

## 3.—Median Length of Stay of Patients Discharged from Mental Institutions 1932-54

(Excludes deaths)

Year	Length of Stay	Year	Length of Stay	Year	Length of Stay
	Mos.		Mos.		Mos.
1932	4.9	1940	4.9	1948	3.9
1933	5.2	1941	5.9	1949	3.6
1934	5.4	1942	6.3	1950	3.6
1935	5.0	1943	4.3	1951	2.4
1936	4.0	1944	3.8	1952	2.8
1937	4.2	1945	3.8	1953	2.1
1938	4.5	1946	3.6	1954	1.8
1939	4.4	1947	3.6		

It is reasonable to assume that this shorter median stay can be attributed in part to current developments in the treatment of psychiatric disorders such as shock therapy, narco-synthesis, psychosurgery and other types of therapy. It is obvious too that a patient today receives more care than he would have at any time in the past: this is shown by the size of the full time staff employed in mental institutions; at Dec. 31, 1954 the number per hundred patients was 31.2 as compared with 19.7 at the end of 1932.

## COSTS OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE

The growing volume of institutional care for psychiatric disorders has inevitably been accompanied by heavier costs. In 1932 expenditures by mental hospitals totalled just over \$10,500,000, a figure that had risen to over \$57,200,000 in 1953 (Table 4). Compared with the expenditures of other types of health institutions, this 442 p.c. increase does not appear disproportionate; it was exceeded by an increase of 708 p.c. in the expenditures of public hospitals in the same period and by an increase of 527 p.c. in the expenditures of tuberculosis sanatoria. The total bill for 1953 for all three types of institution amounted to \$316,500,000 and of that amount public hospitals accounted for 71.7 p.c., tuberculosis sanatoria for 10.2 p.c., and mental hospitals for 18.1 p.c.

A useful figure in a historical comparison of hospital expenditures is the cost per patient-day. The figure for all types of health institutions rose from \$1.85 in 1932 to \$6.81 in 1953, an increase of 268 p.c. The cost per patient-day for public hospitals recorded the greatest increase of 279 p.c. from \$2.98 to \$11.29, that for tuberculosis sanatoria was 173 p.c. from \$2.29 to \$6.25 and that for mental hospitals 207 p.c. from 88 cents to \$2.70. In terms of 1935-39 dollars however the cost per patient-day in 1953 should be deflated by almost 50 p.c.

## 4.—Expenditure and Cost per Patient-Day for Mental Institutions compared with other Health Institutions 1932-53

NOTE.—Figures are for hospitals reporting finances in the year and category specified; excludes hospitals in the Northwest Territories and chronic hospitals.

Year	Mental Institutions			Public Hospitals		
	Hospitals	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>	Cost per Patient-Day <sup>2</sup>	Hospitals	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>	Cost per Patient-Day <sup>2</sup>
	No.	\$'000	\$	No.	\$'000	\$
1932	53	10,554	0.88	530	28,088	2.98 <sup>3</sup>
1942	51	15,590	0.95	559	53,296	4.06
1943	52	16,428	0.98	583	59,320	4.08
1944	52	17,633	1.03	560	68,940	4.50
1945	51	18,487	1.08	522	74,059	4.74
1946	53	21,578	1.22	519	84,503	5.16
1947	55	26,102	1.46	588	106,792	6.14
1948	58	32,494	1.77	610	125,005	7.04
1949	59	36,364	1.94	660	146,867	7.85
1950	59	43,064	2.23	698	162,714	8.54
1951	60	47,412	2.40	713	190,912	9.60
1952	65	51,651	2.53	705	198,212	10.24
1953	72	57,229	2.70	720	227,036	11.29

For footnotes, see end of table.