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**PRESS RELEASE****June 6, 2011****CONTACT: David Byrnes****(916) 326-3606****STATE REPORTS HIGHLIGHT TRENDS IN CARDIAC CARE**

Heart Attack Mortality Rates Decreasing, Hospitalizations Increasing,  
Heart Bypass Surgery and Stent Use Decreasing

**SACRAMENTO** – The number of heart attacks reported in California increased by 15 percent, while the percentage that required hospitalization decreased by the same amount according to a pair of related research briefs released today by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

“Acute heart attacks have been a leading cause of death in the United States and in California for decades,” said OSHPD Research Scientist Mary Tran. “Although overall mortality rates have recently decreased, certain age or ethnic groups are still seeing an increase in hospitalization or death due to heart attacks.”

“Trends in Cardiac Care in California, 1988-2008,” Part 1 and Part 2 compares twenty-year trends in hospitalization for acute heart attacks, examines the use of hospital-based treatments for coronary artery disease, and reports on the number of licensed cardiac care facilities and physicians who are board certified for cardiac care.

Improvement in the heart attack hospitalization rate has been uneven. While rates for whites declined, they increased for the other racial and ethnic groups. Middle aged adults saw a modest increase in hospitalization, while the elderly saw a sharp increase.

During these same years the percent of heart attack cases coming to a hospital with other serious conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure doubled, from about 20 percent to 40 percent. These percentages were highest in the same population groups that had the fastest rising heart attack hospitalization rates, suggesting a link between the conditions and heart attack risk.

Survival for hospitalized heart attack patients overall has improved, with in-hospital deaths decreasing from 15 percent in 1988 to 13 percent in 2008. Looking at specific age groups however, this improvement is seen only in patients in their 60s and older, as the risk of dying in the hospital actually rose for those in their 50s and younger. This may reflect the rising percentage of younger patients with serious risk factors for heart attack.



As one of thirteen departments within California's Health and Human Services Agency, OSHPD is committed to "Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California." OSHPD analyzes and supports the state's health care infrastructure, promoting medical care transparency for Californians. OSHPD also supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures safety of buildings used to provide health care, insures loans to develop health care facilities, and facilitates development of a sustained capacity for communities to address their health care concerns.

"Trends in Cardiac Care in California, 1988-2008" can be accessed at [www.oshpd.ca.gov](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov).