

## Where to Find Additional Health Information

by Christine Bruzzese

**Diseases, Epidemics.** The Department of Health and other agencies have published various monographs over the years on such diseases as influenza, typhoid and polio. *Tuberculosis Infirmary of the Metropolitan Hospital* from the Department of Public Charities describes this treatment facility in 1908, complete with photos, statistics and discussion of the infirmary's functions. Other publications on tuberculosis include *Tuberculosis in New York City 1970* from the Department of Health. Reports such as *Spanish Influenza (Grip)* from 1918 and *Report to Mayor Wagner on 1954 Poliomyelitis Work of the Department of Health* offer historical information on these diseases and efforts to combat them. Consult the vertical files and Library catalogue for more materials.

**Mental Health.** Community Mental Health Board existed from 1954 to 1971. Established by state law, to maintain and oversee mental health services, the Board published *Annual Reports* which provide statistical information on municipal and voluntary mental health agencies. Also given are summaries of program developments, information on staffing and legislation. Holdings are from 1955 to 1971. The Board published various other reports on topics such as outpatient clinics. Check the Library catalogue for Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reports and publications from other entities.

**Hospitals.** Besides, Department of Hospitals and Health and Hospitals Corporation *Annual Reports*, there are other sources for research on hospitals. United Hospital Fund has published comprehensive reports. *Health Care Annual* features statistical tables on inpatient and ambulatory care in New York and surrounding counties. This is a good source for information such as number of emergency visits, available beds, average stay, etc. Holdings are from 1991 to 2003, though not comprehensive. Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) has prepared reports such as *Asthma Utilization in New York City: Trends and Underlying Factors, 1985-1988*. This publication discusses hospitalization and treatment for asthma patients in HHC hospitals. Statistics and analysis are presented along with recommendations for improvement and change.

**Reprints, Newsletters, Collections of Articles.** *Public Health Reprints* were published in two series. The first covers 1912 to 1929 and the second 1951 to 1960. These include articles by Department of Health officials and medical professionals on topics such as control of infectious diseases, healthy school lunches, occupational safety and health, etc. *Weekly Reports, Monthly Bulletins, School Health News* and other publications cover developments in health care. These were generally issued from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

**Websites.** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website at [www.nyc.gov/doh](http://www.nyc.gov/doh) provides links to *Bulletins* and other publications of interest. Check the Department of Records website at

[www.nyc.gov/records](http://www.nyc.gov/records) under the link  
“**Publications**” for city agency reports  
on the topic “**Health.**”