

ratio—4.53 per 1,000 population, and Florida has the lowest—0.29 per 1,000 population.

Construction projects under the Mental Retardation and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 must meet certain requirements established by regulation. Each facility, for example, is required to meet certain architectural standards to insure that the facility is fire safe, structurally sound, and so planned as to carry out effectively the proposed program.

(d) *Qualitative Standards of Performance*

At the present time there are no standards of performance for facilities for the mentally retarded that have been nationally adopted. No joint accreditation programs or procedures have been established such as those existing in the category of hospitals and related medical care facilities.

Some States have developed their own standards for the maintenance and operation of these facilities which may include provision for licensing.

Many of the institutions are owned and operated by the State and are under the supervision of State agencies specifically responsible for the care and treatment of the mentally retarded. Other facilities such as those for day care may be the responsibility of the public education authorities, while still others are operated by voluntary and religious organizations. Regardless of the sponsorship, some of the States exercise a significant degree of supervision over the quality and volume of care provided.

On the Federal level all Government agencies involved in this field are coordinating their efforts in providing guidance, recommendations, and financial assistance. These efforts are directed toward improved care through expanding programs in research and training, additional and more appropriately designed facilities, and greater concern for the individual retardate.

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT IN THE UNITED STATES

(a) and (b) *Number of Facilities and Distribution by States*

Information is not yet available as to the total number of existing facilities for the mentally retarded in the United States. However, some indication of the number of facilities in which the mentally retarded are served may be obtained from the State plans relating to such facilities. Unfortunately, not all of the State plans have been received to date. On the basis of information presently available, it appears as though there are about 2,600 existing facilities in which the mentally retarded are served in the 46 States from which plans have been received.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the facilities serving the mentally retarded by State. As can be seen from table 1, California has the largest number of existing facilities in which the mentally retarded are served, with Pennsylvania and Massachusetts being next in order of magnitude of the 46 States reporting.