**Massachusetts Births Caveats**

1. **Resident Births:** All data presented are resident data unless otherwise stated. Resident data include all events that occur to residents of the Commonwealth, including resident births that occur in other U.S. States and territories.
2. **Race and Ethnicity:** Massachusetts introduced a new electronic birth registration system beginning in 2011 that allows respondents to select multiple race categories. When creating the categorical race variable provided for PHIT, it was therefore necessary to “bridge” the responses of those who reported more than one race to a single-race. The method used to bridge responses for those who report more than one race to a single race is based on a procedure whereby multiple races are assigned to the smallest minority group first (i.e. Asian and White becomes Asian or Black and Native American becomes Native American). Trend data on minority groups such as Native Americans, Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians may not be comparable as these groups will show increases in the number of births solely related to the methods used for re-classification of multiple races into single race categories. **Please use caution in interpreting these numbers.**
3. **Adjusted Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index.** Since 2011, there have been reporting issues for the number of prenatal visits in four hospitals: Metro West (2011-2012 only), Newton Wellesley Hospital, Saint Vincent Hospital, and Winchester Hospital. Adjusted Prenatal Care Utilization Index (APCUI) presents adequate prenatal care without these three hospitals since their data are considered to be unreliable.
4. **Self-Report.** Some variables come from the parents’ worksheet (eg. smoking, and dental cleaning). These variables are not independently verified and should be interpreted with caution.

**Massachusetts Deaths Caveats**

1. There are well-known difficulties in calculating accurate mortality rates for Massachusetts’ smaller populations such as Asians, Native Americans and Hispanics—please use caution when interpreting these numbers.
2. **International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10):** Since 1999, the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases has been used to code mortality data. Because of coding changes between the Ninth and Tenth revision, caution should be used when comparing data coded under ICD-9 and ICD-10.
3. Counts or measures for specific causes of death generated by PHIT may not match statistics provided in other DPH publications, such as the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics’ Death Report or reports created on MassCHIP, due to slight variations in the ICD-10 codes used to categorize causes of death.