

David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., Director
1600 9th Street, Room 433
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 654-1606
Fax (916) 653-1448
www.oshpd.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2006

Contact: Teresa Smanio
(916) 654-2231

OSHPD HIGHLIGHTS PREVENTABLE HOSPITALIZATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO – Preventable hospital admissions for pediatric conditions have decreased by up to 22% in recent years while admissions for diabetes related conditions have increased by 8%, according to a report released today by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

The falling admission rates for such pediatric conditions as asthma and gastroenteritis by 18% and 22%; respectively; is a noteworthy achievement. These findings appear to support the contention that increased enrollment in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families during these years has improved pediatric care in California. A recent UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study shows the number of uninsured children in California fell from 1.5 million in 2001 to 1.1 million in 2003. Conversely, the findings on asthma and diabetes recognize an increasing prevalence of the conditions in the general population.

The just-released report, "Preventable Hospitalizations in California: Statewide and County Trends (1997-2003)," provides state and county level admission rates for 15 health conditions over a seven-year period for all 58 California counties. These are serious conditions but potentially preventable admissions known as "ambulatory care sensitive conditions" (ACSCs) because their occurrence is "sensitive" to treatment received in the outpatient care setting. Avoiding or reducing such admissions should result in reduced healthcare costs as well as reduced morbidity and suffering for patients with these diseases.

"Preventable hospitalizations place an unnecessary burden on the healthcare system, its patients and their families," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "This report is concerned with better understanding these conditions and ultimately reducing their occurrence."

OSHPD's healthcare data programs have become increasingly important sources of information for providers, purchasers, insurers, managed care organizations, consumers, and for government healthcare delivery, purchasing, licensing and public health programs.

OSHPD's mission is accessible healthcare for all Californians. The report, "Preventable Hospitalizations in California Statewide and County Trends" is available online at www.oshpd.ca.gov



