

Gains in Outpatient Psychiatric Services, 1959

OUTPATIENT care for the mentally ill in the United States has expanded during the last 5 years in both the number of outpatient psychiatric clinics and the number of professional man-hours of clinic service. This conclusion is based on a comparison of data for 1954-55 (1) and 1959 from the nationwide statistical reporting program established for both governmental and nongovernmental outpatient psychiatric clinics by the National Institute of Mental Health in cooperation with State mental health authorities.

A net gain of almost 200 clinics increased the count of clinics in the Nation in 1959 to 1,429, an increase of 16 percent since 1954-55 (table 1). In addition to the opening of new clinics and the closing of others, the change also reflects some adjustment in the identification of outpatient psychiatric clinics. Clinics in existence but not identified in 1954-55 are now included; some clinics included in 1954-55 are no longer counted since it has been established that they do not satisfy the clinic definition. For reporting purposes, an outpatient psychiatric clinic is defined as "an outpatient mental health service unit with a psychiatrist in attendance at regularly scheduled hours who takes the medical responsibility for all clinic patients."

The number of clinic professional man-hours has increased at an even greater rate (37 percent). The number of professional man-hours is a better measure of the amount of clinic services available than the number of clinics because of the large number of clinics that are part time. Professional man-hours in 1954-55 totaled approximately 188,000 per week, with 1,178 clinics reporting; in 1959, this number had risen to 258,000, with 1,378 clinics reporting (table 1). The total professional man-hours reported include those of full- and part-time regular staff and trainees. The principal professional persons are psychia-

Highlights

A comparison of data for 1959 and 1954-55 shows gains in outpatient psychiatric clinic service:

1. The number of clinics increased from 1,234 to 1,429, an increase of 16 percent.

2. Scheduled weekly professional man-hours of clinic service increased by 37 percent to 258,000 hours.

3. The number of professional man-hours of clinic service available per week for each 100,000 population rose from 115 to 145.

4. Every State now has outpatient psychiatric clinic services.

trists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers, but other professionals, such as public health and psychiatric nurses, pediatricians, internists, medical residents, psychometrists, group workers, and technicians, are included. Subsequent publications will provide information on clinic man-hours by profession.

The growth of clinic service both in terms of number of clinics and professional man-hours is almost nationwide. Forty-seven States reported increased man-hours between 1954-55 and 1959; man-hours were doubled or more in 10 States. Only six States show a decline in psychiatric clinic services.

Differences in man-hours reported for the two periods may represent factors other than a true change in services available. Staff turnover affects scheduled weekly man-hours reported because the staffing on the "reporting day" may be a temporary situation (2). Possible errors in reporting, especially for the first reporting pe-

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Table 1. Number of outpatient psychiatric clinics, number of scheduled professional man-hours per week in reporting clinics, and number of man-hours per 100,000 population,¹ by State, 1959

State	Total clinics ²	Professional man-hours per week in reporting clinics		Professional man-hours per week per 100,000 population	
		Number	Percent change from 1954-55 to 1959 ³	Number	Percent change from 1954-55 to 1959 ³
United States.....	1, 429 (51)	257, 904	+37. 1	145	+26. 3
Alabama.....	13	1, 348	+384. 9	43	+363. 0
Arizona.....	5 (1)	550	+60. 3	45	+23. 4
Arkansas.....	3	1, 193	+178. 1	69	+184. 3
California.....	85 (1)	22, 626	+50. 8	158	+30. 8
Colorado.....	17	3, 598	+92. 2	218	+71. 9
Connecticut.....	41	6, 452	+71. 8	268	+57. 6
Delaware.....	7	604	-3. 2	135	-19. 1
District of Columbia.....	17	4, 698	+21. 3	574	+22. 7
Florida.....	29	5, 617	+59. 6	120	+12. 3
Georgia.....	11	1, 372	+132. 1	36	+116. 7
Idaho.....	1	100	-73. 0	15	-75. 4
Illinois.....	84	19, 353	+23. 3	191	+11. 9
Indiana.....	20 (1)	3, 524	+40. 0	76	+29. 2
Iowa.....	16	2, 242	+31. 4	80	+25. 2
Kansas.....	21 (1)	5, 200	+36. 0	247	+29. 2
Kentucky.....	19 (1)	1, 082	+78. 0	35	+68. 8
Louisiana.....	22 (3)	3, 404	+16. 1	108	+6. 4
Maine.....	8 (2)	358	+42. 1	38	+34. 7
Maryland.....	48	5, 111	+74. 9	172	+50. 3
Massachusetts.....	81 (7)	18, 248	+26. 5	372	+27. 0
Michigan.....	52 (6)	8, 685	+39. 5	109	+24. 9
Minnesota.....	16	3, 339	-13. 0	98	-19. 3
Mississippi.....	5	394	+79. 9	18	+73. 3
Missouri.....	48 (11)	4, 713	+56. 8	112	+51. 6
Montana.....	3	237	-40. 0	35	-45. 2
Nebraska.....	10	1, 041	+5. 7	72	0
Nevada.....	3	326	(⁴)	120	(⁴)
New Hampshire.....	22 (1)	605	-3. 5	104	-8. 8
New Jersey.....	57	7, 359	+30. 2	125	+17. 4
New Mexico.....	2	123	+53. 8	14	+44. 0
New York.....	303	61, 646	+14. 1	375	+10. 3
North Carolina.....	15	3, 554	+129. 4	80	+113. 9
North Dakota.....	1	161	+80. 9	25	+81. 3
Ohio.....	61 (10)	13, 475	+35. 8	139	+23. 6
Oklahoma.....	5	1, 214	+101. 7	54	+92. 2
Oregon.....	15 (2)	1, 156	+30. 8	66	+22. 6
Pennsylvania.....	103 (3)	18, 678	+91. 4	165	+87. 1
Rhode Island.....	9	1, 440	+16. 1	170	+10. 8
South Carolina.....	6	785	+5. 1	33	-1. 5
South Dakota.....	3	454	+124. 8	67	+121. 2
Tennessee.....	11	2, 720	+431. 3	78	+413. 8
Texas.....	30	4, 695	+55. 1	50	+37. 5
Utah.....	6	739	-25. 9	84	-35. 1
Vermont.....	6	512	+49. 3	138	+51. 5
Virginia.....	25 (1)	4, 685	+74. 4	121	+53. 4
Washington.....	12	2, 531	+98. 5	92	+77. 3
West Virginia.....	8	795	+28. 8	41	+30. 6
Wisconsin.....	21	2, 906	+54. 8	73	+41. 8
Wyoming.....	6	46	+53. 3	15	+40. 8
Alaska.....	7	237	+107. 9	151	+117. 0
Hawaii.....	7	1, 156	+56. 9	193	+29. 3
Puerto Rico.....	2	657	+128. 1	28	+116. 2
Virgin Islands.....	1	160	+595. 7	(⁵)	(⁶)

¹ Provisional population estimates from Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 210, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

² Includes independent clinics, clinics operated by State or local governmental agencies, the Veterans Administration, and nonofficial organizations. Number which did not report man-hours shown in parentheses.

³ Source of 1954-55 data, reference 1.

⁴ No clinics reported in 1954-55.

⁵ Population estimate not available for 1959.

Table 2. Rank order of States according to number of scheduled professional man-hours per week in outpatient psychiatric clinics for each 100,000 population, 1959

Rank	State ¹	Number man-hours per 100,000 population	Rank	State	Number man-hours per 100,000 population
1	District of Columbia.....	574	27	Utah.....	84
2	New York.....	375	28	Iowa.....	80
3	Massachusetts.....	372	29	North Carolina.....	80
4	Connecticut.....	268	30	Tennessee.....	78
5	Kansas.....	247	31	Indiana.....	76
6	Colorado.....	218	32	Wisconsin.....	73
7	Hawaii.....	193	33	Nebraska.....	72
8	Illinois.....	191	34	Arkansas.....	69
9	Maryland.....	172	35	South Dakota.....	67
10	Rhode Island.....	170	36	Oregon.....	66
11	Pennsylvania.....	165	37	Oklahoma.....	54
12	California.....	158	38	Texas.....	50
13	Alaska.....	151	39	Arizona.....	45
14	Ohio.....	139	40	Alabama.....	43
15	Vermont.....	138	41	West Virginia.....	41
16	Delaware.....	135	42	Maine.....	38
17	New Jersey.....	125	43	Georgia.....	36
18	Virginia.....	121	44	Kentucky.....	35
19	Florida.....	120	45	Montana.....	35
20	Nevada.....	120	46	South Carolina.....	33
21	Missouri.....	112	47	Puerto Rico.....	28
22	Michigan.....	109	48	North Dakota.....	25
23	Louisiana.....	108	49	Mississippi.....	18
24	New Hampshire.....	104	50	Idaho.....	15
25	Minnesota.....	98	51	Wyoming.....	15
26	Washington.....	92	52	New Mexico.....	14

¹ Excludes Virgin Islands, population estimate not available.

riod, 1954-55, may be an additional explanation for some differences.

To aid in determining the extent to which the growth in clinic services is keeping pace with needs for such services, the increase in man-hours must be related to changes in the population during the same time period. For the Nation as a whole, the number of professional man-hours of service available per week for each estimated 100,000 population increased from 115 to 145. All but a few States show some improvement in this ratio. The median State ratio was 88 man-hours for each 100,000 population in 1959 compared with 64 in 1954-55. The ratio continues to vary widely among the States, ranging from 14 to 574

(table 2). In part, differences are due to urban-rural patterns of services and the geographic distribution of medical and other professional training centers (1).

REFERENCES

- (1) Bahn, A. K., and Norman, V. B.: Characteristics and professional staff of outpatient psychiatric clinics in the United States, 1954-55. Pub. Health Monogr. No. 49 (PHS Pub. No. 538). Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1957, 87 pp.
- (2) U.S. National Institute of Mental Health: A manual on recordkeeping and statistical reporting for mental health clinics. PHS Pub. No. 539. Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1957, 72 pp.