

overall rate/ratio/percentage, but the value of the information contained in the total was identified as important or attainable from other sources, these rules were relaxed and the original value was reported.

### **BRIDGING RACE/ETHNICITY**

To calculate the rates used in this report, it was necessary to standardize race and ethnicity for both the vital events (in the birth, death, and fetal death data) and the population denominators. In these data sources, information on race and ethnicity is collected and categorized in a number of different ways, requiring a standard method of classifying race and ethnicity.

To create frequency counts of race and ethnicity that were adequate to compute statistically reliable rates, race was “bridged”, or essentially collapsed into 5 categories; White non-Hispanic, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, Native American or Alaskan Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander. When an individual was identified as both Hispanic and any other race, that person was included in the racial/ethnic group with the lowest population. For example, a person identified as both White and Hispanic would be coded as Hispanic, where a person identified as American Indian and Hispanic would be coded as American Indian. Please refer to the technical appendix for further explanation of the racial bridging used in this report.

### **REVISED POPULATION DENOMINATORS**

The 2013 Arizona Department of Health Services population denominators were estimated using the 2013 population projections obtained from the Office of Employment and Population Statistics within the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA). Denominators calculated for census years have used the census counts, but denominators for inter-censal years have been estimated using various sources of information. For example, the 2011 population denominators were created using the 2011 CDC bridged-race population estimates in combination with county-level population estimates provided by the ADOA. Due to differences in the data sources used to calculate population denominators, variation in rates from 2011 to 2012 may in part be due to differences in denominator estimates.

For example, the estimate for Arizona’s Native American population decreased by 15 percent from 2011 (n = 360,414) to 2012 (n = 305,029). For Native American young adults (age 20 – 44), the number of deaths increased by a modest 7.1 percent from 2011 (n = 364) to 2012 (n = 390). In contrast, the age-adjusted mortality rate for Native Americans increased

27.1 percent from 2011 (276.5/100,000) to 2012 (351.4/100,000). An estimated 309,035 Native Americans were living in Arizona 2013, representing a more gradual 1.3 percent increase from 2012.

As the illustration above shows, the difference in methods used to calculate population denominators can lead to variation in rates that do not accurately reflect changes in the number of events occurring in the population. We recommend analyzing the underlying counts for each event before interpreting variation in rates from 2011 to 2012.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

### **STABILITY IN NUMBER OF RESIDENT BIRTHS**

In 2013 there were 84,963 resident births, representing the lowest annual number of resident births since 1999. Compared to 2012, the number of births decreased for all racial/ethnic groups excluding Black or African Americans, who had a 0.2 percent increase.

### **SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WOMEN GIVING BIRTH IN 2013**

Among women who gave birth in Arizona in 2013:

- 45,792 births (53.9 percent) were paid for by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).
- 38,352 (45.2 percent) were unmarried, which may signify absence of emotional, social, and financial resources.
- 35,447 (41.7 percent) had a serious medical condition such as hypertension, anemia, or diabetes.
- 27,211 (32.0 percent) experienced complications during labor and/or delivery.
- 15,757 (18.5 percent) received late or no prenatal care.
- 7,222 (8.5 percent) were teenagers 19 years old or younger.
- 3,944 (4.6 percent) smoked and/or used alcohol during pregnancy.

### **TEEN PREGNANCIES**

In 2013, both the number of teen pregnancies (n = 8,715) and the teen pregnancy rate (19.2) were the lowest they have been since at least 1983 (the most recent information that could be found). From 2007 to 2013 the number of teen pregnancies decreased by 42.0 percent and the pregnancy rate by 44.2 percent. From 2012 to 2013 the number of teen pregnancies decreased by 10.2 percent and the pregnancy rate by 11.1 percent.

The number of teenage pregnancies decreased more than 50 percent between 2007 and 2013