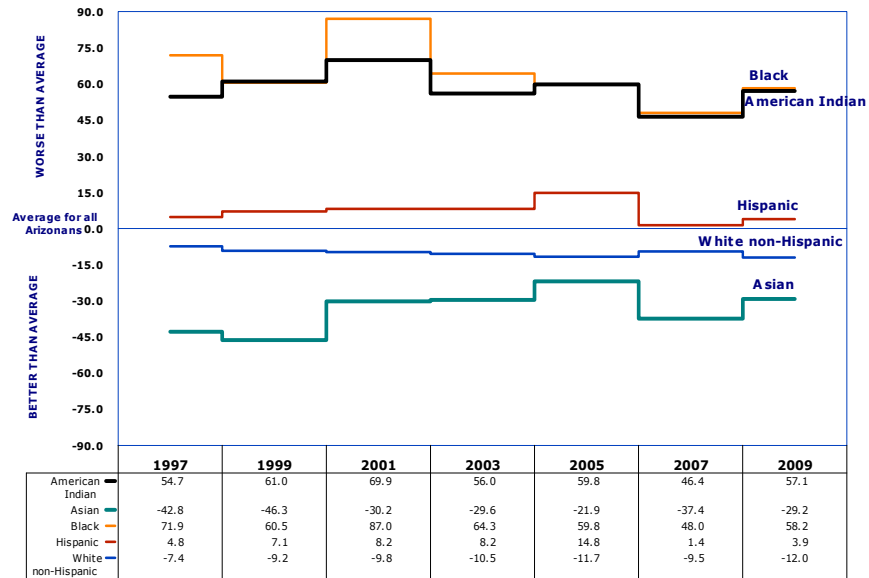


KEY FINDINGS

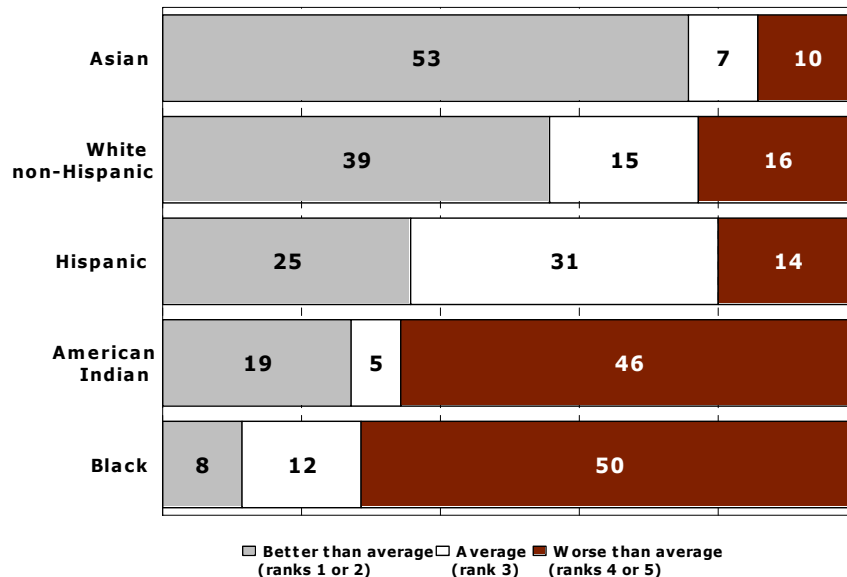
The inequity between the groups, as measured by the range of score values from the lowest (the most favorable standing among the groups) to the highest (the least favorable standing), increased from 81.7 points in 2005 to 87.4 in 2009 (Figure A). The average score for Blacks worsened from 48.0 in 2007 to 58.2 in 2009 and was the highest among race/ethnic groups. Compared to a score of -7.4 in 1997, the average score for White non-Hispanics improved to -12.0 in 2009. In contrast, the average score for American Indians worsened from 46.4 in 2007 to 57.1 in 2009. Both Asians and Hispanics had average scores in 2009 that were worse when compared to their average scores in 2007 (Figure A).

Figure A
Comparison of Average Scores by Race/Ethnicity in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009



In 2009, as in prior years, Arizona's Asian residents ranked best among race/ethnic groups in the overall health status, followed by White non-Hispanics, Hispanics, American Indians, and Blacks (Figure B).

Figure B
Number of Times Each Group Ranked Better Than Average, Average, and Worse than Average on 70 Indicators, Arizona 2009

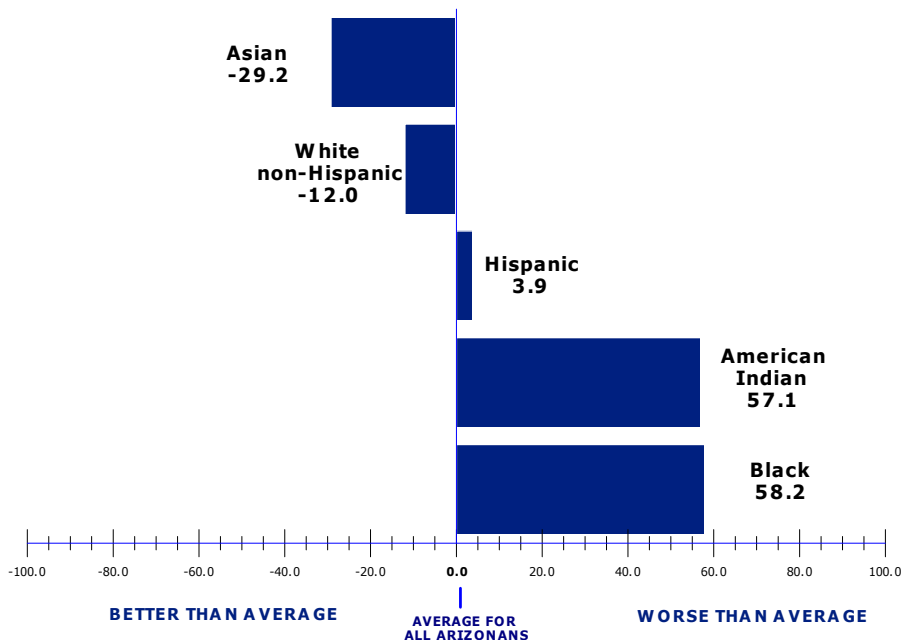


The total scores based on all 70 measurements ranged from -2,045.4 for Asians to 4,072.1 for Blacks or African Americans. The difference in the average scores for White non-Hispanics and Hispanics narrowed from 26.5 points in 2005 (-11.7 and 14.8) to 10.9 points in 2007 (-9.5 and 1.9) and then increased to 15.9 points in 2009 (-12.0 and 3.9; **Figure A**). The total scores for American Indians (3,998.6) and Blacks (4,072.1) differed by a mere 1.8 percent.

Figure C

Average Scores in 2009

(A score is a percent above or below the average for all Arizona residents.
A negative score reflects better than average standing on an indicator.)



ASIANS or PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Average rank: 1.9* **Total score: -2,045.4** **Average score: -29.2****

In 2009, Asian residents of Arizona ranked best or second best among race/ethnic groups on 53 of 70 indicators, including measures of utilization of prenatal care services, low infant mortality, low incidence of teen pregnancies, and reportable diseases. Asians median age at death was the second highest among the race/ethnic groups in Arizona in 2009. Asians also had the lowest risk of injury mortality in motor vehicle accidents, as well as drug-induced deaths and firearm-related mortality. In 2009, not a single Asian or Pacific Islander of the State died from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease. However, following an improvement in their overall score from -21.9 in 2005 to -37.4 in 2007, the 2009 average score of -29.2 signified no further improvement. The rate of fall-related deaths jumped from 3.9 in 2000 to 10.8 in 2009 (See **Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000-2009**). The total mortality rate of 472.8 deaths per 100,000 Asian or Pacific Islander residents of the State was the lowest rate among the race/ethnic groups, but it was the highest rate for Asians since 2005. So were the mortality rates for cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes, and fall-related injuries.

*The average rank based on all 70 measurements (the sum of the ranks divided by 70 measurements. Ranks range between 1 = the highest rank of health indicators and 5 = the lowest rank of health indicators).
**The average score based on all 70 measurements (the sum of all scores divided by 70 measurements). See section SCORES IN 2009.

WHITE NON-HISPANICS

Average rank: 2.6

Total score: -837.2

Average score: -12.0

White non-Hispanics ranked second best in the relative healthiness among race/ethnic groups in Arizona. They ranked No.1 or No.2 on 39 of 70 measures of health, including low teen pregnancy rates, high utilization of prenatal care and low premature mortality. However, in the use of tobacco among women giving birth, as well as in the incidence of genital herpes during pregnancy and in mortality rates for chronic lower respiratory diseases, as well as Alzheimer's disease, White non-Hispanics ranked worst among race/ethnic groups. The White non-Hispanic overall score of -12.0 in 2009 was their best score since 1997. It reflects consistent improvements in teen pregnancy rates, as well as mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases in general (and coronary heart disease and stroke in particular), cancer, and HIV disease. The total mortality rate 647.3 deaths/100,000 in 2009 was the lowest mortality rate of White non-Hispanics in 1990-2009 (based on Table 2B-3 in the "*Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2009*" report).

HISPANICS or LATINOS

Average rank: 2.9

Total score: 272.1

Average score: +3.9

In 2009, as in 2007, 2003, 2001, 1999, and 1997, Hispanics achieved a 3rd place health ranking. The average score of Hispanics decreased from a recent peak of 14.8 in 2005 to 3.9 in 2009. Hispanics ranked in the middle of five groups on 31 of 70 measures of health. They ranked best or second best on 25 indicators in 2009, an increase from 21 indicators in 2007. They ranked worse than average with high teen pregnancy rates and high premature mortality. They ranked better than average with low suicide mortality rate, low alcohol, and tobacco use among women giving birth, low incidence of preterm births and postneonatal mortality. It is true that the average score more than doubled from 1.4 in 2007 to 3.9 in 2009. However, both scores reflect a rather narrow gap between the statewide averages and the rates or ratios specific to Hispanics. *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000-2009* provide detailed picture of changes over time for all of the 70 measures.

AMERICAN INDIANS or ALASKA NATIVES

Average rank: 3.7

Total score: 3,998.6

Average score: +57.1

In 2009, American Indians in Arizona had the second highest average score among all groups and second lowest rank of overall health status. They ranked 5th or 4th 46 times on 70 indicators (**Figure B**), and they exceeded the statewide averages by a wider margin than any other group except Blacks (**Figure C**). American Indians ranked poorly on measures of maternal lifestyle and health as well as in utilization of prenatal care. High incidence of alcohol use during pregnancy and high infant mortality, alcoholism, diabetes, motor vehicle accidents and mortality from unintentional injuries contributed to the premature death rate. In 2009, compared to White non-Hispanics, on average American Indian residents of Arizona were 19 years younger at time of death. This resulted in the second lowest ranking of American Indians in the relative healthiness among racial and ethnic groups in Arizona.

BLACKS or AFRICAN AMERICANS

Average rank: 4.0

Total score: 4,072.1

Average score: +58.2

Compared to the average score of 87.0 for Arizona Black or African American residents in 2001, their scores in 2003 - 2009 were substantially lower. Despite this improvement, Blacks or African Americans had the lowest rank of overall health status because they ranked 5th or 4th among the five race/ethnic groups on 50 of 70 measures (see **Figure B**). No other race/ethnic group exceeded the statewide averages by a wider margin than Blacks. High infant mortality rate, high ratios of low birthweight and very low birthweight births, high incidence of many reportable diseases, high mortality rates for almost all of the leading causes of death and high rate of premature death all lowered the ranking for this population group. However, Blacks or African Americans ranked better than average with low mortality rates for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and fall-related injuries.

COMPARATIVE CAUSE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY

In 2009, diseases of the heart were the leading cause of death for three of the five race/ethnic groups in Arizona: American Indians, Blacks or African Americans, and Hispanics or Latinos (**Figure D**). Cancer was the number one cause among Asians or Pacific Islanders and White non-Hispanics. Unintentional injury was the third leading cause of death only for American Indians and Hispanics. For Asians and Blacks, stroke was the 3rd leading cause of death in 2009. Diabetes was among the top five causes of death among American Indians, Blacks and Hispanics, but not among Asians or White non-Hispanics. Alzheimer's disease was the fifth leading cause of death only among Asians and White non-Hispanics. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was the fifth leading cause of death specific to American Indians. Chronic lower respiratory diseases were the third leading cause of death specific to White non-Hispanics.

Figure D
Comparative Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for the Five Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity in Arizona in 2009

Rank	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	White non-Hispanic
1	Cancer 108.1	Diseases of heart 125.8	Diseases of heart 171.3	Diseases of heart 130.5	Cancer 151.1
2	Diseases of heart 96.7	Cancer 113.3	Cancer 153.1	Cancer 128.4	Diseases of heart 147.5
3	Stroke 39.2	Unintentional injury 92.6	Stroke 42.8	Unintentional injury 35.3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 45.0
4	Unintentional injury 24.5	Diabetes 54.2	Unintentional injury 36.5	Stroke 33.8	Unintentional injury 43.3
5	Alzheimer's disease 18.1	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis 54.0	Diabetes 31.1	Diabetes 28.1	Alzheimer's disease 30.4

COMPARATIVE RATES AND RATIOS FOR 2000 and 2009

The 140 bar charts provide both a snapshot of differences between the race/ethnic groups in Arizona in 2009, as well as a measure of change since 2000. A more detailed comparisons over time are available in a special section of the report (**Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000 – 2009**), which documents the race/ethnicity-specific changes by year from 2000 through 2009 on the 70 health status measures.

RISK PROFILES

Risk profiles presented on the following pages summarize how each race/ethnic group compares to the State average for the entire set of measures of health status. These profiles use scores, which were developed to describe the level of each of the 70 measures for each race/ethnic group in comparison to the average level for all groups. The profiles visually describe the better-than-average and worse-than-average clusters of health status characteristics for each race/ethnic group.