

PURPOSE

The report *Differences in the Health Status Among Race/Ethnic Groups, Arizona, 2007* 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 2007* while the tabulated values also are available by year in the *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000-2007* 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 6,432,007 Arizona residents in 2007, approximately 3,872,764 (60.2 percent) were White non-Hispanic, 1,798,222 (28.0 percent) were Hispanic or Latino, and 337,764 (5.3 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Natives. Blacks or African Americans accounted for 253,477 or 3.9 percent of the State's population. Asians or Pacific Islanders, the smallest race/ethnic group, represented 2.6 percent of the total population (169,780 people).

The White non-Hispanic population increased by 48.5 percent from 1990 to 2007, while Arizona saw a 141.9 percent increase in its minority population (See p.159: *Population by Race/Ethnic Group: Arizona Residents, 1990, 2000 and 2007*). Both the Hispanic and Black or African American race/ethnic minority groups in Arizona more than doubled in size since 1990. The Asian or Pacific Islander population more than tripled in size (208.5 percent increase) percent while the American Indian population increased by 66.0 percent from 1990 to 2007.

Compared with the White non-Hispanics, the race/ethnic minority groups have had greater percentages of people younger than 25 years (46.8 vs. 28.5 percent). In contrast, people aged 65 years and older accounted for 17.9 percent of White non-Hispanics, but only 5.6 percent of all race/ethnic minority groups combined. Among Arizonans 25 years old or younger in 2007, the majority (52.1 percent) was other than White non-Hispanic. Among Arizona's older adults 65 years old or older, eight out of ten (83.0 percent) were White non-Hispanic (**Table A**).

Table A. POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2007

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP IN 2007	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	2,301,902	1,103,197	1,198,705	866,382	111,029	160,989	60,305
Percent	35.8%	28.5%	46.8%	48.2%	43.8%	47.7%	35.5%
25-64 years	3,294,333	2,075,734	1,218,599	843,223	122,806	155,057	97,513
Percent	51.2%	53.6%	47.6%	46.9%	48.4%	45.9%	57.4%
65+ years	835,772	693,833	141,939	88,617	19,642	21,718	11,962
Percent	13.0%	17.9%	5.6%	4.9%	7.8%	6.4%	7.1%
Total, all ages**	6,432,007	3,872,764	2,559,243	1,798,222	253,477	337,764	169,780
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Similar to the differences in the age composition is the contrasting pattern of proportional mortality by age group. In 2007, the elderly (65 years and older) comprised 76.3 percent of the total mortality among White non-Hispanics, compared to 43.5 percent among American Indians, 46.6 percent among Blacks, 49.4 percent among Hispanics, and 58.9 percent among Asians. One out of fifty White non-Hispanics who died in 2007 was less than 25 years old (1.9 percent). In contrast, persons younger than 25 years of age accounted for one out of every eight (12.9 percent) deaths among Arizona race/ethnic minorities:

Table B. MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2007

MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP IN 2007:	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	1,810	677	1,133	778	136	193	26
Percent	4.1%	1.9%	12.9%	14.2%	10.7%	11.6%	7.1%
25-64 years	11,238	7,805	3,417	2,003	545	745	124
Percent	25.2%	21.8%	38.8%	36.4%	42.7%	44.9%	34.0%
65+ years	31,592	27,323	4,248	2,715	595	723	215
Percent	70.8%	76.3%	48.3%	49.4%	46.6%	43.5%	58.9%
Total, all ages**	44,640	35,805	8,798	5,496	1,276	1,661	365
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

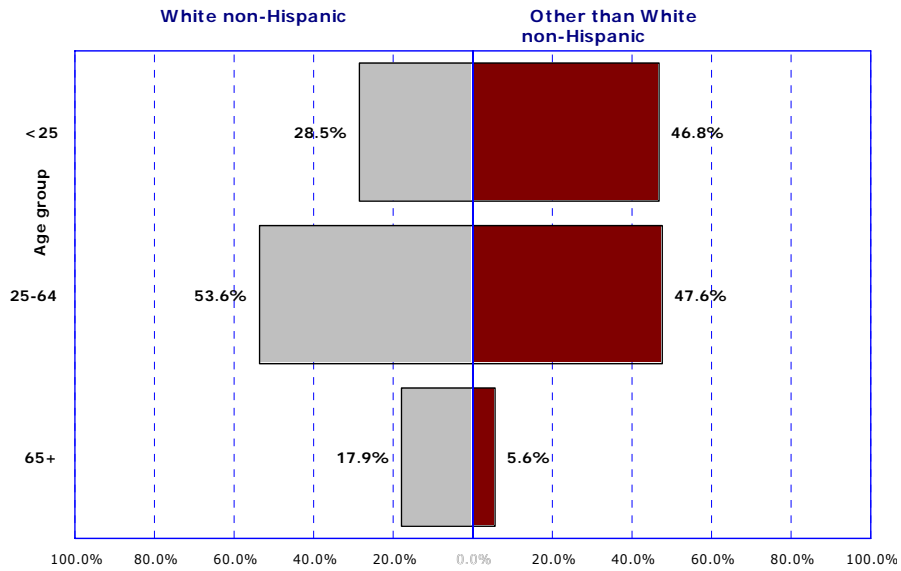
*Includes other groups than Hispanic, Black, American Indian, and Asian.
 **Includes unknown age.

In 2007, the absolute majority of deaths of American Indian (56.5 percent), Black (53.4 percent), and Hispanic (50.6) residents of Arizona occurred before the age of 65 years, compared to 23.7 percent among White non-Hispanics.

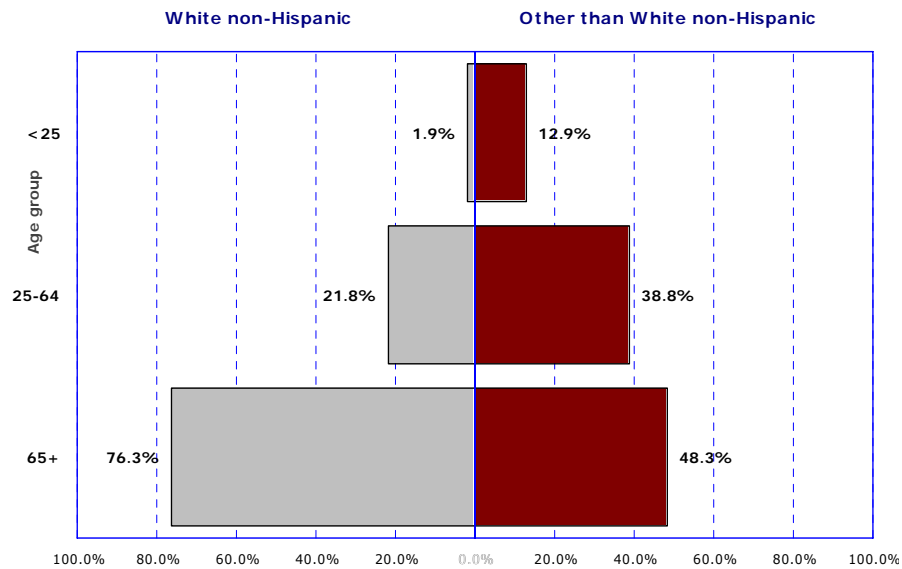
Elderly 65 years and older accounted for only 4.9 percent of Arizona’s Hispanic residents (the smallest fraction among the race/ethnic groups). Simultaneously, the proportion of deaths before the age 25 was the highest among Hispanics (14.2 percent). These two facts reflect both the young migrant effect (Hispanic immigrants are looking for work, not retirement), and the so-called “salmon bias” effect, “which posits that U.S. residents of Hispanic origin may return to their country of origin to die or when ill”.#

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, 2007



Percent distribution of deaths by age group and race/ethnicity, Arizona, 2007



Minino AM, Heron MP, Murphy SL, Kochanek, KD. *Deaths: Final Data for 2004*. National vital statistics report; vol.55 no 19. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2007.