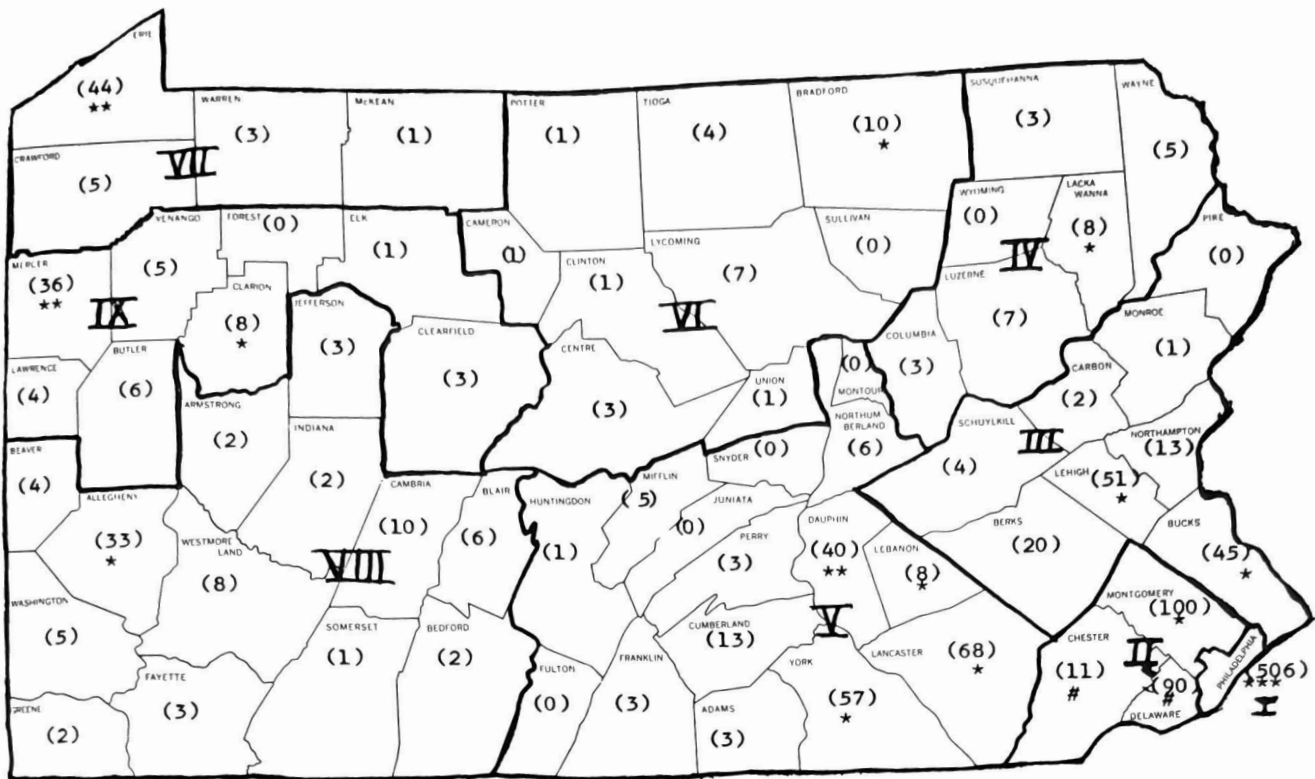


STATISTICAL SURVEY OF OSTEOPATHY IN PENNSYLVANIA

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In the following statistical survey no attempt is made to compare osteopathic medicine in Pennsylvania with that of other states, or with the allied profession. The intent is rather to record, as nearly correctly as possible, the status of osteopathic medicine in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as it exists today. Particular attention is given to the distribution of osteopathic



LEGEND:

() —Number of practicing osteopathic physicians in county.

* —Osteopathic Hospital

—Proposed Osteopathic Hospital (1961)

physicians, the osteopathic hospitals, and the educational facilities offered in the State of Pennsylvania. Since the material presented in the following review will, of necessity, vary from time to time, no responsibility for the complete accuracy can be assumed by the writer. The statistics presented herein are obtained from the following sources: the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Association; the American Osteopathic Association Yearbook and Directory for Osteopathic Physicians, 1959; the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association, January 1959; the Journal of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Association, Volume I, 1959; the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Journal, January and February, 1959; the Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1959, 15th Edition; and by direct communication with the various specialty colleges of the American Osteopathic Association.

The most recent census taken in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (January 1, 1956) was estimated at 10,963,355. This population is distributed through sixty-seven counties, with Philadelphia county supporting the largest concentration of residents (2,071,605) and Forest county showing the smallest number (4,944). To serve this population there are presently 1,301 osteopathic physicians practicing in all but eight geographic counties.

In twenty-eight of the remaining fifty-nine counties, there are less than five. The largest

concentration of osteopathic physicians (871—67%) is found in seven adjoining counties in the southeastern part of the state with a population of 3,869,804 (35%). For administrative and legislative purposes the state is arbitrarily divided into nine districts. Each such district is composed of from 1 to 15 counties (see Fig. 1).

Osteopathic Hospitals:

The nineteen osteopathic hospitals presently in operation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are distributed through fourteen separate counties. The adult bed capacity varies from four in the smallest hospital to two hundred and sixty-five in the largest. Two of the nineteen hospitals are of a specialty nature, the remaining seventeen being general. Seven of the general hospitals contemplate expansion of their facilities within the next two years, and two new hospitals are presently in the process of being constructed. The total number of adult beds presently available in all the osteopathic hospitals in the State of Pennsylvania is approximately 1103. Expansion of the seven hospitals will increase the bed capacity in osteopathic hospitals by 312, and the newly constructed hospitals will furnish an additional 200 beds. The total number of adult beds available to osteopathic physicians in the State of Pennsylvania is estimated as approximately 1,650 by the end of 1961.

Any attempt to accurately tabulate the percentage of practicing osteopathic physicians who

are accredited members of a hospital staff is somewhat difficult, since a number of doctors are active members of more than one hospital.

This pertains particularly in those areas where several institutions are situated relatively close together. However, it is estimated that of the 1,301 practicing osteopathic physicians in the State of Pennsylvania, less than 40% are active members of an osteopathic general or specialty hospital. Approximately 30% of those physicians who are directly affiliated with osteopathic hospitals are engaged either partially or entirely in specialty practices. Of these, 109 physicians are certified by the specialty boards of the American Osteopathic Association. The number of physicians who are presently engaged in training programs preparatory to certification, or the number of Board eligible physicians in the various specialties, cannot be estimated until such a time as all specialty training programs are standardized by the American Osteopathic Association.

Of the nineteen osteopathic hospitals presently in operation in the State of Pennsylvania, eleven are approved by the American Osteopathic Association for internship and/or residency training. Seventy approved internships and sixty-seven approved residencies, representing eleven specialties, are offered by these hospitals on a yearly basis.

Osteopathic Education:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can boast of one of the six approved osteopathic Colleges in the country. The Philadelphia College of Osteopathy is located in Philadelphia county and is associated with the largest general osteopathic hospital in the state. Of the 327 students enrolled in the College during the year 1958-1959, 70% were from the State of Pennsylvania. Clinical training for the undergraduate students in their clinical years of study is obtained in the College hospitals, and the other osteopathic institutions located nearby. Approximately 630 adult beds in three osteopathic hospitals in the area are available for this clinical study.

The post-graduate educational facilities have been steadily increasing in keeping with the hospital growth of the State. Several of the larger hospitals presently conduct periodic seminars of graduate study which are available to all osteopathic physicians in the State. The post-graduate courses are standardized and are designed for approval by the American Osteopathic Association for credit towards specialty training. A complete curriculum in post-graduate study is offered by the College and its hospitals continuously through the school year. The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Association presents a refresher course annually which is available to non-members and members of the Association. Various regional meetings of the specialty groups, as well as the District Societies, supplement the general field of post-graduate education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.