

Subsection 1.—Health Institutions*

The advent of hospital insurance, anticipated for 1959, increased the importance of information relative to the amount of hospital care available in Canada. It is generally assumed that the insurance scheme will increase the amount of care demanded by the public, although the extent of the increase cannot be closely estimated. A fact that should be remembered in considering bed requirements is that a hospital cannot operate effectively with 100 p.c. of its standard capacity fully occupied; an occupancy of 80 p.c. is generally considered the optimum. Thus the addition of 1,000 beds could not be counted on to provide an additional 365,000 days of care per year, but only about 292,000.

At mid-1957, data for 1956 were still outstanding for many hospitals, and consequently over-all information was available only up to the end of 1955. At that point there were 1,360 hospitals known to be in operation in the country, and they had 170,639 beds (not including bassinets for newborn infants). Of this total, 142 hospitals were known to exist but did not submit reports. The remaining 1,218 hospitals, with 167,786 beds, provided at least partial statistical returns which are included in the tables of this Subsection. The capacity of the hospitals which did not report is estimated to be less than 2 p.c. of the total.

Two methods of hospital classification† have been employed in the tabular data. One is based on admission policy and is threefold (public, which admit any patient; private, which admit only paying patients; and federal, which treat special groups). Another axis is type of service provided by the hospital which is fourfold (general, treating a wide range of conditions; special, treating particular conditions such as chronic disease or orthopaedics; mental; and tuberculosis). The last two are kept separate because of their large size and their distinctive characteristics.

Both methods of classification are combined in Table 2 and shown by province. Public general hospitals are the most numerous single group, accounting in 1955 for over half the total number of hospitals in each province except Quebec. The number of beds in such hospitals constituted a majority of the over-all total in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territories, and they were the largest single group in every province except Quebec where there were a few more beds in public mental hospitals. As might be expected, the rank of the provinces in terms of population is the same as their rank in numbers of hospital beds, although not as their rank in numbers of hospitals. Saskatchewan, although fifth in number of population, was second to Ontario in number of public general hospitals.

* Prepared in the Institutions Section of the Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† The definitions in this paragraph are abridged from those officially in use. More detailed information is given in DBS publications: *Hospital Statistics 1955, Vols. I and II; Mental Health Statistics 1956 and Financial Supplement: Tuberculosis Statistics 1956 and Financial Supplement.*

2.—Hospitals Reporting and Bed Capacity (excluding Bassinets) classified by Type of Hospital and Type of Service, by Province 1955

| Province and Type | General | | Special | | Mental | | Tuberculosis | | All Hospitals | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|------|--------|-------|--------------|------|---------------|-------|
| | No. | Beds | No. | Beds | No. | Beds | No. | Beds | No. | Beds |
| Newfoundland | 27 | 1,630 | 2 | 124 | 1 | 650 | 2 | 610 | 32 | 3,014 |
| Public | 27 | 1,630 | 2 | 124 | 1 | 650 | 2 | 610 | 32 | 3,014 |
| Private | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Federal | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Prince Edward Island | 7 | 629 | — | — | 1 | 300 | 1 | 120 | 9 | 1,049 |
| Public | 7 | 629 | — | — | 1 | 300 | 1 | 120 | 9 | 1,049 |
| Private | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Federal | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nova Scotia | 49 | 4,310 | 4 | 122 | 17 | 2,973 | 5 | 900 | 75 | 8,305 |
| Public | 43 | 3,436 | 3 | 115 | 17 | 2,973 | 4 | 879 | 67 | 7,403 |
| Private | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Federal | 6 | 874 | 1 | 7 | — | — | 1 | 21 | 7 | 881 |