

PURPOSE

This report is the twenty-first annual update of information about pregnancies among females under age 20. The data for 2006 is placed in a temporal context by comparing it with the data from 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 in Arizona. Pregnancy statistics for Arizona are not available on a sub-county level.

Teens are defined as 10-14 year old preadolescents and adolescents 15-19 years of age. Where possible, the data presented distinguishes 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.

Several data sources were utilized in producing the population denominators for Arizona's resident females, used to calculate rates. The denominators for 2000 are the actual census enumerations from the U.S. Census Bureau. In order to obtain the population denominators for 2001-2005, the 2000 percentages of population breakdowns (or census shares) by age group, gender and race/ethnicity were applied to total state and total county annual population estimates released by the Department of Economic Security (DES).

The longer the time after the census, the less likely it is that the 2000 census shares continue to reflect the "true" proportions of population breakdowns. Beginning with the 2006 population estimates we no longer use the year 2000 census shares. For 2006, the totals for the State and each of its counties agree with the projections released by the DES on March 31, 2006 (<http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=138>). The percentages of population breakdowns by single-year of age, gender and race/ethnicity were derived from the "Bridged-Race Vintage 2005 Postcensal Population Estimates for Calculating Vital Rates", available from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/datadoc.htm#vintage2005>). These percentages were then applied to total state and county population projections for 2006 from DES. The 2006 population estimates by race/ethnicity should not be compared with the previously published estimates for 2001-2005, which used the year 2000 census shares.

The pregnancy rates for 1996-1999 were revised in this report using the population denominators that are consistent with the 2000 census. The population projected previously from the 1990 census underestimated the growth of the Hispanic population during the 1990s. According to the 2000 census, there were 118,490 Hispanic females 19 years or younger in Arizona, 37.5 percent more than the estimated by the Census Bureau number of 86,203 in 1999. The revised denominators for 1996-1999 were derived from the "Bridged-race intercensal population estimates for July 1, 1990-July 1, 1999, by year, county, single-year of age, Hispanic origin, and sex" provided by NCHS.

DATA ORGANIZATION

Tables 1-16 present annual numbers and rates of pregnancy, fertility and abortion by year from 1996 to 2006, age group and race/ethnicity for Arizona teens. Temporal trends and changes may be assessed from this data. Proportional contribution of teen births to all births is shown in Table 10 by area of residence and race/ethnic group in Arizona from 1996 to 2006. Table 11 compares birth rates in Arizona to those in the United States. The annual numbers of repeat pregnancies among teenage mothers are shown by age and year from 1996 to 2006 in Table 12.

Three new data tables were added to the current edition of the report. Table 14 presents teen pregnancy rates by race/ethnicity and age group by year from 1996 to 2006. It includes revised pregnancy rates for 1996-1999. Table 15 provides information about the incidence of sexually transmitted infections among females 10-14 and 15-19 years old in Arizona in 1996-2006. Table 16 shows the incidence rates by year from 1996 to 2006.

Frequency counts, proportions and rates in tables 17-32 all apply to the 2006 data. Tables 17-18 and 20-22 provide data by county of residence. Table 19 presents pregnancy rates by single year of age among females 19 and younger. Live births to teenage mothers are also reported in Tables 23-30 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. The 2006 population denominators for Arizona resident females by age group and race/ethnicity, as well as by age group and county of residence are presented in Table 31 and Table 32. The *Appendix* demonstrates "How to compute the rates of first and repeat childbearing" using the annual data for 2000-2006.

COMPARATIVE NATIONAL AND STATE DATA

Timely and reliable teen pregnancy statistics for other States and the Nation are not easily available. *“Health, United States, 2005”*, the premier annual publication of The Department of Health and Human Services, contains no information about pregnancies. The latest available national teenage birth rates for 2004 were published in September, 2006. No national abortion data have been available since the 2002 calendar data year, and no fetal death data have been available since 2004. The most recent data on teen pregnancy rates were published using year 2000 data by The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the principal health statistics agency.

Data on abortions and pregnancies are published by the Guttmacher Institute (formerly Alan Guttmacher Institute). Its latest report, *“U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics. National and State Trends and Trends by Race/Ethnicity”* was updated in September 2006. It includes pregnancy estimates by outcome for 1972-2003. The Guttmacher Institute uses the NCHS data for the number of births and its own estimates of abortions and miscarriages. The number of abortions is calculated from surveys the Institute conducts of known abortion providers. However, the number of abortions by state of residence, woman’s age or Hispanic origin is not available from these surveys. The Institute calculates these numbers by applying the distributions of characteristics compiled by the CDC Division of Reproductive Health (which receives the data from State health departments) to the results of its Abortion Provider Survey. For instance, abortion estimates by age group and state are “based on proportion of abortions obtained by women of the same age in neighboring and similar states”.¹ Unfortunately, the above approach does little to reveal the actual state-specific patterns of abortion practices, particularly when the states differ with respect to the accessibility of abortion providers or the prevalence of minorities among resident women in the childbearing ages (15-44 years).

In addition and unlike other data sources, the Guttmacher Institute includes in its estimated number of pregnancies, the estimated numbers of miscarriages: “The number of miscarriages was estimated as 20 percent of births plus 10 percent of abortions”.² Again, this approach does little to reveal the actual differences in the miscarriage risks by age group, race/ethnicity or area of residence.

No comparable state-by-state data for 2005 or 2006 are available at this time.

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.

- **From 1996 to 2006, the teen pregnancy rate overall fell by 31 percent.**
- **However, the absolute number of teen pregnancies increased by 10.3 percent from 13,521 in 1996 to 14,918 in 2006. The latter is the highest number of teen pregnancies ever recorded in the State.**
- **The increase is partially explained by fact that the birth rate for 18-19 year olds increased by an unprecedented 13.3 percent.**
- **In addition, the number of pregnancies among White non-Hispanic females 19 years or younger sharply increased by 14.2 percent and for Hispanic or Latino females 19 years or younger by 8.4 percent.**
- **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.**
- **Both first and repeat birth rates increased between 2005 and 2006.**
- **In 2006, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) paid for 79.9 percent of the deliveries to mothers 19 or younger.**
- **The total number of sexually transmitted infections among females 19 or younger exceeded 7,400 compared to 4,200 reported in 1996.**

¹*Abortion Factbook 1992 Edition. Readings, Trends and State and Local Data to 1988.* Stanley K. Henshaw and Jennifer Van Vort, Eds. New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute 1992.

² *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics. National and State Trends and Trends by Race/Ethnicity.* New York: Guttmacher Institute. Updated September 2006.

