



2D.

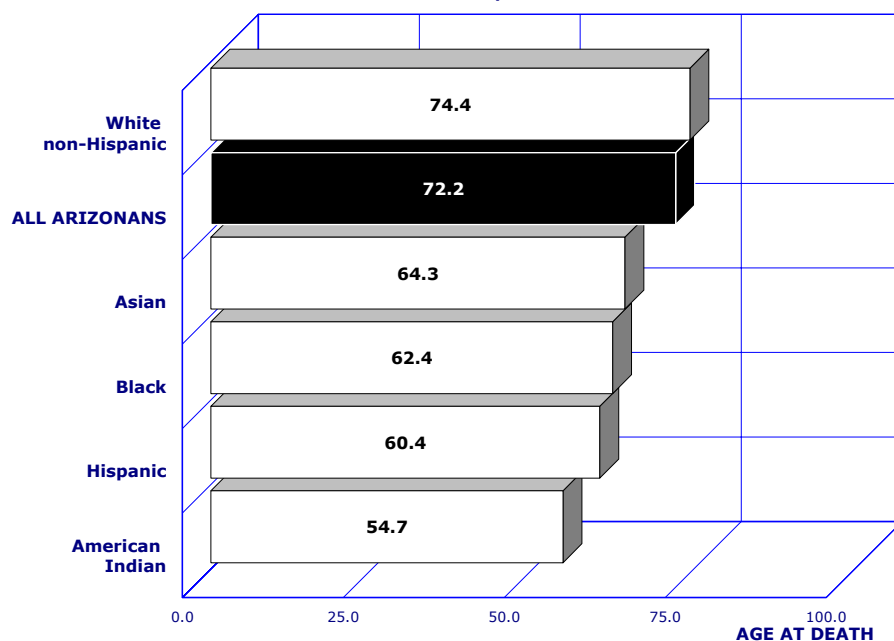
PATTERNS OF PREMATURE MORTALITY

The average age of Arizonans who died in 2003 was 72.2 years, with males below the mean at 69.6 years and females above the mean at 75.1 years (**Table 2D-1**). From 1993 to 2003, females gained an average of 2.9 years, while males gained 4 years.

The differences in average age at death between Arizona counties ranged in 2003 from a low of 63 years in Navajo County, to a high of 81.1 years in Graham County (**Table 5E-11**). The results on average age at death in **Table 5E-11** strongly indicate that a higher proportion of deaths among residents of Apache, Coconino, Navajo, and Pinal counties occur before the expected years of life reached based on the national estimates of life expectancy. This proportion is termed the premature mortality percent. **Table 2D-2** gives the annual premature mortality percents by ethnic and gender groups from 1993 to 2003. The data in **Table 2D-4** exemplify the differences in the proportion of premature deaths by cause of death, urban and rural area, gender, and race/ethnicity.

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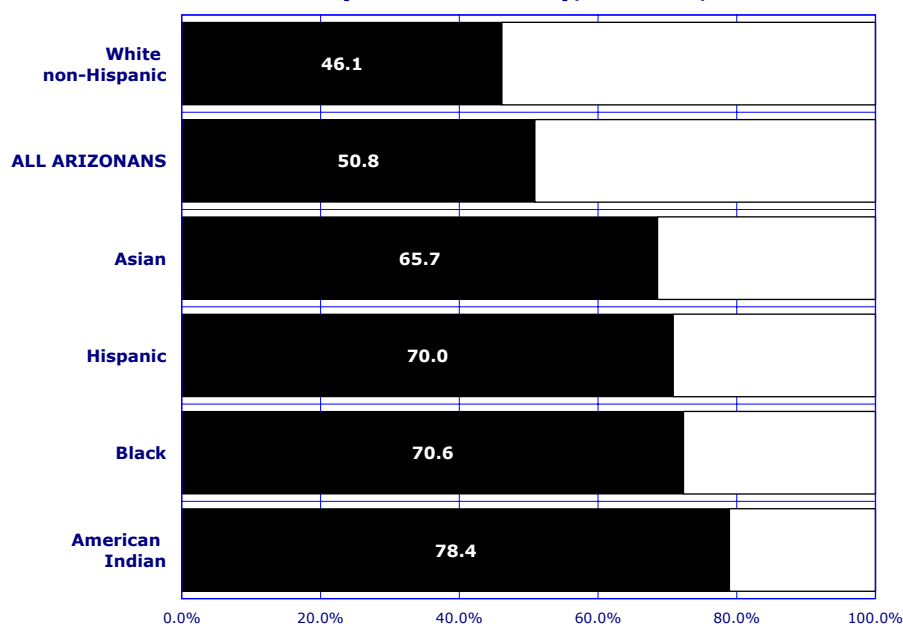
Figure 2D-1
Average Age At Death by Race/Ethnicity,
Arizona, 2003



The average age at death increased 3.6 years from 68.6 in 1993 to 72.2 in 2003.

All groups demonstrated an increase in average age at death from 1993 to 2003. The largest increase was in the Black/African American population which increased 6.2 years followed White-non-Hispanic 3.3 years, American Indian 2.8 years, and Hispanic/Latino 2.5 years. The Asian population demonstrated an increase of 2.2 years from 1996 to 2003 (1996 was the first data year for this population). (Figure 2D-1, Table 2D-1).

Figure 2D-2
Percent of Deaths Before Expected Years of Life
Reached* by Race/Ethnicity, Arizona, 2003



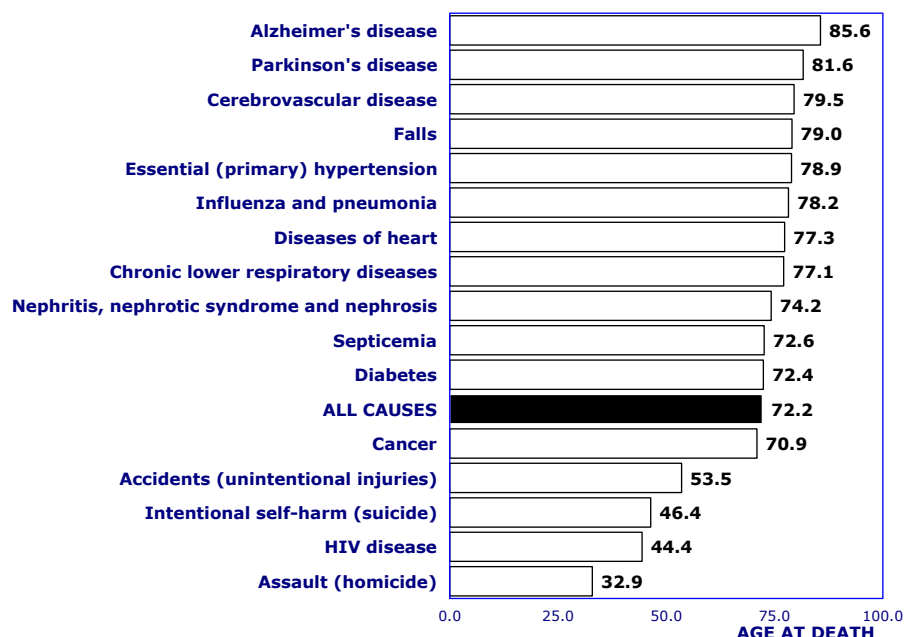
The percent of deaths before expected years of life reached (a premature death ratio) increased slightly for all Arizonans from 50.2 in 2002 to 50.8 in 2003 (Figure 2D-2).

Arizona's Asian population experienced the most significant change in premature deaths from 59.8 percent in 2002 to 65.7 percent in 2003, representing a 9.8 percent increase followed by White non-Hispanic (1.1 percent) and American Indian (.1 percent). The Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino populations experienced a decrease in the premature death ratio (Table 2D-2).

* Expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (77.4 years in 2002).

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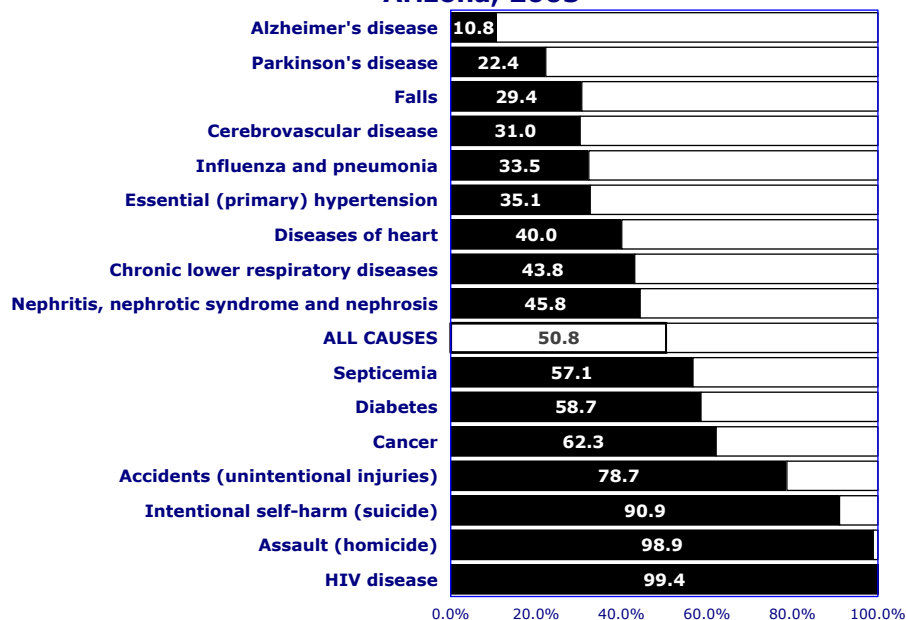
Figure 2D-3
Average Age At Death for Selected Leading Causes of Death, Arizona, 2003



In 2003, *Alzheimer's disease* again ranked highest with average age at death decreasing slightly from 86.4 years in 2002 to 85.6 years in 2003, narrowing the margin to 13.4 years when compared to the average age at death for all causes (**Figure 2D-3, Table 2D-3**).

Among the leading causes of death, homicide had the lowest average age at death of 32.9 years.

Figure 2D-4
Percent Deaths Before Expected Years of Life Reached* for Selected Leading Causes of Death, Arizona, 2003



Only 10.8 percent of deaths from *Alzheimer's disease* occurred before the age of 77.4 years, i.e., before the expected years of life were reached. In contrast, almost all deaths from *HIV disease* were premature at 99.4 percent (**Figure 2D-4, Table 2D-4**) and an average age at death from *HIV disease* was 44.4 years (**Figure 2D-3, Table 2D-3**).

* Expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (77.4 years in 2002).