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HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
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VITAL STATISTICS REPORT

1968 Nursing Home Survey

DATA FROM THE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Nursing Homes—Their Years in Business and Changes of Ownership: United States, September 1968

In 1968 the Division of Health Resources Statistics conducted a survey of "all" nursing homes in the United States. (Nursing homes were defined as resident institutions which provided nursing or personal care and maintained three beds or more for patients.) This survey, conducted in April-September 1968, collected selected data from 18,185 homes on number of residents, admissions, discharges, admission policies, monthly charges for care, number and kinds of employees, and medical and recreational services offered.

Approximately 1,355 homes opened during the 1-year interval between establishing the universe and conducting the survey. Since data from the 1968 survey were weighted to account for these new homes, "all" nursing homes in operation in the United States in 1968 are represented in this survey.

The 1968 Nursing Home Survey was the third in a series of *ad hoc* surveys of long-term health care facilities. The Resident Places Survey-1 (RPS-1), the first of these surveys, was a probability sample of nursing homes; chronic disease and geriatric hospitals; and nursing home units and chronic disease wards of general and mental hospitals. The second of these *ad hoc* surveys, the Resident Places Survey-2 (RPS-2), was conducted in May-June 1964 and collected more detailed information on nursing homes and geriatric hospitals and on their residents and employees. The RPS-1, RPS-2, and the 1968 Nursing Home Survey are all part of the U.S. National Health Survey Program.

Data are presented in this report on the home's number of years in business, the number of years in operation under its present ownership, the number of times the home's ownership changed, and the average number of years that the home operated under each ownership. These data are based on answers to the following questions:

1. When did this facility first begin its operation at THIS ADDRESS? (Give the date it first opened at this address as a nursing home, convalescent home, etc., even though the ownership or control may have since changed, and the specific services may now be different.)
 Month Year
2. How many times has the ownership of this facility changed hands since it was first opened at this address?
 No. of times Never
3. When did this facility first begin its operation under its PRESENT OWNERSHIP?
 Month Year

Of the nursing and related care homes in existence in 1968, about 61 percent began operation within 10 years before September 1968 (the closing date for the data collection of the 1968 Nursing Home Survey). Only 25.4 percent of these homes had been in existence between 11 and 20 years and 13.8 percent were in business 21 years or more (table 1). The distribution of the percent of homes over these three time periods is similar when the number of years in business under the home's present ownership is examined: 70.3 percent of the homes began operations under their present ownership 10 years or less before the survey, 19.8 percent began operations under their present ownership 11 to 20 years before the survey, and 9.9 percent began such operations 21 years earlier.

According to the type of nursing service (see Technical Notes for classification), nursing care and personal care homes accounted for the largest percents of homes in business for 10 years or less and for the smallest percents of homes opening 21 years or more before the survey. For personal care with nursing homes, 22.1 percent were in existence 21 years before the survey and only 51.4 percent had opened during the 10 years before September 1968. The percents for the number of years under present ownership according to the type of nursing service show the same

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Table 1. Percent of nursing and related care homes in existence in 1968, according to number of years in business and number of years under present ownership by type of service, type of ownership, size of home, and geographic region: United States, September 1968

Characteristic	Years in business			Years under present ownership		
	10 years or less	11-20 years	21 years and over	10 years or less	11-20 years	21 years and over
All homes-----	60.8	25.4	13.8	70.3	19.8	9.9
TYPE OF SERVICE						
Nursing care-----	63.0	25.3	11.7	72.9	19.6	7.5
Personal care with nursing-----	51.4	26.5	22.1	60.6	20.9	18.5
Personal care-----	62.6	24.9	12.6	70.8	19.5	9.8
TYPE OF OWNERSHIP						
Proprietary-----	63.8	27.4	8.8	75.2	20.4	4.4
Nonprofit-----	46.2	18.1	35.7	48.4	17.7	33.9
Government-----	59.5	20.1	20.4	63.9	17.8	18.3
SIZE OF HOME						
Under 25 beds-----	58.4	30.4	11.3	69.1	23.5	7.3
25-49 beds-----	53.2	31.4	15.5	66.6	23.6	9.8
50-99 beds-----	70.9	17.2	11.9	76.5	13.7	9.7
100 or more beds-----	65.9	13.2	20.9	70.0	12.3	17.7
GEOGRAPHIC REGION						
Northeast-----	44.6	31.7	23.8	56.5	26.3	17.3
North Central-----	55.4	29.3	15.4	66.1	22.5	11.4
South-----	74.2	18.8	7.0	79.0	15.6	5.4
West-----	71.7	20.2	8.1	81.7	13.6	4.7

type of distribution as for the total number of homes: (1) The variation of the percents over the three time periods was the same as for the number of years in business; and (2) A larger percent of homes fall in the "10-years-or-less" category for years under present ownership than for the number of years in business.

When type of ownership is considered, proprietary or profit homes show the greatest growth (table 1). Less than 9 percent of the proprietary homes in existence in 1968 were in operation 21 years before the survey. Within 10 years before September 1968, however, 63.8 percent of these homes came into existence; and, in 1968, proprietary homes made up over 70 percent of the total number of nursing and related care homes in the United States. On the other hand, about 36 percent of the nonprofit homes in operation at the time of the survey had been in business for 21 years or more, while 47 percent of the homes were established within 10 years before the survey. Similarly, for gov-

ernment homes, 20.4 percent of the homes began operation 21 years or more before the survey and 60 percent were established 10 years or less before 1968. Nonprofit homes have changed ownership less often than proprietary and government homes. In 1968 almost 34 percent had been under their current ownership for 21 years or more as compared with 18 percent of the government homes and 4 percent of the proprietary homes.

Homes having 100 beds or more accounted for the largest percent (20.9 percent) in existence in 1968 that began operation 21 or more years before the survey (table 1). However, only 12.5 percent of the total number of homes in 1968 were of this size. Homes with less than 25 beds accounted for the smallest percent (11.3 percent) and constituted 40.1 percent of the total operating in 1968. For homes coming into existence within 10 years before the survey, those in the larger bed-size categories (50-99 beds and 100 beds or more) accounted for the larger percents of homes still in

Table 2. Percent of nursing and related care homes in existence in 1968, according to change of ownership by type of service, type of ownership, size of home, and geographic region: United States, September 1968

Characteristic	Homes that never changed ownership	Homes that changed ownership				
		Total	1 time	2 times	3 times	4 times or more
All homes-----	77.7	22.3	14.1	3.4	3.4	1.4
TYPE OF SERVICE						
Nursing care-----	74.4	25.5	16.1	3.9	3.9	1.6
Personal care with nursing----	82.3	17.8	11.3	2.7	2.7	1.1
Personal care-----	81.9	18.1	11.4	2.6	2.9	1.2
TYPE OF OWNERSHIP						
Proprietary-----	74.0	26.0	16.0	4.1	4.2	1.7
Nonprofit-----	91.2	8.9	7.5	0.8	0.4	0.2
Government-----	87.7	12.4	7.6	1.5	2.0	1.3
SIZE OF HOME						
Under 25 beds-----	78.0	21.9	13.1	3.3	3.8	1.7
25-49 beds-----	71.2	28.7	17.2	4.5	5.0	2.0
50-99 beds-----	80.7	19.3	13.7	3.1	1.9	0.6
100 beds or more-----	85.1	14.9	11.3	1.6	1.4	0.6
GEOGRAPHIC REGION						
Northeast-----	75.0	25.1	15.9	4.0	3.7	1.5
North Central-----	76.6	23.5	15.0	3.4	3.6	1.5
South-----	83.7	16.3	11.2	2.3	2.2	0.6
West-----	75.4	24.6	14.2	3.9	4.3	2.2

existence. Here again, the percents for years under present ownership and years in business have similar variations. Homes with 50-99 beds constituted the largest percent that were under their present ownership for 10 years or less (76.5 percent) and were in business 10 years or less (70.9 percent).

When geographic location is considered, the Northeast and North Central Regions had more homes in 1968 that had been in existence for 21 years or more than did the South and the West (table 1). However, an examination by region of those homes that began operation within the 10 years before the survey reveals that the South and West had larger percents of new homes. These larger percents probably reflect the growth of homes in these regions according to need. The Northeast and North Central Regions had more homes in existence from an earlier time period and did not need as many new homes as did the South and West. According to the number of years under present ownership, the variations in the percents of homes over the three time

periods for the South and West are different from the patterns of variation shown for the years in business. While the South had more homes in business for 10 years or less, the West had the largest percent of homes that had been under their present ownership for 10 years or less. This suggests a higher rate of turnover of ownership in the West than in the South.

Since about 78 percent of the nursing and related care homes in existence in 1968 never changed ownership (table 2), it appears reasonable that, as shown earlier in this report, the percents of homes according to the number of years in business and the number of years under present ownership are similar over time. For those 22.3 percent which did change ownership, almost two-thirds had an average period of ownership of less than 10 years. This average period of ownership for the home is the ratio of the number of years in business to the number of times the ownership of the facility changed (table 3).

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Table 3. Percent of nursing and related care homes in existence in 1968, according to average years per ownership of homes changing ownership one time or more by type of service, type of ownership, size of home, and geographic region: United States, September 1968

Characteristic	Percent of homes changing ownership	Average years per ownership				
		Under 5 years	5-10 years	11-20 years	21-50 years	50 years and over
All homes-----	22.3	28.9	33.5	26.4	9.9	1.3
TYPE OF SERVICE						
Nursing care-----	25.5	29.5	34.2	26.0	9.7	0.6
Personal care with nursing-----	17.8	26.3	31.5	26.1	12.5	3.6
Personal care-----	18.1	28.9	32.6	28.2	8.5	1.8
TYPE OF OWNERSHIP						
Proprietary-----	26.0	29.0	34.7	27.1	8.8	0.4
Nonprofit-----	8.9	20.0	23.5	18.1	25.8	12.7
Government-----	12.4	38.1	21.0	23.8	12.7	4.4
SIZE OF HOME						
Under 25 beds-----	21.9	29.1	32.6	27.7	9.6	1.0
25-49-----	28.7	25.0	34.5	29.7	10.0	0.8
50-99 beds-----	19.3	32.4	35.2	21.5	9.6	1.4
100 beds or more-----	14.9	35.7	30.1	17.7	12.1	4.5
GEOGRAPHIC REGION						
Northeast-----	25.1	20.9	28.9	32.3	16.2	1.7
North Central-----	23.5	26.2	32.3	29.5	10.2	1.8
South-----	16.3	37.4	35.9	20.3	5.8	0.7
West-----	24.6	34.9	38.2	20.3	6.1	0.5

When the type of nursing service is considered, personal care with nursing and personal care homes had the largest proportion that never changed ownership. Of the 25.5 percent of nursing care homes that changed ownership, however, 16.1 percent changed ownership only once. An examination of the average number of years per ownership according to the type of nursing service reveals that 63.7 percent of the nursing care homes, 57.8 percent of the personal-care-with-nursing-homes, and 61.5 percent of the personal care homes averaged 10 years or less per ownership (table 3).

About 91 percent of the nonprofit homes in existence in 1968 had never changed ownership. This high percent is probably due to the types of homes which make up this category (church-operated homes, homes operated by charitable organizations, etc.). It seems highly unlikely that these types of homes would change ownership as much as proprietary homes which are operated for profit. As for the average number of years per ownership, it should be noted that, of the 9 percent nonprofit homes that changed ownership, over 38 per-

cent had an average length of ownership of over 20 years. Government-operated homes, like nonprofit homes, are also unlikely to change ownership, and only 12.4 percent of these homes that were in existence in 1968 had ever changed. Of the proprietary homes in existence in 1968, 26 percent had changed ownership one time or more.

According to the size of the institution, homes having 100 beds or more constituted the smallest percent that changed ownership (14.9 percent). On the other hand, about 29 percent of the homes with 25-49 beds changed ownership at least once.

An examination of the change of ownership of homes according to region reveals that fewer (16.3 percent) in the South changed ownership than did those in the other three regions. For the other regions, about one-fourth of the homes had changed owners at least once. The smaller percent of homes changing ownership in the South is probably due to the large percent of new homes which came into existence in that region in the 10 years before the survey.

Technical Notes

SOURCE OF DATA. The universe for the 1968 Nursing Home Survey consisted of all institutions classified as nursing homes in the 1967 Survey of the Master Facility Inventory (MFI). The MFI includes the names, addresses, and certain descriptive information about "all" hospitals and resident institutions in the United States. It was originally developed by collating a large number of published and unpublished lists of establishments, and surveying these establishments by mail to obtain information on their nature and status of business.

Since the MFI serves as a sampling frame for institutions within the scope of the various health facilities surveys, it is imperative that it be kept as current as possible. To aid in accomplishing this purpose, a mechanism known as the Agency Reporting System (ARS) has been developed to provide information on new institutions. This information is incorporated in the MFI at regular intervals.

Two qualifications should be kept in mind regarding the MFI, which was the universe for the 1968 Nursing Home Survey. First, the data in this report can be no more representative of nursing homes in the United States than the universe upon which the survey was based. The 1967 MFI Survey included approximately 89 percent of the nursing homes in the United States. Indications are that those places not on the MFI were relatively small, possibly no more than half as large, on the average, as those listed. Second, since the 1968 Nursing Home Survey was a census of "all" nursing homes in the United States, the data presented in this report are not subject to reporting errors and measurement errors. The accuracy of the data depended on the accuracy of personnel and business records and, to some extent, on the accuracy of the respondent's replies based on his memory or willingness to report correct answers.

In an attempt to keep measurement errors to a minimum, the questionnaire was made as self-explanatory as possible. Not only were definitions and explanations included as part of each question, but a separate Definition Sheet was enclosed regarding staff.

The time interval between the 1967 MFI Survey (April-October 1967), in which the universe of nursing homes was established, and the 1968 Nursing Home Survey (April-September 1968) was 1 year. Basic classification data collected in the 1967 MFI Survey were not collected in the 1968 Nursing Home Survey. Instead, the 1968 data were assumed to be same as the 1967 data, and the 1967 data were used to classify the homes. Thus, the classification of institutions for the

1968 Nursing Home Survey was based on information collected in the 1967 MFI Survey on type of service and type of ownership.

During this 1-year interval the type of ownership and type of service probably changed for some of the institutions. Because of the short time period, however, any changes which may have occurred should have only negligible effect on the distribution of institutions by either type of service or type of ownership.

During the 1-year interval between establishing the universe and conducting the 1968 survey, 399 nursing homes closed and 1,355 nursing homes opened for business. The nursing homes which opened for business were not included in the 1968 survey because of a time lag in receiving the names and addresses of new homes from the ARS, the mechanism which updates the MFI mailing list. Although these newly opened homes were not included in the 1968 survey, the data were weighted to account for their existence.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS. *Nursing home.*—This term refers to all institutions that were within the scope of the 1968 Nursing Home Survey. This includes nursing homes, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, or related institutions which provide nursing care for the aged or chronically ill and maintain three beds or more.

Type of ownership.—Institutions are classified by type of ownership according to the following criteria:

1. *Proprietary institution.*—An institution operated under private commercial ownership.
2. *Nonprofit institution.*—An institution operated under voluntary or nonprofit auspices. This classification includes both church-related and nonchurch-related institutions.
3. *Government-owned institution.*—An institution operated under Federal, State, or local government auspices.

Bed.—Any bed set up and regularly maintained for use by a resident or patient whether or not the bed was in use at the time of the survey. This excludes beds used by staff or any beds used for emergency services only.

Type of service.—The institutions in the 1968 Nursing Home Survey were classified by type of service (nursing care, personal care with nursing, and personal care) on the basis of data collected in the 1967 MFI. The classification scheme for type of service was based on the following four criteria:

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1. The number of persons receiving nursing care during the "past 7 days." Nursing care is defined as the provision of one or more of the following services:

Taking of temperature-pulse-respiration or blood pressure

Full bed bath

Application of dressing or bandages

Catheterization

Intravenous injection

Intramuscular injection

Nasal feeding

Irrigation

Bowel and bladder retraining

Hypodermic injection

Oxygen therapy

Enema

2. The presence or absence of nurses on the staff.
3. Whether or not the institution provides administration of medications or supervision over self-administered medications.
4. The number of activities for daily living for which the institution offers assistance. These include provisions of rub and massage; help with tub bath or shower; help with dressing, correspondence, or shopping; help with walking or getting about; and help with feeding.

On the basis of these criteria the three classes of nursing homes by type of service were defined as follows:

Nursing care home.—One in which 50 percent or more of the residents received nursing care during the week before the survey, with a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) employed at least 35 hours or more per week.

Personal care home with nursing.—One in which either (a) some but less than 50 percent of the residents received nursing care during the week before the survey, with at least one full-time RN or LPN or (b) some of the residents received nursing care during the week before the survey, no RN or LPN was employed, but at least one of the following conditions was met:

1. The institution provided administration of medicine or supervision over self-administered medicines.

2. The institution provided assistance with three or more activities for daily living.

Personal care home.—Places in which one or more of the following criteria were met are classified as personal care homes; (a) some of the residents received nursing care during the week before the survey, no full-time RN or LPN was employed, the institution did not provide administration of medicine or supervision over self-administered medicines, and the institution provided assistance with one or two activities for daily living or (b) none of the residents received nursing care during the week before the survey, at least one full-time RN or LPN was employed, and at least one of the following conditions was met:

1. The institution provided administration of medicine or supervision over self-administered medicines.
2. The institution provided assistance with three or more activities for daily living.

Institutions which provided assistance with one or two activities for daily living or offered room and board as the only service were classified as out-of-scope of the 1968 Survey of Nursing Homes. Table A shows in detail the scheme for classifying institutions according to type of service.

Region.—Classification of homes by geographic area is accomplished by grouping the States into regions. These regions correspond to those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. They are as follows:

Region	States included
Northeast -----	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central ---	Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas
South -----	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
West -----	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii.

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Table A. Classification of institutions by type of service: 1968 Nursing Home Survey

Classification variables	Classification criteria													
	50 percent or more					Some but less than 50 percent					None			
Percent of total residents who received nursing care during the week before day of survey														
Number of registered or licensed practical nurses	1+	None				1+	None				0+			
Does the institution provide: (a) Administration of medicine or treatments according to doctor's orders or (b) Supervision over self-administered medicine?	...	Yes	No			...	Yes	No			Yes	No		
Does the institution offer assistance with 3 activities or more for daily living?	...	...	Yes	No		...	...	Yes	No		...	Yes	No	
Does the institution offer assistance with 1 or 2 activities for daily living?	...	...	...	Yes	No	...	...	...	Yes	No	...	...	Yes	No
Does the institution offer room and/or board as its only service?	...	...	...	...	Yes	...	...	...	...	Yes	...	...	...	Yes
Institution ¹	Nc	Pcn	Pcn	Pc	D	Pcn	Pcn	Pcn	Pc	D	Pc	Pc	D	B

¹Nc=Nursing care home
Pcn=Personal care with nursing home
Pc=Personal care home
D=Domiciliary care home (out of scope)
B=Boarding or rooming house (out of scope)

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Category not applicable----- ...

Quantity zero----- -

Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision----- *

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