

# PRENATAL CARE IN ARIZONA, 2009

## FACT SHEET



### OVERVIEW OF PRENATAL CARE IN ARIZONA

It is recommended that all pregnant women receive early prenatal care because of the potential health benefits for both mothers and infants. Research has shown that inadequate prenatal care has been associated with increased risk for low birth weight, prematurity, infant mortality, and maternal mortality.\*

In 2008 in Arizona, 79.4 percent of infants (n=78,738) were born to women who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester, and 1.8 percent (n=1,755) were born to women who did not receive any prenatal care. While there is mixed evidence regarding prenatal care and its direct impact on prematurity and low birth weight; nonetheless, data from 2008 indicates that 25 percent of the infants born to women with no prenatal care were premature compared to 10 percent receiving early prenatal care. Similarly, 15 percent of the infants born to women with no prenatal care had low birth weight compared to seven percent of women who received early prenatal care. Both prematurity and low birth weight increase the risk of infant mortality.



Race and ethnicity are associated with entry into prenatal care. American Indians/Alaskan Natives were least likely to begin prenatal care during the first trimester (65.1 percent), followed by Hispanics/Latinas (73.4 percent), Black/African Americans (77.6 percent) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (86.4 percent). White non-Hispanics were the most likely to receive early prenatal care (87.3 percent).

A greater proportion of women with private insurance entered prenatal care in the first trimester (91.5 percent) than women on AHCCCS (71.4 percent), and women who were paying for the birth themselves (66.6 percent). Only 58.9 percent of women on IHS received prenatal care during the first trimester.

Women with less than a high school education were least likely to have entered prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (66.5 percent) compared to women who completed high school (77.4 percent). Women with at least some college education were most likely to have entered prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (89.1 percent).

Women's age is associated with first trimester entry into prenatal care. Only 67.3 percent of teen mothers aged 19 years and younger began prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 80 percent of women 20 years and older. According to a focus group study of prenatal care conducted among Maryvale and South Phoenix Latinas in 2008, "... (youth) who were either hiding their pregnancy or who were having conflicts with their parents, tended to wait longer before going to a health care practitioner/center".\*\*

\* [http://www.cdc.gov/PRAMS/dataAct2002/prenatal\\_care.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/PRAMS/dataAct2002/prenatal_care.htm)

\*\* *A Focus Group Study of Prenatal Care and Resilience Factors among Maryvale and South Phoenix Latinas--Interim Report*, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Annual Revised Needs Assessment Addendum, October 2008, County Prenatal Block Grant.

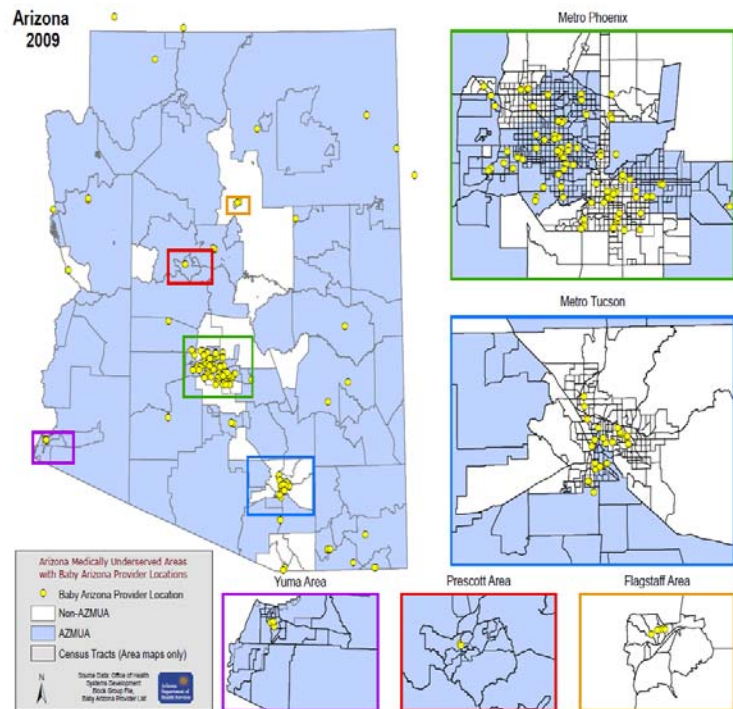
### PRENATAL CARE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

In 2007, 74.2 percent of women giving birth in Arizona's Medically Underserved Areas\* entered prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. The map identifies Baby Arizona Providers\*\* and Arizona Medically Underserved Areas. Approximately 56.5 percent of Baby Arizona Providers were located in medically underserved areas in 2009.

### PRENATAL CARE BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

In 2008, the percentage of women entering prenatal care in their first trimester by county ranged from a low of 60.3 percent in Apache County, to a high of 83.1 percent in Maricopa County. A greater proportion of women in urban counties received first trimester prenatal care (80.2 percent) compared to women residing in rural counties (75.7 percent).\*\*\*

Approximately 79 percent of births in Arizona in 2008 were delivered by women who began prenatal care in the first trimester, an increase from 76 percent in 2004. However, Arizona is unlikely to reach the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90.0 percent of women entering prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.



**PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS DELIVERED BY WOMEN RECEIVING 1ST TRIMESTER PRENATAL CARE ARIZONA, 2004-2008**

County of Residence	2004 Births with 1st trimester PNC		2005 Births with 1st trimester PNC		2006 Births with 1st trimester PNC		2007 Births with 1st trimester PNC		2008 Births with 1st trimester PNC	
	Count	% of total births	Count	% of total births	Count	% of total births	Count	% of total births	Count	% of total births
<b>ARIZONA</b>	71,268	76.3%	74,453	77.7	79,299	77.7	79,683	77.6	78,738	79.4
<b>Apache</b>	835	62.5%	777	60.6	737	62.0	724	63.0	730	60.3
<b>Cochise</b>	1,257	69.4%	1,500	84.8	1,494	82.6	1,520	81.7	1,436	80.6
<b>Coconino</b>	1,609	79.4%	1,648	79.6	1,634	79.2	1,762	82.6	1,599	80.6
<b>Gila</b>	468	70.1%	421	64.9	458	68.7	483	69.6	450	64.6
<b>Graham</b>	342	75.8%	347	76.8	414	76.7	414	71.1	455	70.7
<b>Greenlee</b>	74	72.5%	71	71.7	83	75.5	93	67.4	88	67.2
<b>La Paz</b>	137	59.6%	152	62.0	157	68.6	155	67.4	185	75.2
<b>Maricopa</b>	48,202	79.6%	50,096	80.5	53,158	80.3	52,961	80.3	52,057	83.1
<b>Mohave</b>	1,651	75.4%	1,764	78.9	1,921	77.8	1,853	76.0	1,820	79.1
<b>Navajo</b>	1,236	69.1%	1,337	70.3	1,262	67.2	1,377	68.4	1,285	66.1
<b>Pima</b>	9,094	69.8%	9,454	72.9	10,236	73.5	9,857	71.4	9,555	70.8
<b>Pinal</b>	2,441	79.6%	2,759	75.8	3,492	78.2	4,210	79.7	4,682	81.7
<b>Santa Cruz</b>	522	64.6%	537	68.8	513	68.1	498	65.0	545	68.5
<b>Yavapai</b>	1,444	72.3%	1,497	70.8	1,674	70.3	1,742	72.3	1,551	70.0
<b>Yuma</b>	1,930	58.2%	2,056	62.5	2,034	60.6	2,029	62.4	2,300	68.4
<b>Unknown</b>	26	72.2%	37	68.5	32	65.3	5	62.5	0	0.0

\* For methodology determining AZMUA designation see: <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm>

\*\* For information about Baby Arizona see: <http://www.babyarizona.gov/Default.aspx>

\*\*\* Arizona's urban counties: Maricopa, Pinal, Pima and Yuma counties. Arizona's rural counties: Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Santa Cruz and Yavapai counties.