ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIANAPOLIS

PEOPLE HERITAGE CULTURE

Presented by the
POLIS Research Center
at
Indiana University-
Purdue University
at Indianapolis

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Medicine and Health Care in Indianapolis, 1820–1990s

Disease was prevalent among early Indianapolis residents. The city's low-lying swampy land, combined with a lack of knowledge about disease-causing mechanisms and proper sanitation methods, led to much sickness. Physicians could offer little assistance to the sick and suffering because they lacked knowledge of germs and infection and thus had few effective treatments. Throughout the 19th and into the 20th century, however, the practice of medicine in Indianapolis was revolutionized by better training for doctors, the establishment of professional medical societies and boards of health, the founding of hospitals as teaching and research centers, and new discoveries in pharmaceuticals and bacteriology.

Indianapolis physicians in the 19th century took the lead in promoting the establishment of a board of health. Though temporary boards had been appointed during epidemics, the first permanent board of health was founded in 1859 to set municipal sanitary and food inspection standards. In the early 20th century, the board and other public health agencies offered education programs on the spread of communicable diseases, infant and child hygiene, and sanitation. Food and milk control and supervision of school health programs were also under the board's jurisdiction. It became the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County in 1951 and today provides preventative and diagnostic health programs, immunization and epidemiological programs, environmental health regulation, and code enforcement. It has several clinics and district health offices throughout the county.

Local doctors also advocated the founding of professional medical societies. Though the first association was organized in 1823, it was not until 1849 that the first permanent society was formed. It later became a statewide agency, the Indiana State Medical Association, and took an active role in educating physicians, monitoring the profession, and providing a means for sharing scientific knowledge. Indianapolis medical journals published by the association allowed doctors to disseminate knowledge, share cases and treatments, and critically evaluate new therapies.

Though the city took an early lead in establishing public health agencies and professional societies, it lagged behind in founding a public medical school. In early Indianapolis, very few doctors had a formal education. Many studied under a practicing physician through an apprenticeship. Some had a few courses at a medical school. Small private schools operated in the city as early as 1848, but it was not until 1903 that the Indiana University School of Medicine was formed. Initially plagued by a lack of funds, the school became one of the nation's leading medical schools by 1970. Today, the school and its affiliated hospitals spend approximately $54 million on research and employ some of the top scientists in the nation.

With the growth of medical schools came the need for clinical facilities at hospitals and other institutions where students could observe patients. Indianapolis physician Livingston Dunlap advocated the building of a municipal hospital in the 1830s. Construction began in the 1850s, though it did not open as a charity hospital until after the Civil War. In the 1880s, Dr. William Wishard, superintendent of City Hospital, introduced aseptic procedures, founded a training school for nurses, and transformed the facility into a modern hospital. To meet the growing need for hospital beds, two private facilities, St. Vincent's (1881) and Protestant Deaconess (1899), opened.

In the 20th century, hospitals became an important part of the health care system, offer-

Continued inside

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Director's Notes

Inevitably, presentations about the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* lead to the question, "What is POLIS?" Although initially an acronym for a project about Indianapolis, we use this Greek word ("city") to signify our efforts to develop a multi-disciplinary understanding of the modern urban environment, using Indianapolis, literally the "City of Indiana," as our focus of study. We also intend to suggest that residents of the city are our expert partners in this effort.

The *Encyclopedia* is only one of the ways we attempt to create information about Indianapolis in all its parts. Since our beginning four years ago, we have developed over 20 projects with partners throughout the community to develop knowledge for specific needs. Some projects are historical in nature: for example, a permanent exhibit and brief history for Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana for its 60th anniversary, and a book, *The Main Stem: The History and Architecture of North Meridian Street* (1992), for Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc. Other projects are more sociological, such as a neighborhood study for a local church seeking to understand recent changes in its community or a look, as part of a national effort, at the way congregations in two Greater Indianapolis communities have responded to the socio-economic changes of the past three decades. Still other projects involve the working with state and local governments, such as our joint project with the IU Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and the City of Carmel. We also have formed partnerships with area non-profit agencies and organizations to address key issues: an example is the needs assessment POLIS conducted with the Association of Indiana Museums. And through our Laboratory for Applied Spatial Information Research (LASIR), a modern geographic information systems lab, we are assisting governmental agencies, area businesses, and non-profit organizations apply technology to the analysis of modern problems.

The development of a research center focusing on Indianapolis reflects our belief that the city is a proper object of study and that its residents will apply new information in creative ways to enhance our quality of life. It also represents our commitment to ally the expertise in the university with expertise in the community for the improvement of our local urban environment. We want to learn about the city in partnership with knowledgeable and interested people within and outside the university. And we want the information we discover to be understood and used and not to sit in some musty tome, impenetrable and unread.

If you would like to learn more about the POLIS Research Center, its projects, and its ability to help you or your organization, give us a call at 274-2455. ■

Medicine — from page 1

ing specialized treatment, advanced diagnosis, and a professional nursing staff. By mid-century, new hospitals such as Methodist (1908), St. Francis (1914), William Coleman Hospital for Women (1927), James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children (1924), and Robert Long Hospital (1914) had opened in the city. Still, the demand for hospital beds continued to increase and by 1951, a group of Indianapolis businessmen formed the Indianapolis Hospital Development Association to add additional beds over a 20-year period. The campaign resulted in the expansion of existing hospital bed space and the opening of Community Hospital.

The number of local research hospitals, particularly the Indiana University Medical Center, has encouraged the growth of medical firms in Indianapolis. An estimated 1,600 area firms employ almost 48,500 people in the industry. Many of these are medium-sized or small firms that specialize in medical devices. Large firms, such as Boehringer Mannheim, Bindley Western, and Eli Lilly and Company, market medical instruments or pharmaceutical products. In 1988, Indiana ranked second in the nation in per-capita output of medical technology.

Medicine and health care continue to be timely and important public issues in the 1990s. Rapidly increasing costs, as well as the growing numbers of uninsured individuals, has raised an important question: Who should pay for health care? Improvements in medical technology likewise have led to a number of ethical dilemmas. These issues will continue to concern Indianapolis physicians, patients, and the public in the future. ■

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis Staff

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Sources of Funding

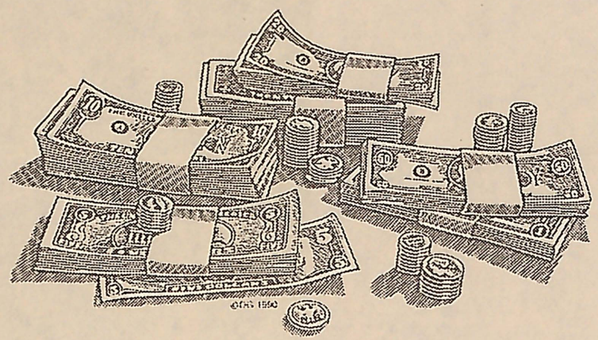
To become reality the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will require resources totaling $1,454,000, some of which will come through in-kind support. Direct financial costs are estimated at $833,000.

Total direct costs $833,000

POLIS will provide half of this amount through earned income and competitive grants not usually available to community projects. The Center has already allocated nearly $387,000 for the *Encyclopedia*, including a $98,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

IUPUI asks the community to contribute about thirty percent of the support for the *Encyclopedia*. Generous foundations, corporations and individuals have already donated nearly $105,000.

POLIS Goal	**$416,000**	**Community Goal**	**$417,000**
Received	**$387,000**	**Received**	**$105,000**
Expected	**$29,000**	**Expected**	**$312,000**



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Medicine and Health Care - Approved Entries to Date

Essays

Medicine and Health Care in Indianapolis, 1820-1990s
Alternative Medical Care
Dentistry
Hospitals
Medical Research
Nursing
Pharmacy
Public Health

General Entries

Max Bahr
John F. Barnhill
John Stough Bobbs
Walter Bruetsch
LaRue D. Carter
Central State Hospital
T. K. Chen
Community Hospital
Dispensaries
Livingston Dunlap
Joseph Eastman
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John Newell Hurty
Indiana Medical History Museum
Indiana State Medical Association
Indiana University Medical Center
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis Flower Mission
Indianapolis Medical Society
Indianapolis Summer Mission for Sick Children
Insulin
Helen Knabe
Goethe Link
Louis Mazzini
Proprietary Medical Schools
Methodist Hospital
Harvey Middleton
Midwest Medical Center
Samuel G. Mitchell
Mortality/Morbidity
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John Oliver
Theophilus Parvin
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Mary Spink
Sports Medicine
St. Francis Hospital
St. Vincent Hospital
Albert Sterne
Thaddeus Stevens
John VanNuys
John Warvel
Westview Hospital
Ryan White
Wishard Memorial Hospital
William Niles Wishard, Sr.
Frank Wynn

Meet the Contributing Editor — Medicine and Health Care

Katherine Mandusic McDonell serves as the contributing editor for the Medicine and Health Care section of the *Encyclopedia*. She holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, a master's in history from Case Western Reserve University, and a master's in business administration from Indiana University. McDonell is a specialist in the field of state and local medical history. She is the author of numerous articles and two books on the subject, including *The Journals of William A. Lindsay: An Ordinary Nineteenth-Century Physician's Surgical Cases* and *Medicine in Antebellum Indiana: Conflict, Conservatism, and Change*.

McDonell has recently assumed the position of executive director, Roller Skating Associations, in Indianapolis. She has also worked as a research historian at Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, executive director of the Indiana Medical History Museum, research historian at the Indiana Historical Society, and assistant director for marketing and communications at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy.

As contributing editor, McDonell has written the overview essay on Medicine and Health Care in Indianapolis, as well as numerous other mini-essays and entries. She has also identified a number of topics, many of them researched by members of the local medical community, that will offer a comprehensive look at the history of medicine and health care in Indianapolis. ■

Medicine and Health Care in Indianapolis

1821 Samuel Mitchell moves to Indianapolis from Kentucky and becomes town's first resident doctor.
1845 General Assembly authorizes the construction of Indianapolis Hospital for the Insane in response to report by reformer Dorothea Dix. It has 300 patients within ten years. In 1889, it becomes Central Indiana Hospital; in 1929, its name changes to Central State Hospital.
1849 Indiana Central Medical College, the city's first proprietary medical school, is founded.
1866 Indianapolis City Hospital opens as a 75-bed charity hospital. Name changes to Indianapolis General (1947), Marion County General (1959), and Wishard Memorial (1975), at which time it comes under management of IU School of Medicine.
1870 William Baldwin Fletcher establishes Indianapolis City Dispensary.
1881 At the request of Bishop Silas Chatard, four Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul arrive in Indianapolis and establish an infirmary, later known as St. Vincent's Hospital.
1888 William Baldwin Fletcher opens a private sanatorium, Neuronhurst, for treatment of mentally ill women.
1890 Rev. Oscar C. McCulloch founds Indianapolis Summer Mission for Sick Children, also known as Fresh Air Mission, a summer camp outside the city for sick children and nursing mothers.
1891 Three leading causes of death in Indianapolis are tuberculosis, diseases of the circulatory system, and stomach/intestinal diseases, together accounting for 596, or 28 percent, of the city's 2,128 deaths. Diphtheria and typhoid fever caused 183 deaths; measles, 9 deaths.
1895 Frank Barbour Wynn becomes city's first public sanitarian.
1896 Albert Eugene Sterne establishes Norways Sanatorium, specializing in research, diagnosis, and study of nervous and mental disorders and attracting patients from across the nation.

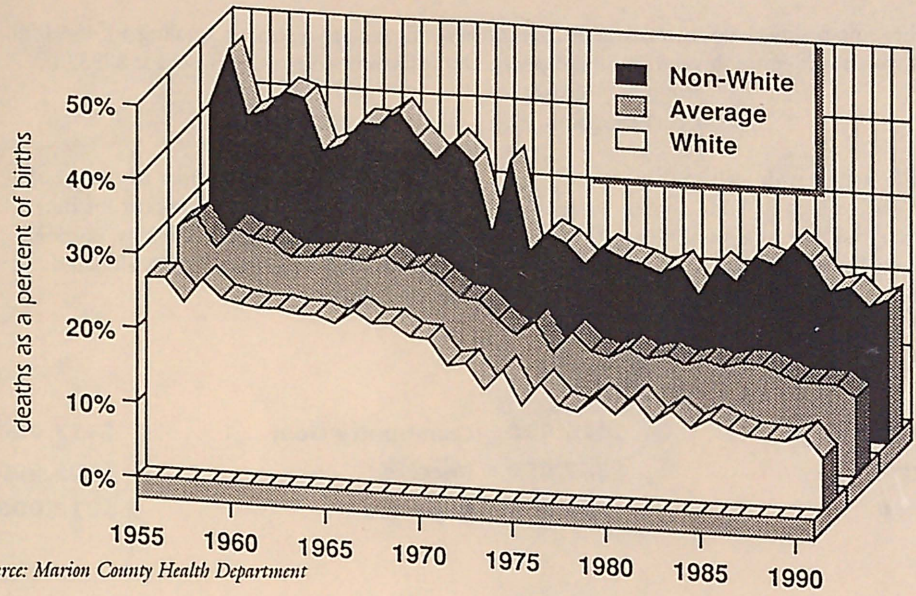
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul open St. Vincent School of Nursing, which trained generations of nurses until it closed in 1970.
1903 Indiana University School of Medicine is founded.
1914 St. Francis Hospital, founded by Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration, admits its first patient.
1917 Sunnyside Sanitarium opens for treatment of tuberculosis.
1922 Eli Lilly and Company, working with University of Toronto scientists, develops insulin for treatment of diabetes, making Indianapolis a leading center for insulin manufacturing.
1924 James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children opens as Indiana's only children's hospital.
1926 Lilly Laboratory for Clinical Research (now at Wishard Memorial Hospital) opens for clinical testing of new drugs.
1939 Louis Mazzini develops Mazzini Test for syphilis.

Top three causes of death in Indianapolis are heart disease, stroke, and cancer, accounting for 2,372 or almost 44 percent of the 5,418 deaths.
1952 Dr. Arthur Richter opens St. Vincent's Hospital's first heart clinic.
1956 Memorial Clinic (presently Midwest Medical Center) opens.
1957 St. Francis Hospital pioneers Indiana's first cobalt therapy unit.
1963 Indiana University Medical Center physicians develop the echocardiograph (EKG). Krannert Institute of Cardiology opens at Wishard Memorial Hospital.

St. Vincent's Hospital opens first coronary care and first intensive care units in Indianapolis.
1964 Eli Lilly and Company develops world's first cephalosporin antibiotic, introducing new class of drugs widely used to treat serious infections such as gonorrhea and meningitis.
1966 Methodist Hospital of Indiana's Department of Medical Research, founded in 1956, conducts studies leading to development of an artificial kidney, one of the first of its kind in the country.
1967 St. Francis Hospital establishes first Betatron nuclear accelerator for cancer treatment in an Indiana hospital.
1968 Louis Russell, an African-American, receives a new heart. By 1970, he had lived longer than any other heart transplant recipient.
1969 Indiana Medical History Museum established to preserve Old Pathology Building of Central State Hospital.
1973 St. Vincent's Hospital implements open heart surgery program and establishes city's first family centered maternity department.
1974 Boehringer Mannheim Corporation begins Indianapolis operations, conducting research on enzyme technology, proteins, and genetic engineering.
1977 Wishard Hospital establishes a burn unit and becomes nationally known for its treatment of trauma cases.
1979 St. Vincent's Hospital opens first wellness center east of the Mississippi.
1982 Eli Lilly and Company produce humulin, world's first pharmaceutical product based on recombinant DNA technology.
1983 American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) relocates to Indianapolis.
1985 Walther Cancer Institute is founded and conducts basic, clinical, and patient care research through affiliations such as Walther Oncology Center at IU Medical Center.
1990 Three leading causes of death in Marion County remain heart disease, cancer, and stroke, accounting for 4,518, or 62 percent, of the 6,656 deaths.

Death of Indianapolis-area teenager Ryan White at Riley Hospital draws international attention to AIDS crisis.

Infant Mortality in Marion County, 1955-1991



Source: Marion County Health Department

Infant mortality among African Americans topped the city's public health agenda in 1987, when a Children's Defense Fund report revealed that Indianapolis had the highest black infant mortality rate in the United States. In the ensuing public outcry, the City-County Council funded the Indianapolis Campaign for Healthy Babies.

Although the chart suggests a long term decline in infant mortality, it confirms the discrepancy between rates for white and non-white babies.

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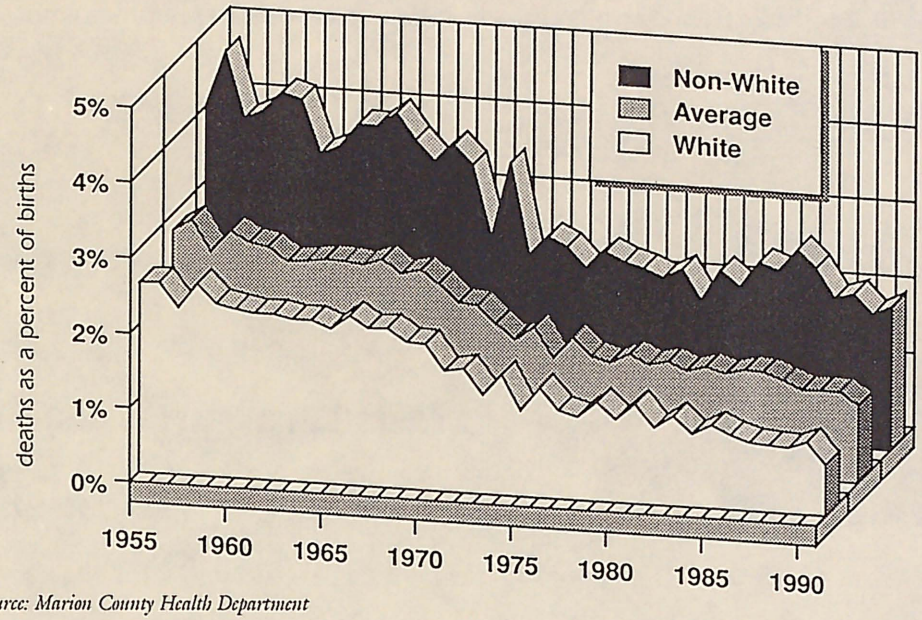
A Correction

The most recent *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* newsletter contained an error in the graph depicting "Infant Mortality in Marion County, 1955-1991". While the trend lines on the graph are correct, the numerical labels on the Y-axis contained an extra zero, indicating that the rate of deaths as a percentage of births was much higher than is actually the case. **The corrected chart below includes accurate figures.** The staff of the POLIS Research Center accepts all responsibility for this error and regrets any confusion which it may have caused.

Each entry in the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* undergoes an intensive editorial review to ensure accuracy. The editor and managing editor read each submitted article and assign a research assistant to double-check any questionable information. At least one outside reader examines each entry, after which the editors read it again. Indiana University Press submits entries to another editorial process, and the *Encyclopedia* staff will carefully review the page proofs prior to actual publication.

Infant Mortality in Marion County, 1955-1991



Source: Marion County Health Department

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