

# PREFACE

This publication provides readers with the 2008 data on live births and infant deaths by census tract in South Phoenix, Arizona. Census tracts are relatively permanent subdivisions of a county, delineated by local census statistical areas committees following Census Bureau guidelines. Census tracts do not cross county boundaries.

Information on live births and deaths is compiled from the original documents (i.e., certificates of live births and certificates of death) filed with the Arizona Department of Health Services. The tabulated data include:

1) A comparison of selected characteristics of newborns and mothers giving birth in 2008 in South Phoenix, Maricopa County, and Arizona (births to females less than 18 years old, births to unwed mothers, births by mother's race/ethnicity, births by the payee, utilization of prenatal care as measured by the proportion of women giving birth who receive early, late or no care during pregnancy, the number of prenatal visits, incidence of low-birthweight and preterm births, age-specific and cause-specific infant mortality);

2) A comparison of selected characteristics of newborns and mothers giving birth in South Phoenix in 1998 and 2008;

3) Census tract- level information for 2008 about the health of mothers and newborns (mother's age group, marital status, race/ethnicity, party paying for the delivery, early, late or no prenatal care, number of prenatal visits, substance use during pregnancy, person in attendance and place of delivery, weight at birth and gestational age, abnormal conditions of the newborn, birth defects, maternal medical risk factors for pregnancy, complications of labor and/or delivery, infant deaths by neonatal/postneonatal age, infant deaths by mother's race/ethnicity, and infant deaths by cause).

Many percentages or rates calculated from the data shown in this report would be based on a small number of events. Rates based on fewer than 10 events are not statistically reliable. Caution must be exercised when interpreting data based on small numbers of events and/or events occurring in small populations.