

## **StraightFacts: Setting the Record Straight — Part I** **The Truth About Changes at Laguna Honda Hospital**

### ***Rebuttal: People Over Age 70 Aren't Getting Admitted to LHH***

ON JANUARY 16, 2005, LAGUNA HONDA'S NEW EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR issued a *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document to neighborhood community organizations responding to public concerns and LHH's neighbors.

That FAQ stated "The numbers do not suggest that the elderly are being systematically denied admission to LHH. **In fact, admissions to LHH of those older than 70 years have stayed the same** [emphasis in original]."

That FAQ used *FastFacts*, rather than *StraightFacts*, because it used a graphic that compared a single month (December) in 2003 to the same month in 2004, skewing the results. The FAQ also stated that "The quantitative evidence thus far does not indicate a marked change in services to the elderly."

The Department of Public Health, in response to a public records request, released 24 months of data for all of 2003 and 2004. It clearly shows that those over age 70 have seen a 22.5 percent reduction (in raw numbers) in fewer admissions to LHH between 2003 and 2004. Because they can't even get into LHH, they are systematically receiving a statistically significant service reduction. ***Elderly women are being displaced by younger men.*** The "quantitative evidence" below speaks *StraightFacts* for itself, clearly showing a reduction in service to the elderly.

Gender	2003		2004		Absolute Change
	n =	% Mix of Total	n =	% Mix of Total	
Male	309	55.0%	366	61.50%	18.4%
Female	252	45.0%	229	38.50%	-9.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Age Group	2003		2004		Absolute Change
	n =	% Mix of Total	n =	% Mix of Total	
Under 30	7	1.2%	15	2.5%	114.3%
30-39	25	4.5%	44	7.4%	76.0%
Subtotal	32	5.7%	59	9.9%	84.4%
40-49	74	13.2%	111	18.7%	50.0%
50-59	104	18.5%	145	24.4%	39.4%
Subtotal	178	31.7%	256	43.0%	43.8%
60-64	67	11.9%	47	7.9%	-29.9%
65-69	48	8.6%	50	8.4%	4.2%
Subtotal	115	20.5%	97	16.3%	-15.7%
70-79	104	18.5%	75	12.6%	-27.9%
80-89	92	16.4%	85	14.3%	-7.6%
Above 90	40	7.1%	23	3.9%	-42.5%
Subtotal	236	42.1%	183	30.8%	-22.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

#### **Age Group Summary:**

Under Age 40	32	5.7%	59	9.9%	84.4%
Under Age 50	106	18.9%	170	28.6%	60.4%
Under Age 65	277	49.4%	362	60.8%	30.7%
70 and Over	236	42.1%	183	30.8%	-22.5%

**Source:** Analysis of New Admissions to LHH by Gender and Age, Department of Public Health data supplied February 11, 2005 in response to a public records request under the Sunshine Ordinance.

**San Francisco's Elderly — Particularly  
Elderly Women — Are Being Differentially  
Displaced From Admission to LHH.**

A Complete Rebuttal to the LHH FAQ Will Be Posted to:  
[www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com)

