



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

One Hundred Fiftieth Registration Report

1997

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Stephen A. Harriman
Commissioner of Public Health

Commissioner:

I am pleased to submit the 1997 *Registration Report*, prepared by the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation. This volume marks the publication of the 150th annual vital statistics report for the State of Connecticut.

Many changes have occurred in our state since the first registration report was published in 1848. Our population has grown from about 353,000 to nearly 3.27 million. Many infectious diseases, including consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis), diphtheria, malaria, measles, and typhoid fever, have fallen from among the ranks of leading causes of death, and some have been eradicated completely, only to be replaced by diseases reflective of lifestyle--cancer, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and unintentional injuries. Most notably, the infant mortality rate, which peaked at 164.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1872, fell to historic lows of 6.4 to 7.9 per 1,000 during the current decade.

The Department of Public Health is mandated by the legislature to be the lead agency for public health planning in Connecticut. Vital statistics were a major component of the data-driven assessment of health status published last year, which provides a rational context for setting health priorities for the year 2000 and beyond. The vital statistics system in Connecticut continues, after 150 years, to provide a foundation for public health planning and assessment.

Respectfully,

Marie V. Roberto, Dr.P.H., Chief
Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation

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