

quantitative analysis relates quite closely with the socioeconomic characteristics described earlier. The two most important demographic factors to consider are:

- **Total population size:** Healthcare resources are used by virtually everyone, so while the particular type of services used will vary depending on the characteristics of the population, all other things being equal, larger populations will require more healthcare services.
- **Population by age:** Healthcare utilization varies by age, with the younger (less than 5 years old) and older (over 65 years old) using more healthcare services; the type of services used will also vary by age. Healthcare planners need an understanding of the age distribution of the population to identify future healthcare needs.

In addition to analyzing past and current demographic data, it is especially important to develop forecasts of future population levels. Approaches to complete such forecasts are presented in Chapter 6.

EXERCISES

- 15-1 Using the following data set on hospital admissions, define the service area for Hospital A, based only on quantitative factors (Table 15-5).
- 15-2 Compute the target bed capacity of Cheswick Community Hospital 10 years from now, based on the following information:

Assume current population of Cheswick Community Hospital's service area = 145,000

Assume projected population increase of 8% in service area over the next 10 years.

Table 15-5 Hospital Admissions, by Community

<i>Community</i>	<i>Hospital A</i>	<i>Hospital B</i>	<i>Hospital C</i>	<i>Other Hospitals</i>
North	45	64	76	123
South	159	324	12	521
East	65	24	137	311
West	145	68	95	113
Central	32	56	78	159
Upper	29	84	45	814
Lower	37	14	8	57