

# INTRODUCTION

This publication by the Arizona Department of Health Services, **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2000**, is the 18<sup>th</sup> annual update of information on the health status of Arizona residents and vital statistics. It provides population-wide data on pregnancies, births, abortions, stillbirths, reportable diseases, deaths, marriages, divorces and population of the state. The year 2000 report consists of 228 tables, 69 graphs, 49 thematic maps and accompanying text. It highlights both the statewide trends and patterns in the general population, as well as inequalities in the health status among ethnic groups and Arizona's counties. The data for 2000 are placed in a temporal context by comparison with the data for the preceding years.

The *Index to Tables* in this report contains approximately 400 entries referring to specific health conditions, risk factors, diseases and causes of death.

The information in this volume consists of frequencies and rates of vital events for the State's residents (except as noted).

Since 1992, the report has been organized into three major parts, reflecting differences in geographic coverage:

*Part I is concerned with statewide statistics,*

*Part II presents county-level information,*

*Part III is focused on community-level data.*

Each part is further divided into sections on reproductive and perinatal health, mortality and the status on year 2000 health objectives.

Not all health statistics are available on a sub-county level. Hence, information about pregnancies, stillbirths, induced

terminations of pregnancy (abortions), reportable diseases, marriages and marriage dissolutions are given only for the State and by county.

Part I, **THE STATE**, of the report has four chapters. The first chapter deals with *reproductive and perinatal health*, i.e., characteristics of women who became pregnant, factors related to the course of their pregnancies and the status of pregnancy outcomes. Much of these data are given for each year from 1990 to 2000. The natality section of this report is concerned with fertility and birth rates, the general health of newborns as indexed by birthweight and prematurity and selected demographic and prenatal care characteristics of the women giving birth.

The second chapter is focused on *trends and patterns in mortality*. It compares the annual age-adjusted profile of leading causes of death by gender from 1990 to 2000. Urban/rural and ethnic differences in cause-specific mortality are also examined for Arizona residents. The five leading causes of death are discussed for infants (<1 year), children (1-14 years), adolescents (15-19 years), young adults (20-44 years), middle-aged adults (45-64 years) and the elderly (65 or more years). For each age group, cause-specific mortality is compared between urban (i.e. Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma counties) and rural (all other counties) regions and between genders by year from 1990 to 2000. Urban and rural regions are compared in gender-specific total mortality. The chapter on mortality concludes with an examination of patterns of premature mortality by gender and ethnic group.

Beginning with the 2000 data year in Arizona (1999 nationally) two major changes have occurred that affect the computation of mortality rates, tabulation of leading causes of death and analyses of mortality data over time. First, a new revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), used to classify causes of death, was implemented. Second, a new population standard for the age adjustment of mortality rates has replaced the standard based on the 1940 population and used since 1943.

Both changes have profound effects on the comparability of mortality data and continuity in statistical trends. More than 1,100 age-adjusted mortality rates in this report were re-computed for the new population standard so that mortality trends can be compared over time (Tables 2B-2, 2B-3, 5E-5). Several tables have changed to accommodate ICD-10-specific listing of 113 causes of death by gender (Table 2B-6), age group (Table 2C-28) and county of residence (Table 5E-12). The changes and their implications are discussed in detail in chapter 2.

*Morbidity*, levels of disease in the population, is the topic of the third chapter. The presentation is limited to data on diseases reported for the entire population of the State by statutory mandate.

Chapter four focuses on Arizona's standing in 2000 with respect to **Arizona 2000\*** and selected major national health objectives for the year 2000. The health indicators are organized around five subject areas: maternal and infant health, reduction of sexually transmitted and vaccine

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**\*Arizona 2000 - Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow.**  
*Arizona Department of Health Services. November 1993.*

preventable diseases, prevention of injuries, age-related objectives and mortality from chronic diseases.

Part II and Part III contain information with no accompanying narrative. In Part II, **THE COUNTIES**, tables, figures and maps present the data on 1) trends and patterns in health status and vital statistics by county of residence, 2) county profiles on indicators for assessing health status and monitoring progress toward Arizona and national year 2000 objectives, 3) geographic patterns in births, deaths and reportable diseases and 4) selected historical vital events by year and county in the State.

Part III, **THE COMMUNITIES**, provides readers with selected community-level data on live births and deaths in Arizona in 2000.

To use **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2000** effectively, the reader should become familiar with *Technical Notes* at the end of the report. They provide definitions of terms used in the report, as well as information about the sources of data. For the first time, *Technical Notes* include detailed comparability ratios used to make comparisons between cause-of-death data classified by the Ninth and Tenth Revisions of the International Classification of Diseases.

In addition to bound form, the electronic version of **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2000** is available on the World Wide Web at:

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

A comparison of some of the basic findings for the State for 1990, 1995 and 2000 is presented on the following page.