

## **DATA LIMITATIONS** (Listed Alphabetically)

The data used to generate this report were limited by the following:

1. **Adult Health Insurance Coverage:** All adults were 19 years and older.
2. **Asthma Hospitalizations:** Asthma was included if the primary discharge diagnosis was asthma. These data do not include Federal and Department of Mental Health hospitals, and do not reflect the true prevalence of this disease.
3. **Child Abuse/Neglect:** The number/rate of cases were impacted by the State of California legislated change in definition of categories of child abuse and neglect case dispositions implemented in late 1999 and system-wide training to clarify all category definitions.
4. **Domestic Violence:** Rates have been rounded and do not include reports with invalid zip codes (approximately 5% of reports).
5. **Geographic Rates:** As discussed previously, population data used as the denominators for rates by geographic location were based on census tracts and aggregated to zip code areas, since communicable disease and death data were primarily reported by zip code of residence. For calculation of rates, the zip code was used to obtain both the numerator and the denominator from the same population. In certain areas, no approximations could be made. Regional specifications could not be identified for some cases due to unknown or unavailable zip code data. Readers of this document should acknowledge that geographic variables may change and that this may contribute to changes in cases by regions over time.
6. **Incomplete Information:** Some case reports lacked complete information (e.g., race/ethnicity, address). Thus, total cases in stratified tables and figures may be fewer than total overall county cases.
7. **Infant Mortality, Low Birth Weight, Prenatal Care, and Teen Births:** Unknown prenatal care and birth weight were not subtracted from total births in calculation of their respective percentages. Totals for age groups and HHSA regions were less than the County total due to events in which age or region could not be determined. Rates were not age-adjusted.
8. **Overweight:** Percentages were not calculated for cells with numbers less than 100. Data were from a variety of programs for low-income children.
9. **Youth Suicide, Substance Abuse, Sexual Behavior, and Binge Drinking:** The prevalence estimates by selected characteristics were not reported when numbers of observations were <25 in 1991; <50 in 1993; and <100 in 1995, 1997, and 1999 surveys.