

PURPOSE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MORBIDITY REPORT

The annual report of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Disease Control Programs is compiled for the following purposes:

1. To summarize annual communicable disease morbidity in Los Angeles County.
2. To assess the effectiveness of established communicable disease control programs.
3. To identify patterns of disease as an aid in directing future disease prevention efforts.
4. To identify inadequacies in the data used for the above purposes and to identify means of improving the data.

The annual report serves as a communicable disease morbidity resource for medical and public health authorities at county, state, and national levels. County employees, students, the media, and the general public also will find the report useful and informative. A separate ACDC document entitled "Special Reports, ACDC, 1997," summarizes some of the most interesting or unusual investigations for the year. The following topics are included:

- A Cluster of Legionellosis of Unknown Origin
- Cyclosporiasis Associated with Imported Raspberries
- Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* outbreak in a Mexican Restaurant
- Epidemiology of Invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Disease, 1996 -1997
- Evaluation of the Foodborne Illness Surveillance System in LAC, 1996 - 1997
- Haff's Disease - a Rare Fishborne Intoxication
- Hepatitis A Threat from Imported Strawberries
- Intentional Intoxication of Party Goers at a "Rave" party
- Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella saphra* Associated with Cantaloupes
- Nosocomial Rubella in an Institution for the Developmentally Delayed
- *Salmonella enteritidis* - Summary of Outbreaks
- Summertime Influenza Outbreak in a Skilled Nursing Facility
- Widespread Scabies Outbreaks in Acute Care Hospitals

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population figures used for calculating the 1997 disease rates in this report were derived from 1997 population estimation of the Regional Population Model (RPM) file developed by the County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Urban Research Section for the Population Estimation and Projection System Consortium. These population estimates were projected from 1990 MARS file (Modified Age, Race, and Sex) produced by the US Census Bureau and modified by local death rates, migration rates, and fertility rates within age, sex and racial/ethnic groups. Live birth data used were based on 1997 preliminary birth data from the Automatic Vital Statistics System (AVSS) obtained from the Los Angeles County Data Collection and Analysis Unit.

Long Beach and Pasadena maintain their own disease reporting systems; therefore, disease episodes occurring among residents of these two cities have been excluded from county morbidity data, and their populations have been subtracted from county population data. Exceptions to this rule are noted in the text when they occur.