

Services in these facilities vary widely—from purely environmental health activities to extensive preventive services provided to all. No data are available on the volume of services pro-

Only very limited information is available on the standards of performance, in terms of persons served, of all other types of clinics or health facilities. A 1964 directory of rehabilitation facilities listed a total of 288,000 persons served in the 372 centers reporting patient service. These centers, however, represented only half the total participating in the study and only about 20 percent of the number identifying themselves as rehabilitation facilities.⁸

The most current data available on private group practice clinics date back to 1959. At that time, 1,623 medical groups were reported in various sections of the country. These multispecialty and single-specialty groups were staffed by a total of 14,841 physicians; about 80 percent of these physicians were on a full-time basis. No data are reported on the number of patients served by the various groups.⁹

Data are not available on the numbers of persons served by free-standing diagnostic and treatment centers (those not physically connected with a hospital) or by other free-standing specialized facilities operated by governmental or voluntary agencies.

For new construction under the hospital and medical facilities (Hill-Burton) program, outpatient departments, diagnostic or treatment centers, public health centers, and rehabilitation facilities must meet requirements established by regulation. For example, outpatient departments must be located on the most easily accessible floor and must have convenient access to radiology, pharmacy, laboratory, and physical therapy units. Public health centers must provide administrative, clinical, laboratory, and service areas to serve the program needs of the center and the population involved. Similarly, rehabilitation facilities must provide adequate space and proper physical location for the various services provided.

Qualitative Standards of Performance

All outpatient and clinic facilities operated in direct connection with a hospital are covered by standards established for hospitals in

Included in requirements for accreditation of hospitals by the Joint Commission on Accreditation are specifications relating to health services. The recently enacted Social Security Act Amendments, which provide payment for hospital inpatient and outpatient services to persons 65 years of age and older, prescribe that hospitals approved by the Joint Commission are eligible to participate in the program, provided they also furnish adequate evidence of effective utilization review plan.

⁸ U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, Division of Hospital and Health Facilities, *Hill-Burton State Plan Data: A National Summary as of Jan. 1, 1965*. PHS Publication No. 1003 (revised 1965).

⁹ U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, Division of Public Health, *Medical Groups in the United States 1959*. PHS publication No. 1063, 1963.