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Baltimore City Health Department
WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR

Wk. 40

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In his WEEKLY LETTER TO THE MAYOR dated October 8, 1971, the Commissioner of Health wrote:

Dear Mayor:

This is to advise you that the First Maryland Health Care Corporation, a Baltimore non-profit organization affiliated with the City Health Department, has been funded with a \$98,880 planning grant from the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

Incorporated early in the year, this new organization is now in the process of designing health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to offer prepaid family health care packages to potentially as many as 200,000 Baltimoreans in the northwest and west sections of the city. Over the next two years First Maryland anticipates an additional two to three million dollars in OEO funds to help pay for health services. When completely organized, this non-profit health agency will coordinate a network of consumers, interested physicians, medical groups, hospitals, neighborhood health centers and community health councils.

The First Maryland Health Care Corporation will be one of 11 model HMOs funded through OEO to carry President Nixon's national health strategy to inner city residents. Dr. Robert M. Vidaver, former director of education in the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is the agency's first president. Health maintenance organizations are a new direction in health care. HMOs under First Maryland would provide total health care services from neighborhood centers for a single monthly premium. Subscribers and their participating family members could have any number of doctors' visits, consultations or days of general hospital care. Two HMOs are operating now in the First Maryland area: one is sponsored by the West Baltimore Community Corporation and the other by Provident Hospital.

City Health Department studies indicate large numbers of Baltimoreans go without ordinary medical care simply because there are no physicians nearby. Fifteen of the city's census tracts are without a single primary care physician. Many more are woefully understaffed. In search of solutions, Dr. John B. De Hoff, Deputy Commissioner of Health, was assigned the job of implementing a pilot Baltimore HMO having particular concern for inner city people. First Maryland, which is patterned after the academic health manpower organization, the Maryland Consortium for the Health Sciences, grew out of this effort. Representatives of the Sinai, Provident, Lutheran and Bon Secours hospitals, the Provident OEO and West Baltimore neighborhood care centers, the Gar-Wyn Medical Group, the Baltimore City Medical Society and the Northwest Community Organization have joined with City Health Department physicians Dr. James D. Carr, Dr. Jimmie L. Rhyne, and Dr. De Hoff in the corporation. To be sure First Maryland's consumers get the services they need, its guiding Board of Trustees includes one-half consumers, two-thirds of whom are poor people.

The First Maryland Health Care Corporation, like other health maintenance organizations, seeks to develop group practice alternatives to the time-honored solo practitioner, fee-for-service medicine. Rising costs, doctor shortages and crowded emergency rooms are adding impetus to HMO formation, the more so since Mr. Nixon's February "Health Message" endorsement.

N11995

Honorable Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III

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October 8, 1971

While HMOs may take many forms, most of them gather a wide range of specialized medical services under a single administrative 'umbrella'. The HMOs are to take responsibility for the patient's total health needs when he is well as when he is injured or ill. Doctors, nurses and other allied health practitioners work as a team in the HMOs. HMOs work through facilities in hospitals, neighborhood centers, rehabilitation institutes or private homes via community outreach. As neighborhood HMO satellites are developed they will make it easier for people to get medical care and will know where to turn before illness reaches crisis proportions.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Robert E. Farber, M.D.

Commissioner of Health

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LIA-76092

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 7, 1971

WK. 40

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND INFANT MORTALITY

	Week Ending October 7, 1971			Week Ending October 8, 1970		
	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE	TOTAL	WHITE	NONWHITE
BIRTHS	N U M B E R					
Total recorded	373	207	166	423	252	171
Residents only	268	108	160	282	118	164
DEATHS						
Total recorded	223	129	94	243	164	79
Residents only	169	105	84	200	121	79
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	15	7	8	11	5	6
Residents only	11	4	7	8	3	5
BIRTHS	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR YEAR TO DATE					
Total recorded	17 330	9 623	7 707	18 170	10 548	7 622
Residents only	11 867	4 670	7 197	12 302	5 178	7 124
DEATHS						
Total recorded	9 558	6 316	3 242	10 110	6 833	3 277
Residents only	7 740	4 867	3 078	8 176	5 048	3 128
INFANT DEATHS						
Total recorded	410	174	236	448	224	224
Residents only	326	103	223	317	112	205
	RESIDENT RATES* FOR YEAR TO DATE					
BIRTHS	17.1	12.7	22.1	17.6	13.8	22.2
DEATHS	11.2	12.7	9.4	11.7	13.4	9.7
INFANT MORTALITY	27.5	22.1	31.0	25.8	21.6	28.8

* BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION; INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS;
ALL RATES COMPUTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

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WEEKLY STATISTICAL REPORT
CASES OF REPORTABLE DISEASES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED

WEEK ENDING October 7, 1971

DISEASE	CASES			YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES	
	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		1971	1970
		HIGH	LOW		
Tuberculosis, active.....	20	20	6	366	386
Syphilis, primary and secondary.....	10	14	1	256	217
Gonococcal infections.....	607	255	94	8,530	8,727
Infectious hepatitis.....	10	6	1	246	220
Meningococcal infections.....	0	1	0	14	12
Meningitis, other.....	2	3	0	54	103
Encephalitis, infectious.....	0	11	0	1	2
Measles.....	0	2	0	15	722
German measles.....	1	3	0	48	195
Mumps.....	1	7	2	292	571
Chickenpox.....	0	2	0	273	427
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough.....	2	5	0	11	14
Streptococcal infections.....	6	9	0	209	104
Poliomyelitis (paralytic cases).....	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever.....	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis.....	18	10	0	385	324
Dysentery.....	17	17	0	480	100
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	0	1	0	7	8
Lead poisoning.....	0	1	0	10	19
Influenza.....	0	1	0	2	5
Other reportable diseases.....	39	-	-	921	1,028

MORTALITY BY MAJOR CAUSES, NON-RESIDENTS EXCLUDED

CAUSE OF DEATH	CURRENT WEEK	7 YEAR RANGE*		YEAR TO DATE CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF DEATHS	
		HIGH	LOW	1971	1970
	TOTAL				
All Causes.....	189	238	176	7,740	8,176
Diseases of the heart.....	56	84	69	2,871	3,174
Cancer, all forms.....	35	52	33	1,431	1,521
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	11	26	9	528	550
Diseases of the arteries and veins.....	7	10	3	223	257
Influenza and pneumonia.....	4	7	1	158	186
Diabetes.....	4	7	0	233	268
Cirrhosis of liver.....	7	8	3	255	251
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	0	5	0	59	70
Nephritis.....	1	2	0	35	36
Puerperal causes.....	0	1	0	3	5
Malformations and diseases of early infancy.....	8	10	3	255	234
Suicides.....	4	2	0	65	69
Homicides.....	13	8	0	225	179
Accidents					
Home.....	0	4	0	84	103
Industrial.....	0	1	0	25	11
Automobile.....	6	4	0	102	
Other public.....	0	3	0	36	
Other external causes.....	1	-	-	37	
Other specified causes.....	32	-	-	1,115	1,088

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* THE HIGH AND LOW FIGURES SHOWN ARE DERIVED FROM THE NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS FOR THE COMPARABLE WEEK FOR THE PERIOD 1964- 1970