

mental illness hospitals or units for schizophrenia declined from approximately 70% (5,413) to 46% (3,871).

The proportion of all people with schizophrenia admitted to mental illness hospitals or units declined from about 21% to 16% over the same period (DOH 1988). Furthermore the proportion of people with an in-patient admission of less than 1 month increased from 9.6% in 1975 to 22% in 1981. The proportion of people with an in-patient admission of over 5 years declined from 4% in 1975 to 2.6% in 1981. The number of readmissions in 1971 was 26,245 compared to 24,571 in 1981. The majority of people with schizophrenia now live in their own homes or community based residential accommodation, using day care or out-patient services. Approximately 75% of people receive regular neuroleptic medication which represents 0.6% of the total economic cost of schizophrenia. Up to 75% of people with chronic schizophrenia are maintained in the community.

The development of adequate community care services and medicines that will enable patients to be maintained in the community is therefore a priority

if the economic burden of schizophrenia is to be reduced.

### References

- CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (1989) *Social Trends*, 19. London: HMSO.
- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (1988) *Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England*. London: HMSO.
- JOHNSTONE, E. C., CROW, T. J., JOHNSON, A. L. & MACMILLAN, J. F. (1986) The Northwick Park study of first episodes of schizophrenia. I. Presentation of the illness and problems relating to admission. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **148**, 115–120.
- PRUDO, R. & BLUM, H. M. (1987) Five year outcome and prognosis in schizophrenia. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **150**, 345–354.
- SARTORIUS, N., JABLENSKY, A., KORTEN, A., ERNBERG, G., ANKER, M., COOPER, J. E. & DAY, R. (1986) Early manifestations and first contact incidence of schizophrenia in different cultures: a preliminary report on the initial evaluation phase of the WHO collaborative study on determinants of outcome of severe mental disorders. *Psychological Medicine*, **16**, 909–928.

*A fuller list of references and data sources is available from the authors.*

---

## Reduced subscriptions

The *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* and the *International Review of Psycho-Analysis* are offering subscriptions at a reduced rate to members of organisations wishing to subscribe through their societies as block subscribers: £39 for *Journal*, £36 for *Review*,

£68 for combined subscription. The appropriate amount should be sent to Mrs Jean Wales at the College (cheque made payable to the Royal College of Psychiatrists) not later than 12 November 1990.