



2A.

TOTAL MORTALITY

During 2006, 45,415 Arizona residents died, 300 more than in 2005 (**Table 2A-1**). There were 23,658 deaths of Arizona male residents and 21,757 deaths among females. In 2006, females accounted for 48 out of every 100 deaths compared to 46 per 100 in 1996.

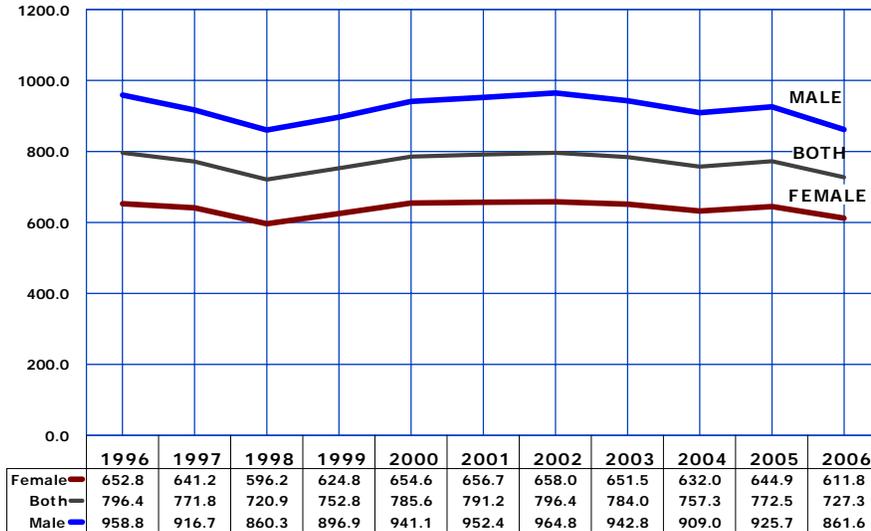
Approximately 81 percent of all resident deaths in 2006 were White non-Hispanic. Hispanic or Latino accounted for 11.6 percent of all resident deaths in 2006, followed by American Indian or Alaska Native (3.4 percent), Black or African American (2.8 percent) and Asian or Pacific Islander (0.7 percent). Females accounted for a minority of deaths in each race/ethnicity group except Asian or Pacific Islander (**Table 2A-1**).

Of the 45,415 deaths in 2006, only 32 percent occurred in hospitals. The majority of deaths (68 percent) occurred in the place of residence, including nursing homes and other long-term care facilities (**Table 2A-4**). Inpatient deaths accounted for 81.4 percent of all hospital deaths. Hospital deaths accounted for a minority (8,904) of the total deaths (32,192) among elderly 65 years or older; in contrast, nine out of ten (90.7 percent) of all infant deaths occurred in hospitals.

From 2005 to 2006, the population of Arizona increased by 3.2 percent. The increase in the number of death (0.7 percent) was substantially smaller and the mortality rate, which relates deaths to the number of Arizona residents, decreased by 5.9 percent. Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian or Pacific Islander all experienced declines in the number of deaths between 2005 and 2006 (**Table 2A-1**). Simultaneously, the population bases for computing rates of vital events by race/ethnicity increased in 2006 for all races except for White non-Hispanics (see *Technical Notes* for more details). Impressive reductions in the age-adjusted mortality rates for Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native and Asians or Pacific Islander are in small part due to the updated denominators. The population estimates by age group, gender and race/ethnicity for 2006 are in **Table 10C-1**.

2A. TOTAL MORTALITY

Figure 2A-1
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for All Causes
by Gender and Year, Arizona, 1996-2006



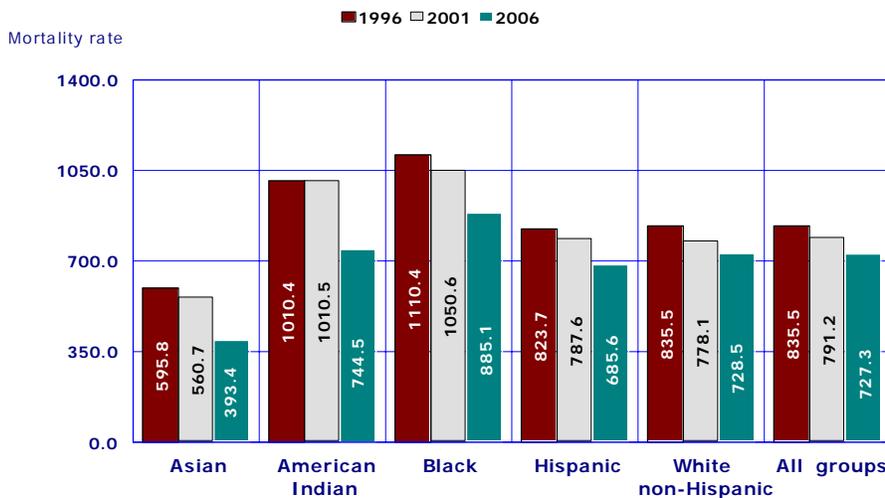
Number of deaths per 100,000 persons
(adjusted to the 2000 standard U.S. population)

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 1996-1999 were re-calculated using the new standard. All mortality rates in sections 2A and 2C are age-adjusted. A detailed explanation of the age-adjustment of mortality rates is given in *Technical Notes*.

The total age-adjusted mortality rate decreased from 772.5 in 2005 to 727.3 in 2006 (Figure 2A-1, Table 2B-2). The death rate for females in 2006 was 611.8, 7 percent lower than in 2002 when it reached its peak of 658.0. For males, the age-adjusted mortality rate decreased by 6.9 percent from 925.7 in 2005 to 861.6 in 2006.

The percent difference between male and female mortality rates narrowed from 47 percent greater mortality rate in 1996 to 41 percent greater in 2006, continuing the trend toward convergence in mortality risk between males and females.

Figure 2A-2
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates* for All Causes by
Race/Ethnicity and Year, Arizona Residents,
1996, 2001 and 2006



* Number of deaths per 100,000 population age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard.

The 2006 age-adjusted death rates for the major race/ethnic groups were as follows: for Asian or Pacific Islander, 393.4 deaths per 100,000 population; Hispanic or Latino, 685.6; White non-Hispanic, 728.5; American Indian or Alaska Native, 744.5 and Black or African American, 885.1 (Figure 2A-2, Table 2B-4).

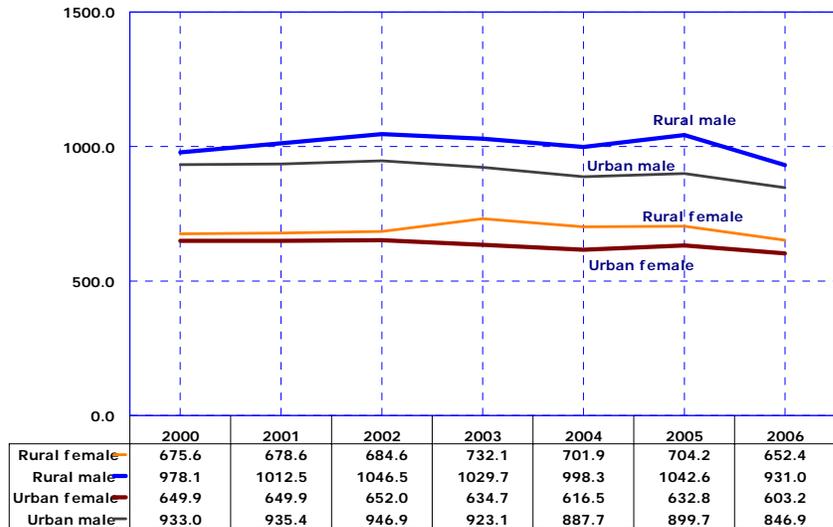
In 2006, as in 2001 and in 1996, Blacks and American Indians had higher total mortality rates than White non-Hispanics, Hispanics and Asians. In contrast, the total mortality rates for Asians and Hispanics were lower than the rates of White non-Hispanics in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

2A. TOTAL MORTALITY

Figure 2A-3
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates* for All Causes by Gender in Urban and Rural Areas, Arizona Residents, 2000-2006

The residents of Arizona's urban (Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Yuma counties) and rural (all other counties) areas both experienced improvements in total mortality from 2000 to 2006 (Figure 2A-3, Table 2B-5). However, in each year from 2000 to 2006, rural males had the highest total mortality rate, followed by urban males, rural females and urban females. In 2000, the risk of death for rural males was 50.5 higher than for urban females (978.1 vs. 649.9). This ratio increased to 54.3 percent in 2006.

In 2006, per 100,000 persons, for every death of an urban female (the lowest mortality group), 1.1 rural females, 1.4 urban males and 1.5 rural males died.



*The number of deaths per 100.00 population in specified group age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard.

Figure 2A-4
Percentage of Deaths for which Autopsies were Reported by Race/Ethnicity and Year, Arizona Residents, 1996-2006

Autopsies were reported as performed on 4,583 decedents, or 10.1 percent of the deaths that occurred among Arizona residents in 2006. In 1996 – 2006, the percentage of deaths for which autopsies were reported varied from a high of 12.0 percent in 1998 to a low of 10.0 percent in 2005.

The percentage autopsied varies by the decedent's demographic characteristics. By race/ethnicity (Figure 2A-4) the percentage autopsied was lower for the White non-Hispanic population than for other groups. The prevalence of autopsies was substantially greater among Hispanic or Latino, American Indians and Black or African Americans. A substantial portion of the differential in the use of autopsy by race/ethnicity reflects differences in the age and manner of death. For example, autopsies tend to be more common at younger ages and for homicide, suicide, accidents and undetermined manner.

