

California Indian Health 'Worse'

A study by the California State Department of Public Health found that Indians are its fastest growing minority group and that their health is "measurably worse" than that of other residents.

The state's findings were that Indian children can look forward to short and unhealthy lives. Among the findings contained in a report:

—Their mothers had inadequate prenatal care. About 29 per cent of Indian mothers had either no prenatal care or care only in the final three months of

pregnancy.

—There is a much greater likelihood of accidental death among Indians. Accidents account for 23 per cent of Indian deaths compared with 7 per cent for the whole population.

—The average age of all Californians at death is 62 years. For Indians, it is 42 years.

—A survey of 100 Indians on three reservations found that sources of vitamin C were "virtually nonexistent in their diets."