

FISCAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION
TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, COUNTY COMMISSIONS
DATE: May 22, 2002
SUBJECT: BIRTH RATE DATA

Since the beginning of the California Children & Families Commission (CCFC) and the inception of the process to distribute tax revenue to counties, CCFC has used the most recent data published by the California Department of Health Services (DHS). However, because there is a significant time lag between the end of the calendar year used for data collection and its approval by DHS, counties have asked that an attempt be made to use more current data. This issue was discussed with the Fiscal Working Group of the California Children & Families Association and the following policy has been agreed upon.

In the future, the birth rate data available on the DHS website on July 1st will be used for the entire year. If more recent data becomes available during the fiscal year, the birth rate in use will not be changed until the following July 1st. For example, the latest data currently on the website is for 2000. If that is the data available on July 1st, it will be used for all of FY02/03, even if 2001 data becomes available in September. However, if 2001 data is available on the website on July 1st, it will be used. We believe this policy will not only provide the most current data, but also offer a sound basis for county revenue planning.