

dant. Far from it. People just aren't getting care. A bogus argument has been advanced that hospital stays have been replaced by outpatient treatment. In 1972, there were about 219 million outpatient visits in the United States; in the late 1980s, this was up over one-third, to 336 million visits. But, at the same time, the beds for all kinds of routine (e.g., childbirth) and specialty (e.g., orthopedic) needs are no longer there.

Over the 1980s alone, 761 hospitals were shut down across the country. Every week, some rural and inner-city area sees the downsizing, or outright shutdown of a hospital. What the national average beds ratio means on a local level, is that millions of Americans, especially in inner-city areas and rural counties, do not have adequate facilities for their medical needs, no matter whether they are insured or not.

**Figures 3 and 4** take two examples, Arizona and Pennsylvania. The statewide average of beds per thousand in Arizona is only 2.5 (as of 1992). This rate is among the lowest in the nation. The statewide average in Pennsylvania is 4.3.

Now look at the disparity of availability of beds shown by the county averages of beds per 1,000 population, for the 15 counties of Arizona, and the 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Arizona's population overall as of 1994, was only 4,075,088. In the two eastern mountainous counties of Greenlee (population 9,035) and Graham (28,876) there are, respectively, no beds, and 1.3 beds per 1,000. It is to be expected in a state nicknamed the "Grand Canyon State" that there are wilderness locations with neither people nor medical facilities. Yavapai County (the darkest tone) with 4.5-5 beds per 1,000, reflects the centralized location of certain medical centers. However, the statewide average ratio of 2.5 beds per 1,000 shows a serious lack of medical care provision in Arizona.

In Pennsylvania (population 12,052,410), forty-nine of the state's 67 counties fall below the desired ratio of 5 beds per 1,000 people, of which seven have no community beds at all (one county of which, to be sure, is the home of the Allegheny National Forest). The highest average bed ratios in the state are at the level of 8 per 1,000, in rural Bradford, Clinton, and Elk counties. (Montour County has 32 beds per 1,000, because Geisinger Medical Center serves a multi-county region, requiring long drive times.)

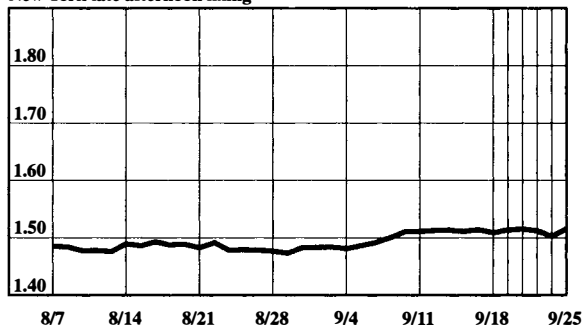
Pennsylvania's county beds ratios are worsening radically, as hospitals face the consequences of Governor Ridge's elimination of state medical assistance for 220,000 Pennsylvanians, which means the immediate lack of revenue for hospitals and medics in the state, that will downsize and shut down facilities.

**Figure 5** is a map of the 3,076 counties across the country, shaded differentially to reflect a measure of the adequacy of physician availability. The map was prepared by federal agencies, and released by Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.V.) in August 1994. Darker tones signify counties in which local officials reported a countywide health care inadequacy. Medium tones indicate counties with localized problems. The remaining counties did not report any problems.

## Currency Rates

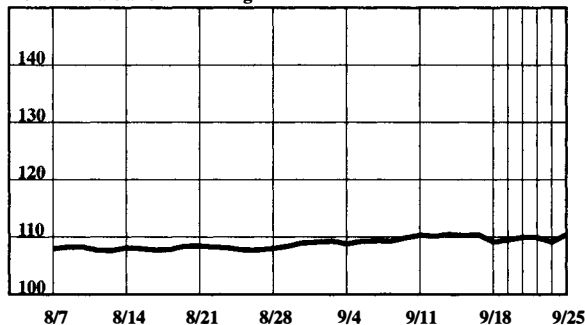
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



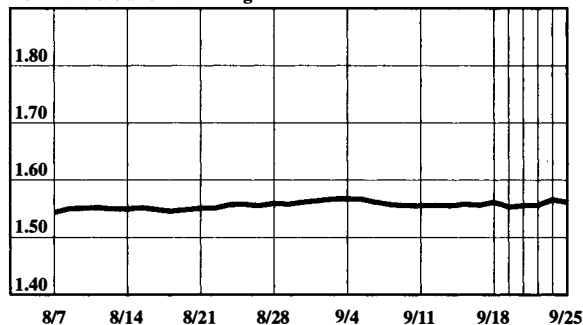
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

