

The expression "reproductive and perinatal health" refers in this chapter to a variety of health and sociodemographic characteristics of women who became pregnant, factors related to the course of their pregnancies and the status of pregnancy outcomes. In this report, pregnancies are measured as the sum of three components: **live births**, **spontaneous terminations of pregnancy** (stillbirths) and **induced terminations of pregnancy** (or abortions).

**1A.  
PREGNANCIES BY PREGNANCY  
OUTCOME, ETHNICITY AND  
AGE GROUP**

#### TOTAL PREGNANCIES

There were 95,268 pregnancies in Arizona in 2000 compared to 91,761 in 1999, an increase of 3.8 percent. The increase in the number of pregnancies was entirely due to a 5.6 percent rise in the number of live births from 80,505 in 1999 to 84,985 in 2000. In contrast, the number of reported abortions decreased for the second consecutive year from 14,606 in 1998 to 10,656 in 1999 and 9,631 in 2000. Since the number of females of childbearing age (15-44 years old) was up 3.7 percent (almost identical with the percent increase in the number of pregnancies), the 2000 pregnancy rate of 87.8 pregnancies per 1,000 females of childbearing age differed very little from the rate of 87.7/1,000 in 1999 (**Figure 1A-1, Table 1A-1**).

#### PREGNANCY OUTCOMES BY ETHNIC GROUP

Among the pregnancies in 2000, 84,985 or 89.2 percent resulted in a live birth, 9,631 or 10.1 percent in an abortion and 652 or 0.7 percent in a fetal death. Among American Indian female residents of Arizona, 94.9

percent of pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 4.3 percent were induced terminations of pregnancy. Black and White non-Hispanic females had lower percentages of pregnancies resulting in a live birth, 83.0 and 88.8 percent, respectively. Among Hispanic females, 91.2 percent of pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 8.0 percent were induced terminations of pregnancy (**Table 1A-1, Table 1A-6**).

#### PREGNANCY RATES BY ETHNIC GROUP

Among White non-Hispanic females, the 2000 pregnancy rate was 69.6/1,000. The pregnancy rate for Hispanic female residents of Arizona was 112.6/1,000 or 62 percent greater than the rate for White non-Hispanics (**Figure 1A-2, Table 1A-1**). American Indian females had the second highest rate among ethnic groups (97.2), followed by Arizona's Black females (83.3). Approximately one in every fourteen White non-Hispanic females ages 15-44 became pregnant in 2000 compared to one in every eight Hispanic females.

#### TRENDS IN TEEN PREGNANCIES<sup>1</sup>

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2000 was 79.1 pregnancies per 1,000 females (**Figure 1A-3**), 7.7 percent lower than in 1999 and 22.4 percent lower than in 1994 when it reached the decade's peak of 102.0/1,000. The pregnancy rate for younger teenagers 15-17 years also reached a record low in 2000, dropping to 48.1/1,000, down 6.6 percent from 1999, and 26.5 percent from 1994.

<sup>1</sup> The numbers and rates of Arizona's teen births and pregnancies for 1997-1999 were revised in May 2001 and differ from those previously published. A detailed re-examination is available online at:

<http://www.hs.state.az.us/plan/2ktbap.htm>

The pregnancy rate for older teenagers declined even more steeply in 2000 to 123.6/1,000, down 6.8 percent from 1999, and 16.3 percent from the rate of 147.7/1,000 in 1990 (**Figure 1A-3**).

**Trends in the number of pregnancies to teenage women do not always parallel the pregnancy rate.** The pregnancy rate measures the proportion of teenagers becoming pregnant in a given year; the relative "risk for pregnancy" in a population "at risk". The number of pregnancies is, however, also determined by the size of the population "at risk": by the number of teenage females in the population. While the teen pregnancy rate has fallen in Arizona, **the drop in the rate has not been enough to offset the growth in the female teenage population.** The declining teenage pregnancy rate has not been accompanied by a similar decrease in the number of pregnancies (**Table 1A-5**). In fact, the number of 14,287 teen pregnancies in Arizona in 2000 was the highest number ever recorded in the State.

From 1990 to 2000, the number of females 19 or younger in Arizona increased by 42.9 percent, from 252,855 in 1990 to 361,261 in 2000. The increase of 11.9 percent in the number of pregnancies to females 19 or younger over the same period was substantially smaller. The pregnancy rate, which relates the number of pregnancies to the number of females "at risk" fell from 50.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females 19 or younger in 1990 to 39.5/1,000 in 2000 (**Table 1A-5**). Compared to 1990, there were no fewer teen pregnancies in the year 2000, but fewer pregnancies per 1,000 teenage females.

#### **TEEN PREGNANCY RATES BY ETHNIC GROUP**

The pregnancy rates of Hispanic, Black, and American Indian teenagers exceeded the corresponding rates of Asian and White non-Hispanic females in every age group in 2000. Hispanic teenage females continued to

have the highest age-specific pregnancy rates among all ethnic groups, followed by Blacks, American Indians, White non-Hispanics and Asians. Among girls aged 14 and younger, the 2000 pregnancy rate was 3.9 times greater for Hispanics (2.7) than White non-Hispanics (0.7, **Figure 1A-4, Table 1A-6**). Among females 15-19 years old, the Hispanic to White non-Hispanic differential in pregnancy rates was 2.5 times (123.0 vs. 49.9, **Figure 1A-5**) in 2000.

Between 1980 and 2000, pregnancy rates declined for all age, race, and Hispanic origin populations (**Figure 1A-6**), with the steepest decline recorded for White non-Hispanic teens. In contrast, Hispanic females aged 19 and younger were the only group for whom the 2000 pregnancy rate of 60.6/1,000 slightly exceeded the 1980 rate of 59.1/1,000.

Hispanics, who accounted for 32.8 percent of all females 19 or younger in Arizona in 2000, made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (50.5 percent) and live births (53.7 percent). In contrast, White non-Hispanic females who accounted for 52.8 percent of all teens in Arizona had a much lower proportional representation among teen pregnancies (33.7 percent) and live births (30.8 percent, **Figure 1A-7**).

In 2000, the pregnancy rate of 48.1 per 1,000 adolescent girls 15-17 years old in Arizona was 6.9 percent greater than the *Arizona 2000*<sup>2</sup> objective of 45.0/1,000 (**Figure 1A-8, Table 1A-3**). The 2000 pregnancy rates among Asian and White non-Hispanic females ages 15-17 were at least 48 percent lower than the objective. In contrast the 2000 pregnancy rate among Hispanic females 15-17 years old exceeded the target rate by 75 percent.

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<sup>2</sup>*Arizona 2000: Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow*. Phoenix: Arizona Department of Health Services. November 1993