

ment of community medical care and other health services for those with chronic diseases, and the reduction of the occurrence of chronic and communicable diseases through more effective control measures; improvement of the dental health of the whole population; the reduction of accidental injuries which result in disability or death; improvement of techniques for the academic training and continuing education of doctors, dentists, nurses, and other professionals in the health field; development of the higher professional role of the trained nurse in the increasingly scientific pattern of medical care; development of professional guidelines and medical criteria for use in administration of the Medicare and other national health programs; the creation of more efficient hospitals and other health facilities; the better understanding of the economics of the health industry; and the development of knowledge which can be used for more effective organization and coordination of total health services in communities.

2. Operation

Five divisions of the Bureau of State Services-Community Health make grants to colleges and universities to support research training. These grants enable colleges and universities to start, or give more emphasis to, programs for training graduate students in the scientific knowledge necessary to conduct the type of research described above. Research training grants provide funds for support of faculty and stipends and tuition for a limited number of graduate students selected by the recipient schools. Research training grants therefore have the dual effect of supporting existing teaching faculty, and supporting graduate students who are training for future careers of research and for university teaching in fields related to the Bureau mission.

The factor of broad geographic spread of institutions and agencies conducting research and research training has a definite scientific pertinence in certain types of health services research. For example, research concerned with organizational, economic, geographic, social, and cultural factors affecting health and health services often must be conducted in localities where samples of these variables are found, including the less-developed areas of the United States.

3. History

The research and research training programs of the Bureau of State Services-Community Health are directed toward problems which arise in what may be called the "health industry"—the sum total of health services rendered by doctors, dentists, nurses, and others working in hospitals, private offices, clinics, official and voluntary health agencies, and other health facilities. Besides being the means through which we all obtain medical care, the health industry is also a major part of the national economy.

The health services industry in 1960 employed about 2.6 million persons.

The health industry of the United States must increase rapidly in size as the national population increases. Any program of research which helps the industry to grow in a more orderly way and to utilize medical manpower, money, and other scarce resources in a more efficient manner will thereby contribute much to the economy of the country, as well as to its health. An informed opinion in the health professions is to the effect that improved health of a nation is reflected in the increased level and quality of its economic output.