

# INTRODUCTION

This publication by the Arizona Department of Health Services, *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2004*, is the annual update of information on vital statistics and the health status of Arizona residents. It provides population-wide data on *pregnancies, births, abortions, stillbirths, reportable diseases, deaths, marriages, divorces* and the *population* of the State. For the first time, the 2004 report also includes statistics on *hospital inpatient discharges* and characteristics of *emergency department visits*.

The year 2004 report consists of 253 tables, 127 graphs 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. When possible, the data for 2004 are placed in a temporal context by comparison with the data for the preceding years.

The updated *Index to Tables* in this report contains more than 600 entries referring to specific health conditions, risk factors, disease categories, diagnostic groupings, procedures performed on hospital inpatients 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). The report contains approximately 4,900 age-adjusted and 6,200 age-specific mortality rates, and more than 15,000 other rates and ratios (fertility rates, pregnancy rates, crude death rates, rates of natural increase, etc.).

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 2010 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 is 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 1994 to 2004. 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 1994 to 2004. 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 1994 to 2004. 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 race/ethnicity.

*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 4 is focused on *inpatient hospital utilization*, as well as *ambulatory care visits to hospital emergency departments* in 2004. An inpatient discharge occurs when a person who was admitted to a hospital leaves that hospital. A person who has been hospitalized more than once in a given calendar year will be counted multiple times as a discharge and included more than once in the hospital inpatient discharge data set; thus, the statistics in this report are for discharges, not persons. The available data are for non-Federal short-stay hospitals. Federal, military and Department of Veteran Affairs hospitals are not included. All discharges are for the residents of Arizona. Discharges of out-of-

state residents are not included in this report. Diagnostic groupings and code numbers are based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM).

Up to nine diagnoses are coded for each discharge. In sections 4A and 7A, discharges are presented by first-listed diagnosis, which is the first one listed on the discharge summary of the medical record. The number of first-listed diagnoses is the same as the number of discharges. For comparability with the national data, the discharge rates are presented per 10,000 population.

The data on the number procedures in sections 4B and 7B are for inpatients only. Procedures include surgical and non-surgical operations, diagnostic procedures, and special treatments reported on the medical record. Up to six procedures were included for each discharge. These all-listed procedures include all occurrences of the procedure regardless of the order on the medical record. Procedure groupings and code numbers also are based on the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM).

Preceding the tabulated data in the first four chapters is a narrative description of the data. This description is not meant to be exhaustive but rather is a presentation of the major highlights to be gleaned from the data.

Part II and Part III contain information with no accompanying narrative.

Part II, **THE COUNTIES**, presents the tabulated data on

- 1) Trends and patterns in health status and vital statistics by county of residence (Chapter 5),
- 2) County profiles and statewide trends on indicators for assessing health status and monitoring progress toward Arizona and national year 2010 objectives. The health indicators are organized around ten subject areas: *maternal, infant and child health, responsible sexual behavior, vaccine preventable diseases, injury and violence, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, respiratory diseases, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease, and substance abuse*; (Chapter 6),
- 3) Hospital inpatient and emergency department statistics by disease category, diagnosis group and all-listed procedures by patient's county of residence in the State (Chapter 7) and

- 4) Selected historical vital events (births, deaths, infant deaths, marriages and dissolutions of marriage) by year and county in the State for 1950-1993 (Chapter 8).

Part III, **THE COMMUNITIES**, provides readers with selected community-level data on live births and deaths in Arizona in 2004 (Chapter 9).

Chapter 10 presents population denominators for Arizona by gender, age groups, county of residence and race/ethnicity.

No longer available in the 2004 report are thematic county maps, displaying geographic differences in selected rates and ratios. These maps were just a repetition of the county-level data already available in Tables 5B-30, 5E-11 and 5F-2. On the other hand, in response to a request from County Health Officers, statistical information in Table 5E-11 and Table 5E-12 was expanded to include gender-specific data for 113 causes of death, as well as, gender-specific age-adjusted rates for the selected 30 leading causes of mortality.

Last but not least, Tables 1B-22 and 5B-7 no longer estimate the number of births by child's race/ethnicity. In the past, child's race/ethnicity was derived from the race/ethnicity of parents. Missing information about the race/ethnicity of either parent makes it impossible to estimate the race/ethnicity of the newborn. (In 2004, father's race/ethnicity was unknown on 18,377 and mother's race/ethnicity on 1,353 birth certificates). The content of these two tables was changed.

To use **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2004** 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. *Technical Notes* also 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 **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2004** is available online at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/>

A comparison of some of the basic findings for the State for 1994, 1997 and 2004 is presented on the following page.