

2D.

### **PATTERNS OF PREMATURE MORTALITY**

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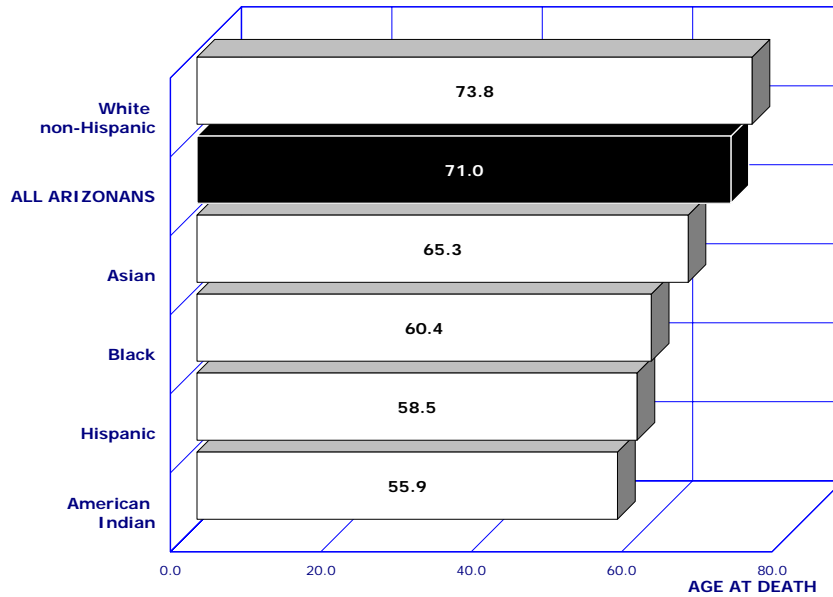
The average age of Arizonans who died in 2004 was 71 years, with males below the mean at 67.7 years and females above the mean at 74.6 years (**Table 2D-1**). On average, Arizonans died at a younger average age in 2004 than in 2003.

A peculiarity of the arithmetic mean as a measure of the average age at death is its sensitivity to the extreme values of the age distribution. The overall decrease from 2003 to 2004 in the average age at death resulted from: 1) an increase in the number of infant deaths under 1 year of age (the number of infants who died in 2004 was the highest number since 1988); 2) an annual decrease in the number of deaths of Arizonans ages 65 years and older for the first time since 1980.

One out of two Arizonans who died in 2004 was older than 76 years of age. Among Arizona females, fifty percent were older than 80 years when they died in 2004. Among males, the median age at death was 73 years in 2004. **Table 5E-11** shows both the average and the median age at death by gender in 2004. **Table 2D-2** gives the annual premature mortality percents by ethnic and gender groups from 1994 to 2004. 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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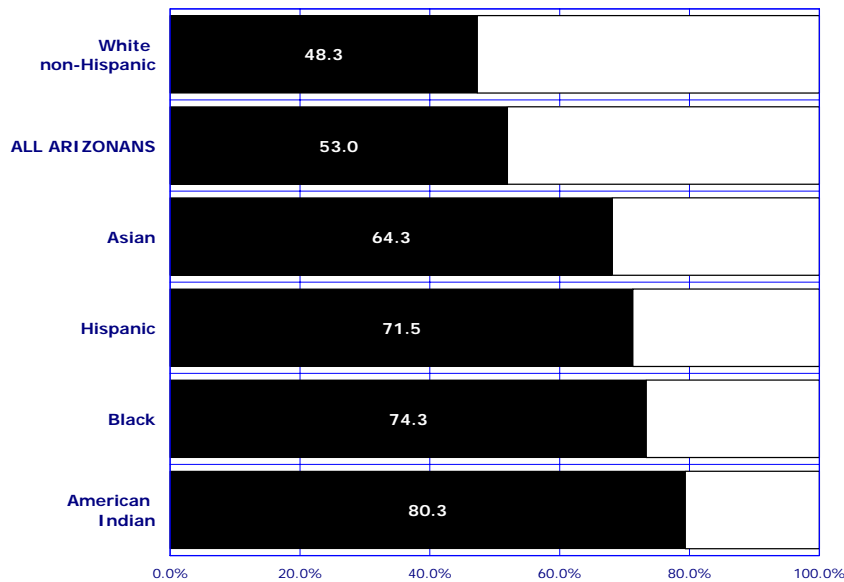
**Figure 2D-1**  
Average Age At Death by Race/Ethnicity,  
Arizona, 2004



Two groups, Asians and American Indians, demonstrated a slight increase in average age at death from 2003 to 2004. The average age at death among Asians increased from 64.3 in 2003 to 65.3 in 2004 (**Figure 2D-1, Table 2D-1**). The average age at death among American Indians increased to 55.9 in 2004.

In 2004, compared to White non-Hispanics, on average Asians were 8.5 years younger at time of death, Blacks were 13.4 years younger, Hispanics were 15.3 years younger, and American Indian residents of Arizona were 17.9 years younger.

**Figure 2D-2**  
Percent of Deaths Before Expected Years of Life  
Reached\* by Race/Ethnicity, Arizona, 2004



\* Expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (77.6 years in 2003).

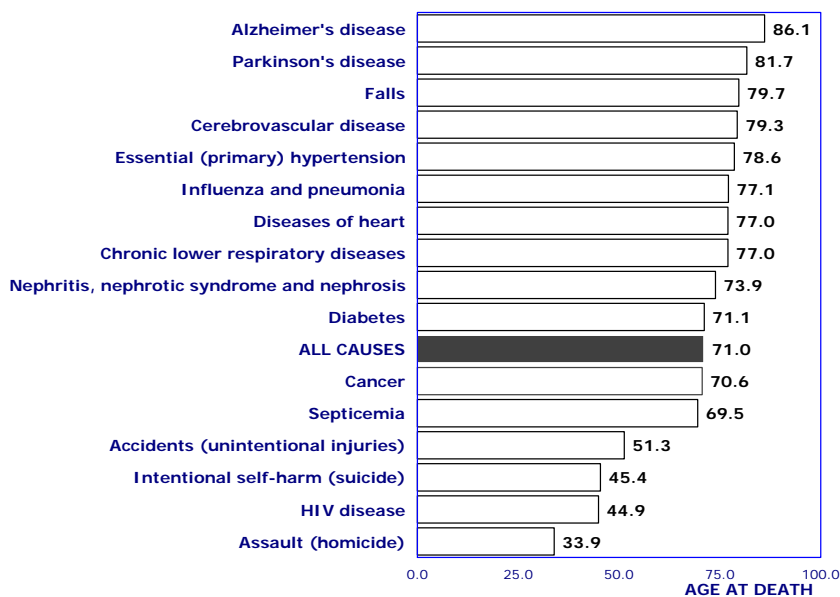
The percent of deaths before expected years of life reached (a premature death ratio) increased for all Arizonans from 50.8 in 2003 to 53.0 in 2004 (**Figure 2D-2**).

Arizona's Asians as the only race/ethnic group experienced a decrease in the premature death ratio from 65.7 percent of total deaths in 2003 to 64.3 percent in 2004 (**Table 2D-2**).

Eight out of ten deaths (80.3 percent) among American Indians were premature. In contrast, the majority of deaths (51.7 percent) among White non-Hispanics occurred after reaching the life expectancy of 77.6 years.

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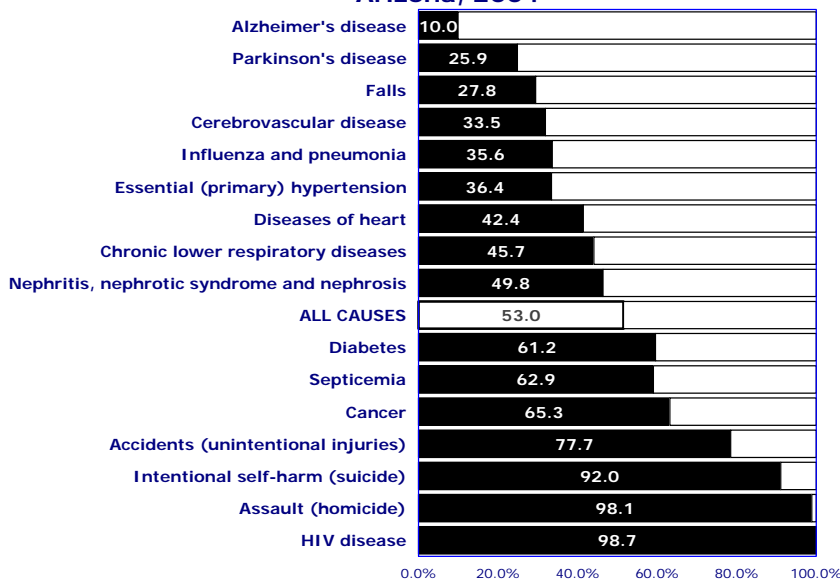
**Figure 2D-3**  
Average Age At Death for Selected Leading Causes of Death, Arizona, 2004



In 2004, *Alzheimer's disease* again ranked highest with average age at death increasing slightly from 85.6 years in 2003 to 86.1 years in 2004, broadening the margin to 15.1 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 33.9 years.

**Figure 2D-4**  
Percent Deaths Before Expected Years of Life Reached\* for Selected Leading Causes of Death, Arizona, 2004



Only 10 percent of deaths from *Alzheimer's disease* occurred before the age of 77.6 years, i.e., before the expected years of life were reached. In contrast, almost all deaths from *HIV disease* were premature at 98.7 percent (Figure 2D-4, Table 2D-4) and an average age at death from *HIV disease* was 44.9 years (Figure 2D-3, Table 2D-3).

\* Expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (77.6 years in 2003).