

SUBJECT: DATA AVAILABILITY FOR CULTURAL COMPETENCE PLAN  
UPDATE

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ETHNIC SERVICES COORDINATORS

This is to inform you of the availability of data for use in developing the Population Assessment portion of the Cultural Competence Plan. The data is available on the Department of Mental Health's Information Technology Web Services (ITWS). At least one person in each county has access to the Department's ITWS. This person is usually located in the county's Information Technology section.

The data currently available on the ITWS is for January 2002 Medi-Cal eligibles and FY 2001-02 Medi-Cal clients. There are 5 sheets, including a README sheet and a DEFINITIONS sheet. The README sheet has instructions for using the pivot table feature of Excel to develop cross-tabulations of the data. These files are fairly large.

The data that was previously made available on the ITWS in November 2002 was taken off in April 2003 due to an error that was discovered in the reporting process. The error affected the count of Hispanics and Asians for those persons whose eligibility for Medi-Cal is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Because the reporting system will not yield corrected data until December 2003, the only race categories available on the current data for the SSA population is White, Black, and Other/Unknown. More detail in race is still available for those eligibles and clients whose eligibility is not administered by the SSA.

If you need assistance with any of these tables, please contact Terry MacRae in Statistics and Data Analysis, at (916) 653-3530 or at [TmacRae@dmhhq.state.ca.us](mailto:TmacRae@dmhhq.state.ca.us).