Circular No. 12 – Mental Health Records

For most of its history, Michigan has maintained institutions for the care and treatment of the mentally ill. These facilities, and their opening dates, are as follows: Michigan Asylum for the Insane at Kalamazoo, 1859; Eastern Michigan Asylum at Pontiac, 1878; Northern Michigan Asylum at Traverse City, 1885; Michigan Asylum for Insane Criminals at Ionia, 1885; Upper Peninsula Asylum for the Insane at Newberry, 1895; the Michigan Farm Colony for Epileptics at Caro, 1914; and Ypsilanti State Hospital, 1931. Because the records created by these institutions often relate to specific individuals, they are confidential to protect the right of privacy. These records cannot be viewed except by the individual patient or by way of a court order.

General

Record Group 87-32. Series 1. Index to mental health patients, 1930-1975. Includes name of individual, case number, institution or hospital where admitted, county from which committed, date of admission, date of discharge, and note if deceased. Microfilm reels 6263-6295. Arranged alphabetically.


Caro


Ionia


Record Group 77-3. Series 12. Index to patients, 1855-1910. Gives name of patient, from where received (court, other institution, etc.), date received, county of residence, date of sentence, and date term expires. Arranged alphabetically by name.
Record Group 78-3. Series 3. Admissions and discharges, 1885-1945. Contains name, date, case number, where received from, how committed, county of residence, period of commitment, date of discharge, result of treatment, and remarks. Arranged chronologically.

Record Group 78-3. Series 4. Patient registers, 1885-1944. Offers name, case number, age, gender, marital status, number of children, race, nativity, height, weight, body disorders or deformities, occupation, religion, crime, date of sentence and admission, term of sentence, number of convictions, form of disease, time in asylum, date of discharge, result of treatment, and remarks. Arranged chronologically.


Record Group 82-82. Series 1. Case files, ca. 1945-1968. Includes information similar to that listed above. This collection has been sampled, so the holdings are incomplete. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

**Kalamazoo**

Record Group 81-108. Series 23, Entry 85. Index to individuals, 1859-1911. Provides name, case number, gender, residence, date of admission and discharge, plus name and address of correspondent. Arranged alphabetically by first letter of last name.

Record Group 81-108. Series 43, Entry 82. Admission register, 1873-1880. Offers name, case number, age, residence, marital status, literacy, occupation, education, religion, family history, personal characteristics and appearance, previous attacks, names and addresses of doctors, plus identity of correspondent. Arranged chronologically, but name index within.


Record Group 81-108. Series 26, Entry 83. Patient histories, 1859-1891. Gives personal history of individuals from admittance to leaving, such as description of behavior, nature of appearance, type of medication, accidents suffered, and account of death. Arranged numerically.

**Lapeer**

Also know as Oakdale Regional Center.


Newberry

Record Group 78-96. Series 13. Register of patients, 1895-1910. Provides name, patient number, age, gender, marital status, nativity, occupation, religion, education, residence, how supported, type of disease, length of illness, dates admitted and discharged, plus remarks about elopement, death, transfer, recovery, and death by suicide. Arranged numerically.


Pontiac

See also Clinton Valley Center, Eastern Michigan Asylum, Fairlawn and Oakland Centers.


Record Group 78-112. Series 17. Patient case history records, 1878-1906. Includes patient information like age, gender, medical history, medical test results, treatment given, and progress made under care of institution’s staff. Arranged alphabetically by name.

Traverse City

Also known as Northern Michigan Asylum.

Record Group 76-78. Series 18. Patient record office files, 1885-1919. Apparently compiled by ward attendants, these records show notes on patient admissions and discharges, illnesses and deaths, visitors, and recreational activities. These data are fragmentary and un-indexed. Arranged chronologically.


Ypsilanti


* Core facility.

* Also see Riverside Center and Michigan Institute for Mental Health.