

Data pertaining to the number of hospitals in operation (Table 5.3), their classification and rated bed capacity (Table 5.4) were available as at January 1, 1973 but 1971 data were the latest available for all other tables in this Section.

Table 5.3 shows that the number and bed capacity of hospitals operating in Canada have remained relatively stable in recent years. Table 5.4 gives the number and bed capacity of public, private and federal hospitals operating in Canada in 1973 classified by province and by type of service. In 1973 public hospitals accounted for 93.9% of total rated bed capacity of all hospitals followed by federal hospitals (3.6%) and private hospitals (2.5%). Corresponding 1972 proportions of 93.8%, 3.6%, and 2.6%, respectively, were almost identical. The proportion of rated beds in general and allied special hospitals as a group has been increasing in recent years while rated bed capacity in mental hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria on the whole has decreased. In 1973 general hospitals accounted for 58.9% of total rated beds as compared to 57.4% in 1972 (5.5 beds per 1,000 population in 1973). Provincially, Saskatchewan had the highest ratio of general hospital beds per 1,000 population, i.e. 7.5 in 1973 and 7.4 in 1972, while Quebec reported the lowest ratio with 4.7 beds per 1,000 population in both 1973 and 1972. The rated bed capacity of mental hospitals declined from 27.8% of total rated beds in 1972 (2.7 per 1,000 population) to 26.6% in 1973 (2.6 per 1,000 population); allied special hospitals increased from 13.4% in 1972 (1.4 per 1,000 population) to 13.5% in 1973 (1.4 per 1,000 population); tuberculosis sanatoria constituted 1.1% in 1973 (0.1 per 1,000 population) declining from 1.4% in 1972 (0.1 per 1,000 population). Rated beds per 1,000 population for all hospitals as a group declined from 9.9 in 1972 to 9.5 in 1973.

Total adult and child admissions to all Canadian hospitals increased 3.2% between 1970 and 1971 reaching in excess of 3.7 million or 172.4 patient admissions per 1,000 population. A study of Table 5.5 reveals that admissions to public general hospitals, the major factor in this rise, increased by 3.6% from 1970 to reach over 3.3 million in 1971; the number of patient admissions rose from 152.1 to 156.1 per 1,000 population.

Admissions to public mental hospitals, which totalled more than 51,500 in 1971, decreased by 9.2% as admissions per 1,000 population declined from 2.7 to 2.4. Over the same period, admissions to public tuberculosis sanatoria dropped by 12.2% to 5,265, a decline per 1,000 population from 0.3 to 0.24. The average daily population in all Canadian hospitals decreased by 0.3%. Public general hospitals made up slightly more than one half (51.9%) of the 1971 average daily population compared with 50.7% in 1970. Public mental hospitals, the second largest group, accounted for 29.7% of the 1971 average daily population as against 31.0% in 1970.

The average length of stay of adults and children in public general hospitals decreased from 10.1 days in 1970 to 9.9 days in 1971 (Table 5.6). Average length of stay was significantly correlated to bed capacity in general hospitals, rising from 7.1 days in the 1-to-24 bed group of non-teaching general hospitals to 11.7 days in full-teaching general hospitals with 500 or more beds, a reflection of the fact that larger hospitals tend to provide more diversified and complex services. Provincially, average length of stay for public general hospitals as a group ranged from 8.8 days in Alberta and Manitoba to 10.8 days in Quebec. Within the allied special group of hospitals there was considerable variation in the average length of stay extending from 8.5 days for children's hospitals to 13.3 days for the "other" group (maternity, neurological, orthopedic and cancer hospitals) and then climbing sharply to 41.5 days for the convalescent/rehabilitation hospitals and to 234.9 days for chronic/extended care hospitals. Average length of stay for public general and allied special hospitals as a whole declined from 11.5 days in 1970 to 11.3 days in 1971.

Table 5.7 shows that there were almost 324,000 full-time employees (excluding paid medical staff in general and allied special hospitals) in the Canadian hospital industry as a whole in 1971. This figure represents an increase of 4,000 full-time personnel from almost 320,000 reported in 1970. General hospitals as a group employed 193.2 full-time personnel per 100 rated beds, not much change from the group ratio of 193.4 recorded in 1970. Provincially, this ratio varied from 144.5 in Saskatchewan to 222.2 in Quebec in 1971. Taken as a group, general and allied special hospitals reported a ratio of 180.5 full-time personnel per 100 rated beds in 1971 compared to 181.0 in 1970. In mental hospitals there were 104.7 full-time personnel per 100 rated beds in 1971, up from the 79.1 reported in 1970, while in tuberculosis sanatoria this ratio was 188.5 in 1971 as compared to 86.9 in 1970.