

PURPOSE

The report *Differences in the Health Status Among Race/Ethnic Groups, Arizona, 2005* is the update of population-level data about differences in the relative health of five race/ethnic groups residing in Arizona: White non-Hispanics, Hispanics or Latinos, Blacks or African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians or Pacific Islanders including Hawaiians.

The report compares the relative standing of race/ethnic groups on 70 indicators or measures of health status. The indicators are presented in a series of simple, self-explanatory bar charts and organized around 9 major subject areas:

(1) TEEN PREGNANCIES, (2) MATERNAL LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS, (3) UTILIZATION OF PRENATAL CARE SERVICES, (4) NEWBORN'S HEALTH, (5) MORTALITY FROM NATURAL CAUSES (CHRONIC OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES), (6) MORTALITY FROM INJURIES, (7) AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY, (8) PATTERNS OF PREMATURE MORTALITY and (9) THE INCIDENCE OF REPORTABLE DISEASES.

Each bar chart visually describes how the race/ethnic group compares to other groups and the overall State level for each indicator. These graphic representations are found in *Comparative Measures of Health Status by Race/Ethnicity in 2005* while the tabulated values also are available in the *Rates and Ratios in 2005* and *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000-2005* sections of the report.

The report also provides comparative risk profiles, as well as scores and rankings of race/ethnic groups on each of the 70 health status measures. The comparisons of rates and ratios, as well as scores and rankings are intended to give some sense of the inequalities in health status among race/ethnic groups in our State and to stimulate viable initiatives to improve the health of **all** Arizonans.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ARIZONA'S RACE/ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The racial and ethnic composition of the population has important consequences for the State's health status because many measures of disease and disability differ significantly by race and ethnicity. Among the estimated 6,044,985 Arizona residents in 2005, approximately 3,922,026 (64.9 percent) were White non-Hispanic, 1,527,388 (25.3 percent) were Hispanic or Latino, and 291,684 (4.8 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Natives. Blacks or African Americans accounted for 187,507 or 3.1 percent of the State's population. Asians or Pacific Islanders, the smallest race/ethnic group, represented 1.9 percent of the total population (116,380 people).

The White non-Hispanic population increased by 50.4 percent from 1990 to 2005, while Arizona saw a 100.7 percent increase in its minority population (See p.159: *Population by Race/Ethnic Group: Arizona Residents, 1990, 2000 and 2005*). Both the Asian and Hispanic race/ethnic minority groups in Arizona more than doubled in size since 1990. The Black or African American population increased by 69.7 percent while the American Indian population increased by 43.3 percent from 1990 to 2005.

Compared with the White non-Hispanics, the race/ethnic minority groups have had greater percentages of people younger than 25 years (50.2 vs. 29.1 percent). In contrast, people aged 65 years and older accounted for 17.5 percent of White non-Hispanics, but only 4.7 percent of all race/ethnic minority groups combined. Among Arizonans 25 years old or younger in 2005, one out of two (48.3 percent) was other than White non-Hispanic. Among Arizona's older adults 65 years old or older, nine out of ten (87.3 percent) were White non-Hispanic (**Table A**).

Table A. POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2005

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP IN 2005	All groups	White non-Hispanic	Other than White non-Hispanic*				
			Total	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
< 25 years	2,207,011	1,141,962	1,065,049	793,137	81,606	149,260	41,046
Percent	36.5%	29.1%	50.2%	51.9%	43.5%	51.2%	35.3%
25-64 years	3,053,379	2,094,760	958,619	669,285	94,489	126,810	68,035
Percent	50.5%	53.4%	45.1 %	43.8%	50.4%	43.5%	58.5%
65+ years	784,595	685,304	99,291	64,966	11,412	15,614	7,299
Percent	13.0%	17.5%	4.7%	4.3%	6.1%	5.4%	6.3%
Total, all ages**	6,044,985	3,922,026	2,122,959	1,527,388	187,507	291,684	116,380
Percent	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: In order to obtain the 2005 population denominators, the 2000 percentages of population breakdowns (or census shares) by race/ethnicity, age group and gender were applied to total state population estimates released by the Arizona Department of Economic Security on 2/23/2006.

Similar to the differences in the age composition is the contrasting pattern of proportional mortality by age group. In 2005, the elderly (65 years and older) comprised 76.6 percent of the total mortality among White non-Hispanics, compared to 41.7 percent among American Indians, 48.7 percent among Blacks, 50.5 percent among Hispanics, and 62.1 percent among Asians. One out of fifty White non-Hispanics who died in 2005 was less than 25 years old (2.0 percent). In contrast, persons younger than 25 years of age accounted for one out of every eight (12.3 percent) deaths among Arizona race/ethnic minorities:

Table B. MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2005

MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP IN 2005:	All groups	White non-Hispanic	Other than White non-Hispanic *				
			Total	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
< 25 years	1,775	726	1,049	731	94	190	28
Percent	3.9%	2.0%	12.3%	13.7%	8.0%	11.5%	8.3%
25-64 years	11,154	7,833	3,321	1,902	508	773	100
Percent	24.7%	21.4%	38.8%	35.7%	43.3%	46.8%	29.6%
65+ years	32,186	27,999	4,187	2,690	571	688	210
Percent	71.3%	76.6%	48.9%	50.5%	48.7%	41.7%	62.1%
Total, all ages**	45,115	36,558	8,557	5,323	1,173	1,651	338
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Includes other groups than Hispanic, Black, American Indian and Asian.

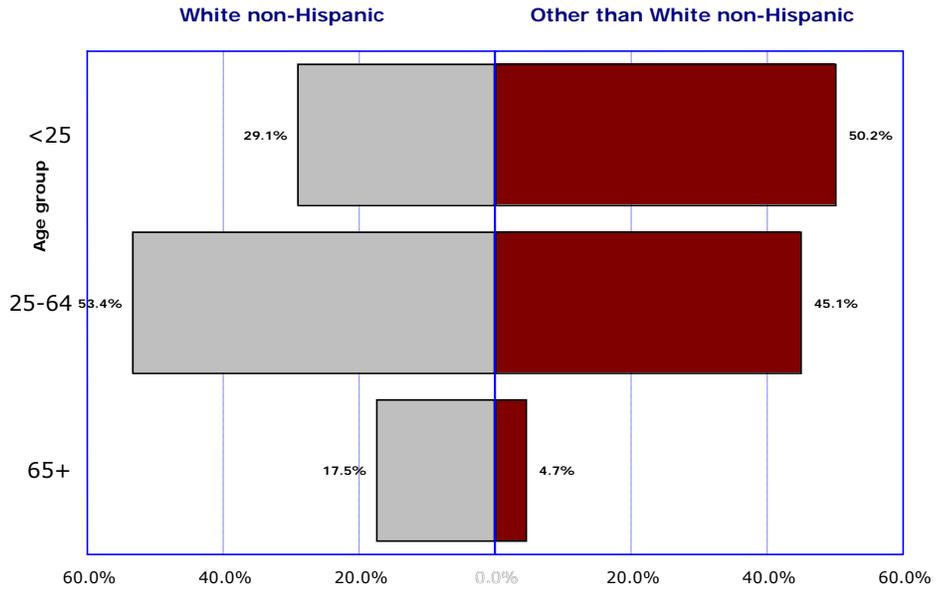
**Includes unknown age.

Source: the 2005 death certificate file for Arizona residents

In 2005, the absolute majority of deaths of American Indian (58.3 percent) and Black (51.3 percent) residents of Arizona occurred before the age of 65 years, compared to 23.4 percent among White non-Hispanics.

Graphic representations of the contrasting patterns in age-specific mortality and in the age composition of the population are provided below:

Percent distribution of population by age group and race/ethnicity, Arizona, 2005



Percent distribution of deaths by age group and race/ethnicity, Arizona, 2005

