

1C. FETAL, PERINATAL AND MATERNAL DEATHS

FETAL DEATHS (STILLBIRTHS)

The fetal death ratio increased by 2.7 percent from 7.5 fetal deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999, to 7.7/1,000 in 2000 (**Figure 1C-1, Table 1C-3**). There was a more substantial increase from 1999 to 2000 in the fetal death ratio calculated for fetal deaths of at least 500 grams (**Table 1C-5**).

It was recommended in 1988* that statistical tabulations for comparisons of fetal mortality within the United States exclude fetal deaths of less than 500 g. Beginning in 1989, the data in Tables 1C-4 and 1C-5 are focused on fetal deaths of more than 500 g.

The White fetal death ratio (calculated for fetal deaths of 500+ grams) increased in 2000 by 26.2 percent to 5.3 per 1,000 live births. The American Indian fetal death ratio increased by 24.5 percent from 4.9/1,000 in 1999 to 6.1/1,000 in 2000.

The year 2000 health objective set by the U.S. Public Health Service was to reduce the fetal death ratio to no more than 5 per 1,000 live births. A 35 percent reduction of Arizona's fetal death ratio is required to achieve this objective (**Figure 1C-1**).

*Standard Terminology for Reporting of Reproductive Health Statistics in the United States. **Public Health Reports**

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PERINATAL MORTALITY

Perinatal mortality refers to death of a fetus of at least 20 weeks gestational age or of a child 28 days or younger. The perinatal mortality ratio (I), defined as the sum of infant deaths of less than 7 days and fetal deaths of 28 or more weeks of gestation, was 5.4 fetal deaths per 1,000 live births (**Table 1C-3**). The perinatal death ratio (II), defined as the sum of infant deaths of less than 28 days and fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks of gestation per 1,000 live births, remained unchanged in 2000 at 12.0/1,000 (**Figure 1C-2, Table 1C-3**). The perinatal death ratio (III), defined as death of a fetus of at least 20 weeks gestational age or death of an infant less than 7 days, decreased by 9.1 percent from 11.0/1,000 in 1999 to 10.0/1,000 in 2000 (**Table 1C-3**). Fetal deaths accounted for 76.5 percent of all perinatal deaths (III) in 2000 compared to 57.1 percent in 1990.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Maternal mortality declined from a peak of 8 deaths in 1996, to 5 deaths in 1997 and 2 deaths in 1998 (**Table 1C-1**). In 2000, seven deaths of Arizona resident women were attributed to complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (**Table 1C-2**). Five women were within 20 to 29 years of age and one was a teenager (**Table 1C-1**).

The causes of maternal deaths in the State in 2000 have included *complications mainly related to pregnancy* (3 deaths), *complications occurring in the course of labor and delivery* (1 death) and *complications of the puerperium* (1 death, **Table 1C-2**).