

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

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CONTACT: Teresa Smanio
(916) 654-3004

CALIFORNIA'S HEALTH CARE RESOURCES PROFILED

SACRAMENTO – California's overall rate of asthma sufferers per 1,000 individuals has decreased by nearly 11 percent since 2000, and for persons 44 years of age and younger, asthma hospitalizations have decreased by nearly 23 percent, according to a new report released today by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

The second edition of "[California Perspectives in Healthcare](#)" offers consumers county and statewide demographics and information on health care resources. In addition, it reports trends on births/deliveries, selected conditions and procedures and injuries affecting the state's residents. The report, which covers the years 2000 to 2004, contains data for all of California's 58 counties. The report provides easy-to-read graphics, colorful charts and accurate information about health care costs and services in straightforward language.

"Californians must be active participants in health care decisions to ensure their needs are met – both individually and as members of the larger community," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "California Perspectives in Healthcare' provides some basic facts that will assist Californians in making intelligent decisions about their health care."

The report also showed that adverse effects of medications and accidental falls topped the list of injuries treated at California hospitals. Patients over age 60 represented a majority of those hospitalized for accidental falls (69.6 percent) and for those hospitalized with adverse effects of medications (64.6 percent).

OSHPD's health care data programs are increasingly being utilized as important resources in providing information to health care providers, purchasers, insurers and consumers and in the delivery of governmental health care. This data can help consumers make informed choices of health care providers, plans and treatments; assist health care providers improve their quality of care; help purchasers determine the best value; and enhance the efforts of health care professionals and researchers to advance evidence-based medicine.

OSHPD's vision is, "Equitable healthcare accessibility for California." The report is available online at www.oshpd.ca.gov.

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