



This paragraph on the net accomplishment of the federal Community Mental Health Centers program is taken from Gerald Grob's The Mad Among Us (1994), the best single volume history of mental health care in the United States.

The paragraph is based on data collected by NIMH and published in detail in Smith, C. (1984). Geographic Patterns of Funding for Community Mental Health Centers. Hospital and Community Psychiatry, 35, pp. 1133-40.

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Between 1966 and 1970, 274 centers were funded; in the succeeding decade an additional 480 were the beneficiaries of federal subsidies. By 1980 the total number of centers receiving grants was 754, a figure that fell far short of the original goal of 2,000. The program, however, did help to bring services to new areas. At the outset about a quarter of all centers funded were located in urban areas with populations of half a million or more. During the 1970s, however, cities with populations of 10,000 to 50,000 accounted for 40 percent of the total, and a large proportion were in more remote areas in the South and Southwest with large minority populations. Although the largest states received the most federal funds, the program was mildly redistributive in that poorer states and states with minimal mental health services received a proportionately larger share of the total allocation.²¹

FROM: Grob, G. (1994), The Mad Among Us. The Free Press: New York, p. 262