

accounted for 3.2% in 1974 and 3.3% in 1973, and drugs for 2.4% in 1974 and 2.7% in 1973.

Table 5.9 shows that cost per patient-day was highest for pediatric hospitals (\$180.86 in 1974 and \$151.43 in 1973), followed by the "other" hospitals group, which includes orthopaedic, maternity, neurological and cancer hospitals, (\$164.94 in 1974 and \$126.77 in 1973), and general hospitals (\$99.68 in 1974 and \$82.66 in 1973). Among the provinces, cost per patient-day in general hospitals ranged from \$65.31 in Prince Edward Island to \$122.41 in Quebec in 1974, and from \$55.19 to \$101.12 in the same provinces in 1973.

**In-patients.** Canadian hospital in-patient statistics for institutions exclusive of mental hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria are available for most years from 1960 to date. Data are presented by age, sex and diagnostic classification. Similar information on patients treated in mental hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria were available for some time before that year. Since 1968, statistics on primary surgical operations have been presented as counts of cases separated from hospital, the length of stay attributable to these cases, and appropriate rates. The classification systems currently used are the Canadian Diagnostic List and the International Classification of Diseases, Adapted — eighth revision.

It is recognized that the value of these data is limited in estimating total morbidity since many conditions do not require hospital in-patient treatment. However, the diagnostic standards of hospital-originated records are high, and the more serious and severe cases and conditions are likely to be hospitalized.

Tables 5.10 and 5.11 give hospital separation data by groups of diagnoses. Tables 5.12 and 5.13 show statistics concerning primary operations. In 1973, 3.7 million cases were discharged or died in hospital and 1.9 million primary operations were performed; expressed as rates, these represent 16,749 separations per 100,000 population and 8,465 operations per 100,000 population. It should be noted that these statistics present a count of events, i.e. separations or operations, not persons.

## Medical care

### 5.2.2

Before the establishment of government-administered medical insurance, voluntary prepayment arrangements to cover the cost of physicians' services had developed in both public and private sectors. By the end of 1968, basic medical or surgical coverage, or both, were being provided to about 17.2 million Canadians, 82% of the population. Voluntary plans in the private sector covered about 10.9 million, or 52%, and public plans covered 6.3 million, or 30%. By early 1972 all 10 provinces and the two territories had met the criteria stipulated under the Medical Care Act as conditions for federal cost-sharing, and virtually the entire eligible population was insured for all required medical services plus a limited range of oral surgery. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and inmates of federal penitentiaries whose medical care requirements are met under alternative provisions are excluded. Services by physicians that are not medically required (e.g. examinations for life insurance), services covered under other legislation (e.g. immunizations where available through organized public health services), and services to treat work-related conditions already covered by workmen's compensation legislation are not covered.

The federal government contributes, overall, half of the cost of insured services. The proportion varies somewhat from province to province, depending upon actual provincial cost levels. In 1974-75 the proportions ranged from 44.3% in British Columbia to 78.5% in Newfoundland, and in 1975-76 from 40.8% in British Columbia to 75.6% in Newfoundland.

Seven of the 12 provincial or territorial medical plans finance their share of the cost from general revenues only and in those plans there is virtually no direct cost to families, apart from additional billing that doctors may impose. Three provinces and the Yukon Territory levy premiums to help finance their share, and