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 (see Section 1B), spontaneous terminations of pregnancy (fetal deaths or stillbirths; Section 1C) and induced terminations of pregnancy (or abortions; Section 1D).

There were 110,155 pregnancies in Arizona in 2008 compared to 113,756 in 2007, a decrease of 3.2 percent. Among the three pregnancy outcomes, the number of resident live births also decreased by 3.4 percent from 102,687 in 2007 to 99,215 in 2008 (Table 1A-1). The number of reported abortions only slightly declined (10,486 in 2007 vs. 10,396 in 2008). The number of reportable spontaneous fetal losses decreased by 6.7 percent from 583 reported in 2007 to 544 in 2008.
The pregnancy rates declined for the second consecutive year from 88.7 pregnancies per 1,000 females 15-44 years old in 2006 to 83.0/1,000 in 2008 (Figure 1A-1, Table 1A-1).

The fertility rate (the number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age) also declined by 6.4 percent from 80.0/1,000 in 2006 to 74.8/1,000 in 2008.

The abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age) decreased by 4.9 percent from 8.2 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years in 2006 to 7.8/1,000 in 2008.

County-level information about pregnancies and pregnancy rates by pregnancy outcome is provided in Table 5A-1.

The changes in the pregnancy rates from 2007 to 2008 varied by woman’s race/ethnicity. The pregnancy rate rose by 2.6 percent for Black or African American women. Asian or Pacific Islander experienced a 2 percent decline in their pregnancy rate (Figure 1A-2).

The pregnancy rates among American Indian and White non-Hispanic women declined by 2.2 and 3.9 percent, respectively. In contrast, Hispanic or Latino women experienced a substantial decrease of 9.0 percent, 1.8 times greater than the overall decline of 5.1 percent for all Arizona women.

The pregnancy rate for White non-Hispanics of 63.8 per 1,000 was the lowest of all groups. Whereas the highest was for Hispanics at 111.7 (Table 1A-1). In 2008, Black or African American females had the second highest rate among subgroups (94.4/1,000) followed by Arizona’s Asians (87.1/1,000) and American Indians (81.2/1,000).

An unprecedented decline in the number of births to Hispanic or Latino mothers (discussed in Section 1B) accounted for 81.4 percent of the decrease in the pregnancy rate for this group.
There is a difference between pregnancy rates and the absolute number of pregnancies. The teen pregnancy rate measures the proportion of teenagers becoming pregnant in a given year; in other words, the relative "risk for pregnancy" in a population "at risk". The number of pregnancies is also determined by the size of the population "at risk": or in this case by the number of teenage females in the population.

While the number of teen pregnancies increased by 12.0 percent from 13,429 in 2001 to 15,038 in 2007, the pregnancy rate decreased by 4.4 percent from 36.0 in 2001 to 34.4 in 2007 (Figure 1A-3). The drop in the rate has not been enough to offset the growth in the female teenage population (from 2001 to 2007 the number of females 19 years old or younger increased by 17.1 percent).

In 2008, both the number of teen pregnancies and the pregnancy rate were lower than they were in 2007. From 2007 to 2008 the number of teen pregnancies decreased by 6.6 percent and the pregnancy rate by 8.1 percent.

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2008 was 63.2 pregnancies per 1,000 females (Figure 1A-4, Table 5A-2), 7.6 percent lower than in 2007. The pregnancy rate for younger teenagers 15-17 years old declined by 6.2 percent (Table 1A-3) from 36.9/1,000 in 2007 to 34.6/1,000 in 2008. The pregnancy rate for older teenagers 18-19 years old declined even more steeply by 8.7 percent from 121.4/1,000 in 2007 to 111.3/1,000 in 2008 (Table 1A-4).

County-level information about teen pregnancies and pregnancy rates is provided in Table 5A-2, Table 5A-3 and Table 5A-5. Pregnancy statistics for Arizona are not available on a sub-county level and the information in Table 9A is limited to the number of births to mothers 19 years or younger by community.
Teen pregnancy rates differ sharply by race/ethnicity.

Between 1988 and 1998, pregnancy rates among females aged 19 and younger declined for all race/ethnicity groups except Hispanics or Latinos. (Figure 1A-6). The steepest decline in pregnancy rates was recorded for Blacks or African Americans. The teen pregnancy rate for this group decreased by 46.5 percent from 94.1 in 1988 to 50.3 in 1998.

The changes in annual teen pregnancy rates from 1998 to 2008 are shown in detail below.
In 2008, Hispanic females accounted for approximately 35.4 percent of all females 10-19 years old in Arizona. As in the past, they made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (55.3 percent) and live births (58.9 percent; Figure 1A-7). In contrast, White non-Hispanic females had a lower proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (27.4 percent) and live births (24.6 percent). Note: percentages are based on the number of pregnancies and births in Table 1A-5.

In 2008, the pregnancy rate of 34.6 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent girls 15-17 years old in Arizona was 38.4 percent greater than the Healthy Arizona 2010 objective of 25.0/1,000 (Figure 1A-8, Table 1A-3). The 2008 pregnancy rate among Asians ages 15-17 was 53.6 percent lower, and among White non-Hispanics 40.4 percent lower than the objective. In contrast, the 2006 pregnancy rate among Hispanics 15-17 years old exceeded the target rate by 150.8 percent, or 2.5 times.