

PURPOSE

This report is the 2003 update of information about pregnancies among females under age 20. The data for 2003 are placed in a temporal context by comparison with the data for the preceding years.

METHODS AND SOURCES

In this report, pregnancies are measured as the sum of three components: live births, fetal deaths (or stillbirths) and reported abortions to Arizona resident women, unless otherwise specified. Not included are spontaneous fetal losses that occur at less than 20 weeks of gestation. Induced terminations of pregnancy do not include those performed out-of-state to Arizona residents, since they are not reported. Pregnancy statistics for Arizona are not available on a sub-county level.

Teens or teenagers are defined as 10-14 year old preadolescents and adolescents 15-19 years of age. Where possible, the data presented distinguish 18-19 year old teenagers from those aged 15-17 and girls less than 15 years of age.

The primary source documents for the data are the certificates of live births, certificates of fetal deaths and reports of induced terminations of pregnancy filed with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Population denominators for Arizona's resident females, used to calculate rates, are projections from the Population Statistics Unit in the Arizona Department of Economic Security (data for 1993-1999) or census enumerations from the U.S. Census Bureau (data for 1980, 1990 and 2000).

In order to obtain the population denominators for 2001-2003, the 2000 percentages of population breakdowns (or census shares) by age group and gender were applied to total state and total county annual population estimates released by the Department of Economic Security.

DATA ORGANIZATION

Tables 1-9 present annual numbers and rates of pregnancy, fertility and abortion by year from 1993 to 2003, age group and ethnicity for Arizona adolescents. Temporal trends and changes may be assessed from these data. Table 11 provides pregnancy rates by single year of age among females aged 19 and younger. Tables 9-10 and 12-14 provide data by county of residence. Live births to teenage mothers are also reported in Tables 15-22 by marital status, education, previous pregnancies, trimester of entry into prenatal care, source of payment for labor and delivery and tobacco and alcohol use during pregnancy. Proportional contribution of teen births to all births is shown in Table 23 by area of residence and ethnic group in Arizona from 1993 to 2003. Table 24 compares birth rates in Arizona and United States.

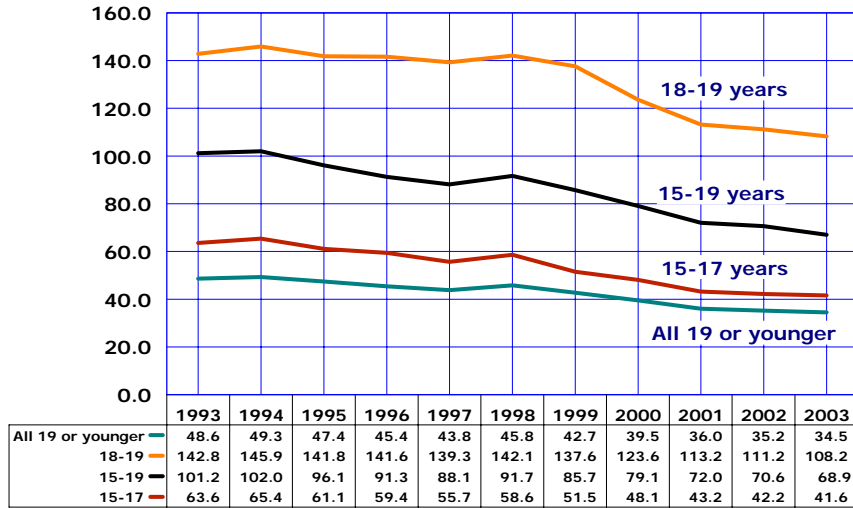
The annual numbers of repeat pregnancies among teenage mothers are shown by age and year from 1993 to 2003 in Table 25. The estimated number of mothers who were under the age of 20 in Arizona in 2003 is given in Table 26. The 2003 population denominators for Arizona resident females by age group and county of residence, as well as by age group and ethnicity are presented in Table 27 and Table 28.

KEY FINDINGS

The following section presents some illustrative findings contained in the figures and tables of the report. It is not intended to be an exhaustive analysis of the tabulated data.

KEY FINDINGS

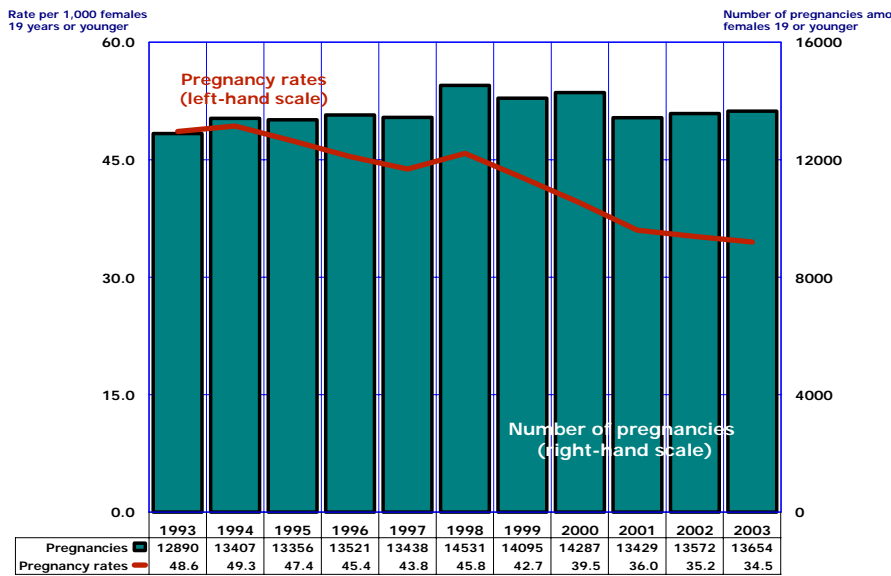
Figure 1
Pregnancy Rates by Age Group and Year Among Females 19 and Younger, Arizona, 1993-2003



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

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 2003 was 68.9 pregnancies per 1,000 females (**Figure 1**), 2.4 percent lower than in 2002 and 32.5 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 2003, dropping to 41.6/1,000, a 36.4 percent lower rate than in 1994. Similarly, the pregnancy rate for older teenagers declined in 2003 to 108.2/1,000, down 2.7 percent from 2002, and 25.8 percent from a rate of 145.9/1,000 in 1994 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 2
Trends in the Number of Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates Among Females 19 Years and Younger, Arizona, 1993-2003



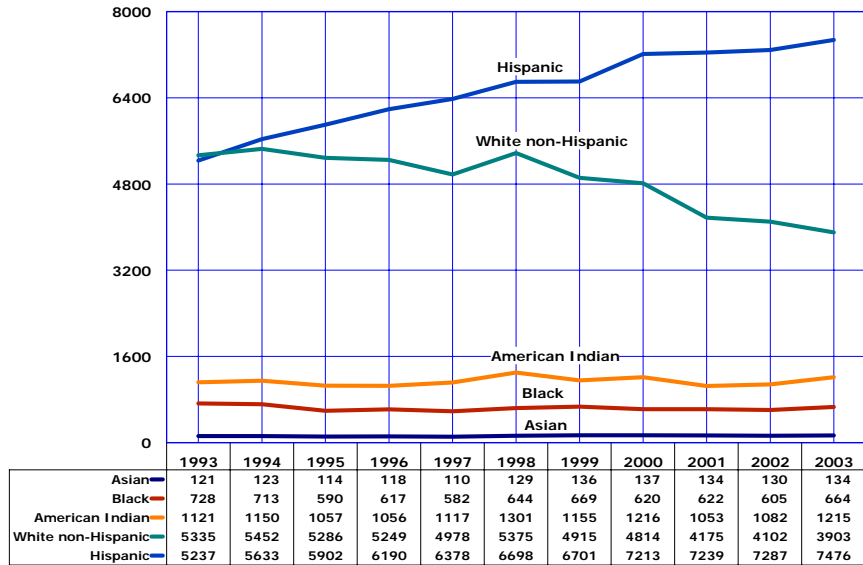
Pregnancy rate=The number of pregnancies per 1,000 females in specified age group.

The pregnancy rate measures the proportion of teenagers becoming pregnant in a given year; the relative "risk for pregnancy" in a population "at risk". The number of pregnancies is, however, also determined by the size of the population "at risk": by the number of teenage females in the population. While the teen pregnancy rate has fallen in Arizona, the drop in the rate has not been enough to offset the growth in the female teenage population. **Compared to 1993, there were no fewer teen pregnancies in 2003 (12,890 and 13,654 respectively) (Figure 2), but fewer pregnancies per 1,000 teenage females.**

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 3
Trends in the Number of Pregnancies* by Race/Ethnicity
Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1993-2003

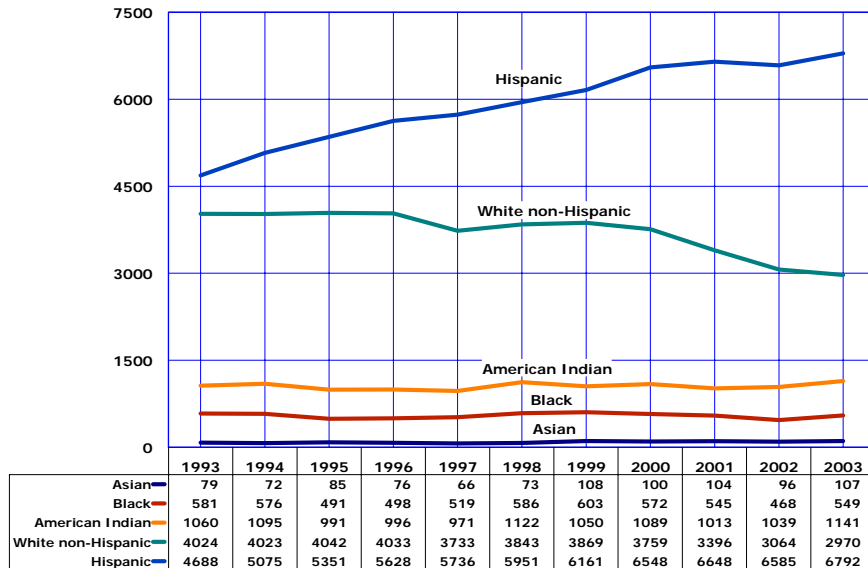
In 1993, 5,335 out of 10,438 (or 51.1 percent) of pregnancies to females 19 years or younger were to White non-Hispanic females. The number of pregnancies to Hispanic females aged 19 years or younger exceeded the number of pregnancies among white non-Hispanic peers in every year since 1994 (Figure 3, Table 1, Table 8). In 2003, Hispanic or Latino mothers accounted for 63.9 percent of all pregnancies in this age group. The number of pregnancies among American Indians, Blacks and Asian remained virtually unchanged from 1993 to 2003.



*The sum of live births+induced abortions+spontaneous fetal deaths.

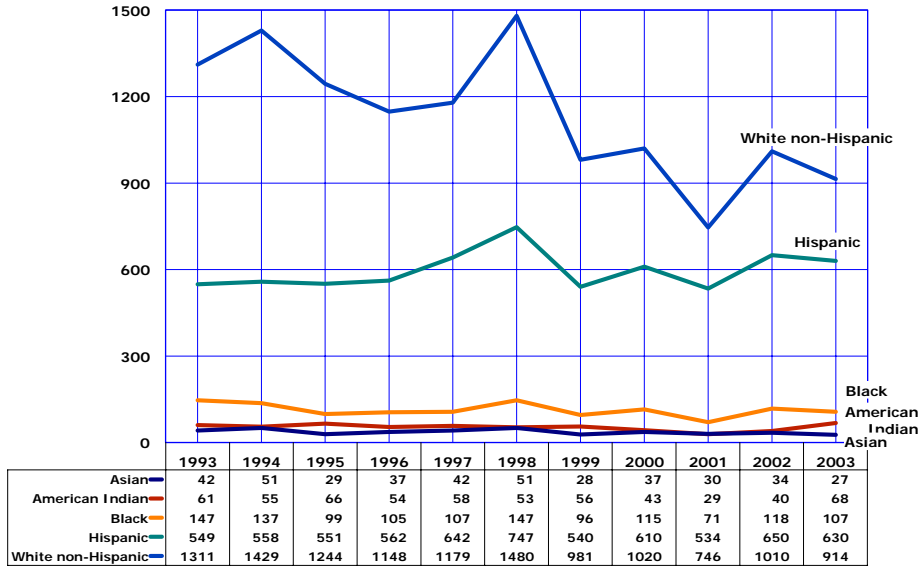
Figure 4
Trends in the Number of Live Births by Race/Ethnicity
Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1993-2003

The number of live births to Hispanic or Latino mothers aged 19 years and younger exceeded the number of births among White non-Hispanic peers in every year from 1993 to 2003 (Figure 4, Table 3, Table 8). The combined number of live births to American Indian, Black or African American, and Asian or Pacific Islander mothers changed very little from 1,720 in 1993 to 1,797 in 2003.



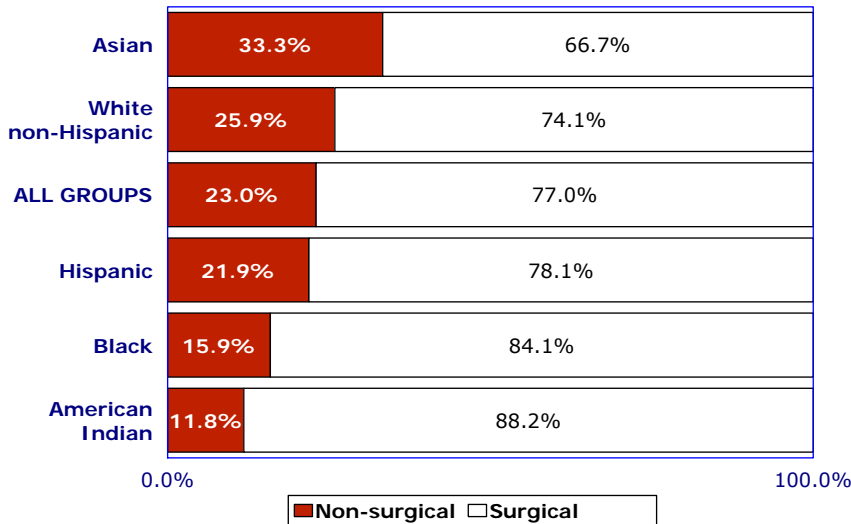
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 5
Trends in the Number of Induced Abortions by Race/Ethnicity
Among Females 19 Years and Younger,
Arizona, 1993-2003



The number of abortions to females 19 years or younger declined from 2,357 in 1993 to 1,867 in 2003 (Table 1). White non-Hispanic, Asian and Black or African American females accounted for the entire decrease in the number of abortions. In contrast, the number of abortions among both Hispanic and American Indian teens was greater in 2003 than in 1993 (Figure 5, Table 4).

Figure 6
Proportional Contribution of Non-Surgical and Surgical
Abortions by Race/Ethnicity Among Females 19 Years and
Younger, Arizona, 2003



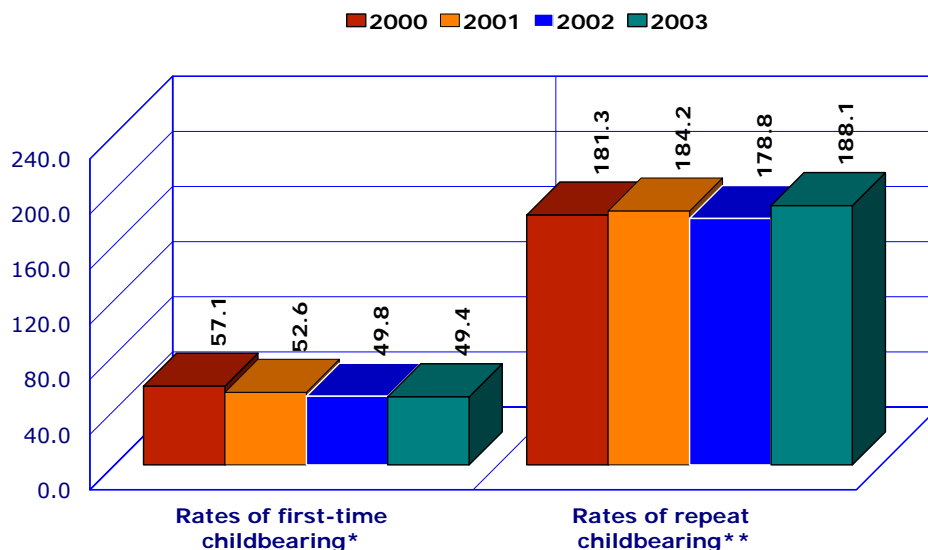
In 2003, non-surgical (also called "medical") abortions made up approximately 23 percent of all procedures reported for teenage females in Arizona. Only among Asian or Pacific Islander and White non-Hispanic teens the proportion of non-surgical abortions exceeded the average for all groups (Figure 6). The ratios of non-surgical abortions among Black and American Indian females were the lowest among ethnic groups.

Non-surgical: Mifepristone, Methotrexate, RU486, etc.

KEY FINDINGS

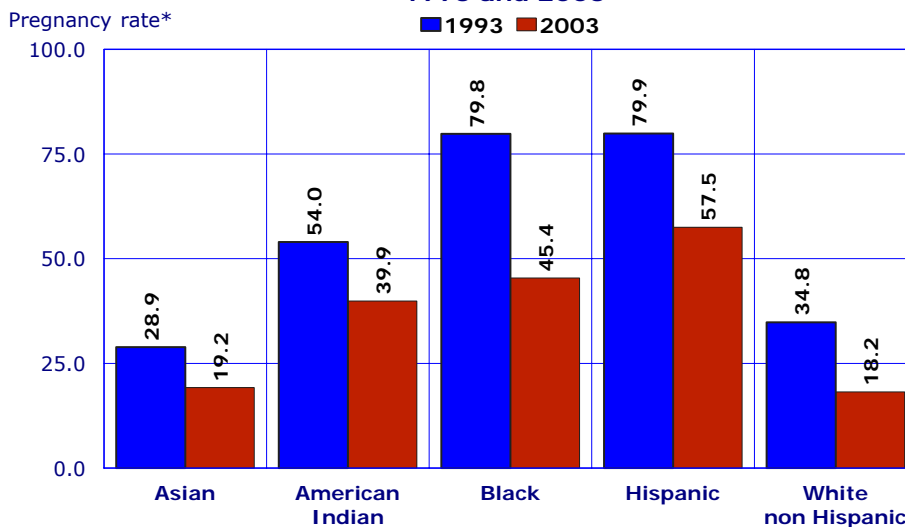
The declines from 2000 to 2003 in teenage birth rates have reflected reductions in the first but not the repeat birth rates (Figure 7). The first birth rate for childless teenagers has dropped 13.5 percent since 2000. In contrast, the repeat birth rate for teenagers who had already had a child increased to 188.1 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2003 (Figure 3). To put it another way, 19 percent of teenagers who already had one child gave birth again in 2003 (computations based on data in Table 26 in this report and Table 1B-24 of the *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2003* report).

Figure 7
Rates of First and Repeat Births to Females Aged 15-19 Years, Arizona, 2000-2003



* Number of first births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old who have not had a birth.
**Number of repeat births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old who have had a birth previously.

Figure 8
Comparison of Pregnancy Rates* by Ethnic Group Among Females Aged 19 and Younger in Arizona in 1993 and 2003

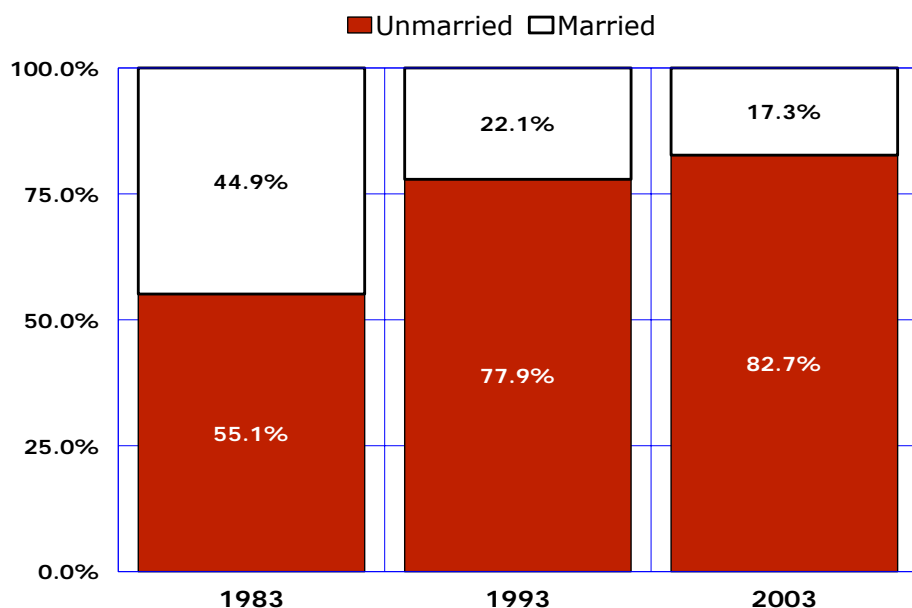


* Number of pregnancies per 1,000 females 10-19 years old in specified group.

Between 1993 and 2003, pregnancy rates declined for all age, race, and Hispanic origin populations (Figure 8) with the steepest declines recorded for White non-Hispanic (47.7 percent decline) and Black or African American teens (43.1 percent decline). Both in 1993 and 2003 the pregnancy rate among Hispanic or Latino females was the highest among the race/ethnic groups in Arizona.

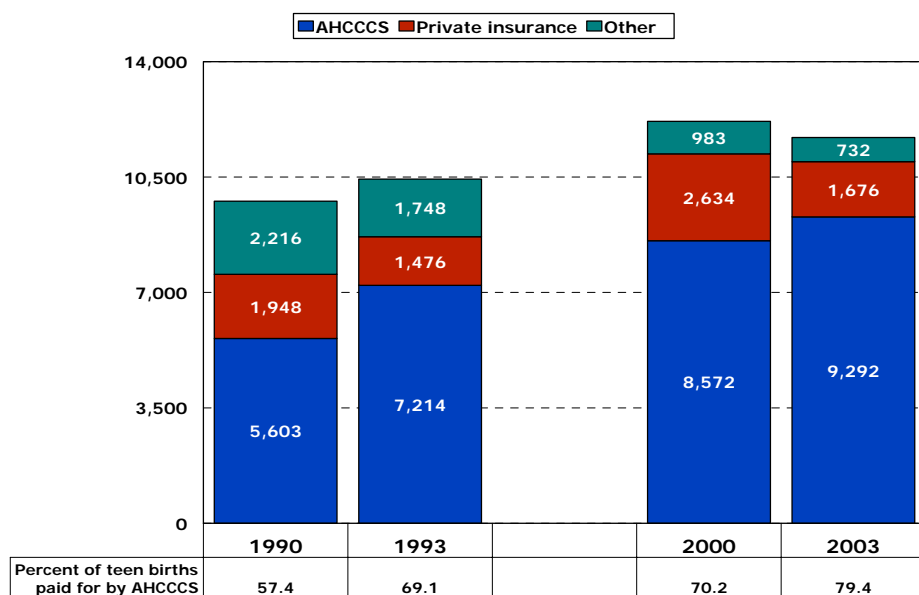
KEY FINDINGS

Figure 9
Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old by Marital Status,
Arizona, 1983, 1993 and 2003



Unwed mothers have accounted for an increasing annual proportion of births throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Two decades ago, the proportion of nonmarital births among teenagers aged 15-19 years was still around 50 percent (Figure 10). In 2003, nonmarital births accounted for eighty-three percent of births to mothers 15-19 years old.

Figure 10
Number of Births to Mothers 19 Years or Younger by
Payee, Arizona, 1990, 1993, 2000, 2003



In 2003, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) paid for 79.4 percent of the deliveries to mothers 19 or younger (Table 15), compared to 57.4 percent in 1990 (Figure 10).

The total number of births to mothers 19 years or younger increased by 19.8 percent from 9,767 in 1990 to 11,700 in 2003. In contrast, the number of teen births paid for by the AHCCCS increased by 65.8 percent from 5,603 in 1990 to 9,292 in 2003.