

## PURPOSE

The report *Differences in the Health Status Among Race/Ethnic Groups, Arizona, 2009* 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 2009* while the tabulated values also are available in the *Rates and Ratios in 2009* and *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2000-2009* 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 6,595,778 Arizona residents in 2009, approximately 3,980,073 (60.3 percent) were White non-Hispanic, 1,835,276 (27.8 percent) were Hispanic or Latino, and 346,080 (5.2 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Natives. Blacks or African Americans accounted for 260,432 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 (173,917 people).

It is important to note that the population denominators for 2009 are not exact enumerations of the State's residents in different race/ethnic, gender, or age group categories. These denominators are extrapolations, which use past experience, and are not adjusted for the impact of economic and legal factors, which were previously absent. The most severe economic recession in 80 years obviously is one of these factors. The high rate of foreclosures, many built but vacant houses, high unemployment, the collapse of the home construction business, etc. have impacted not only vital events (such as the number of resident births) but also in-and-out migration. Implementation of the employer-sanction law on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (a penalty on employers hiring illegal immigrants), and a widespread practice of e-verify (checking the legal-residence status of those seeking employment) affected Hispanics or Latinos, the second largest group of State's residents. Compared to population projections for 2007-2009, the 2010 Census is likely to show a decline in the number of Hispanic or Latino residents of Arizona.

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 2009, 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, 2009**

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP IN 2009	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	2,347,872	1,127,004	1,220,868	880,018	114,010	164,725	62,115
Percent	35.6%	28.3%	46.7%	48.0%	43.8%	47.6%	35.7%
25-64 years	3,390,633	2,141,196	1,249,437	864,364	126,392	159,054	99,627
Percent	51.4%	53.8%	47.8%	47.1%	48.5%	46.0%	57.3%
65+ years	857,273	711,873	145,400	90,894	20,030	22,301	12,175
Percent	13.0%	17.9%	5.6%	5.0%	7.7%	6.4%	7.0%
<b>Total, all ages**</b>	<b>6,595,778</b>	<b>3,980,073</b>	<b>2,615,705</b>	<b>1,835,276</b>	<b>260,432</b>	<b>346,080</b>	<b>173,917</b>
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The estimated total population of Arizona in 2009 (6,595,778) agrees with the U.S. Census Bureau estimate released in December 2009 (Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009;ST-EST2009-01;available online at <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/tables/NST-EST2009-01.xls>). The percentages of population breakdowns by age, race/ethnicity, gender, and county of residence were derived from our own population denominator database for 2008. These percentages were then applied to the estimated total state population for 2009 from the U.S. Census Bureau. The size of the population <1 year of age was adjusted down, to correspond with a substantial decrease in the number of resident births in 2009.

Similar to the differences in the age composition is the contrasting pattern of proportional mortality by age group. In 2009, the elderly (65 years and older) comprised 76.4 percent of the total mortality among White non-Hispanics, compared to 42.6 percent among American Indians, 49.1 percent among Blacks, 50.5 percent among Hispanics, and 63.8 percent among Asians. One out of sixty-two White non-Hispanics who died in 2009 was less than 25 years old (1.6 percent). In contrast, persons younger than 25 years of age accounted for one out of every ten (9.9 percent) deaths among Arizona race/ethnic minorities:

**Table B. MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2009**

MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP IN 2009:	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	1,473	570	897	543	129	192	33
Percent	3.3%	1.6%	9.9%	10.1%	9.7%	10.3%	7.0%
25-64 years	11,472	7,903	3,491	1,922	550	882	137
Percent	25.5%	22.1%	38.5%	35.6%	41.2%	47.2%	29.2%
65+ years	32,119	27,356	4,686	2,936	655	796	299
Percent	71.3%	76.4%	51.6%	54.4%	49.1%	42.6%	63.8%
<b>Total, all ages**</b>	<b>45,064</b>	<b>35,829</b>	<b>9,074</b>	<b>5,401</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>469</b>
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.

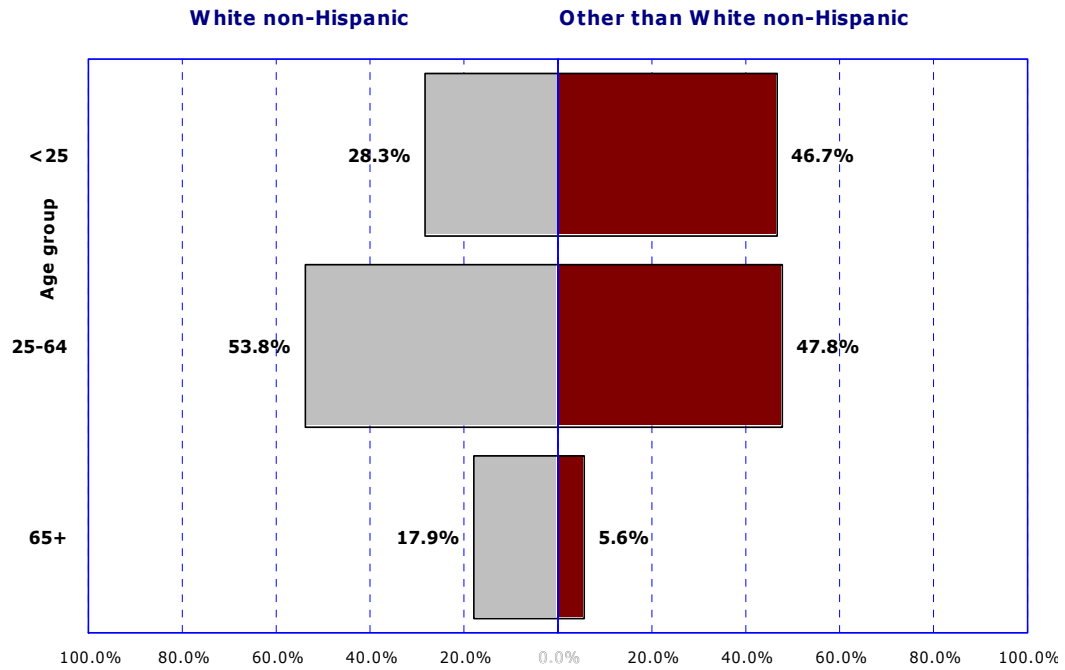
\*\*Includes unknown age.

Source: The 2009 death certificate file for Arizona residents.

In 2009, the absolute majority of deaths of American Indian (57.4 percent) and Black (50.9 percent) residents of Arizona occurred before the age of 65 years, compared to 23.6 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, 2009**



**Percent distribution of deaths by age group and race/ethnicity, Arizona, 2009**

