

## 1977 NATIONAL SUMMARY BETWEEN PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

The Developmental Disabilities Project on Residential Services and Community Adjustment was initiated in order to provide state and federal policy makers with information needed to improve planning, management, and evaluation of residential and community services for mentally retarded people. A national mail survey was determined to be the most appropriate means to obtain current information about the kinds of residential services available to retarded individuals as of June 30, 1977.

The survey of community residential facilities was directed by Robert H. Bruininks, Ph.D., Department of Psychoeducational Studies, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Richard C. Scheerenberger, Ph.D., Director of the Central Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Madison, Wisconsin, directed the survey of public residential facilities. Dr. Scheerenberger has conducted three previous surveys of public facilities under the auspices of the National Association of Superintendents of Public Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

The questionnaire focused on the facility or institution and its mentally retarded residents. The issues covered provided a profile of the general characteristics of facilities such as location, size, ownership, type and reimbursement rates or per diem rates. Basic demographic information such as age, level of retardation, movement, and placement trends was obtained on the residents. This brief presents comparative data between community and public residential facilities from the 1977 National Survey. This is the most up-to-date nationwide descriptive information available on residential facilities and institutions for retarded people.

### DEFINITION

The Community Residential Facility survey included all facilities and homes which met the following definition of a Community Residential Facility (CRF):

Any community-based living quarter(s) which provides 24-hour, 7 days-a-week responsibility for room, board, and supervision of mentally retarded persons as of June 30, 1977, with the exception of: (a) single family homes providing services to a relative; (b) nursing homes, boarding homes, and foster homes that are not formally state licensed or contracted as mental retardation service providers; and (c) independent living (apartment) programs which have no staff residing in the same facility.

A community residential facility is a general category that included 37 different types ranging from group homes or community residences, and halfway houses to larger facilities like residential schools, sheltered care homes and private residential facilities. This general category of community residential facility which is often referred to as a group home is not easy to operationalize nationally. There is no standard classification system which categorizes this wide range of residential services for retarded persons.

The Public Residential Facility survey included all facilities

which met the following definition of a Public Residential Facility (PRF):

A state sponsored and administered facility which offered comprehensive programming on a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week basis as of June 30, 1977.

State-operated residential institutions were included in this definition. At least 20 of the PRFs participating in the survey were mental health centers serving mentally retarded persons.

### SOURCE OF MAILING LIST

Names and addresses of administrators of public residential facilities were obtained through the constantly updated directory maintained by the National Association of Superintendents of Public Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded. Sources for the identification of community residential facilities included: (a) all State Mental Retardation Coordinators, (b) State Developmental Disabilities Councils, (c) State Associations for Retarded Citizens, (d) Administrators of Public and Private Residential Facilities, (e) the National Association of Private Residential Facilities, (f) licensing agencies, (g) individuals or agencies listed as contacts in past reports of Developmental Disabilities Office Annual Surveys of Institutions, and (h) the 1973 National Center for Health Statistics Master Facility Inventory of Inpatient Facilities for Mentally Retarded and the 1977 update.

## PROCEDURES

The initial mailing for the CRF survey was launched on August 19, 1977 to 10,271 facilities. In order to insure that all facilities on the original list were contacted, three mail follow-up inquiries and a telephone follow-up were conducted. Due to the large number of multiple systems (a single ownership which operates more than one facility) additions were made to the mailing list throughout the survey. The CRF survey was completed on April 28, 1978 with a total number of 11,351 facilities and homes. Of the total number surveyed, 5,038 met the definition for a community residential facility\*. After four follow-ups, 611 (12.1%) of the CRFs did not participate. Therefore, the response rate was 87.9%.

The PRF survey was initiated with a long-form questionnaire mailed to each superintendent of the 263 public residential facilities during June, 1977. A follow-up request was sent to nonresponding PRFs during August, 1977. Finally, a short-form survey was elicited during September and October, 1977, from the remaining superintendents who had not replied. Response rate for the PRF survey was 100%.

## NATIONAL RESULTS

The national figures given in Table 1 show that the 263 PRFs had a total of 166,607 beds and served a total of 153,796 persons, of which 151,972 were mentally retarded. At the same time, 4,427 nationally identified CRFs had a bed capacity of 83,688 with 76,250 residents, of which 62,397 were mentally retarded residents. Nationally, PRFs filled about 93% of their available beds while the CRFs had 91% filled bed capacity as of June 30, 1977.

\*This summary does not include information reported by foster homes.

## GROWTH OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

In assessing both community and public residential facilities, the 1977 National Survey of Residential Facilities asked, "When did your facility accept its first mentally retarded resident at its current address?"

Figure 1 shows successive additions of both public and community residential facilities annually since 1957. Twenty years prior to our survey, there were 181 CRFs and 80 PRFs in operation as reported by our respondents. As of June 30, 1977, there were 263 PRFs and 4,427 CRFs. As noted in Figure 1, 212 PRFs and 4,290 CRFs reported their opening dates.

In recent years, the growth rates of CRFs and PRFs have differed. While the PRFs have slowly increased in number, the CRFs have approximately doubled in number between January, 1973, and June, 1977. Those facilities which opened and closed prior to our survey are not included in Figure 1. Therefore, the number of facilities presented is a minimum estimate of annual additions.

Figure 1  
Growth of CRFs and PRFs: United States, 1977  
(81% PRFs and 97% CRFs Reporting)

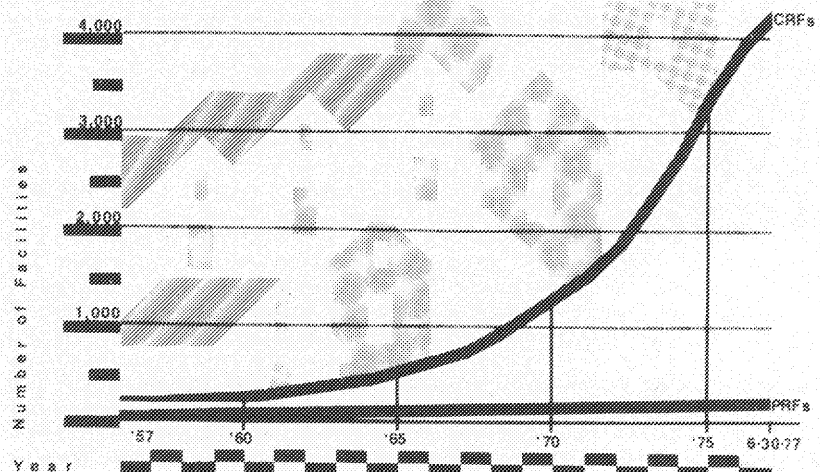


Table 1

### A. National Summary Data on Residential Facilities As Of June 30, 1977

PRFs	CRFs
263 . . . . .	Number of Facilities . . . . . 4,427
166,607 . . . . .	Bed Capacity . . . . . 83,688
153,796 . . . . .	Total Number of Residents . . . . . 76,250
	Total Number of Mentally Retarded Residents . . . . . 62,397

### B. National Summary Data on Mentally Retarded Residents in Residential Facilities Between July 1, 1976 and June 30, 1977

PRFs	CRFs
7,691 . . . . .	First Admissions . . . . . 16,044
2,441 . . . . .	Readmissions . . . . . 1,354
10,132 . . . . .	Total Admissions . . . . . 17,398
2,347 . . . . .	Deaths . . . . . 612
11,897 . . . . .	Live Releases . . . . . 9,297
14,244 . . . . .	Total Releases . . . . . 9,909

Any discrepancies which occur between the data presented in this brief on public residential facilities and that presented by R. C. Scheerenberger, Ph.D., in his 1977 report on *Public Residential Services for the Mentally Retarded* are due to different coding, editing, and tabulating procedures used in processing the data.

# SIZE OF FACILITIES

Figure 2

Distribution of CRFs and Mentally Retarded Residents by Size: United States, 1977  
(100% CRFs Reporting)

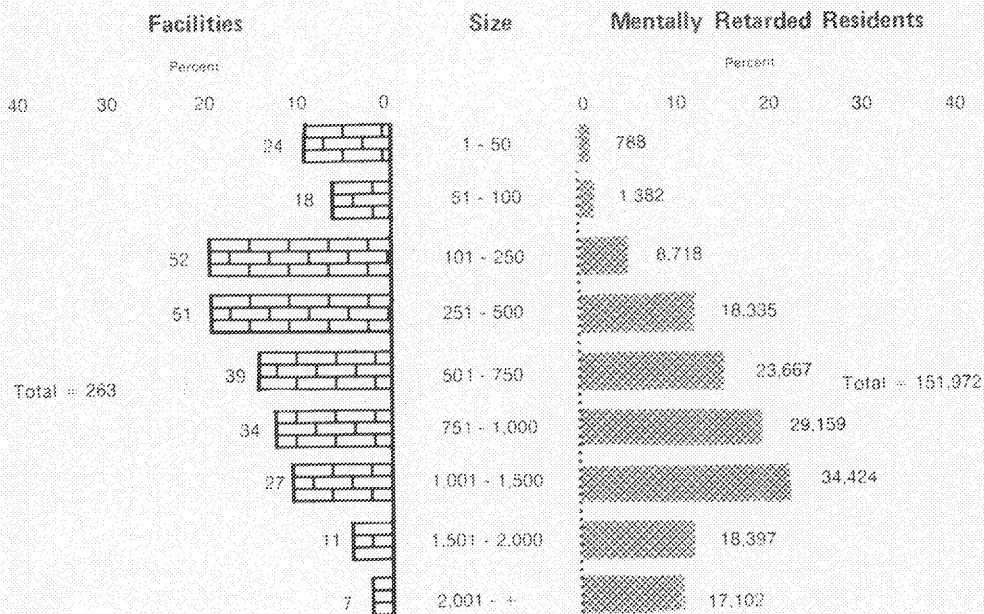


The size of CRFs ranged from 1 to 942 residents with the mean of 17 residents per facility and a median of 7 residents. The most frequent number of residents was 6.

Figure 2 depicts that over 88% of the CRFs serve 20 or fewer mentally retarded residents. Although one-fourth of the mentally retarded residents in CRFs live in homes with 10 or fewer residents, an almost equal number live in facilities which serve over 100 mentally retarded residents.

Figure 3

Distribution of PRFs and Mentally Retarded Residents by Size: United States, 1977  
(100% PRFs Reporting)



The size of PRFs ranged from 9 to 3,049 residents with a mean of 596 and a median of 446 residents.

As shown in Figure 3, 81% (122,749) of the mentally retarded persons in PRFs were living in facilities or campuses larger than 500. A closer look shows that 46% (69,923) persons were living in facilities with more than 1,000 fellow residents, and 11% (17,102) were living in institutions housing 2,000 or more residents.

## RESIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

### Sex

The sex distribution shows that there are more males than females in both PRFs and CRFs; 57:43 and 55:45, respectively. In PRFs there were 14% more males than females as opposed to 11% higher proportion of males to females in CRFs.

### Age

The age distribution of PRFs and CRFs shows that PRFs were serving proportionately more adults (22-62 years), while CRFs were serving proportionately younger persons, 21 years and below. For the 237 PRFs reporting age, 28% of the mentally retarded residents were under 22 years of age, while for the 4,423 CRFs reporting age, 38% were under 22 years of age.

In examining the age distribution for elderly mentally retarded residents (63 years and older) there was a similar proportion served, approximately 4% in both.

School age residents who are 5 to 21 years old are more often found living in CRFs (36%) as compared with PRFs (27%).

### Level of Retardation

Given the distribution of residents' level of retardation, there were more profoundly retarded residents served in PRFs and more mildly retarded residents living in CRFs.

In combining the categories of severe and profound levels of retardation, over 75% of the residents in PRFs are in either of these classifications. Approximately 32% of the CRF residents are in these levels.

### Multiply Handicapped

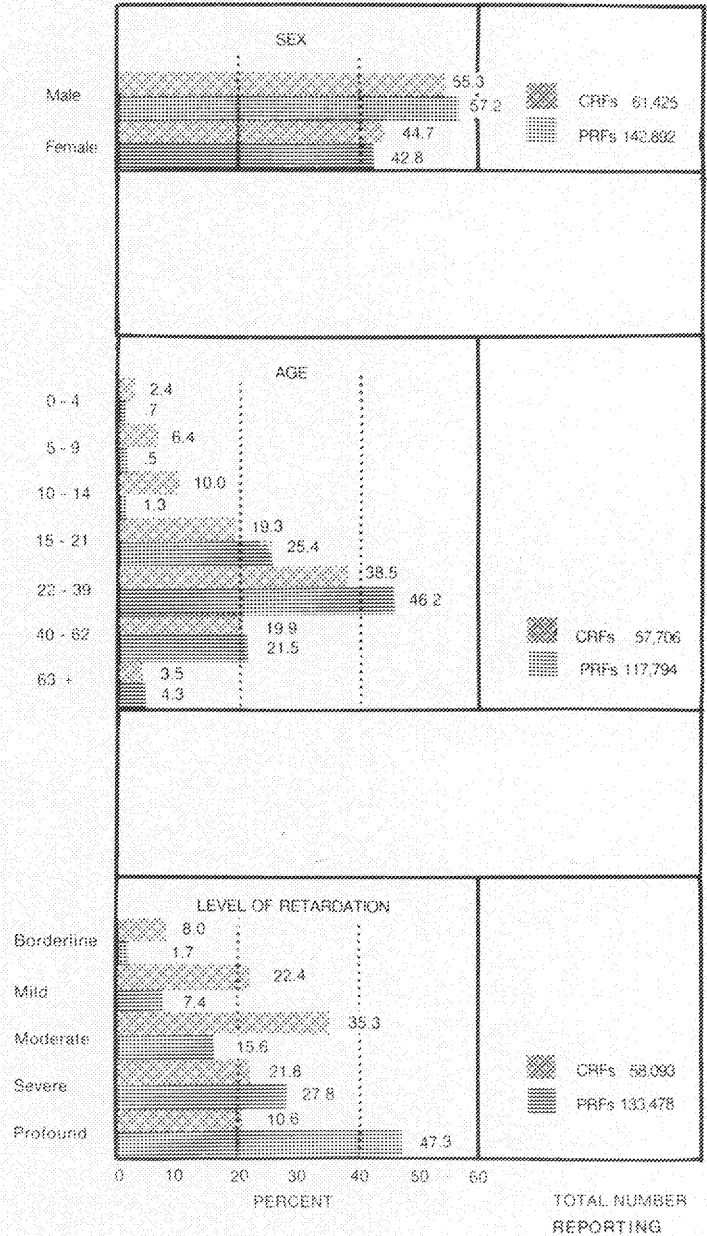
In 2173 CRFs reporting, over 53% of the mentally retarded population were multiply handicapped with the following cited as the most frequent handicaps: behavior disorders (19%), epilepsy (18%), cerebral palsy (9%), blindness (3%), autistic-like disorders (3%) and deafness (3%). Over 19% of the CRF residents had two or more handicaps in addition to retardation. In 197 PRFs reporting, 82% of the retarded residents were multiply handicapped: epilepsy (31%), behavior disorders (20%), cerebral palsy (19%), blindness (6%), deafness (4%), and autistic-like disorders (3%) were cited as the most frequent handicaps. Over 32% of the retarded residents had two or more handicaps in addition to retardation.

### Adaptive Behaviors

When asked the question: "Please indicate the number of mentally retarded residents with the following limitations," the 2,182 CRFs and 184 PRFs reporting, listed these adaptive behaviors in the following rank order: inability to dress without assistance was most frequent; second, inability to communicate verbally; third, not toilet trained; fourth, inability to eat without assistance; fifth, inability to walk without assistance; and last, inability to understand the spoken word.

Figure 4

Sex, Age, Level of Retardation of Mentally Retarded Persons in CRFs and PRFs: United States, 1977  
(94% A, 90% B, and 92% C PRFs Reporting and 98% A, 96% B, and 96% C CRFs Reporting)



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Table 2

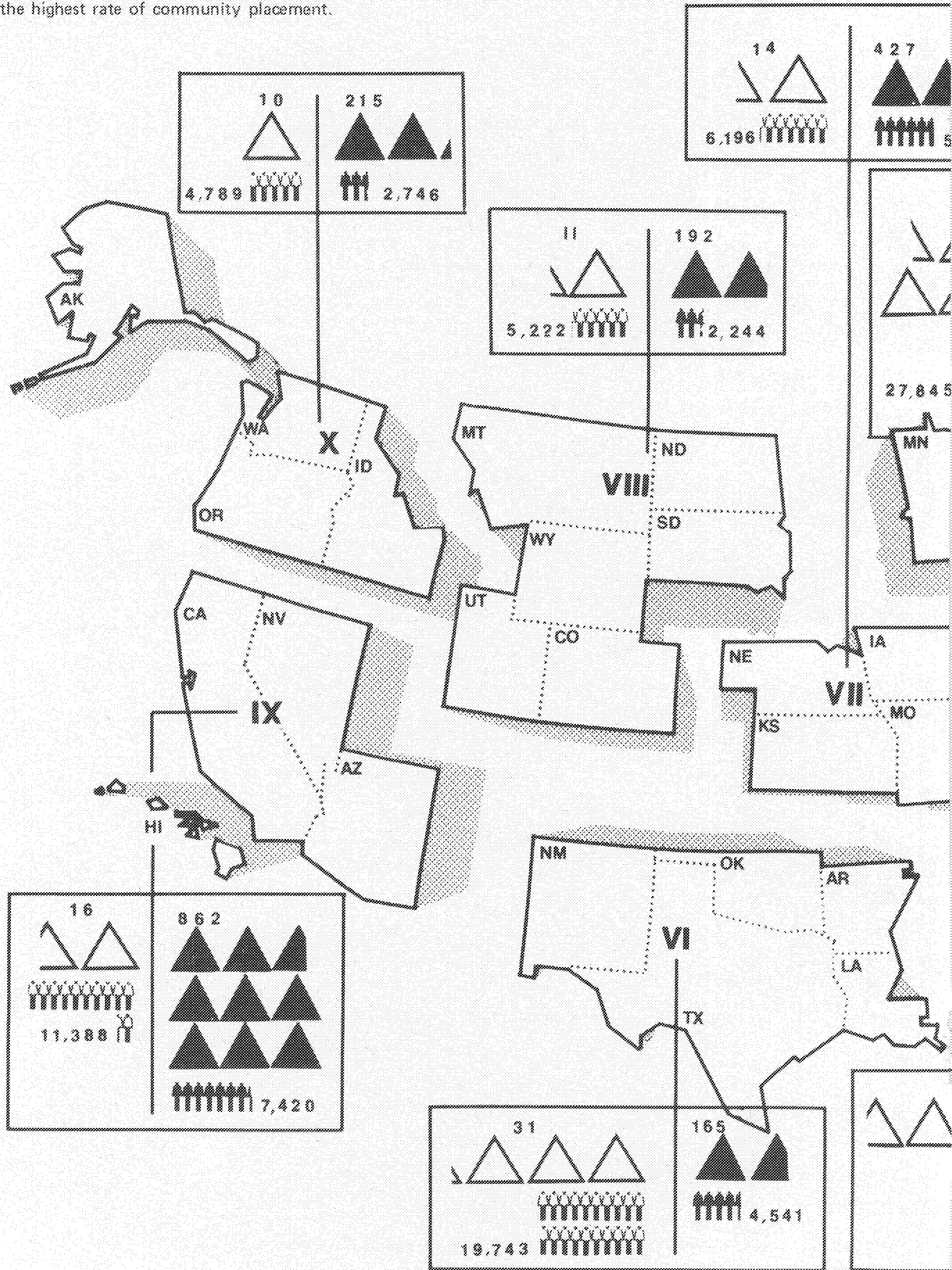
Number of Facilities and Mentally Retarded Residents in PRFs and CRFs by State: United States, 1977  
(100% PRFs and CRFs Reporting)

PRFs		Federal Region/State *	CRFs	
Facilities	Mentally Retarded Residents		Facilities	Mentally Retarded Residents
263	161,972	U.S. Total	4,427	62,397
27	11,214	Region I	352	3,930
12	3,279	Connecticut	52	947
3	496	Maine	46	829
9	5,581	Massachusetts	157	1,848
1	664	New Hampshire	18	105
1	755	Rhode Island	64	181
1	438	Vermont	15	230
29	26,060	Region II	351	4,103
8	7,946	New Jersey	84	789
21	18,134	New York	167	3,314
34	18,766	Region III	448	7,189
1	546	Delaware	6	89
6	2,926	Maryland	26	374
17	9,473	Pennsylvania	354	6,102
5	4,076	Virginia	51	508
4	822	West Virginia	9	56
1	923	Washington, D.C.	2	40
37	20,729	Region IV	436	6,015
4	1,791	Alabama	17	207
6	4,503	Florida	172	2,342
8	2,807	Georgia	31	306
2	607	Kentucky	18	950
4	1,666	Mississippi	13	354
6	3,659	North Carolina	74	643
4	3,617	South Carolina	27	310
3	2,079	Tennessee	84	903
54	27,845	Region V	1,079	18,390
14	6,320	Illinois	147	6,076
6	3,289	Indiana	42	479
12	6,318	Michigan	474	4,126
8	3,017	Minnesota	176	3,140
11	6,542	Ohio	124	2,485
3	2,359	Wisconsin	116	2,084
31	19,740	Region VI	165	4,541
5	1,682	Arkansas	16	215
8	3,617	Louisiana	20	1,256
2	547	New Mexico	34	206
3	1,978	Oklahoma	7	584
13	11,919	Texas	88	2,280
14	6,196	Region VII	427	5,839
2	1,432	Iowa	45	1,150
4	1,443	Kansas	102	1,089
5	2,166	Missouri	193	2,863
3	1,155	Nebraska	87	937
11	5,222	Region VIII	192	2,244
3	1,539	Colorado	72	848
2	321	Montana	61	438
2	1,145	North Dakota	12	185
2	836	South Dakota	21	260
1	849	Utah	14	412
1	633	Wyoming	12	101
16	11,388	Region IX	862	7,420
3	973	Arizona	26	343
9	9,725	California	772	6,870
1	524	Hawaii	59	177
3	166	Nevada	5	30
10	4,769	Region X	215	2,746
1	106	Alaska	14	119
1	483	Idaho	21	266
2	1,781	Oregon	65	811
6	2,460	Washington	115	1,550

Table 2 presents the number of facilities and their mentally retarded residents by state within the ten federal regions. Region V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) reported the largest number of PRFs and institutionalized persons as well as the largest number of CRFs and community placed persons.

Figure 5 pictorially presents the regional data from Table 2 on the number of mentally retarded residents and the number of CRFs and PRFs. When the number of residents is adjusted proportionate to each state's population, the data shows that Region II (NJ, NY) on the average has the highest rate of institutionalization, while Region VII (IA, KS, MO, NE) on the average has the highest rate of community placement.

Figure 5  
Number of Facilities and Residents in PRFs and CRFs  
United States, 1977 (100%)



re 5  
 mentally Retarded Residents  
 by Federal Region:  
 PRFs and CRFs Reporting)

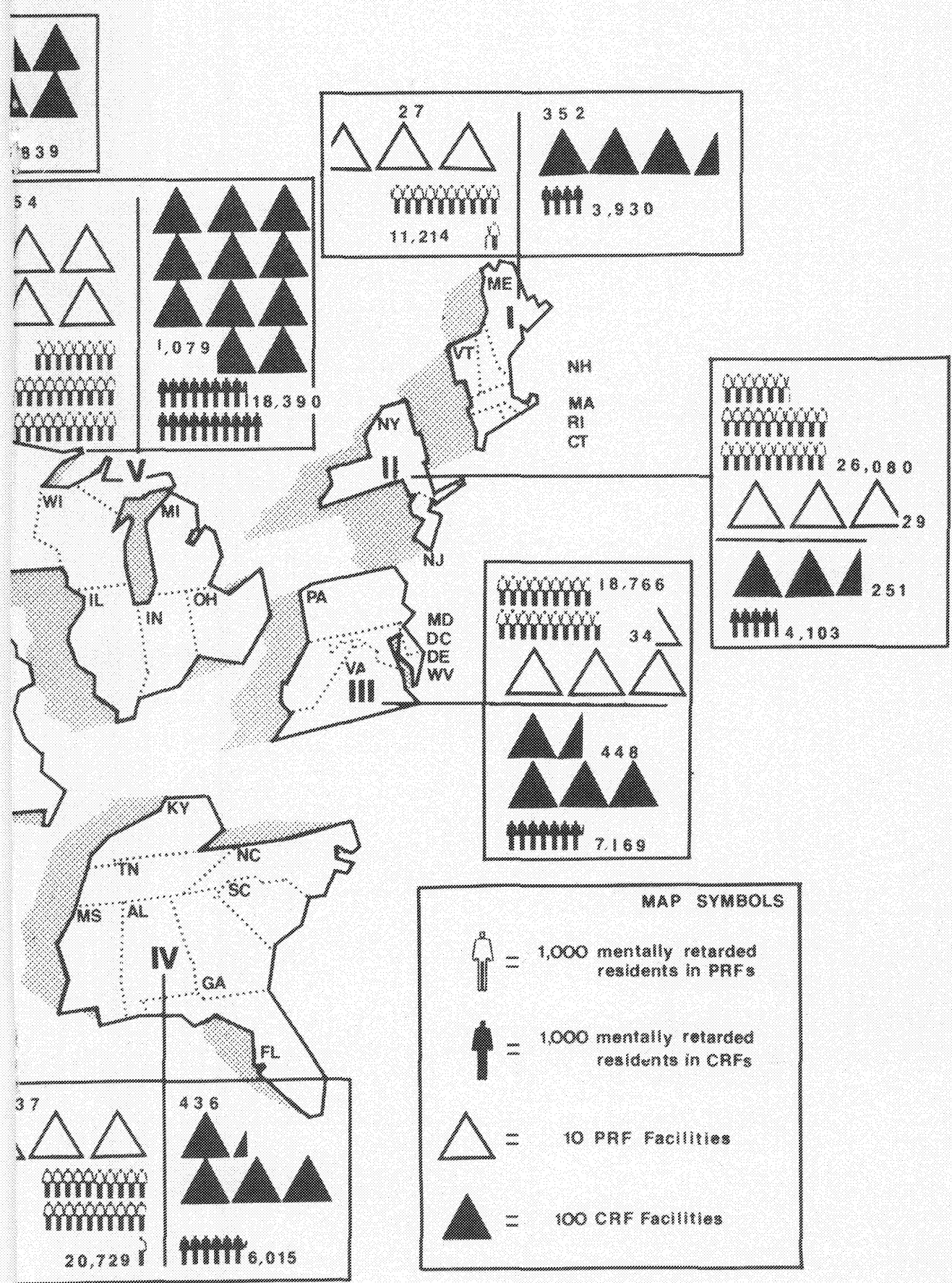


Figure 6

Rate of Mentally Retarded Residents in PRFs and CRFs per 100,000 General Population: United States, 1977  
(100% PRFs and CRFs Reporting)

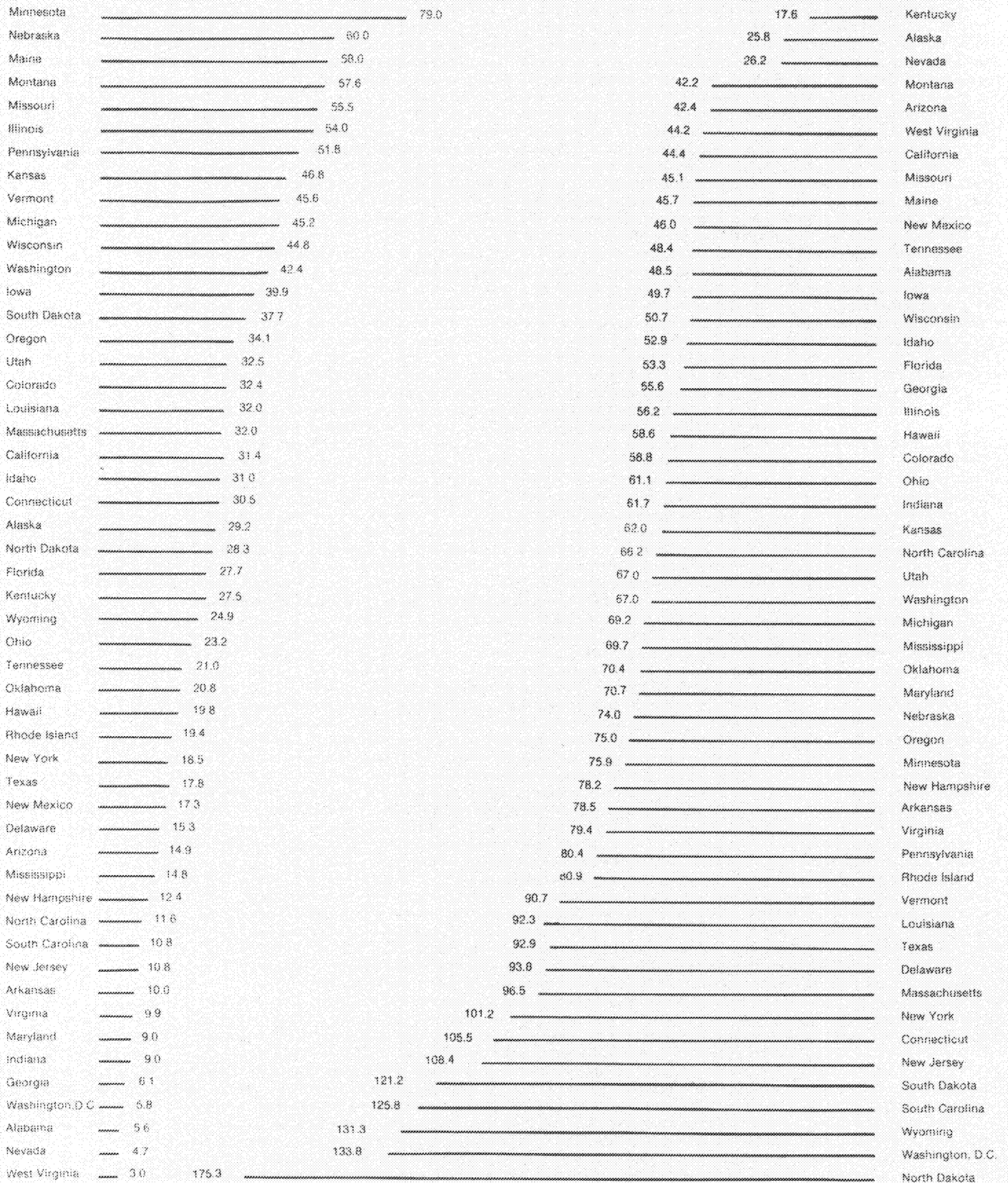


Figure 6 presents in rank order the rate of mentally retarded residents in PRFs and CRFs to the state's general population. The data shows that Minnesota with 79.0 had the highest per capita rate of placement in community based settings while its neighbor North Dakota with 175.3 had the highest per capita rate of institutionalization. During 1977, the national average for PRFs was 70.3 or about 70 of every 100,000 people were placed in institutions while 28.8 was the national average for CRFs or approximately 29 of every 100,000 people were placed in community residences.



## COSTS

### Reimbursement Rates

When asked, "What was your average per diem (per day) cost per resident?" the majority of respondents to the CRF survey could only provide the average reimbursement rate per resident or the amount of money they received for providing residential services to their clients.

Reimbursement rates for residential services vary widely. The range for 4,078 (92%) programs responding to our survey was \$1.01 to \$74.78 nationally. Included in this range are nursing homes that are ICF-MR certified, large residential settings such as residential schools, as well as group homes, halfway houses, boarding homes, etc.<sup>1</sup> In Figure 7, we see the mean reimbursement rate by size of facility. The mean reimbursement rate per day per mentally retarded client in large community based facilities (20 + residents) was approximately \$23.32 and for small community-based homes (less than 20 residents) was approximately \$15.37. When all the facilities surveyed were taken together, the average rate per day per client was found to be \$15.70.

In connection with reimbursement rates for residential programs, two issues must be kept in mind: (1) It was not determinable what service elements the reimbursement rate in the various types of programs covered or purchased. In general

it might be assumed that the rates covered room and board or cost of care; but it is not possible to distinguish from the manner in which data were collected at this point which or how many of the components are involved in each rate. (2) It is reasonable to assume that there are differences in rates for homes (large or small) that have been operational for several years and those that have become operational within the past year or two. There are many factors causing this difference. One factor might be the ever rising cost of providing services due to the levels of inflation; another might be the discrepancies in depreciation costs or the type of residential program provided.

### Per Diem Rates

The per diem rate in the 217 reporting PRFs (83%) with 127,055 mentally retarded residents ranged from \$10.50 to \$168.58 with a national average of \$47.82. Per diem rate is 1/365th of the facility's annual operating expense divided by the average daily number of residents. The mean or average rates are simply the average of the rates of the facilities reporting per state and the U.S. total. In Figure 8, we see a progressive decline in average per diem rate in facility size from 250 to 2,000 residents.

<sup>1</sup>See definition of CRF.

Figure 7

AVERAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES BY SIZE OF CRFs:  
UNITED STATES, 1977 (92% CRFs REPORTING)

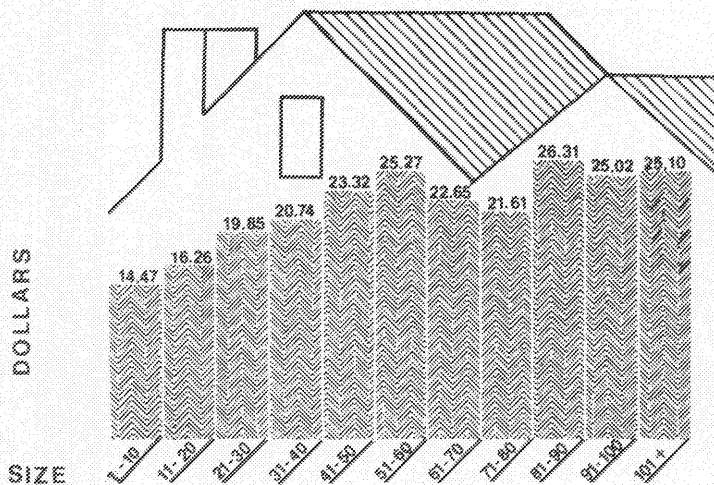
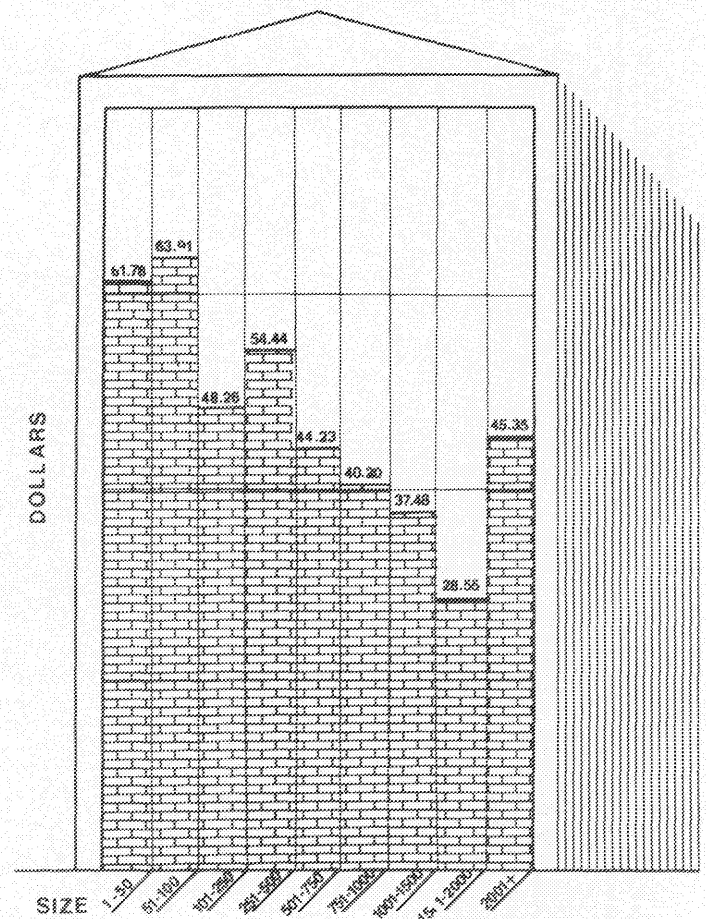


Figure 8

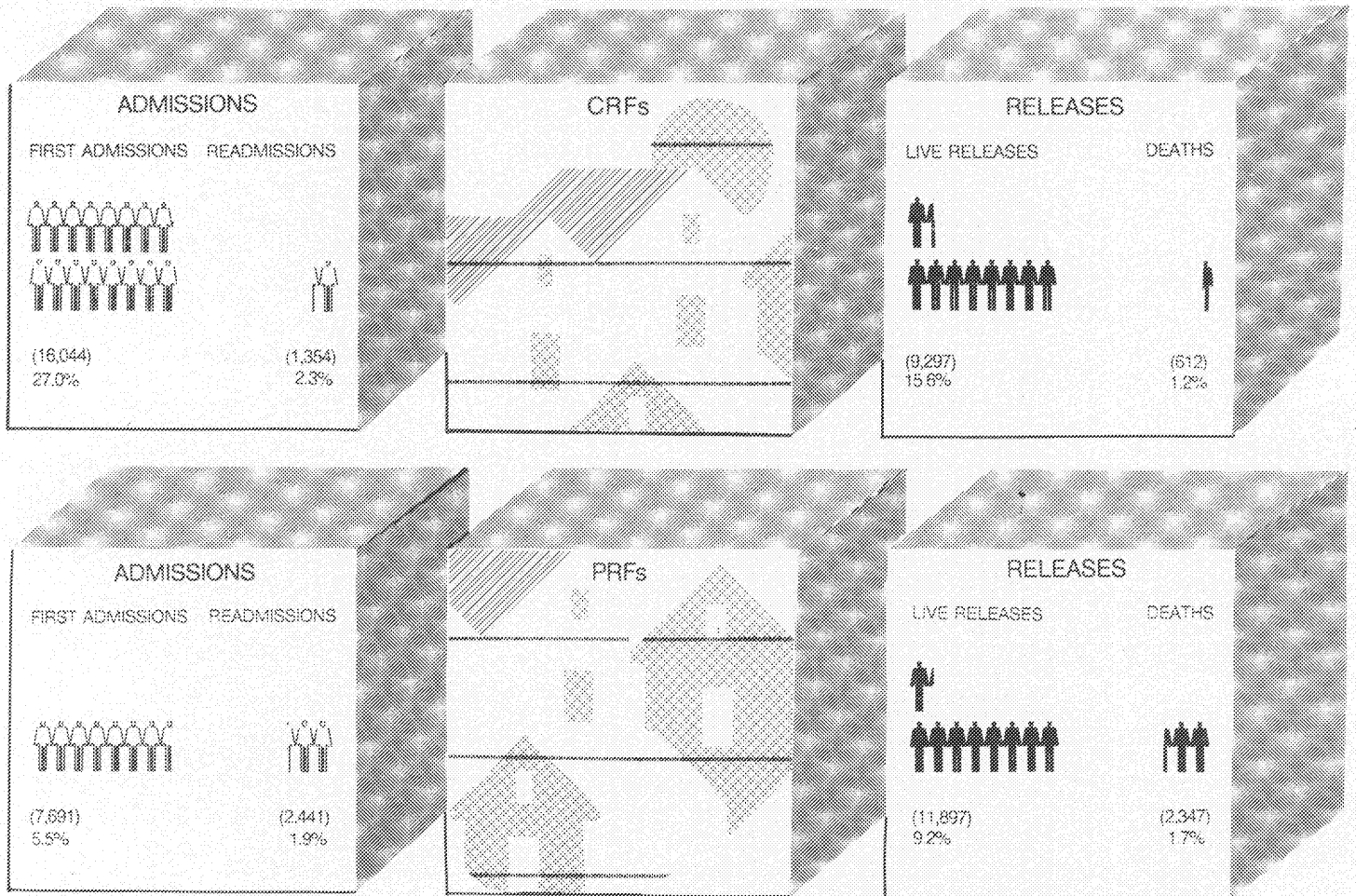
AVERAGE PER DIEM RATES BY SIZE OF PRFs:  
UNITED STATES, 1977 (83% PRFs REPORTING)



# RESIDENT MOVEMENT NATIONALLY

Figure 9

Number and Percent of Mentally Retarded Residents That Were Admitted and Released Between July 1, 1976 — June 30, 1977: United States, 1977  
 (A. 91%, B. 79%, C. 76% and D. 91% PRFs Reporting and A. 96%, B. 96%, C. 96% and D. 97% CRFs Reporting)



### Previous Placement

Of the 204 PRFs reporting, 49% of the first admissions were from homes (natural, relative, or adoptive) and 20% were from institutions, i.e., another PRF. In contrast, 4,207 CRFs reported institutions to be the most frequent prior placement of new admissions and the home to be second with 35% and 32%, respectively. Foster/family care home was third with 14.7% in CRFs while in PRFs various 'other' categories was third.

### Released Placement

Placement in homes (natural, relative, or adoptive) was the most frequent living arrangement of 24% of the released residents in 163 PRFs reporting. Placement in smaller community facilities, e.g., group homes and halfway houses, follow with 19% of released placement from PRFs. Nursing home placement followed next with 18% and other institutions were fourth with 14% of the released population.

When we look at 2,110 CRF reporting released placement, the home (parents, relative, or adoptive) is first with 24%, institutional placement is second with 16%, independent living follows with 15%, and group home placement is fourth with 9%.

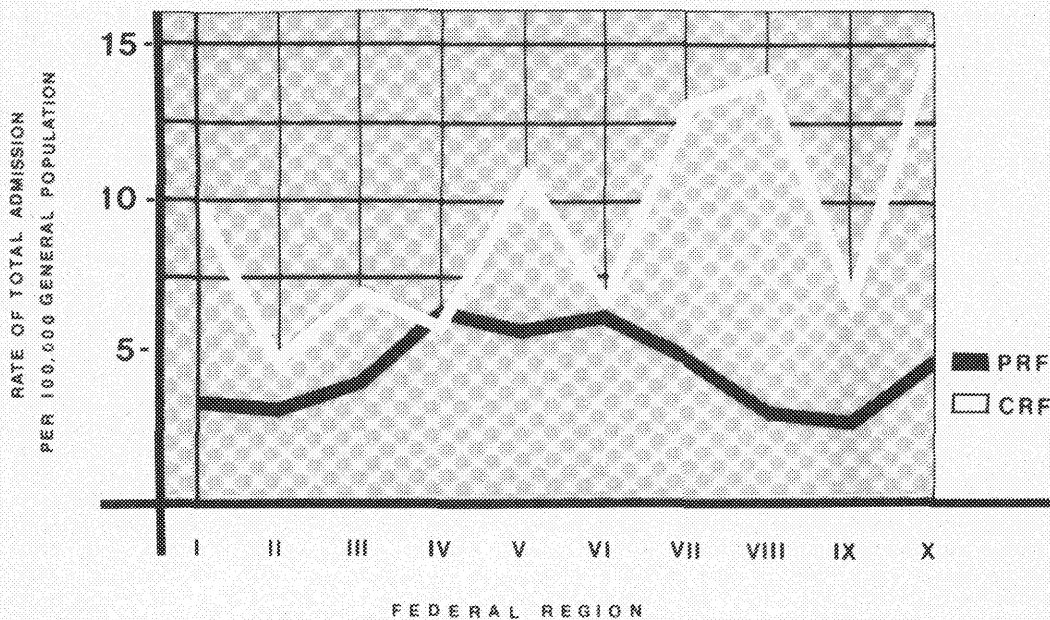
### Projected Placement for 1977-78

Superintendents of 198 institutions projected that 21,542 (19%) mentally retarded residents would be "ready to be placed" and 186 institutions projected that 10,467 (10%) "will be placed." Given that a total of 11,897 persons (9%) were released between July 1, 1976 — June 30, 1977, the above projected placements is quite close to the actual release rate of 9%.

# RESIDENT MOVEMENT BY FEDERAL REGION

Figure 10

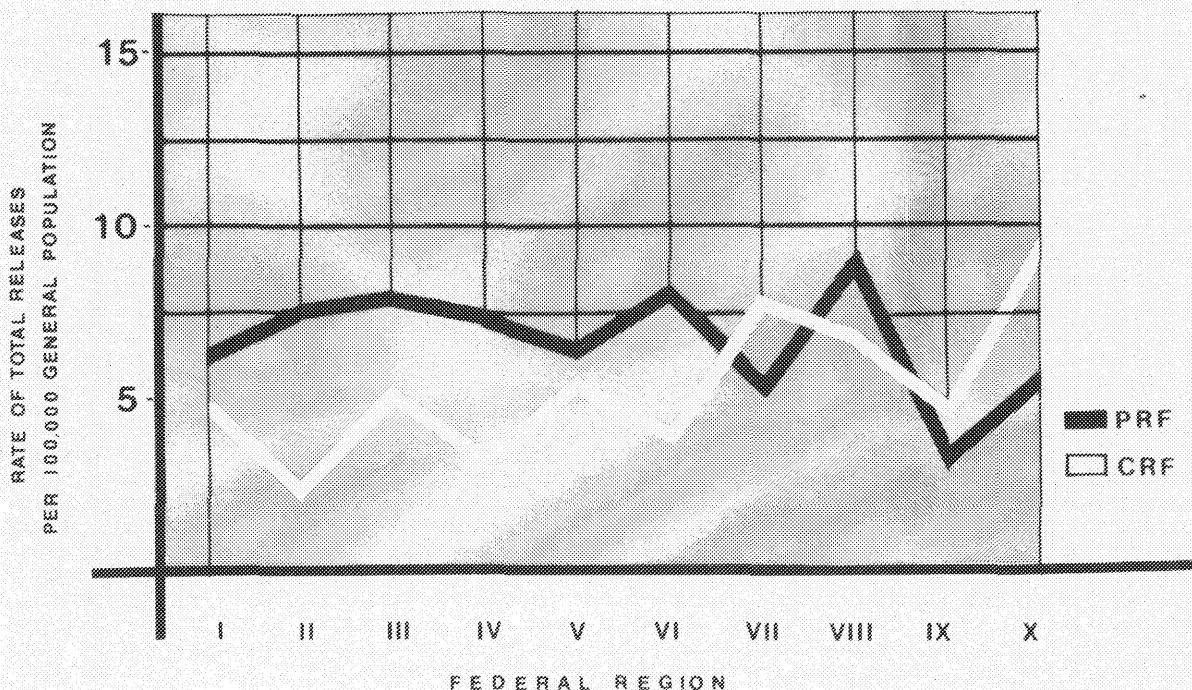
Admission Rates During July 1, 1976 – June 30, 1977 in PRFs and CRFs per 100,000 General Population for each Federal Region: United States, 1977 (92% PRFs and 96% CRFs Reporting)



In looking at admission rates (first and readmissions) per 100,000 general population we see in Figure 10 that all federal regions except for Region IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) placed more mentally retarded in community based settings proportionate to their general population than in PRF settings. In five regions, over twice as many retarded persons were placed in CRFs proportionate to their general population as were placed in PRFs.

Figure 11

Release Rates During July 1, 1976 – June 30, 1977 in PRFs and CRFs per 100,000 General Population for each Federal Region: United States, 1977 (76% PRFs and 96% CRFs Reporting)



As shown in Figure 11, the release rates (live releases and deaths) per 100,000 general population was greater in all regions for PRFs than CRFs except for Regions VII, IX, and X. In the other seven federal regions, institutions released more mentally retarded people proportionate to their general population than did community based settings.

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