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 abortions (Section 1D).

There were 99,324 pregnancies in Arizona in 2012 compared to 99,266 in 2011 and 113,756 in 2007. Among the three pregnancy outcomes, the number of resident live births decreased by 16.5 percent from 102,687 in 2007 to 85,725 in 2012 (Table 1A-1). The number of reported abortions decreased 3.5 percent from 13,606 in 2011 to 13,129 in 2012. The number of reportable spontaneous fetal losses remained the same in 2011 and 2012 (n = 470).
Rate is a measure of the frequency of some event (such as pregnancy, or live birth) in relation to a unit of population during a specified time period such as a year; events in the numerator of the year occur to individuals in the denominator. The pregnancy rate slightly increased from 76.7 pregnancies per 1,000 females of childbearing age in 2009 to 77.9/1,000 in 2012 (Figure 1A-1, Table 1A-1).

The fertility rate (the number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age) changed slightly from 2011 at 67.0/1,000 to 67.2/1,000 in 2012. The fertility rate in 2012 was 16 percent lower than the recent high of 2006.

The abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age) slightly decreased from 10.7 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years in 2011 to 10.2/1,000 in 2012. This stability reflects consistency in abortion reporting procedures over the past two years.

It is important to note that the number of females aged 15-44 years estimated in 2012 (n = 1,274,871) was higher than in 2011 (n = 1,271,867).

Overall, pregnancies in Arizona decreased by 3.7 percent from 2009 to 2012. While the number of pregnancies decreased for all racial/ethnic groups during this period, changes in the number of pregnancies varied by woman’s race/ethnicity.

American Indian females (13.3 percent) and Hispanic or Latino females (12.3 percent) experienced the greatest percent decrease in number of pregnancies from 2009 to 2012 (Figure 1A-2, Table 1A-1). White non-Hispanics (8.9 percent) and Black or African Americans (5.8 percent) also experienced decreases greater than the state average decrease. Asian females had the lowest decrease at 2.2 percent.
1A. PREGNANCIES BY PREGNANCY OUTCOME, ETHNICITY, AND AGE 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.

The number of teen pregnancies decreased by 35.4 percent from 15,038 in 2007 to 9,710 in 2012 (Figure 1A-3). The teen pregnancy rate declined even more, by 37.2 percent, from 34.4 pregnancies per 1,000 females 10-19 years in 2007 to 21.6/1,000 in 2012. The number of teenage pregnancies and the teen pregnancy rate of 2012 were the lowest recorded since at least 1980.

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2012 was 42.2 pregnancies per 1,000 females (Figure 1A-4, Table 5A-2), 6.4 percent lower than 2011 and 38.3 percent lower than in 2007. The pregnancy rate for younger teenagers 15-17 years old declined by 40.9 percent (Table 1A-3) from 36.9/1,000 in 2007 to 21.8/1,000 in 2012. The pregnancy rate for older teenagers 18-19 years old declined by 42.2 percent from 121.4/1,000 in 2007 to 70.2/1,000 in 2012 (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.

Note: * Pregnancy rate is the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in specified age group.
Teen pregnancy rates differ by race/ethnicity.

Between 2002 and 2012, pregnancy rates among females aged 19 and younger declined for all racial/ethnic groups (Figure 1A-5). The steepest decline in teenage pregnancy rates was recorded for Asian females, who experienced a 60.7 percent drop from 2002 to 2012. The Hispanic teenage pregnancy rate decreased by 51.4 percent from 57.6 in 2002 to 28.0 in 2012, representing a much larger decline in the absolute number of pregnant teenage Hispanics compared to Asians.

The changes in annual teen pregnancy rates from 2002 to 2012 are shown in detail below.
1A. PREGNANCIES BY PREGNANCY OUTCOME, ETHNICITY, AND AGE GROUP

In 2012, Hispanic females accounted for approximately 40.3 percent of all females 10-19 years old in Arizona. As in the past, they made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (52.4 percent) and live births (57.0 percent; Figure 1A-7). In contrast, White non-Hispanic females made up a larger proportion of all females 10-19 years old in Arizona, but had a lower proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (23.1 percent) and live births (24.4 percent). Note: percentages are based on the number of pregnancies and births in Table 1A-5.

In 2012, the pregnancy rate of 21.8 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent females 15-17 years old in Arizona was 39.8 percent lower than the Healthy People 2020 objective of 36.2/1,000 (Figure 1A-8, Table 1A-3). For all racial/ethnic groups in Arizona, the pregnancy rates for females age 15-17 years were below the Healthy People 2020 objective. The 2012 pregnancy rate among Asians age 15-17 was 6.5 times lower, and among White non-Hispanics 4.0 times lower, than the objective. While lower than the objective, the pregnancy rates of American Indians, Hispanics, and Blacks were substantially higher than their White non-Hispanic and Asian counterparts.

Note:  All rates per 1,000 females in specified age group.