

2. Operation

The venereal disease program operates through the provision of grants of funds, detail of personnel, and program consultation to State and local health agencies in which the responsibilities for venereal disease control is vested. The venereal disease program also conducts research for the purpose of (1) improving diagnostic and therapeutic techniques for syphilis and gonorrhea, and (2) to develop methods of artificially producing immunity in man to venereal infection.

3. History

Venereal disease activities in the Federal Government date from the Chamberlin-Kahn Act of 1918 which provided for grants to States for venereal disease control and a small headquarters operation to provide analysis of morbidity and program data. No funds for grants were available from 1920 until the passage of the LaFollette-Bulwinkle Act in 1939 from which time the modern venereal disease control program should be dated. The Public Health Service Act of July 1, 1944, codified authority for venereal disease control with current program operations being carried out under the authorities of section 301 and section 314(a) of the act.

The advent of penicillin as a cure for syphilis and gonorrhea in the 1940's permitted the program emphasis to be concentrated on case-finding rather than treatment. The current syphilis eradication effort is predicated on the concept that epidemiologic activity can operate to locate source and spread cases from known infections faster than the disease can spread. The elements of this program are contained in the report of the Surgeon General's task force "The Eradication of Syphilis" (December 1961).

4. Level of operations. (See table 1)

Program: Venereal disease project grants.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Public Health Service—Bureau of State Services (Community Health).

TABLE 1.—Level of operations or performance, fiscal years 1964–67

[Dollar amounts in thousands]

Measure (see committee inquiry for definitions)	Fiscal year 1964	Fiscal year 1965	Fiscal year 1966 estimates	Fiscal year 1967 ¹ estimates
(a) Magnitude of the program (number of projects).....	76	71	62	58
(b) Applicants or participants:				
State government agencies.....				
Local communities or governments.....				
Individuals or families.....				
Other.....				
(c) Federal finances:				
Unobligated appropriations available.....				
Obligations incurred.....	\$5,887	\$6,194	\$6,229	\$6,229
Allotments or commitments made.....				
(d) Matching or additional expenditures ²	\$17,338	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
(e) Number of Federal employees ³	432	615	720	720
(f) Non-Federal personnel ⁴	245	245	270	270
(g) Other measures of performance.....				

¹ President's budget.

² Funds budgeted for venereal disease control (State and local governments).

³ Personnel in lieu of cash.

⁴ Personnel paid from cash funds, project grants to State and local health departments.