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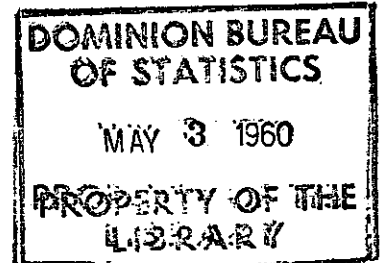
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THE LARGE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN 1957

A Statistical Summary



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SYMBOLS

The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout this publication is as follows:

... figures not appropriate or not applicable.

— nil or zero.

INTRODUCTION

The present study provides a condensed description, in statistical terms, of the main characteristics of the 34 public general hospitals which, in 1957, had a rated bed capacity of 500 or more beds, cribs and bassinets.

It has been customary for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to publish annual hospital statistics in the form of aggregates rather than averages, partly because of the usefulness of total figures and partly because averages may be misleading when the extent of variation is not given. However, the pattern portrayed by the average often proves

an effective tool for the individuals or establishments contributing to the statistical composite. For this reason the present report provides, in addition to aggregates for the group, averages representative of a theoretical but typical large general hospital.

Not all of the items of information reported by the 34 hospitals concerned met the standards necessary for inclusion in the study. Thus in tables 3, 8, 12, and 14, where the data for some items are based on returns of less than the full 34, the number of hospitals whose returns were actually used is shown.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions used are as contained in the official manual of definitions and instructions in use in 1957. The principal definitions relevant to the present study are as follows:

Public hospital—one which is not operated for profit, accepts all patients regardless of their ability to pay, and is recognized as a public hospital by the province in which it is located.

General hospital—one which primarily provides facilities for the treatment of a wide range of conditions. Hospitals for women and children, and for children, which render general medical or surgical services, are classified as general hospitals.

Rated bed capacity—a theoretical number representing the number of beds that could be placed in a given hospital structure if a standard number of square feet were allowed for each bed. This number may be equal to, greater than, or less than the actual number of beds in regular use (referred to as "beds set up"), and this in turn may differ from the number of patients in the hospital.

Patient-days—the period of service rendered to an in-patient between the census-taking hours on two successive days. In computing patient-days, the day of admission is counted, but not the day of discharge or death.

Separations—patients who were discharged from or who died in hospital during the year.

UTILIZATION

In 1957 the average large general hospital had a capacity of 710 beds and cribs and 81 bassinets. Actually set up in the hospital at December 31, however, were 793 beds and cribs—over one-half of them in medical and surgical units—and 73 bassinets in obstetrical service. Receiving treatment and care at that date were 589 adults and children and 48 newborn infants. Thus, the occupancy rate at December 31 was 82.9 per cent of capacity for beds and cribs and 59.0 per cent for bassinets.

Admitted to the typical large general hospital during 1957 were 17,465 adults and children, or 25 patients per bed and crib of theoretical capacity.

There were 2,630 live births, or 33 infants per bassinets of theoretical capacity, and 37 stillbirths. Live births, in other words, accounted for about 13 out of every 100 admissions. During the course of the year 541 adults and children and 40 newborn infants died in the hospital. The "gross death rate" was, therefore, 2.9 deaths of adults, children and infants out of every 100 separations. Considered in "per diem" terms, admissions of adults and children to the hospital numbered 48; live births, 7; and deaths of adults and children, 2. Adults and children separated during the year stayed in the hospital an average of 12.3 days. Newborn infants were kept 6.6 days. Out-patient visits in 1957 to the hospital's clinics numbered 64,051.

TABLE 1. Provincial Distribution

Province or territory	Number of hospitals	Rated bed capacity		
		Beds and cribs	Bassinets	Total
Newfoundland	—	—	—	—
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	1	549	—	549
New Brunswick	—	—	—	—
Quebec	9	6,449	530	6,979
Ontario	13	9,501	1,239	10,740
Manitoba	2	1,395	224	1,619
Saskatchewan	3	1,703	164	1,867
Alberta	3	2,277	321	2,598
British Columbia	3	2,277	269	2,546
CANADA - TOTAL	34	24,151	2,747	26,898
<i>Average</i> .....	...	710.3	80.8	791.1

TABLE 2. Size Distribution

Hospital size	Number of hospitals	Beds, cribs, and bassinets	
		Rated number	Percentage of total
500- 600 beds, cribs, and bassinets	11	6,032	22.4
601- 700 " " " "	5	3,305	12.3
701- 800 " " " "	5	3,785	14.1
801- 900 " " " "	5	4,319	16.1
901-1,000 " " " "	3	2,781	10.3
1,001+ " " " "	5	6,676	24.8
TOTAL	34	26,898	100.0

TABLE 3. Beds Set Up as at December 31, 1957, by Unit Types

Type of unit	Number of hospitals ¹		Number of beds and cribs set up, December 31, 1957		Percentage of unit beds to total beds set up
	With unit	Without unit	Total	Average per hospital	
Medical	33	—	7,143	223	26.5
Surgical	33	—	6,946	215	25.8
Obstetrical	33	—	2,219	69	8.2
Paediatric	33	—	2,018	63	7.5
Orthopaedic	33	—	1,030	33	3.8
Psychiatric	33	—	807	25	3.0
Communicable disease	12	21	342	11	1.3
Tuberculosis	4	29	339	11	1.2
Chronic	2	31	212	7	0.8
Convalescent	1	32	88	3	0.3
Unspecified	33	—	5,824	176	21.6
ALL UNITS .....	...	...	26,968	793.2	100.0

¹ One hospital with rated bed capacity of 549 beds and cribs did not report number of beds and cribs set up at December 31, 1957.

TABLE 4. Average Occupancy Rates, 1953-57

Year	Number of hospitals reporting	Average rate of occupancy of beds, cribs, and bassinets
		%
1953	23	82.3
1954	27	82.4
1955	30	80.0
1956	34	80.8
1957	34	80.4

TABLE 5. Average Length of Stay of Patients Separated during the Years 1953-57

Year	Number of hospitals reporting	Average length of stay	
		Adults and children	Newborn
		days	
1953	23	12.5	7.7
1954	27	12.8	7.4
1955	30	12.0	7.2
1956	34	12.7	7.0
1957	34	12.3	6.6

TABLE 6. Utilization of Facilities

Item	Total	Number during year	
		Average per hospital	Average per hospital per day
Patient-days:			
Adults and children	7,306,172	214,887.4	...
Newborn	592,023	17,412.4	...
Admissions:			
Adults and children	593,825	17,465.4	47.9
Births	89,421	2,630.0	7.2
Deaths:			
Adults and children	18,405	541.3	1.5
Newborn	1,355	39.9	¹
Stillbirths	1,256	36.9	¹
Patients under care at year-end:			
Adults and children	20,017	588.7	...
Newborn	1,622	47.7	...
Separations:			
Adults and children	593,464	17,454.8	47.8
Newborn	89,307	2,626.7	7.2
Days' stay of separations:			
Adults and children	7,301,875	214,761.0	...
Newborn	589,097	17,326.4	...
Out-patient visits	2,177,741	64,051.2	175.5

¹ Less than 0.5.

PERSONNEL

In 1957 the typical large general hospital employed 1,360 full- and part-time persons, or 192 per 100 beds and cribs of theoretical capacity. Collectively the hospital staff worked 11.9 hours per patient-day. Workers in non-specified occupations accounted for 44.2 per cent of total staff, while graduate and student nurses together constituted 35.8 per cent. The remaining 20.0 per cent were

distributed among the other specified occupations. There were 6 full-time persons on the payroll at the end of 1957 for every 100 admissions of adults, children, and newborn infants during the year. For every 100 full- and part-time graduate nurses there were 7 full- and part-time doctors on the staff. The hospital employed 5 full-time interns to each full-time doctor.

TABLE 7. Distribution of Full-time Personnel, by Patient-days of Employing Hospital

Patient-days of employing hospital	Number of hospitals	Number of persons employed full-time	
		Total	Average
127,751 - 146,000	1	678	678.0
146,001 - 164,250	5	4,116	823.2
164,251 - 182,500	6	6,721	1,120.2
182,501 - 219,000	4	4,525	1,131.3
219,001 - 255,500	10	12,512	1,251.2
255,501 - 292,000	3	3,961	1,320.3
292,001 - 328,500	2	3,690	1,845.0
328,501 and over	3	7,657	2,552.3

Note: There was, apparently, a close linear relationship between the number of full-time persons employed in the several hospitals at December 31 and the number of patient-days recorded in the employing hospital during 1957. The coefficient of correlation was .86, with a standard error of estimate of ± 43.05 patient-days.

TABLE 8. Number of Persons Employed, and Hours Worked

Occupation	Number employed		Number of full- and part-time employees				Number of full- and part-time hours worked		Total full- and part-time hours worked per patient-day ¹
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Average per hospital	Average per 100 beds and cribs	Percentage distribution	Total	Average per hospital	
Doctors (excluding medical superintendent)	330	259	589	17.3	2.4	1.3	776,776	25,892.5	0.11
Nurses:									
Graduate	7,875	671	8,546	251.4	35.4	18.5	16,204,035	540,134.5	2.32
Student (incl. affiliates)	7,997	—	7,997	235.2	33.1	17.3	11,753,477	391,782.5	1.68
Nursing assistants:									
Graduate	2,118	39	2,157	63.4	8.9	4.7	4,011,427	133,714.2	0.58
Trainee (incl. affiliates) ..	489	17	506	14.9	2.1	1.1	924,205	30,806.8	0.13
Orderlies	1,627	7	1,634	48.1	6.8	3.5	3,141,095	104,703.2	0.45
Interns	1,680	3	1,683	49.5	7.0	3.6	3,803,645	126,788.2	0.55
Physiotherapists	214	1	215	6.3	0.9	0.5	403,707	13,456.9	0.05
Occupational therapists	60	3	63	1.9	²	0.1	104,878	3,495.9	0.02
Pharmacists (graduates only)	144	4	148	4.4	0.6	0.3	276,087	9,202.9	0.04
Dietitians:									
Certified	162	9	171	5.0	0.7	0.4	354,933	11,831.1	0.05
Qualified	51	2	53	1.6	²	0.1	67,677	2,255.9	0.01
Other	56	3	59	1.7	²	0.1	107,292	3,576.4	0.02

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 8. Number of Persons Employed, and Hours Worked -- Concluded

Occupation	Number employed		Number of full- and part-time employees				Number of full- and part-time hours worked		Total full- and part-time hours worked per patient-day ¹
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Average per hospital	Average per 100 beds and cribs	Percentage distribution	Total	Average per hospital	
Medical record librarians:									
Registered	68	—	68	2.0	²	0.1	126,791	4,226.4	0.02
Other	166	1	167	4.9	0.7	0.4	286,601	9,553.4	0.04
Technicians:									
Laboratory:									
Certified	529	12	541	15.9	2.2	1.2	1,024,691	34,156.4	0.15
Other	478	19	497	14.6	2.1	1.1	895,482	29,849.4	0.13
Radiology:									
Registered	289	2	291	8.6	1.2	0.6	524,839	17,494.6	0.08
Other	276	4	280	8.2	1.2	0.6	471,746	15,724.9	0.07
Social service workers:									
Qualified medical	69	2	71	2.1	²	0.2	114,434	3,814.5	0.02
Qualified welfare	35	—	35	1.0	²	0.1	48,055	1,601.8	0.01
Other	22	5	27	0.8	²	0.0	48,830	1,627.7	0.01
Other personnel	19,125	1,325	20,450	601.4	84.7	44.2	37,802,579	1,260,085.9	5.42
TOTAL	43,860	2,388	46,248	1,360.2	191.5	100.0	83,273,282	2,775,776.0	11.94
<i>Number of hospitals reporting</i>			34				30		

¹ Patient-days for adults, children, and newborn in the 30 hospitals reporting "hours worked" were 6,975,532.
² Less than 0.5.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The typical large general hospital in 1957 provided, in addition to general patient care, a number of services of a specialized nature—viz., anaesthesia, basal metabolism tests, electrocardiography, infra-red therapy, massage and manipulation, ultra-violet therapy, radiology, laboratory procedures, pathology, and some form of blood service. In the laboratory the most frequent category of procedures

carried out was haematology (102,900 units), while the least frequent was public health (5,900 units). In its radiological service, the hospital provided facilities for radiography and fluoroscopy; gave routine chest x-rays to 7,135 in-patients and 2,312 out-patients; and gave therapeutic x-ray treatment to 438 in-patients and 564 out-patients. There were 14 x-ray machines in the hospital.

TABLE 9. Special Services and Clinics

Special service	Number of hospitals		Percentage of hospitals with	Special service — Concluded	Number of hospitals		Percentage of hospitals with
	With	Without			With	Without	
Anaesthesia	34	—	100.0	Dentistry	26	8	76.5
Basal metabolism tests	34	—	100.0	Electroencephalography	25	9	73.5
Electrocardiography	34	—	100.0	Occupational therapy	25	9	73.5
Laboratory	34	—	100.0				
Pathology	34	—	100.0	Clinic			
Infra-red therapy	34	—	100.0	Cancer	24	10	70.6
Massage and manipulation	34	—	100.0	Arthritis	23	11	67.6
Ultra-violet therapy	34	—	100.0	Prenatal	22	12	64.7
Radiology	34	—	100.0	Mental health	20	14	58.8
Blood service (any formal arrangement)	34	—	100.0	Crippled children's	18	16	52.9
Oxygen therapy	33	1	97.1	Tuberculosis	14	20	41.2
Inducto-thermo-therapy	30	4	88.2	Well baby	14	20	41.2
Advanced hydrotherapy	28	6	82.4				

TABLE 10. Distribution of Technical Facilities, Personnel, and Procedures

Classification	Number of hospitals		Number of persons employed full-time during year			Number of procedure units performed during year		
	With	Without	Total	Average	Percentage distribution	Total	Average	Percentage distribution
						thousands		
Facility:								
Routine chest X-ray on admission	30	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Radiography	34	—	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fluoroscopy	34	—	...	...	...	...	...	...
Superficial X-ray therapy	26	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deep X-ray therapy	24	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Radium therapy	22	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Personnel:								
Specialist in pathology and bacteriology	19	15	35	1.0	2.7	...	...	...
Pathologists	26	8	58	1.7	4.5	...	...	...
Bacteriologists	15	19	30	0.9	2.3	...	...	...
Biochemists	24	10	42	1.2	3.3	...	...	...
Interns	25	9	119	3.5	9.2	...	...	...
Technicians	34	—	1,007	29.6	78.0	...	...	...
Procedures:¹								
Haematology	33	1	...	...	...	3,499.8	102.9	24.2
Urinalysis	33	1	...	...	...	1,856.5	54.6	12.9
Biochemistry, other than urinalysis	33	1	...	...	...	2,501.2	73.6	17.3
Bacteriology	31	3	...	...	...	1,944.5	57.2	13.5
Histopathology	31	3	...	...	...	2,543.5	74.8	17.6
Blood bank	23	11	...	...	...	922.5	27.1	6.4
Public health	7	27	...	...	...	200.8	5.9	1.4
Other	31	3	...	...	...	960.7	28.3	6.7

¹ Procedures performed in the hospital's own laboratory only.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The typical large general hospital had the approval of the Canadian Medical Association for the training of junior interns. It also operated an approved

school of nursing which had an enrolment of 244 students at the end of 1957. The number of nurses who graduated from the school in 1957 was 75.

TABLE 11. Educational Facilities

Program or status	Number of hospitals	
	With	Without
Medical education:		
Affiliation with a medical school for undergraduate education	27	7
Approval by the C.M.A. for the training of junior interns	34	—
Approval by the C.M.A. for the training of senior interns	30	4
Approval by the R.C.P.S.C. for residencies in specialties	33	1
Nursing education:		
Operation of an approved school of nursing	34	—
Affiliation of the school of nursing with other institutions to secure training	33	1
Affiliation of the school of nursing with other institutions to provide training	22	12
Affiliation of the school of nursing with a university	19	15
Provision of formal post-graduate courses	12	22
Other education:		
Provision of formal training for nursing assistants	1	33
Provision of formal training for orderlies	6	28

FINANCES

During 1957 the typical large general hospital incurred net expenditures of \$4,105,400—i.e., \$5,189.32 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity, or \$17.67 per adult, child, and newborn patient-day. It seems probable that the cost per patient-day might have been somewhat lower if all the occupancy rates had been in the 85.0-89.9 per cent range. The departments in the hospital which provided direct care of patients, dietary service, and general administration accounted in 1957 for 50.5 per cent of gross expenditures.

The hospital's net payroll, which amounted to \$2,539,800—i.e., \$3,210.42 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity, or \$10.93 per adult, child, and newborn patient-day,—accounted for 61.9 per cent of net expenditures.

Net earnings from in-patient services given by the hospital in 1957 amounted to \$3,188,800—i.e., \$4,030.79 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity, or \$13.73 per adult, child, and newborn

patient-day. Net in-patient service earnings were equivalent to 77.7 per cent of net expenditures. Net earnings from out-patient services brought the hospital \$228,100. Perquisites included in the gross salaries and wages paid by the hospital were worth \$133,600.

On the hospital's books at December 31, 1957, were revenue fund assets of \$1,164,600 (\$1,458.60 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity); endowment fund assets of \$1,357,400; and plant fund assets of \$10,503,400 (\$13,154.66 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity). On the other side of the balance sheet there were revenue fund liabilities of \$1,050,700 (\$1,315.92 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity); endowment fund liabilities of \$1,132,000; and plant fund liabilities of \$3,492,300 (\$4,373.85 per bed, crib, and bassinet of theoretical capacity). The net worth of the hospital was, theoretically, \$7,350,400. The revenue fund assets of the hospital were equivalent to 34.1 per cent of total net earnings.

TABLE 12. Departmental Distribution of Gross Expenditures¹

Department	Gross expenditures	Percentage distribution
	\$'000's	
Direct care of patients.....	18,095.3	25.6
Dietary.....	10,509.8	14.8
General administration.....	7,121.9	10.1
Operating and delivery rooms.....	4,619.1	6.5
Housekeeping.....	4,326.0	6.1
Laboratory.....	3,865.2	5.5
Operation of physical plant.....	3,772.0	5.3
Radiology.....	3,333.3	4.7
Medical and surgical service.....	2,627.7	3.7
Maintenance of physical plant.....	2,319.5	3.3
School of nursing.....	2,353.8	3.3
Laundry.....	1,607.1	2.3
Out-patient and emergency.....	1,607.8	2.3
Bedding and linen.....	906.0	1.3
Medical records and library.....	777.5	1.1
Pharmacy.....	731.1	1.0
Physiotherapy.....	551.1	0.8
Social service.....	335.5	0.5
Other.....	1,338.5	1.8

¹ 18 hospitals reported a complete departmental breakdown of gross expenditures.



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TABLE 13. Cost per Patient-day accord

Occupancy rate ¹ (Per cent)
50.0 - 54.9.....
55.0 - 59.9.....
60.0 - 64.9.....
65.0 - 69.9.....
70.0 - 74.9.....
75.0 - 79.9.....
80.0 - 84.9.....
85.0 - 89.9.....
90.0 - 94.9.....

¹ The occupancy rate for each hospital was computed by the formula: pa
(365 x number of beds, cribs, and bassinets set up as at December 31, 1957)

TABLE 14. Financial Data

Item	Number of hospitals reporting	Total	NLR 178		
			Per hospital	Per adult, child, and newborn patient-day	Per bed, crib, and bassinet (rated capacity)
		\$'000's		\$	\$
Net expenditure during year	34	139,582.4	4,105.4	17.67	5,189.32
Gross salaries and wages during year.....	34	90,229.5	2,653.8	11.42	3,354.51
Net salaries and wages during year.....	34	86,354.0	2,539.8	10.93	3,210.42
Net earnings during year:					
In-patient services	34	108,420.1	3,188.8	13.73	4,030.79
Out-patient services	32	7,298.7	228.1	...	...
Assets on books at December 31, 1957:					
Revenue fund	33	38,432.7	1,164.6	...	1,458.60
Endowment fund	21	28,505.3	1,357.4	...	...
Plant fund	33	346,612.1	10,503.4	...	13,154.66
Liabilities on books at December 31, 1957:					
Revenue fund	33	34,673.2	1,050.7	...	1,315.92
Endowment fund	21	23,772.1	1,132.0	...	...
Plant fund	33	115,246.5	3,492.3	...	4,373.85