

1D. INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

TOTAL REPORTED ABORTIONS

In calendar year 2000, the Arizona Department of Health Services received 9,631 reports of abortions obtained by Arizona residents, 9.6 percent less than the 10,656 reported in 1999 (**Table 1D-1**). It is unclear whether this decline in the number of abortions represents a true decrease in the number of abortions performed or, perhaps, a lower response rate of providers. In 1998, increased media coverage of the regulatory and licensing requirements may have contributed to the improved reporting by abortion providers in the State. The number of 9,631 abortions reported in 2000 was the lowest annual number since 1981.

Ten (10.1 percent) out of every 100 pregnancies in Arizona in 2000 were reported to end in abortion (**Table 5A-1**). The frequency of reported induced terminations of pregnancy among Black women (16 percent) was the highest among ethnic groups. Both White non-Hispanic (10.7 percent) and Asian (10.9 percent) women exceeded the average for all groups. In contrast, less than five (4.3) out of every 100 pregnancies were reported to end in abortion among American Indian women. The frequency of abortions in relation to the frequency of pregnancies among Hispanic women (8 reported terminations per 100 pregnancies) was 20.8 percent lower than the statewide average for all ethnic groups (based on data in **Table 1A-6**).

Most reported abortions in Arizona in 2000 were performed in non-hospital clinics (87.5

percent) and physicians' offices (12.5 percent). Six out of ten (64 percent) women who reported to have an abortion had the procedure for the first time. Two out of three (82.9 percent) Arizona women who reported to have an abortion in 2000 and, who identified their marital status were unmarried (**Table 5D-5**). Eighty-seven percent of reported induced terminations of pregnancy occurred during the first trimester of pregnancy (7,637 among 8,808 abortions with known gestational duration, **Table 1D-1**).

ABORTION RATIOS

The resident abortion ratio in 2000 (the number of reported induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 live births) was 113.3, 14.4 percent lower than in 1999 and 44.5 percent lower than in 1991 when it reached its recent peak of 204.0 (**Table 1D-1**). Black females exceeded the overall abortion ratio by 69.8 percent (**Table 1D-2**). The 2000 abortion ratio of 192.4 for Black females was 4.3 times higher than that for American Indian females, whose ratio of 45.2 was the lowest among ethnic groups. The 2000 abortion ratio for Hispanic females was still the second lowest among the ethnic groups (88.4 abortions per 1,000 live births).

ABORTION RATES

The rate of induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 female residents aged 15-44 declined from 10.2 in 1999 to 8.9 in 2000, the lowest abortion rate since 1977. A time series analysis of annual abortion data for 1990-2000 reveals a declining trend (**Figure 1D-1**) in surgical terminations of pregnancy in Arizona.

All age-specific abortion rates were lower in 2000 than they were in 1990 (**Figure 1D-2**).