

2. USER CHARGES

Data are not available on user charges for all facilities for the mentally retarded, and it is not known to what extent user charges are employed to pay for services, occupancy or use of these facilities. Undoubtedly, there is wide variation in user charges among different types of facilities and among States. Some indication of average charges in residential facilities, day facilities, and State institutions may be obtained from information presented in the "Directory for Exceptional Children," published by Porter Sargent, Boston, Mass., in 1965. Based on information reported for 203 privately operated residential facilities (voluntary nonprofit and proprietary), the average charge approximated \$2,300 per year. For a reported 164-day facilities, also under private ownership, the annual charge averaged about \$500. Charges for a total of 61 State-owned institutions, all identified as primarily residential facilities, averaged approximately \$1,200 per year. It will be noted that the average charge in private residential facilities is about double the average charge in State institutions. No explanation is offered in the source document, but it appears that the charges in the State institutions are largely based on ability to pay. This, for the most part, would probably account for the difference. In view of these and other limitations, extreme caution should be exercised in interpretation and use of these data.

In terms of the total group of community facilities for the mentally retarded, it is not possible to state the extent (in percentage terms) to which the costs of the facilities and structures are met out of the general tax resources and general obligation borrowings of State and local governments.

C. TREND OF CAPITAL OUTLAYS

Information is very limited pertaining to capital outlays for facilities for the mentally retarded. In fact, the only information presently available is the amount expended for additions, improvements and other capital expenditures of public institutions for the mentally retarded, and the amount expended for projects for the mentally retarded under the Hill-Burton program.

As can be seen from table 7, expenditures for additions, improvements, et cetera, ranged from \$27 million in 1961 and 1962 to \$42 million in 1963. This, of course, is only a small part of the total capital outlays since it only includes public institutions for the mentally retarded, and it excludes the initial amount expended for construction of the existing facility.

TABLE 7.—*Additions, improvements, and other expenditures of public institutions for the mentally retarded*

Fiscal year:	F
1960.....	
1961.....	27, 434
1962.....	
1963.....	
1964.....	

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, Nation of Mental Health.