

## INTRODUCTION

The report *Health Status Profile of American Indians in Arizona: 2008 Data Book* is the annual update of population-level data on trends and patterns in natality and mortality among American Indians who were residents of specified tribal communities on reservations, and those who resided off reservation in Arizona in 2008.

American Indian births are determined by mother's race as indicated on a birth certificate, that is, these are the births to American Indian mothers. American Indian deaths are determined by decedent's race as stated on the death certificate.

The charts and tables comprising the 2008 *Health Status Profile of American Indians in Arizona* are grouped into five major sections:

- 1) a summary risk profile of American Indian residents of Arizona in 2008 on 70 indicators or measures of health status,
- 2) a comparison of American Indians' standing in Arizona with respect to selected health objectives for the year 2010,
- 3) a section presenting trend data for 1998-2008 for selected health problems and health risks among American Indian and all residents of Arizona,
- 4) a four-part section concerned with the characteristics of American Indian newborns and mothers giving birth,
- 5) a three-part section focused on patterns of cause-specific mortality among American Indians by age group, gender and place of residence in Arizona in 2008. Beginning with the 2006 report, it also includes additional statistics on "Comparative Cause-Specific Mortality" focused on leading causes of death by gender and residence status on or off reservation, as well as patterns in cancer mortality and proportional mortality from specific unintentional injuries.

These sections are followed by the **Technical Notes**, which provide information about the sources of data and definitions of terms used in the report. The causes of death for 1998-1999 are classified by the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9). The causes of death for 2000-2008 are classified by the Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Beginning with the first edition of this report published in 1996, specific Indian reservations have been identified by tribal communities comprising them. However, this approach does not work very well for the tribes residing within the limits of an incorporated city (such as Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe) or inside a metropolitan area (such as Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community or Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe).

Since 2002, tribal affiliation combined with a specific place of residence was used in order to distinguish between American Indian residents of specified tribal communities and/or on reservations, and those who resided off reservation in Arizona in 2008. For example, Pascua Yaquis are defined here as the American Indian residents of Guadalupe, South Tucson, Marana or Tucson whose tribal affiliation was Pascua Yaqui. Vital events to Pascua Yaqui Indians who resided in Glendale or Scottsdale are included among events occurring outside their tribal communities or “off reservation”. Similarly, the only American Indian residents of Prescott who are included in the counts of events for Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe are those affiliated with the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Tribal affiliation is being used in this report only in its supplementary role and the tabulations of births and deaths in this publication are not by tribal membership but by place of residence in Arizona, as originally intended. The 2008 birth and death data for American Indian residents of Arizona also were spatially joined using ArcGIS in order to refine the geographic allocation of these vital events.

A detailed classification of tribal communities in Arizona is available in the **Appendix A**. Generally, the information about the usual place (or tribal community) of residence is quite poorly recorded in the electronic databases of births and deaths. Certain communities are altogether absent and many are underrepresented. Therefore, the tribe-or-reservation-specific counts of vital events in this report are not exact enumerations.

*Health Status Profile of American Indians in Arizona* was intended as a data book: a basic reference for some of the most frequently requested vital event statistics. The five sections of the report were computer-generated and contain information with little or no accompanying narrative.

In addition to bound form, the online versions of the report for 1995–2008 are available at <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/hspam/index.htm>