1,984,061	1,575,322	+46.9
MIDWIFE SUPERVISION				
Visits for midwife supervision	28,456	27,219	28,153	+ 1.1

^a This report covers Services by the State health agencies in the 48 States, Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (the Virgin Islands began participation and reporting the last half of 1947).

^b Less than 0.05 percent.

Note.--These figures are subject to revision; they include all corrections received through August 15, 1950.