

Willowbrook Less Crowded

Albany, Sept. 13 (News Bureau) — For the first time in 14 years the population of the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island has dropped below 5,000, the state reported yesterday. There were 4,977 patients in the institution.

Since scandals of over crowding and maltreatment of patients rocked the school, the State Department of Mental Hygiene has been transferring patients to relieve over crowding and hiring hundreds of new staff members.

Dr. Frederic Grunberg, deputy commissioner for mental retardation and children's services, said the death rate was 40% below last year.

"Although the decline in resident population and in deaths indicate we are making progress, we still have a long way to go to reach the goals set for Willowbrook," Grunberg said.