

2A. TOTAL MORTALITY

TOTAL DEATHS

During 2000, 40,202 residents died, an increase of 11,731 or 41.2 percent from the 1990 figure of 28,471 (**Table 2A-1**). The number of deaths among Arizona male residents increased by 34.4 percent from 15,686 in 1990 to 21,080 in 2000. The 49.6 percent growth in the number of deaths among Arizona female residents, from 12,785 in 1990 to 19,122 in 2000, exceeded the percent increase among males. In 2000, females accounted for 48 out of every 100 deaths compared to approximately 45 per 100 in 1990. Less than nine hundred (844) of Arizona residents died in 2000 outside the state (**Table 5E-3**) compared to 2,149 out-of-State residents who died in Arizona.

PLACE OF DEATH AND DECEDENT STATUS

Of the 40,202 deaths in 2000, 15,378 or 38.3 percent occurred in hospitals. Less than one in four deaths (24.5 percent) occurred in the place of residence (**Table 2A-4**). Inpatient deaths accounted for 83.9 percent of all hospital deaths. Among persons 15-85+ years old, hospital deaths accounted for a minority of their total deaths. In contrast, nine in ten (90 percent) of all infant deaths occurred in hospitals.

REPORTS OF AUTOPSY

Autopsies were reported as performed on 4,370 decedents, or 10.9 percent of the deaths that occurred among Arizona residents in 2000. Among the leading causes of death, the highest percentages of death autopsied were for *homicide* (98 percent), *suicide* (65.2 percent) and *unintentional injuries* (58.2 percent). The lowest percentages of autopsies were reported for *breast cancer* (0.8 percent), *Parkinson's*

disease (0.9 percent), *Alzheimer's disease* (1.1 percent), and *nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis* (1.5 percent).

MORTALITY RATES

Beginning with the 2000 data year in Arizona, the age-adjusted mortality rates discussed below are based on the year 2000 population standard. The rates for 1990-1999 were re-calculated using the new standard.

The total, age-adjusted mortality rate for all causes increased for the second consecutive year from 739.6 in 1998 to 772.4 in 1999 and 804.3 in 2000 (**Figure 2A-1**).

The relative worsening in survival chances from 1998 to 2000 was greater for Arizona females (9.7 percent increase in mortality rate) than for males (9.1 percent higher mortality rate). The male to female excess in rate of death narrowed from 58.7 percent in 1990 to 43.7 percent in 2000.

From 1980 to 2000, White non-Hispanics showed the largest decrease in total mortality rates at 17.3 percent, followed by American Indians at 15.6 percent, Blacks at 10.7 percent, and Asians at 8.1 percent. The 2000 mortality rate of Arizona's Hispanic residents exceeded by 6.9 percent their rate reported for 1990. (**Figure 2A-2, Table 2B-5**).

Asians had the best survival chances among the ethnic groups in 1980, 1990 and 2000. The fact that they had the smallest drop in mortality slightly narrowed the distance from the other groups by 2000. In 2000, the total mortality rate for Asians was 35, 36, 53, and 51 percent below the total mortality rate of Hispanics, White non-Hispanics, American Indians and Blacks. The 1980 respective amount by which Asian total mortality rate was below the other groups were 41, 43, 55, and 54 percent.