the population of the United States is arrayed in rank order of county group per capita disposable income,[5] with incomes rising from left to right. The vertical axis represents the total number of physicians in the country. It will be noted that the Lorenz curve for all physicians in 1959 lies closer to the diagonal than the corresponding curve for 1950, indicating a change toward a more even distribution of physicians with regard to regional income. It is interesting to note also that when only physicians in private practice are considered, the distribution in 1959 is more even than when all physicians are taken into account. Unfortunately, we do not have the necessary data to analyze the change in the distribution of private physicians between 1950 and 1959.

TABLE 1

CHANGE IN PHYSICIAN CONCENTRATION IN RELATION TO PER CAPITA REGIONAL INCOME, 1950–1959

Population ranked by income	*Per cent of physicians in 1950*	*Per cent of physicians in 1959*	*Per cent change 1950–1959*
Lowest 10%	4.0	4.8	+19.8
10–20	5.4	6.1	+13.5
20–30	6.7	8.4	+24.5
30–40	8.0	8.1	+ 0.9
40–50	8.9	9.6	+ 7.8
50–60	12.0	10.4	−13.3
60–70	12.6	11.8	− 6.1
70–80	11.6	12.2	+ 5.3
80–90	13.2	13.9	+ 5.1
90–100	17.5	14.9	−15.1

A clearer picture of the change in concentration can be obtained by examining Table 1, which shows the gains and losses of the regionally stratified income groups. On the whole the change was clearly in favor of lower income areas. The top 10 per cent of the income-ranked population suffered the greatest relative loss of physicians. The population with the greatest gain was in the third decile from the bottom of the income range. Of course, physicians still remain concentrated in high-income areas. In 1950 the bottom 25 per cent of the population had 13.0 per cent of the physicians and the top 25 per cent had 36.5 per cent of the physicians. In 1959 this had improved to 14.4 per cent for the bottom quartile

[5] Data on population and per capita disposable income are from *Sales Management Annual Survey of Buying Power*, May 1951, and May 1960. The income for the county group is a weighted average. The *Sales Management* staff terms its income measure "effective-buying income," but observes the same definition the U.S. Department of Commerce employs in defining disposable income.

81-280 O—68—pt. 5——30