

Changing health habits reflected in latest national statistics

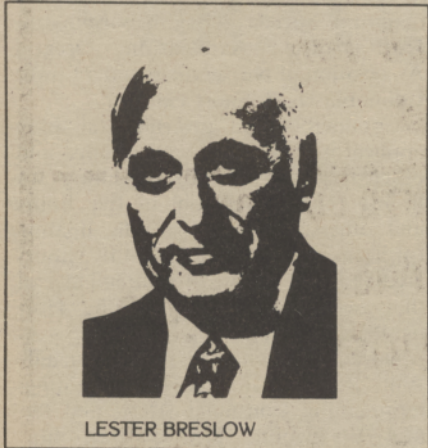
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many formerly common and often fatal diseases, antibiotics for the control of infections, recent improvements in surgery and radiation, and other fruits of medical science substantially enhance the prospects of avoiding or minimizing disease. They can contribute significant-

NEXT WEEK: Joann Ellison Rodgers, science correspondent for Hearst Newspapers, discusses the expanded role of medicine in our society.

ly to better health.

Thus, improving health of the American people seems to be flowing from a mix of factors: more than 30 million persons have quit cigarette smoking and millions more have never taken up the habit; improved diet has resulted in lower blood cholesterol



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LIBRARY NEWS

New encyclopedias arrive

New paperbacks, 220 of them, covering all areas of interest: fantasy, fiction, mystery, and western, are awaiting eager readers!

New encyclopedias have also arrived in the library. They are *The World of Automobiles* and *20th Century* which contains the events in the 20th century.

Library readers should not stop there, however, but should check behind the counter where the records and cassettes are. Cassettes include *A Tale of Two Cities* and tapes include one on Edgar Allen Poe.

The video tape machine is also here and ready to be used. It has a colored camera and a TV monitor.

Get to your library soon to get a more in depth look at its new additions.

levels; better control of high blood pressure has been achieved through drugs and other means; medical care of premature infants has improved; and more people are exercising regularly.

UNEVEN PROGRESS

Yet progress, while widespread, is uneven. Certain segments of the population have not fared as well as others. For example, black babies born in certain parts of the country are more

decades ago white men of all ages had higher rates of coronary heart disease than black men. Evidently black men are still suffering the epidemic while whites are recovering from it.

Other groups, however, have even better health than whites in the United States generally. For example, Mormons enjoy a longer life expectancy, and specifically much less mortality from most kinds of cancer, than the rest of the white people among whom they live. Japanese-Americans likewise have a

biological differences of differences in medical care.

Discovering the most important factors in the striking, favorable trends in the health of the American people -- as well as the differences among segments of the population -- presents an exciting research opportunity. Applying such knowledge opens the prospect of accelerating the current progress in health and of moving toward the World Health Organization's goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000."



Geoffrey Moss—political illustrator syndicated with the Washington Post Writers Group

than twice as likely to die during infancy as white babies. Furthermore, young black men experience much higher mortality overall than your white men, especially from deaths due to violence and coronary heart disease. Yet only a few

very favorable health record compared with the white population as a whole.

The explanations for these differences are as yet little understood, but they appear to lie mainly in the way different groups of people live rather than in

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