The expression “reproductive and perinatal health” refers to a variety of health and sociodemographic characteristics of women who became pregnant, factors related to the course of their pregnancies, and the status of pregnancy outcomes. In this report, pregnancies are measured as the sum of three components: live births, spontaneous terminations of pregnancy (fetal deaths or stillbirths) and induced terminations of pregnancy (or abortions).
There were 98,548 pregnancies in Arizona in 2002 compared to 94,142 in 2001, an increase of 4.7 percent. Among the three pregnancy outcomes, the number of resident live births increased from 85,213 in 2001 to 87,379 in 2002. (Figure 1A-1, Table 1A-1), the number of abortions increased from 8,226 to 10,397, and the number of fetal deaths rose from 703 reported in 2001 to 772 in 2002. From 2001 to 2002, the number of females aged 15-44 years increased by 3.1 percent. The increase of 2.5 percent in the number of births over the same period was smaller and the fertility rate, which relates births to the number of women of childbearing age, fell 0.5 percent.

The pregnancy rate among Arizona females of all ages increased by 1.5 percent from 83.9 pregnancies per 1,000 in 2001 to 85.2/1,000 in 2002 (Table 1A-1, Figure 1A-2). The pregnancy rate for Hispanic female residents of Arizona was 122.4 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years. This rate was 83.2 percent greater than the rate of 64/1,000 for White non-Hispanics. American Indian females had the second highest rate among ethnic groups (90.8/1,000), followed by Arizona’s Black females (87.8/1,000). Asian females experienced a 7 percent increase in their pregnancy rate from 81.5/1,000 in 2001 to 87.2/1,000 in 2002.
The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2002 was 70.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females (Figure 1A-3), 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 1A-3). The declining teenage pregnancy rate has not been accompanied by a similar decrease in the number of pregnancies. Compared to 1992, there were no fewer teen pregnancies in 2002 (12,885 and 13,572 respectively) (Table 1A-5), but fewer pregnancies per 1,000 teenage females.

Among teen age females aged 15-17 years, Hispanic girls continued to have the highest pregnancy rates followed by Blacks, and American Indians. The 2002 pregnancy rate of 77/1,000 among Hispanic girls was 5.3 times greater than the rate of 14.6/1,000 for Asian girls 15-17 years old (Figure 1A-4, Table 1A-3).
Among females 18-19 years old, the Hispanic to Asian differential in pregnancy rates was 2.8 times (172.8/1000 vs. 61.6/1000, Figure 1A-5, Table 1A-4) in 2002.

Between 1980 and 2002, pregnancy rates declined for all ethnic populations (Figure 1A-6), with the steepest decline of 57.7 percent for White non-Hispanic teens, followed by Black (43 percent), Asian (42.3 percent) and American Indian teens (36.3 percent). In contrast, Hispanic females aged 19 and younger were the only group for whom the 2002 pregnancy rate differed from the 1980 rate by a mere 2.5 percent (57.6/1,000 and 59.1/1,000 respectively).
Hispanic females, 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 1A-7).

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 1A-8, Table 1A-3). 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).