

PURPOSE

This report is the 2002 update of information about pregnancies among females under age 20. The data for 2002 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 1992-1999) or census enumerations from the U.S. Census Bureau (data for 1980, 1990 and 2000).

In order to obtain the population denominators for 2002, 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 Department of Economic Security on 12/6/2002.

DATA ORGANIZATION

Tables 1-9 present annual numbers and rates of pregnancy, fertility and abortion by year from 1992 to 2002, 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 1992 to 2002. Table 24 compares birth rates in Arizona and United States.

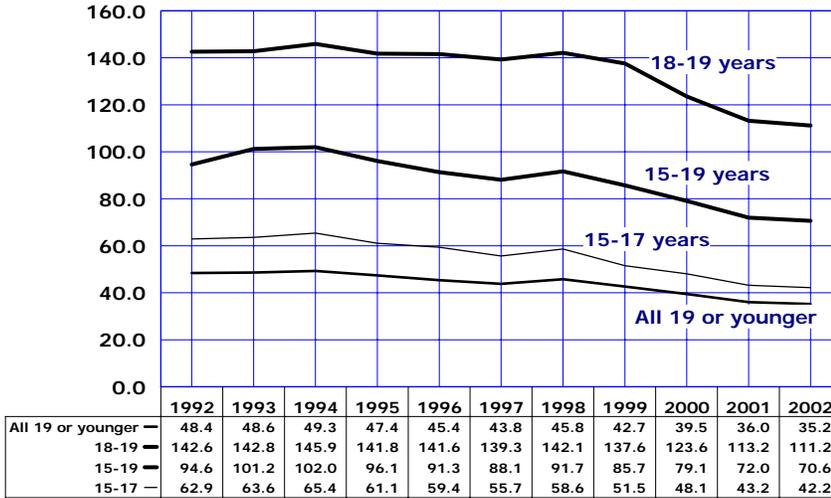
The annual numbers of repeat pregnancies among teenage mothers are shown by age and year from 1992 to 2002 in Table 25. The estimated number of mothers who were under the age of 20 in Arizona in 2002 is given in Table 26. The 2002 population denominators for Arizona resident females by age group and 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

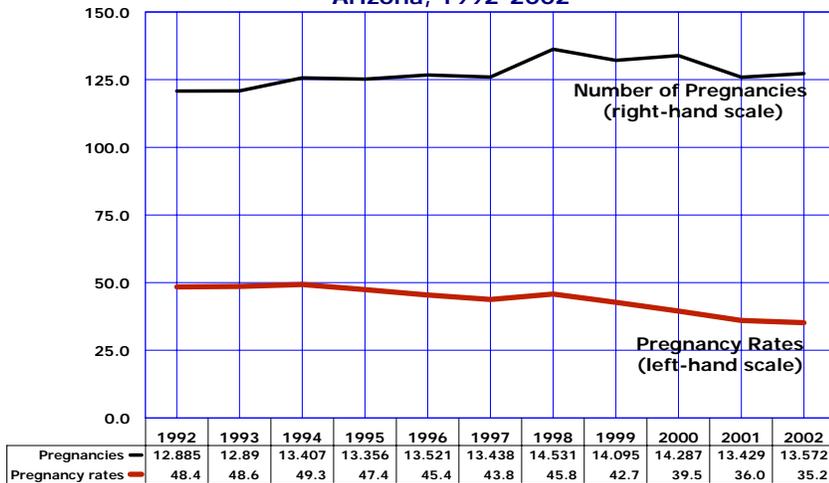
Figure 1
Pregnancy Rates by Age Group and Year Among
Females 19 and Younger, Arizona, 1992-2002



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

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2002 was 70.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females (**Figure 1**), 1.9 percent lower than in 2001 and 30.8 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 2002, dropping to 42.2/1,000, a 35.5 percent lower rate than in 1994. Similarly, the pregnancy rate for older teenagers declined in 2002 to 111.2/1,000, down 1.8 percent from 2001, and 23.8 percent from a rate of 145.9/1,000 in 1994 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 2
Trends in the Number of Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates
Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1992-2002



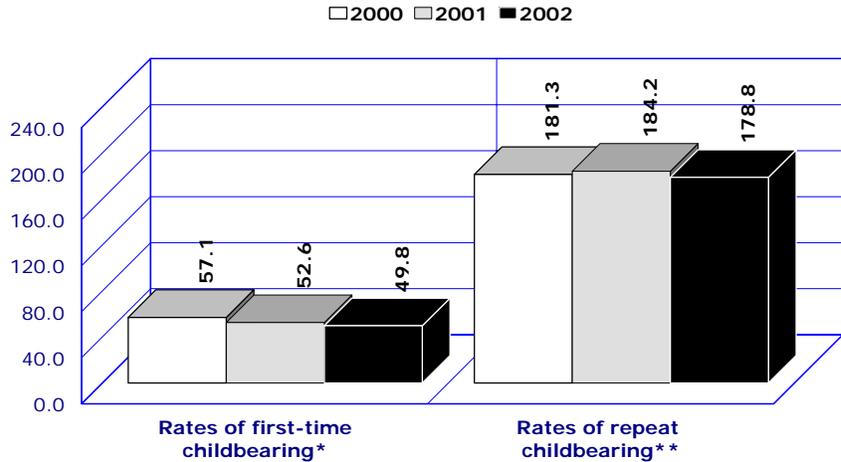
Pregnancy rate=The number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in specified age group

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 1992, there were no fewer teen pregnancies in 2002 (12,885 and 13,572 respectively) (Figure 2), but fewer pregnancies per 1,000 teenage females.**

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3
Rates of First and Repeat Births to Females
Aged 15-19 Years, Arizona, 2000, 2001 and 2002

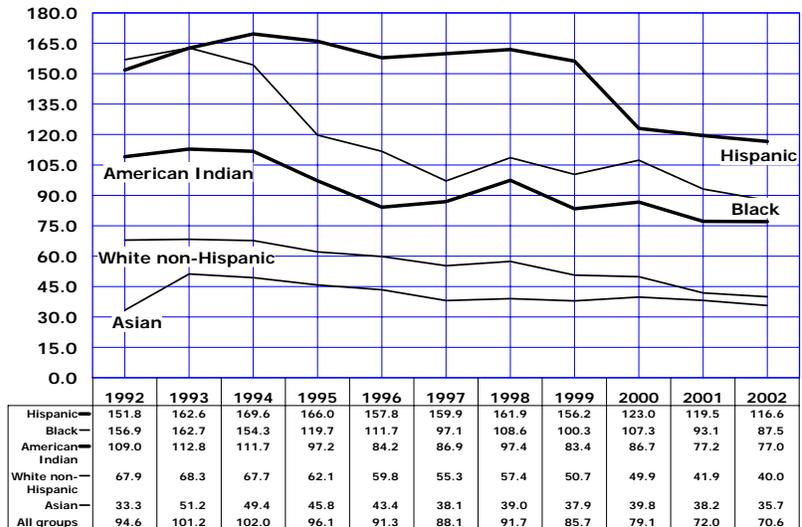
The declines from 2000 to 2002 in teenage birth rates have reflected reductions both in the first and repeat birth rates (Figure 3). The first birth rate for childless teenagers has dropped 12.8 percent since 2000. After increasing 1.6 percent between 2000 and 2001, the repeat birth rate for teenagers who had already had a child declined to 178.8 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2002 (Figure 3). To put it another way, 18 percent of teenagers who already had one child gave birth again in 2002.



* Number of 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.

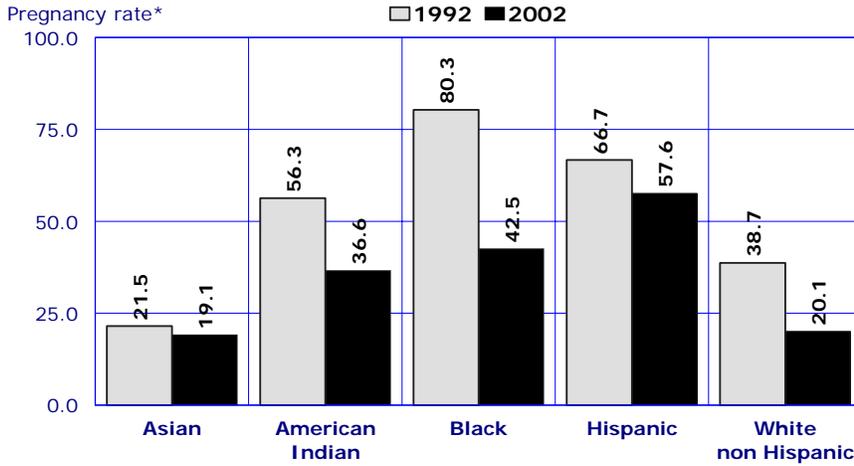
Figure 4
Trends in Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among
Females 15-19 Years Old, Arizona, 1992-2002

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 2002. 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 2.9 times (116.6 vs. 40.0, Figure 4) in 2002.



KEY FINDINGS

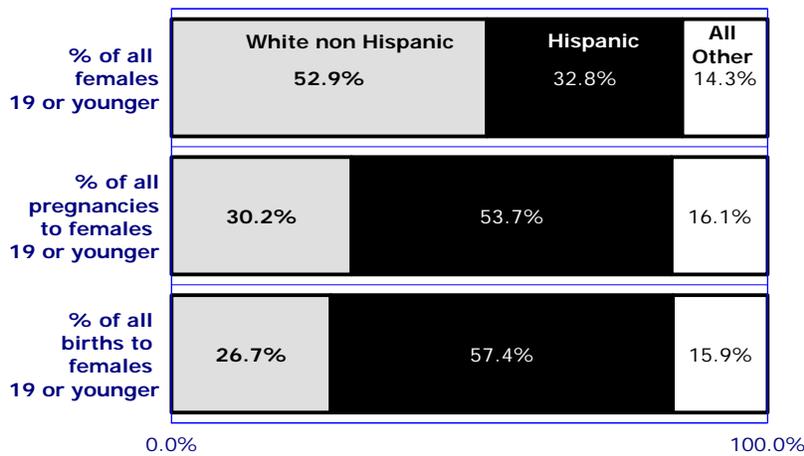
Figure 5
Comparison of Pregnancy Rates* by Ethnic Group Among
Females Aged 19 and Younger in Arizona in
1992 and 2002**



Between 1992 and 2002, pregnancy rates declined for all ethnic populations (**Figure 5**), with the steepest decline of 48.1 percent recorded for White non-Hispanic teens, followed by Black (47.1 percent) and American Indian teens (35 percent). The declines in pregnancy rates for Hispanic and Asian females aged 19 and younger were not quite as substantial (13.8 and 11.2 percent, respectively).

* Number of pregnancies per 1,000 females 10-19 years old in specified group.
 **These are the average annual rates for 1988-1992. The 1990 census enumerations by race/ethnicity were used as the denominators.

Figure 6
Proportional Contribution by Race/Ethnicity to
Pregnancies and Live Births Among
Females 19 or Younger, Arizona, 2002

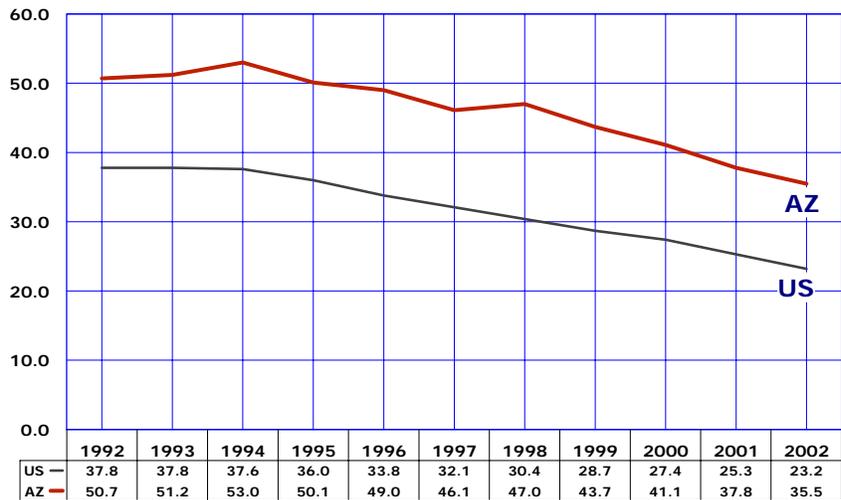


Hispanics, who accounted for 32.8 percent of all females 19 or younger in Arizona in 2002, made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (53.7 percent) and live births (57.4 percent). In contrast, White non-Hispanic females who accounted for 52.9 percent of all teens in Arizona had a much lower proportional representation among teen pregnancies (30.2 percent) and live births (26.7 percent, **Figure 6**).

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 7
Birth Rates* Among Females 15-17 Years Old,
Arizona and United States, 1992-2002

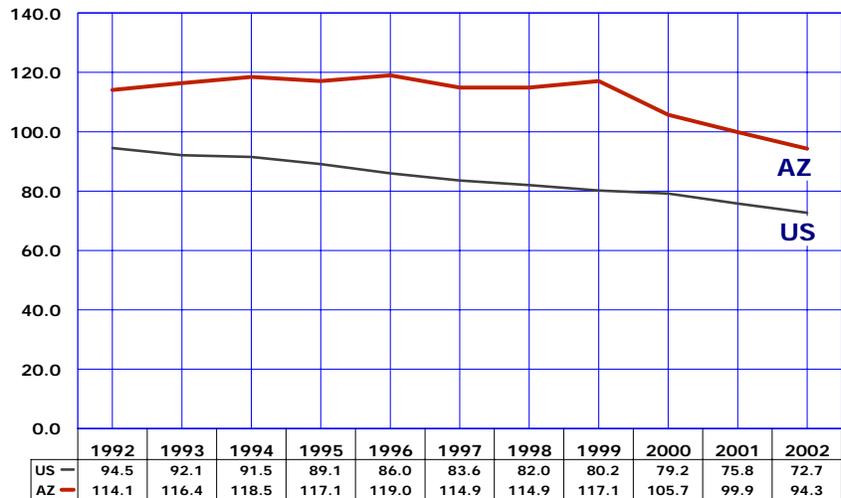
Between 1992 and 2002, the birth rates of Arizona younger (15-17 years) and older (18-19 years) adolescents have been consistently higher than the national rates (Figure 7, Figure 8). The 2002 Arizona birth rate of 35.5/1,000 was 53 percent greater than the birth rate of 23.2/1,000 for all U.S. teenagers 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, 1992-2002

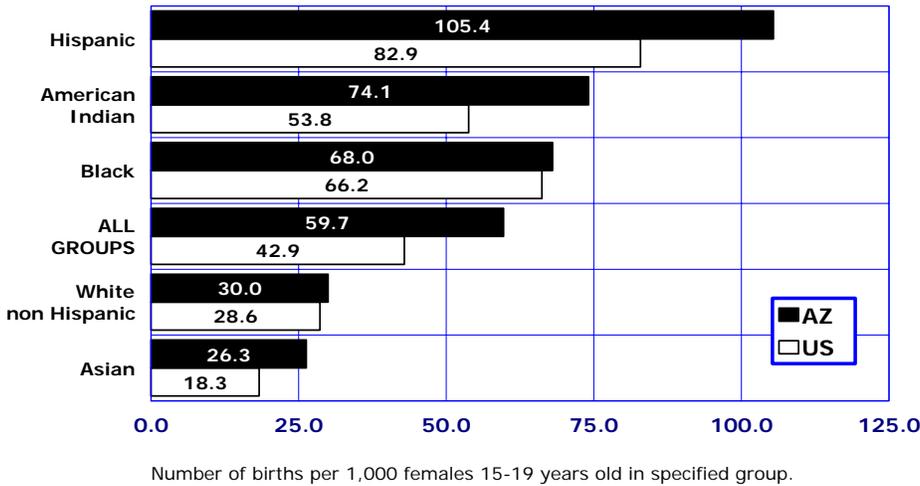
The 2002 Arizona birth rate of 94.3/1,000 was 30 percent greater than the birth rate of 72.7/1,000 for all U.S. teenagers aged 18-19 years (Figure 8, Table 24).



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

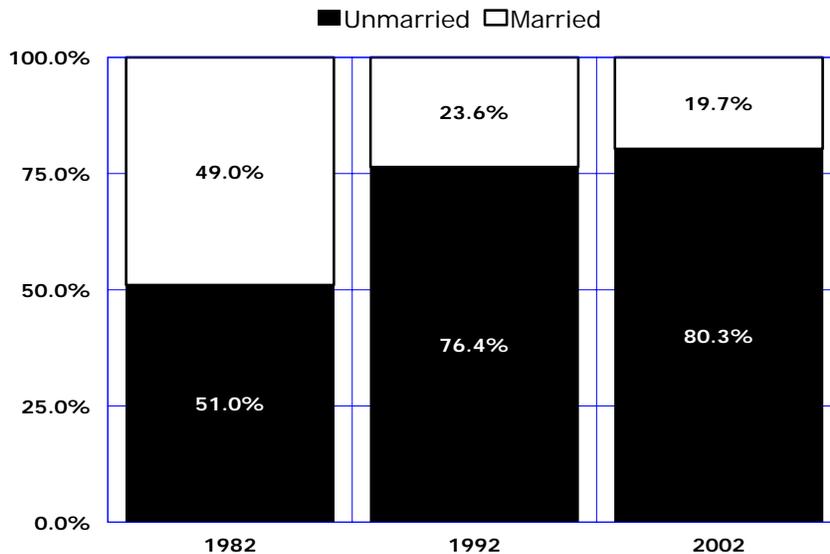
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 9
Birth Rates by Race/Ethnic Group Among Females 15-19
Years Old, Arizona and United States, 2002



Among teens aged 15-19 in 2002, 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, 1982, 1992 and 2002



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 around 50 percent (Figure 10). In 2002, nonmarital births accounted for eight out of ten births to mothers 15-19 years old.

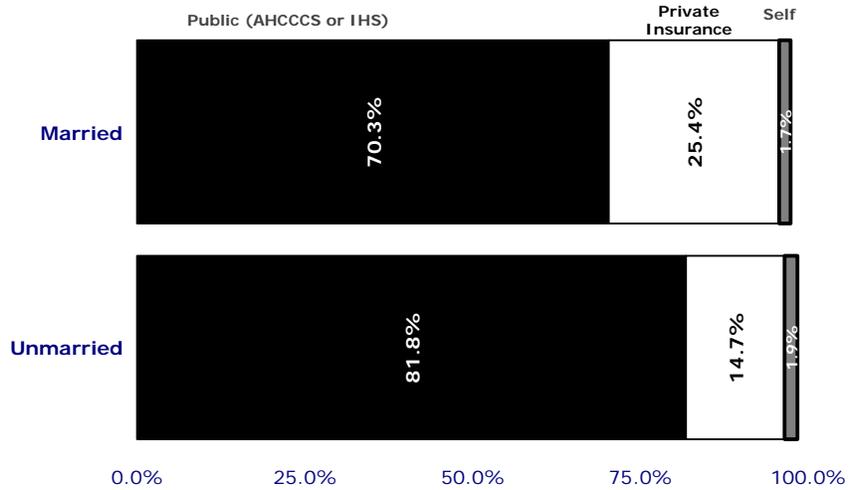
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The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) paid for 45.4 percent of the total deliveries in 2002, but 77.6 percent of the deliveries to mothers 19 or younger (Table 15).

Among AHCCCS mothers, 20.9 percent were teenagers under the age 20 compared to 4.8 percent of women giving birth in 2002 who had private insurance coverage.

Married mothers 15-19 years old are less likely than unmarried to utilize public sources of payment for birth (70.3 vs. 81.8 percent, Figure 11), and more likely to have private health insurance coverage (25.4 vs. 14.7 percent, Figure 11).

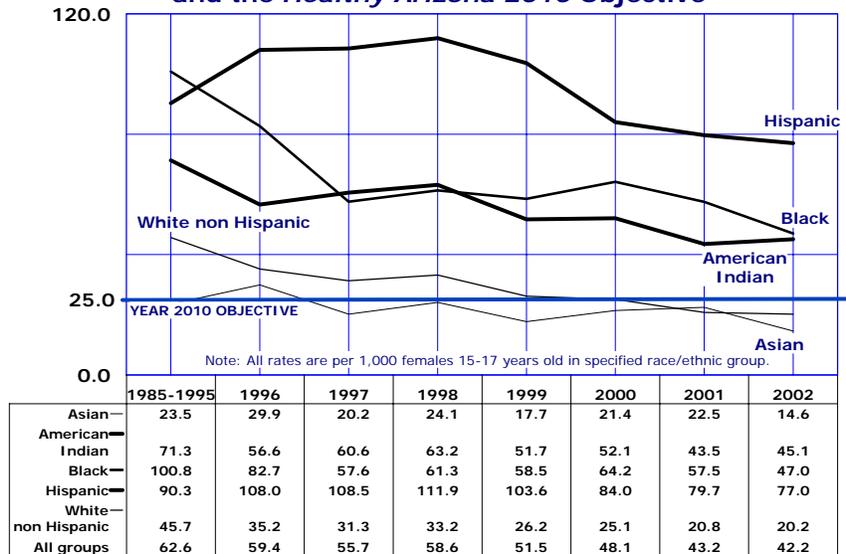
Figure 11
Sources of Payment for Labor and Delivery Among Mothers 15-19 Years Old, Arizona, 2002



Notes: "Public" consists of Arizona State Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) which is the State's Medicaid program and Indian Health Service (IHS).
"Unknown" sources of payment (not shown) equate to 2.6% of Married and 1.5% of Unmarried.

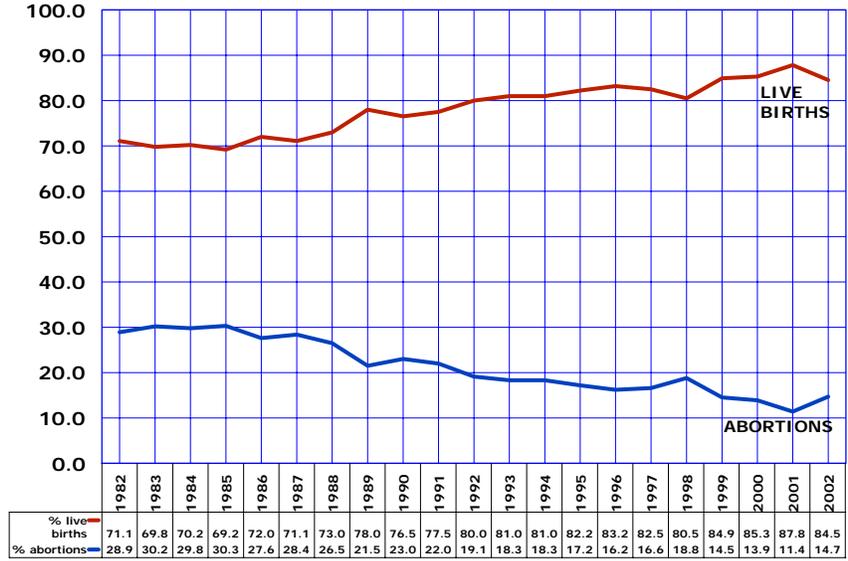
In 2002, the pregnancy rate of 42.2 per 1,000 adolescent girls 15-17 years old in Arizona was 68.8 percent greater than the *Healthy Arizona 2010* objective of 25.0/1,000 (Figure 12). The 2002 pregnancy rate among Asian females ages 15-17 years was 41.6 percent lower, and among White non-Hispanic females 19.2 percent lower than the objective. In contrast, the 2002 pregnancy rate among Hispanic females 15-17 years old exceeded the target rate by 208 percent (or 3.1 times).

Figure 12
Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among Females 15-17 Years Old: 1985-1995, 1996-2002 and the *Healthy Arizona 2010* Objective



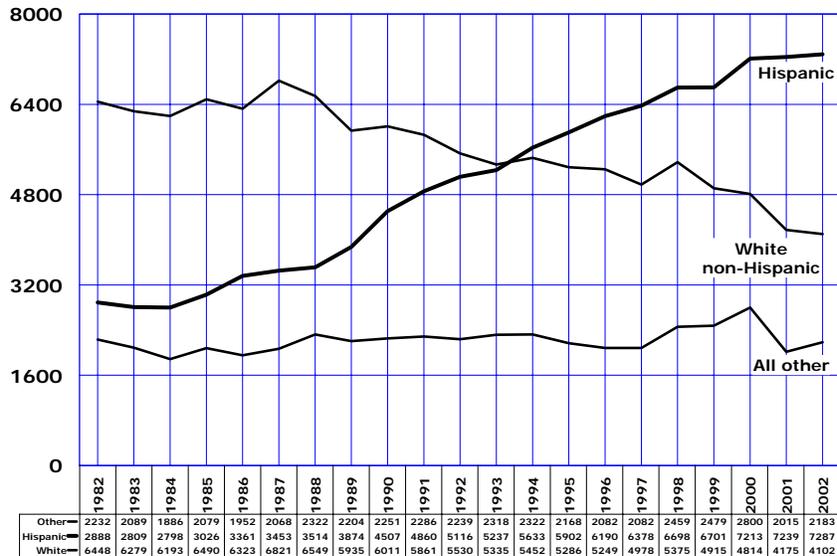
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Figure 13
Percent Pregnancies Ending in Abortions or Live Births
by Year Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1982-2002



The proportion of teen pregnancies ending in abortions declined steadily from a high of 30.3 percent in 1985 (Figure 13). The percent of teen pregnancies ending in live births increased during that time from 69.2 percent in 1985 to about 85-87 percent in 1999-2002. 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. The decline in the number of abortions may reflect multiple factors, including changes in contraceptive practices such as the use of "Morning After Pill" or the passage of abortion laws that affect adolescents (e.g., parental consent or judicial authorization laws).

Figure 14
Number of Pregnancies by Race/Ethnicity and Year
Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1982-2002



The number of pregnancies among Hispanic teens was 4,399 greater in 2002 than it was in 1982, while the combined number of pregnancies among White non-Hispanic, Black, American Indian and Asian females was 2,395 lower than in 1982. In 2002, Hispanics accounted for 53.7 percent of all pregnancies to females aged 19 years and younger, compared to 25 percent in 1982 (Figure 14). In contrast, White non-Hispanics who accounted for the absolute majority (55.7 percent) of all teen pregnancies in 1982, accounted for less than one-third (30.2 percent) of total teen pregnancies in 2002.