

## PREFACE AND READER'S GUIDE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) supports healthy women building healthy communities. HRSA is charged with ensuring access to quality health care through a network of community-based health centers, maternal and child health programs, and community HIV/AIDS programs throughout the States and U.S. jurisdictions. In addition, HRSA's mission includes supporting individuals pursuing careers in medicine, nursing, and many other health disciplines. HRSA fulfills these responsibilities, in part, by collecting and analyzing timely, topical information that identifies health priorities and trends that can be addressed through program interventions and capacity building.

HRSA is pleased to present *Women's Health USA 2011*, the tenth edition of the *Women's Health USA* data book. To reflect the ever-changing, increasingly diverse population and its characteristics, *Women's Health USA* selectively highlights emerging issues and trends in women's health. Data and information on second-hand tobacco smoke exposure, preconception health, oral health care, and barriers to health care are a few of the new topics included in this edition. In addition, new special population features present data on the



health of lesbian and bisexual women, as well as the indigenous populations of American Indian and Alaska Native women and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander women.

Disparities by sex, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors, including education and income, are highlighted throughout the document where possible. Where race and ethnicity data are reported, groups are mutually exclusive (i.e., non-Hispanic race groups and the Hispanic ethnic group) except in a few cases where the original data are not presented separately. Throughout the data book, those categorized as being of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race or combination of races. In some instances, it was not possible to provide data for all races due to the design of the original data source or the size of the sample population; therefore, estimates with a relative standard error of 30 percent or greater were considered unreliable and were not reported.

The data book was developed by HRSA to provide readers with an easy-to-use collection of current and historical data on some of the most pressing health challenges facing women, their families, and their communities. *Women's Health USA 2011* is intended to be a concise reference for policymakers and program managers at the Federal, State, and local levels to identify and clarify issues affecting the health

of women. In these pages, readers will find a profile of women's health from a variety of data sources. The data book brings together the latest available information from various agencies within the Federal government, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Labor, and U.S. Department of Justice. Non-Federal data sources were used when no Federal source was available. Every attempt has been made to use data collected in the past 5 years. It is important to note that the data included are generally not age-adjusted to the 2000 population standard of the United States. This affects the comparability of data from year to year, and the interpretation of differences across various groups, especially those of different races and ethnicities. Without age adjustment, it is difficult to know how much of the difference in incidence rates between groups can be attributed to differences in the groups' age distributions.

*Women's Health USA 2011* is available online through the HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Office of Women's Health Web site at [www.hrsa.gov/WomensHealth](http://www.hrsa.gov/WomensHealth) or the MCHB Office of Epidemiology, Policy and Evaluation Web site at [www.mchb.hrsa.gov/researchdata](http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/researchdata). Some of the topics covered in *Women's Health*

*USA 2010* were not included in this year's edition either because new data were not available or because preference was given to an emerging issue in women's health. For coverage of these issues, please refer to *Women's Health USA 2010*, also available online. The National Women's Health Information Center, located online at [www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov), has detailed women's and minority health data and maps. These data are available through Quick Health Data Online at [www.healthstatus2010.com/owh](http://www.healthstatus2010.com/owh). Data are available at the State and county levels, by age, race and ethnicity, and sex.

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