

# Survey of General Hospitals Accepting Mental Patients

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**D**URING the period from December 1951 to May 1953, the National Institute of Mental Health of the Public Health Service conducted a survey of the general hospitals in the United States. The original purpose of the survey was to ascertain which general hospitals accepted as inpatients persons with a primary diagnosis of suspected or actual mental illness in order to bring up to date the number of general hospitals to be included in the census of mental patients. As a result of the survey, the number of hospitals included in the census of mental patients rose to 546 compared with 157 prior to the survey.

Data were also collected on type of patient accepted, hospital size, and the types of therapy available for each hospital offering therapy. It is believed that presentation of data on the types of therapy available at the time of the survey would be useful since such data would serve as a baseline for future studies of the types of therapies available in general hospitals. This is particularly so in the light of the more recent developments in drug therapy, such as the use of reserpine, chlorpromazine, and other tranquilizing drugs, the growth of

general hospital facilities for the mentally ill, and the increasing development of nonhospital treatment for the mentally ill.

Some background on the distribution in the States of the hospitals reporting and those indicating acceptance of mental patients is presented in table 1. Additional tabulations showing in greater detail the distribution of these hospitals are available (see documentation note). Of the 4,716 hospitals surveyed, 4,702, or 99.7 percent, of the hospitals queried reported. Reporting was 100 percent complete for 40 States and the District of Columbia. About 40 percent of the reporting hospitals had average daily resident populations of 50 or more. About 21 percent of the hospitals with average daily resident patient populations of 50 or more accepted mental patients as contrasted to about 6 percent of the hospitals with average daily resident patient populations under 50. It is clear that there is a significant difference in the acceptance of mental patients between hospitals with average censuses of 50 or more and those under 50.

The types of patients accepted by the 546 hospitals reporting the acceptance of mentally ill patients and the type of service offered are shown in table 2. Of these 546 general hospitals, 176, or 32.2 percent, routinely offer only diagnostic workup for patients admitted. This does not imply that occasional treatment may not be given for a selected patient, but it does mean that the hospital acts as a diagnostic and screening center, and patients who are in need

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**Table 1. Replies received in the survey of general hospitals, by average daily resident patient populations: United States and each State, 1952**

United States and each State	All hospitals	Hospitals with average daily resident patient populations					
		50 and over			Under 50		
		Total	Accepting mentally ill	Not accepting mentally ill	Total	Accepting mentally ill	Not accepting mentally ill
United States.....	1 4, 702	1, 858	386	1, 472	2, 844	160	2, 684
Alabama.....	89	25	6	19	64	3	61
Arizona.....	40	12	3	9	28	2	26
Arkansas.....	64	13	-----	13	51	-----	51
California.....	254	118	25	93	136	4	132
Colorado.....	68	19	4	15	49	1	48
Connecticut.....	38	30	4	26	8	1	7
Delaware.....	10	9	1	8	1	-----	1
District of Columbia.....	13	10	4	6	3	1	2
Florida.....	101	32	6	26	69	3	66
Georgia.....	102	23	5	18	79	6	73
Idaho.....	47	7	2	5	40	3	37
Illinois.....	219	127	21	106	92	7	85
Indiana.....	104	47	16	31	57	6	51
Iowa.....	112	41	11	30	71	3	68
Kansas.....	115	31	10	21	84	4	80
Kentucky.....	82	27	8	19	55	2	53
Louisiana.....	103	26	6	20	77	-----	77
Maine.....	43	10	2	8	33	1	32
Maryland.....	41	27	1	26	14	1	13
Massachusetts.....	128	76	17	59	52	1	51
Michigan.....	176	75	13	62	101	5	96
Minnesota.....	163	47	14	33	116	11	105
Mississippi.....	85	11	1	10	74	6	68
Missouri.....	107	48	15	33	59	5	54
Montana.....	46	10	3	7	36	3	33
Nebraska.....	94	20	7	13	74	4	70
Nevada.....	14	2	1	1	12	-----	12
New Hampshire.....	32	14	3	11	18	1	17
New Jersey.....	90	60	11	49	30	1	29
New Mexico.....	30	4	-----	4	26	1	25
New York.....	301	197	29	168	104	6	98
North Carolina.....	129	49	5	44	80	3	77
North Dakota.....	39	14	5	9	25	2	23
Ohio.....	158	101	14	87	57	2	55
Oklahoma.....	95	15	3	12	80	4	76
Oregon.....	61	16	2	14	45	3	42
Pennsylvania.....	222	161	31	130	61	3	58
Rhode Island.....	12	8	2	6	4	-----	4
South Carolina.....	58	21	6	15	37	1	36
South Dakota.....	44	9	4	5	35	1	34
Tennessee.....	91	19	4	15	72	3	69
Texas.....	435	60	19	41	375	23	352
Utah.....	25	8	5	3	17	-----	17
Vermont.....	22	8	5	3	14	-----	14
Virginia.....	76	37	5	32	39	6	33
Washington.....	96	36	10	26	60	3	57
West Virginia.....	65	35	4	31	30	2	28
Wisconsin.....	136	58	11	47	78	12	66
Wyoming.....	27	5	2	3	22	-----	22

<sup>1</sup> The 14 hospitals not reporting were in the following States: 1 each in Arkansas, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, and Washington; 2 hospitals each in Florida and Georgia; and 5 hospitals in California.

**Table 2. Number of hospitals accepting mental patients, by type of patient accepted and services offered: United States and each State, 1952**

United States and each State	All hospitals			Hospitals accepting					
	Total	Diagnostic workup only	Diagnosis and treatment	Psychotics and others			Nonpsychotics only		
				Total	Diagnostic workup only	Diagnosis and treatment	Total	Diagnostic workup only	Diagnosis and treatment
United States.....	546	174	372	445	136	309	101	38	63
Alabama.....	9	3	6	7	2	5	2	1	1
Arizona.....	5	2	3	4	2	2	1		1
Arkansas.....									
California.....	29	17	12	27	16	11	2	1	1
Colorado.....	5	1	4	5	1	4			
Connecticut.....	5		5	5		5			
Delaware.....	1	1					1	1	
District of Columbia.....	5	1	4	4	1	3	1		1
Florida.....	9	2	7	8	2	6	1		1
Georgia.....	11	3	8	9	2	7	2	1	1
Idaho.....	5	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
Illinois.....	28	5	23	21	3	18	7	2	5
Indiana.....	22	8	14	21	8	13	1		1
Iowa.....	14	6	8	11	4	7	3	2	1
Kansas.....	14	2	12	13	2	11	1		1
Kentucky.....	10	4	6	7	2	5	3	2	1
Louisiana.....	6		6	5		5	1		1
Maine.....	3	3		2	2		1	1	
Maryland.....	2		2	1		1	1		1
Massachusetts.....	18	4	14	11	2	9	7	2	5
Michigan.....	18	8	10	16	7	9	2	1	1
Minnesota.....	25	8	17	23	8	15	2		2
Mississippi.....	7	5	2	6	4	2	1	1	
Missouri.....	20	4	16	16	2	14	4	2	2
Montana.....	6	4	2	6	4	2			
Nebraska.....	11	2	9	9	1	8	2	1	1
Nevada.....	1	1	1	1		1			
New Hampshire.....	4	2	2	1	1		3	1	2
New Jersey.....	12	5	7	11	5	6	1		1
New Mexico.....	1		1	1		1			
New York.....	35	12	23	27	10	17	8	2	6
North Carolina.....	8	4	4	7	4	3	1		1
North Dakota.....	7	5	2	6	4	2	1	1	
Ohio.....	16	1	15	15	1	14	1		1
Oklahoma.....	7	2	5	4	1	3	3	1	2
Oregon.....	5	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	
Pennsylvania.....	34	4	30	25	3	22	9	1	8
Rhode Island.....	2		2	2		2			
South Carolina.....	7	1	6	6	1	5	1		1
South Dakota.....	5	4	1	4	3	1	1	1	
Tennessee.....	7		7	7		7			
Texas.....	42	10	32	33	7	26	9	3	6
Utah.....	5		5	5		5			
Vermont.....	5	2	3	5	2	3			
Virginia.....	11	4	7	9	3	6	2	1	1
Washington.....	13	6	7	11	4	7	2	2	
West Virginia.....	6	3	3	1	1		5	2	3
Wisconsin.....	23	10	13	18	7	11	5	3	2
Wyoming.....	2		2	2		2			

**Table 3. Number of hospitals accepting mental patients and offering treatment, by type of treatment offered: United States and each State, 1952**

United States and each State	All hospitals <sup>1</sup>	Psychotherapy	Insulin	Electrotherapy	Metrazol or other shock	Psychosurgery	Drug	Fever	Occupational	Physiotherapy	All other
United States.....	372	305	237	274	68	124	264	130	143	203	47
Alabama.....	6	6	5	4	2	2	5		2	4	
Arizona.....	3	2	1	1	1		2	2		1	
Arkansas.....											
California.....	12	12	8	7	1	5	9	5	5	8	3
Colorado.....	4	3	4	4	1	2	4	2	2	3	
Connecticut.....	5	5	4	4		2	5	1	1	2	
Delaware.....											
District of Columbia.....	4	3	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	1
Florida.....	7	6	6	6	1	3	4	4	4	4	1
Georgia.....	8	7	6	7	3	1	4	3	1	2	1
Idaho.....	2	1					1				
Illinois.....	23	18	14	19	4	8	16	10	11	14	4
Indiana.....	14	9	7	10	1	4	9	8	6	8	3
Iowa.....	8	8	5	7	3	3	4	3	3	2	
Kansas.....	12	10	11	6	4	4	10	5	6	7	2
Kentucky.....	6	4	4	5	1	4	5	2	3	2	2
Louisiana.....	6	5	5	6	2	2	5	4	2	2	1
Maine.....											
Maryland.....	2	2				1	2	1			
Massachusetts.....	14	12	4	9		3	6		5	9	
Michigan.....	10	9	8	9	2	3	8	4	4	6	3
Minnesota.....	17	14	12	11	1	8	15	9	11	13	3
Mississippi.....	2	2	1	2		1	2	1			
Missouri.....	16	14	11	14	4	8	13	8	8	11	2
Montana.....	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Nebraska.....	9	6	3	4	1	2	5	1	5	3	2
Nevada.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
New Hampshire.....	2	1					1		1	1	
New Jersey.....	7	5	5	4	2	3	6	3	1	2	
New Mexico.....	1	1								1	
New York.....	23	20	13	19	2	8	15	5	13	6	5
North Carolina.....	4	3	3	3	2	1	4		1	2	1
North Dakota.....	2			2			2				
Ohio.....	15	14	11	14	2	5	12	6	6	10	3
Oklahoma.....	5	3	3	3	2	1	2	2		1	
Oregon.....	2	1	1	2		1	1	1	1	1	1
Pennsylvania.....	30	28	17	25	6	12	23	15	14	21	4
Rhode Island.....	2	1	1	2				1	1	1	
South Carolina.....	6	4	5	5		3	5	2		2	
South Dakota.....	1	1	1	1			1		1	1	
Tennessee.....	7	5	4	6	2	1	4	1	2	3	
Texas.....	32	25	26	23	9	7	26	10	9	19	1
Utah.....	5	5	4	5	2	5	4		2	5	
Vermont.....	3	3	3	3		1	1			2	
Virginia.....	7	6	5	4	1	3	6	2	2	6	3
Washington.....	7	4	4	6	2	1	3	1	1	3	
West Virginia.....	3	1	1				1	1	1	1	
Wisconsin.....	13	11	8	7	1	2	7	2	6	9	
Wyoming.....	2	2				1	2	1		1	

<sup>1</sup> Individual data will not add to the "All hospitals" totals since hospitals offer more than one type of therapy.

of treatment are usually referred to other hospitals after diagnosis. The remaining 67.8 percent of the hospitals indicate that treatment as well as diagnostic services are offered. Again this does not imply that every patient admitted would be offered treatment, but treatment would be available if it were deemed advisable. A total of 445 hospitals, or 81.5 percent of all hospitals accepting mental patients, accept psychotic patients as well as other types. Of those, 69.5 percent offer treatment and the remaining 30.6 percent offer diagnosis only. The remaining 101 hospitals do not accept psychotic patients but will accept other types; 62.4 percent of these hospitals offer treatment, and 37.6 percent do not.

However, hospitals offer varied treatment programs. Of the nine major therapy groups on which data were collected, very few hospitals offered all types. Even if all types were available, the use of these therapies would be selective and would vary depending upon the patient and the alternative therapies available.

Psychotherapy is the most widely used type of therapy (table 3); 305 or 82.0 percent of the 372 hospitals reporting treatment facilities offered psychotherapy, individual or group (57 hospitals offered group psychotherapy but 301 hospitals offered individual psychotherapy).

The next two highest groups are electrotherapy and drug therapy with 73.7 and 71.0 percent of all hospitals offering these therapies among others. The remaining therapies in decreasing order of availability percentagewise were as follows: insulin 63.7; physiotherapy 54.6; occupational therapy 38.4; fever therapy 34.9; psychosurgery 33.3; metrazol and other shock therapy 18.3; all other therapies 12.6.

### Summary

A survey was made of the 4,716 general hospitals known to be in operation in the United States during the period of 1952-1953. More

than 99 percent of the hospitals queried replied. Forty percent of these hospitals had average daily resident patient populations of 50 or more. A significantly greater proportion of hospitals with average daily resident patient populations of 50 or more accept mental patients than those with populations under 50.

Of the 4,702 hospitals, 546, or 11.6 percent, accept patients with a suspected or actual primary diagnosis of mental illness. Of these hospitals, 67.8 percent offer treatment as well as diagnosis; the remaining 32.2 percent offer diagnosis only.

Psychotherapy is reported the most widely used therapy, with electrotherapy and drug therapy following closely.

### DOCUMENTATION NOTE

Additional tabulations of data from this survey have been deposited as document No. 4960, American Documentation Institute, Auxiliary Publications Project, Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C. A photoprint copy may be obtained by remitting \$2.50; a 35 mm. microfilm copy, by remitting \$1.75. Advance payment is required. Write checks or money orders payable to Chief, Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress.

The tabulations cover the following subjects:

1. Distribution of hospitals reporting acceptance of mentally ill patients by average daily number of all patients resident in hospital during year and average daily number of mental patients in residence during the year: United States, 1952.
2. General hospitals accepting mental patients and offering diagnostic workup only by type of service and average daily resident patient population of hospital: United States and each State, 1952.
3. General hospitals accepting mental patients and offering treatment by type of service and average daily resident patient population of hospital: United States, 1952.
4. Number of hospitals offering treatment for certain detailed therapies: United States and each State, 1952.
5. Percent of hospitals offering a given therapy of all hospitals offering treatment: United States and each State, 1952.