

Amenities at Healthy Volunteer Clinical Research Facilities

By Norman M. Goldfarb

Some in-patient clinical research facilities conduct Phase I and other pharmacokinetics and toxicity studies of experimental drugs in healthy volunteers. Because study subjects risk their health — and potentially life — without expectation of health benefit, stipends are generally much larger than in Phase II-IV studies. In addition, these facilities offer various amenities to keep the subjects entertained and in touch with the outside world.

The website "Just Another Lab Rat!" (www.jalr.org) caters to the professional study subject community. It provides information about 41 U.S. facilities, including amenity profiles for 38 of them. The website's selection of facilities might not accurately represent the entire population of facilities and the author has not verified the amenity profiles; however, the data provides a view into the world of healthy volunteer clinical research facilities. The data below has not been analyzed for location, ownership, specialty, size or type of facility, e.g., hospital or stand-alone operation.

The 38 facilities offer a wide variation in the number and assortment of amenities. The number of amenities in each facility ranges from 3 to 17 (out of 20, with some overlap), with a mean of 9.3 and a median of 10.0. Figure 1 shows the number of amenities by facility. Table 1 shows the frequency of amenity occurrence. Table 2 shows the distribution of amenities across facilities.

Figure 1. Number of Amenities by Facility

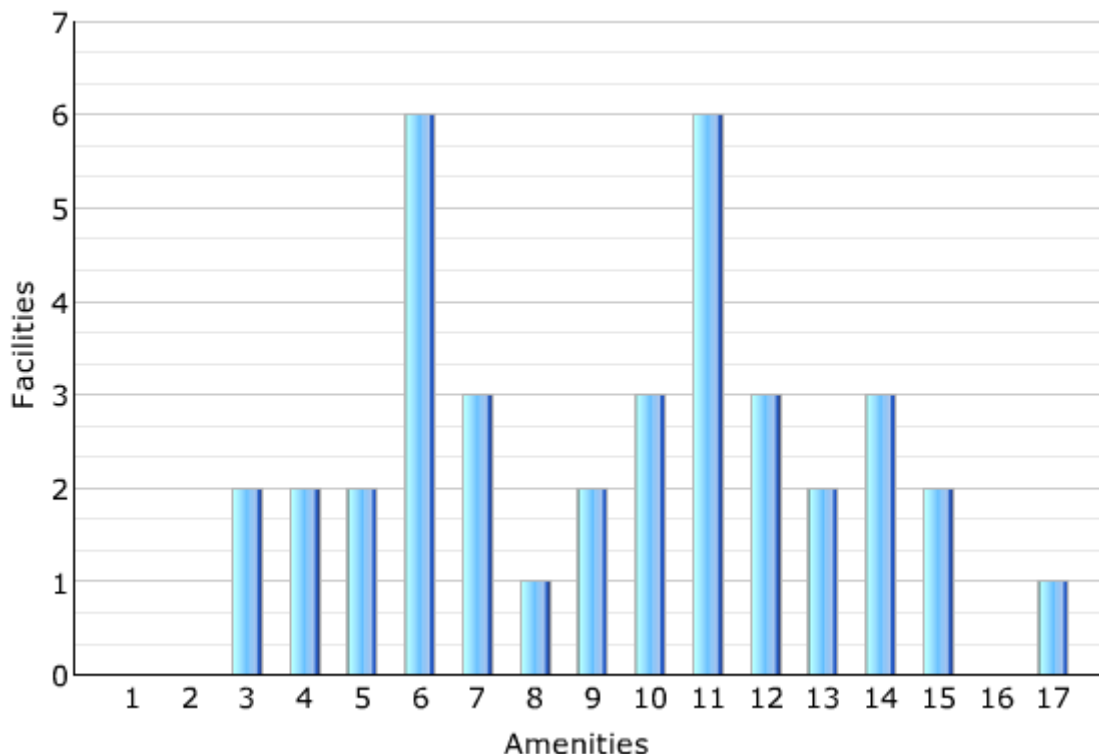


Table 1. Frequency of Amenity Occurrence

Amenity		Occurrence
Television	Big Screen TV	35
	In-Room TV	14
	Private Bedside TV	3
	Cable	23
	Satellite	11
	DVD Player	31
	Movie Library	23
Internet Access	WIFI	26
	LAN	6
	Public Computers with Internet	23
Games & Activities	Video Games	19
	Board Games	28
	Pool Table	22
	Ping Pong	4
	Foos Ball	8
	Darts	1
	Activities like Crafts or Bingo	8
Rooms	Quiet Room	14
	Computer Room	18
	Rec Room	15
	TV Room	22

Table 2. Amenities by Facility

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Author

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