

(c) *Rural-Urban Distribution*

Although current data from all States are not available, the findings the 1961 Public Health Service inventory indicated that States half or more of their people living in rural areas have relatively filled nursing care beds available than States with the majority their population in urban areas.

TABLE 2.—*Skilled nursing care beds per 1,000 persons aged 65 and over*

Percent rural population	Number of States ¹	Beds per 1,000 population
-----	18	11.7
-----	11	23.9
-----	14	23.3
-----	9	22.4

¹ Excludes Guam and Puerto Rico.

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, Division of Medical Facilities. *Characteristics of Nursing Homes and Related Facilities: Report of a 1961 inventory*. PHS Publication No. 930-F-5, 1963, p. 12.

Interestingly, the skilled nursing care bed-population ratio was no or metropolitan areas than the overall average for predominately urban States. A total of 227,723 skilled nursing care beds reported for facilities located in the standard metropolitan areas. These metropolitan areas have 23.1 beds per 1,000 aged 65 and over—about the same as the average statewide the 34 States with more than half of their population in urban

In the recently conducted survey of the American Nursing Home on, responses were received from 20 States and the District of Columbia on nursing home construction within the past 5 years, by community. Survey results showed the following:

TABLE 3.—*Nursing homes constructed during 1961-65, by size of community*

Size of community	Nursing homes	
	Homes	Percent
Total.....	2,965	100.0
100,000 and over.....	146	4.9
25,000-99,999.....	834	28.1
10,000-24,999.....	410	13.8
5,000-9,999.....	761	25.7
1,000-4,999.....	415	14.0
Under 1,000.....	399	13.5

Source: Unpublished data from the American Nursing Home Association.

Age of Facilities

Unfortunately, data are not available on the age distribution of existing nursing homes. Many, it is known, are converted former residences, undoubtedly built in the late 1800's or early 1900's. In a recent survey conducted by the American Nursing Home on, the oldest home responding was built in 1879. A total 1,629 homes representing 35 percent of the association's member-