

## **PURPOSE**

This report is the 2001 update of information about pregnancies among females under age 20. The data for 2001 are placed in a temporal context by comparison with the data for the preceding years.

## **METHODS AND SOURCES**

In this report, pregnancies are measured as the sum of three components: live births, fetal deaths (or stillbirths) and reported abortions to Arizona resident women, unless otherwise specified. It does not include spontaneous fetal losses that occur at less than 20 weeks of gestation. Induced terminations of pregnancy do not include those performed out-of-state to Arizona residents, since they are not reported. Pregnancy statistics for Arizona are not available on a sub-county level.

Teens or teenagers are defined as 10-14 year old preadolescents and adolescents 15-19 years of age. Where possible, the data presented distinguish 18-19 year old teenagers from those aged 15-17 and girls less than 15 years of age.

The primary source documents for the data are the certificates of live births, certificates of fetal deaths and reports of induced terminations of pregnancy filed with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Population denominators for Arizona's resident females, used to calculate rates, are projections from the Population Statistics Unit in the Arizona Department of Economic Security (data for 1991-1999) or census enumerations from the U.S. Census Bureau (data for 1980, 1990 and 2000).

In order to obtain the population denominators for 2001, the 2000 percentages of population breakdowns (or census shares) by age group and gender were applied to total state and

total county population estimates released by the Bureau of the Census on 4/26/2002 (<http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>).

## **DATA ORGANIZATION**

Tables 1-9 present annual numbers and rates of pregnancy, fertility and abortion by year from 1991 to 2001, age group and ethnicity for Arizona adolescents. Temporal trends and changes may be assessed from these data. Table 11 provides pregnancy rates by single year of age among females aged 19 and younger. Tables 9-10 and 12-14 provide data by county of residence. Live births to teenage mothers are also reported in Tables 15-22 by marital status, education, previous pregnancies, trimester of entry into prenatal care, source of payment for labor and delivery and tobacco and alcohol use during pregnancy. Proportional contribution of teen births to all births is shown in Table 23 by area of residence and ethnic group in Arizona from 1990 to 2000. Table 24 compares birth rates in Arizona and United States.

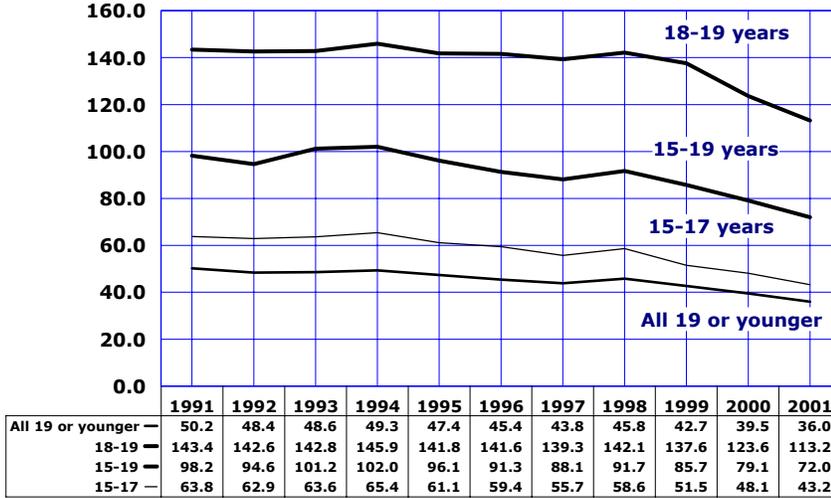
The annual numbers of repeat pregnancies among teenage mothers are shown by age and year from 1991 to 2001 in Table 25. The estimated number of mothers who were under the age of 20 in Arizona in 2001 is given in Table 26. The 2001 population denominators for Arizona resident females by age group and county of residence, as well as by age group and ethnicity are presented in Table 27 and Table 28.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

The following section presents some illustrative findings contained in the figures and tables of the report. It is not intended to be an exhaustive analysis of the tabulated data.

KEY FINDINGS

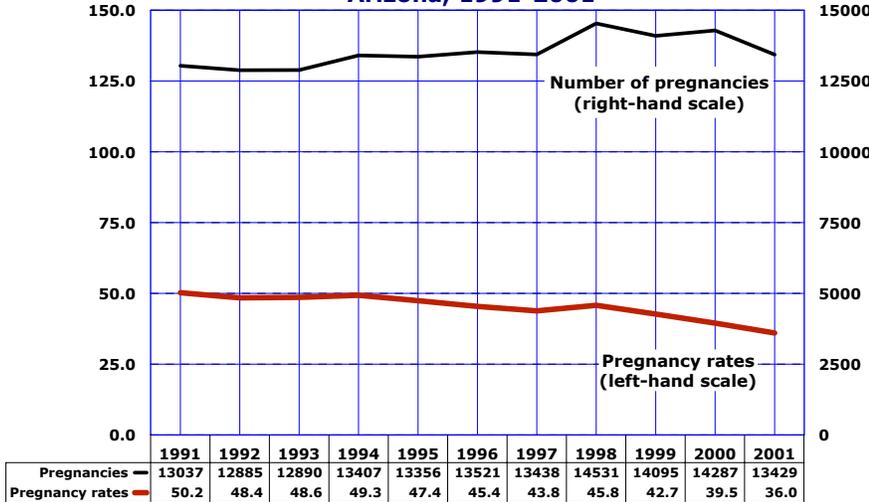
**Figure 1**  
**Pregnancy Rates by Age Group and Year Among Females 19 and Younger, Arizona, 1991-2001**



Note: All rates are per 1,000 females in specified age group.

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2001 was 72 pregnancies per 1,000 females (**Figure 1**), nine percent lower than in 2000 and 29.4 percent lower than in 1994 when it reached the decade's peak of 102.0/1,000. The pregnancy rate for older teenagers 18-19 years old reached a record low in 2001, dropping to 113.2/1,000, down 8.4 percent from 2000, and 22.4 percent from the rate of 145.9/1,000 in 1994. The pregnancy rate for younger teenagers 15-17 years old declined even more steeply in 2001 to 43.2/1,000, down 10.2 percent from 2000, and 33.9 percent from 1994 (**Figure 1**).

**Figure 2**  
**Trends in the Number of Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates Among Females 19 Years and Younger, Arizona, 1991-2001**



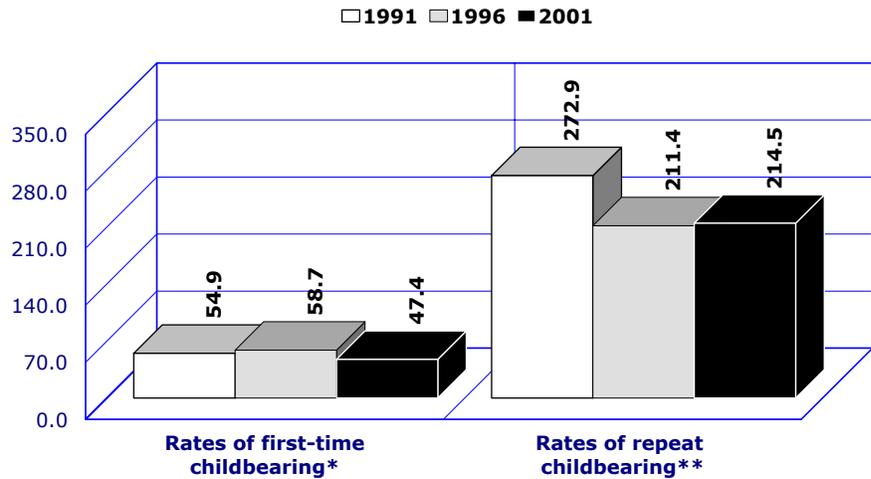
Pregnancy rate=The number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in specified age group

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. **Compared to 1991, there were no fewer teen pregnancies in 2001 (13,037 and 13,429 respectively) (Figure 2), but fewer pregnancies per 1,000 teenage females.**

## KEY FINDINGS

The declines in teenage birth rates in the second half of the 1990s have reflected reductions in the first birth rate, meaning that fewer teenagers are becoming mothers for the first time (**Figure 3**). The first birth rate for childless teenagers has dropped 19.2 percent since 1996. The rate in 2001 was 47.4 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years who had not had a birth. After falling 22.5 percent between 1991 and 1996, the second birth rate for teenagers who had already had one child stabilized (**Figure 3**). In 1991, the rate was 272.9 second births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years with one child, and dropped to 211.4 in 1996; the rate has changed little since (214.5 in 2001). To put it another way, 21 percent of teenagers who already had one child gave birth to a second child in 2001, compared with 27 percent in 1991.

**Figure 3**  
**Rates of First and Repeat Births to Females Aged 15-19 Years, Arizona, 1991, 1996 and 2001**



\* Number first births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old who have not had a birth.  
\*\*Number of repeat births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old who have had a birth previously.

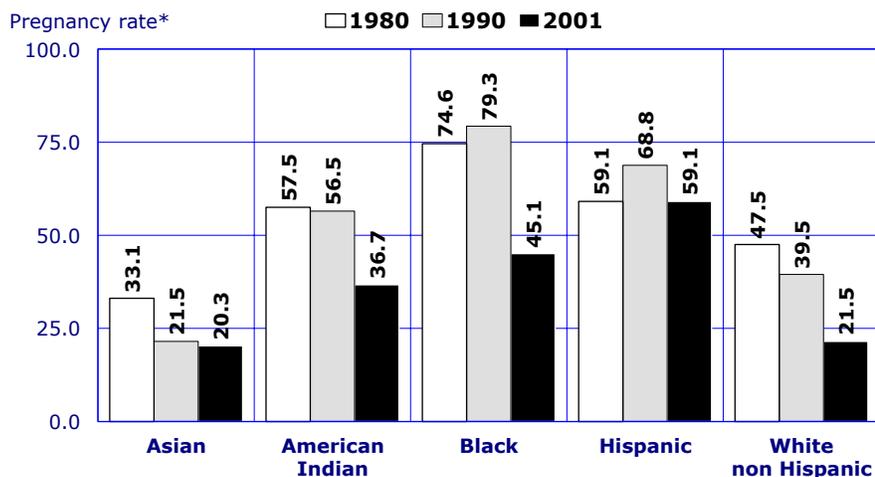
**Figure 4**  
**Trends in Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among Females 15-19 Years Old, Arizona, 1991-2001**

The pregnancy rates of Hispanic, Black, and American Indian teenagers exceeded the corresponding rates of White non-Hispanic and Asian females in every age group in 2001. 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 females 15-19 years old, the Hispanic to White non-Hispanic differential in pregnancy rates was 2.8 times (119.5 vs. 41.9, **Figure 4**) in 2001.



KEY FINDINGS

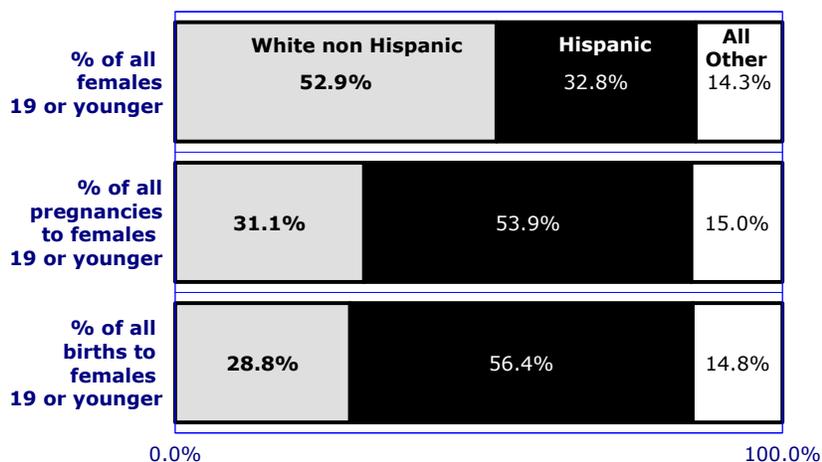
**Figure 5**  
**Comparison of Pregnancy Rates by Ethnic Group Among**  
**Females Aged 19 and Younger in Arizona in**  
**1980, 1990 and 2001**



\* Number of pregnancies per 1,000 females 10-19 years old in specified group.

Between 1980 and 2001, pregnancy rates declined for Asian, American Indian, Black, and White non-Hispanic populations (**Figure 5**), 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 2001 pregnancy rate was identical with the 1980 rate of 59.1/1,000.

**Figure 6**  
**Proportional Contribution by Race/Ethnicity to**  
**Pregnancies and Live Births Among Females 19 or**  
**Younger, Arizona, 2001**

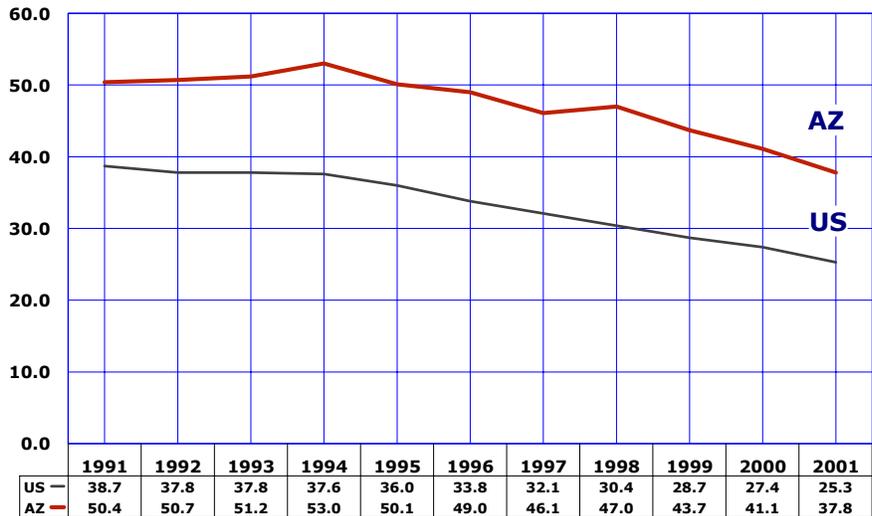


Hispanics, who accounted for 32.8 percent of all females 19 or younger in Arizona in 2001, made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (53.9 percent) and live births (56.4 percent). In contrast, White non-Hispanic females who accounted for 52.9 percent of all teens in Arizona had a much lower proportional representation among teen pregnancies (31.1 percent) and live births (28.8 percent, **Figure 6**).

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**Figure 7**  
**Birth Rates\* Among Females 15-17 Years Old,**  
**Arizona and United States, 1991-2001**

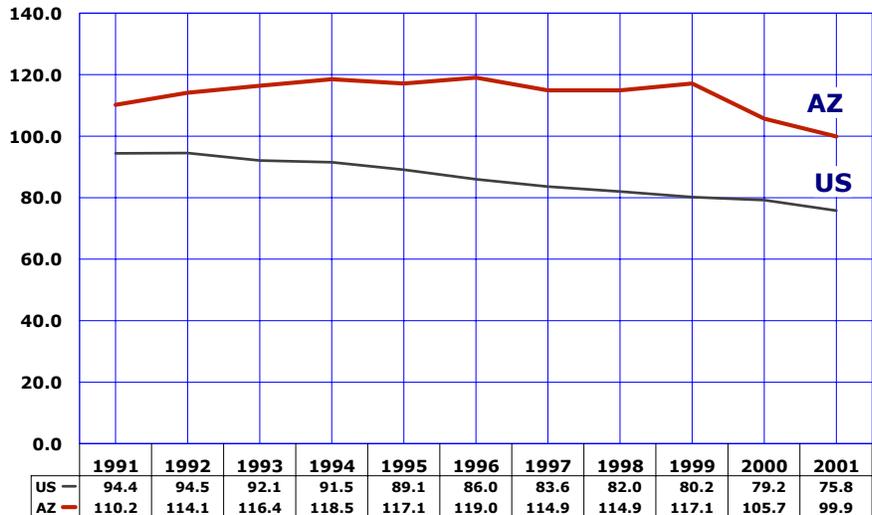
Between 1991 and 2001, the birth rates of Arizona younger (15-17 years) and older (18-19 years) adolescents have been consistently higher than the national rates (Figure 7, Figure 8). The 2001 Arizona birth rate of 37.8/1,000 was 49.4 percent greater than the birth rate of 25.3/1,000 for all U.S. teenagers aged 15-17 years (Table 24).



\* Number of births per 1,000 females 15-17 years old.

**Figure 8**  
**Birth Rates\* Among Females 18-19 Years Old,**  
**Arizona and United States, 1991-2001**

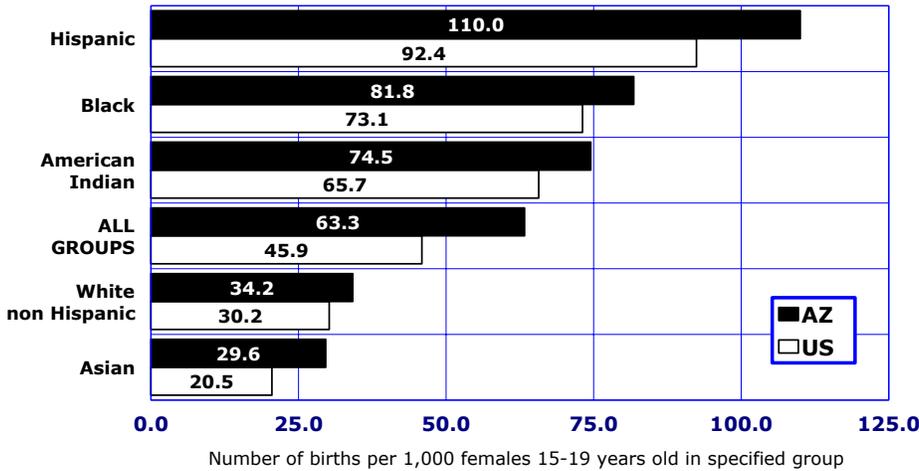
The 2001 Arizona birth rate of 99.9/1,000 was 31.8 percent greater than the birth rate of 75.8/1,000 for all U.S. teenagers aged 18-19 years (Figure 8, Table 24).



\* Number of births per 1,000 females 18-19 years old.

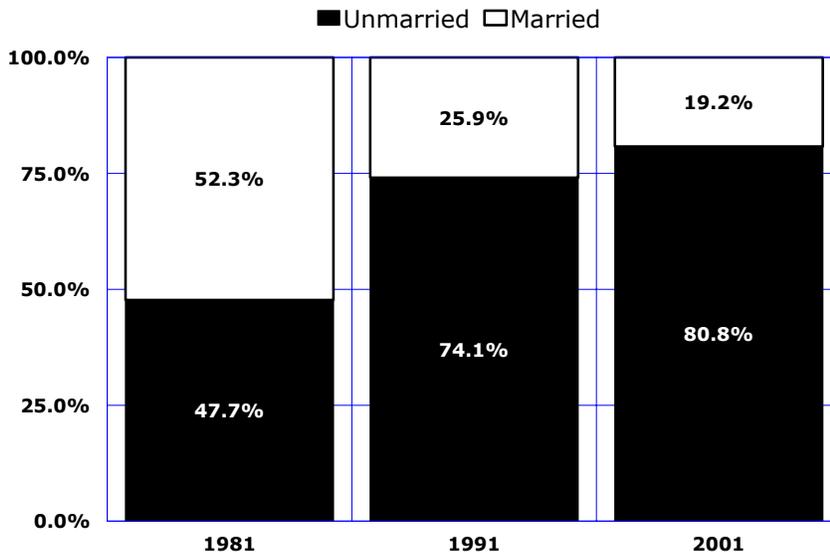
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**Figure 9**  
**Birth Rates by Race/Ethnic Group Among Females 15-19**  
**Years Old, Arizona and United States, 2001**



Among teens aged 15-19 in 2001, Arizona birth rates were greater in every race/ethnic group than among their respective national peers (Figure 9).

**Figure 10**  
**Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old by Marital Status,**  
**Arizona, 1981, 1991 and 2001**



Unwed mothers have accounted for an increasing annual proportion of births throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Two decades ago, the proportion of nonmarital births among teenagers aged 15-19 years was still below 50 percent (Figure 10). In 2001, nonmarital births accounted for eight out of ten births to mothers 15-19 years old.

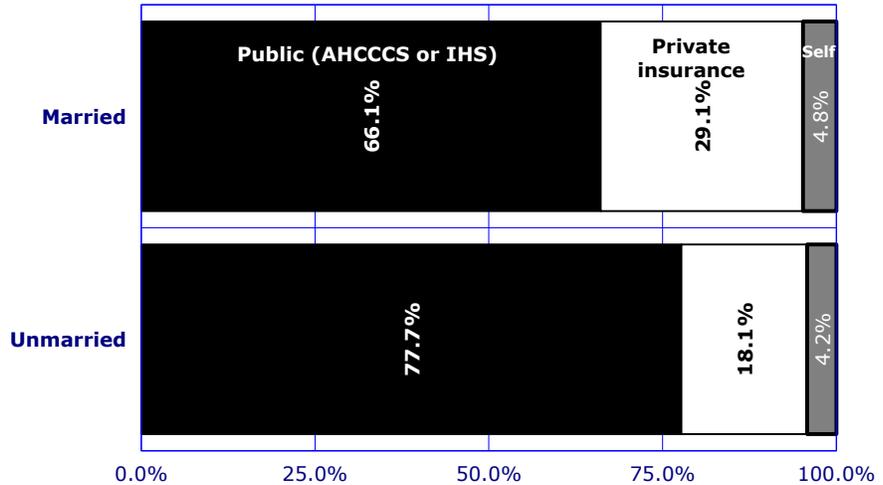
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The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) paid for 45.4 percent of the total deliveries in 2001, but 73.7 percent of the deliveries to mothers 19 or younger.

Among AHCCCS mothers, 22.5 percent were teenagers under the age 20 compared to 5.7 percent of women giving birth in 2001 who had private insurance coverage.

Married mothers 15-19 years old are less likely than unmarried to utilize public sources of payment for birth (66.1 vs. 77.7 percent, **Figure 11**), and more likely to have private health insurance coverage (29.1 vs. 18.1 percent, **Figure 11**).

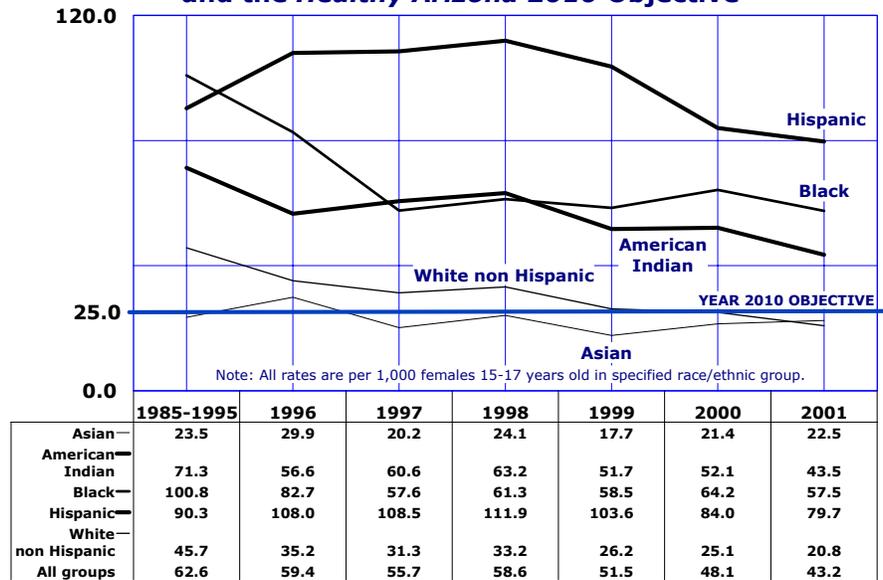
**Figure 11**  
Sources of Payment for Labor and Delivery Among Mothers 15-19 Years Old, Arizona, 2001



Note: the Arizona State Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is the State's Medicaid program. IHS is the Indian Health Service. Self-pay includes unknown source of payment.

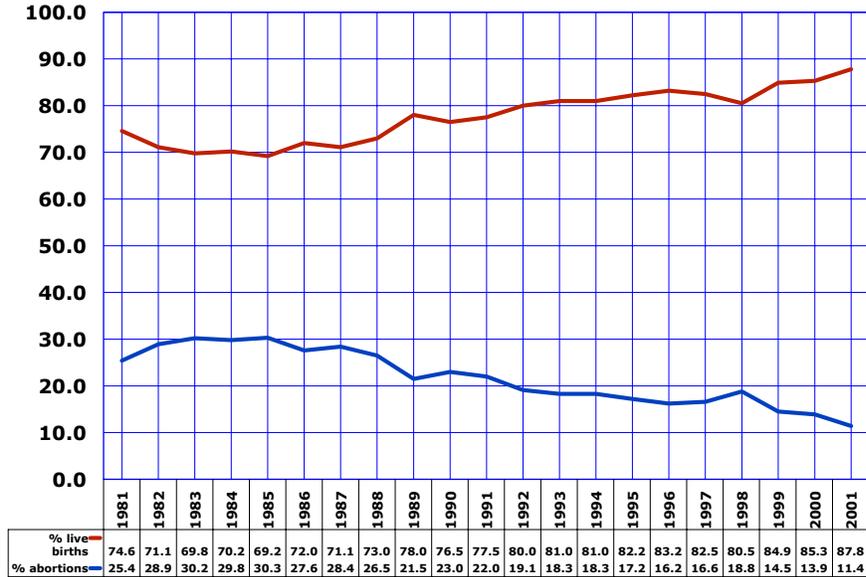
In 2001, the pregnancy rate of 43.2 per 1,000 adolescent girls 15-17 years old in Arizona was 72.8 percent greater than the **Healthy Arizona 2010** objective of 25.0/1,000 (**Figure 12**). The 2001 pregnancy rate among Asian females ages 15-17 years was 10 percent lower, and among White non-Hispanic females 16.8 percent lower than the objective. In contrast the 2001 pregnancy rate among Hispanic females 15-17 years old exceeded the target rate by 218.8 percent, or 3.2 times.

**Figure 12**  
Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among Females 15-17 Years Old: 1985-1995, 1996-2001 and the *Healthy Arizona 2010* Objective



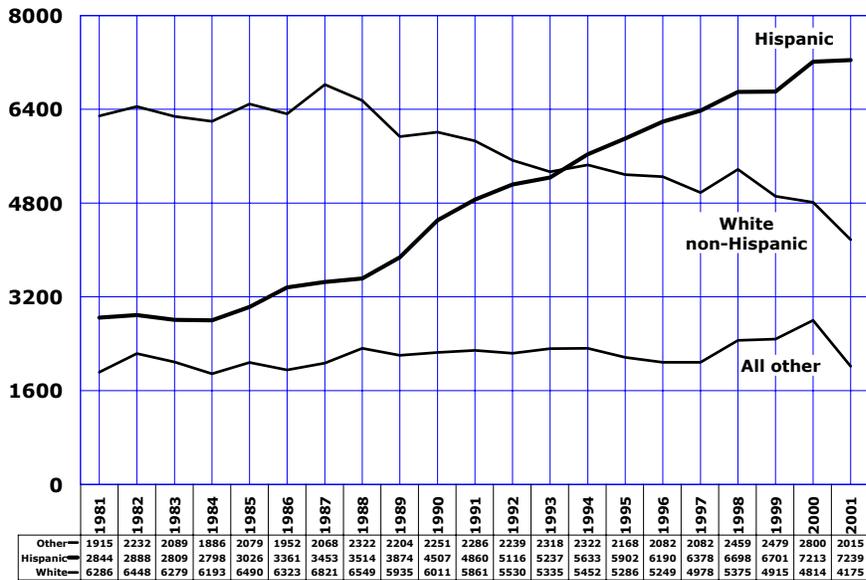
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**Figure 13**  
**Percent Pregnancies Ending in Abortions or Live Births**  
**by Year Among Females 19 Years and Younger,**  
**Arizona, 1981-2001**



The percent of teen pregnancies ending in abortions declined steeply from 30.3 in 1985 to 11.4 in 2001 (Figure 13). The percent of teen pregnancies ending in live births increased during that time from 69.2 percent to 87.8 percent. However, it is important to note that compared to live births, abortions are more likely to be underreported. The number of abortions actually performed is probably greater than the number of abortions reported to the health department.

**Figure 14**  
**Number of Pregnancies by Race/Ethnicity and Year**  
**Among Females 19 Years and Younger,**  
**Arizona, 1981-2001**



The number of pregnancies among Hispanic teens was 4,395 greater in 2001 than it was in 1981, while the combined number of pregnancies among White non-Hispanic, Black, American Indian and Asian females was 2,011 lower than in 1981. In 2001, Hispanics accounted for 53.7 percent of all pregnancies to females aged 19 years and younger, compared to 25.7 percent in 1981 (Figure 14). In contrast, White non-Hispanics who accounted for the absolute majority (56.9 percent) of all teen pregnancies in 1981, accounted for less than one-third (31.1 percent) of total teen pregnancies in 2001.