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# Rates

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## Why Are Rates Used in the Community Health Assessment?

Rates were used in this Community Health Assessment to help measure and assess the state of health and well-being in Sutter County. Rates are important for comparisons among different populations or groups. Rates help us measure the frequency or how quickly a disease is occurring within a specific population over a period of time and help to measure the pattern and risk of the disease continuing to occur. This information can be used to compare disease and disease risk factor rates among different groups in our community and see how Sutter County's health compares both in California and nationwide.

**Incidence Rate:** This is defined as the number of new cases (incidence) of a disease over a specific period. The numerators are the number of new cases in the racial/ethnic groups during the period. The denominators are the total number of Sutter County residents who identify as a particular racial/ethnic group. The result is multiplied by 100,000 to help understand the impact of the disease.

To ensure data stability and create the most accurate picture of the state of health in Sutter County, rates were calculated using data and the incidence of new disease cases pooled together over a period of 5 years. More information about rates and how they are used to help understand health outcomes can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Principles of Epidemiology website at <https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson3/section1.html>.