

## **PURPOSE**

The report *Differences in Health Status among Racial/Ethnic Groups, Arizona, 2011* is the update of population-level data about differences in the relative health of five racial/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 racial/ethnic groups on 70 indicators or measures of health status. The indicators are presented in a series of simple, self-explanatory bar charts and are 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 AND 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 racial/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 2011* while the tabulated values also are available in the *Rates and Ratios in 2011* and *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2001-2011* sections of the report.

The report also provides comparative risk profiles, as well as scores and rankings of racial/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 racial/ethnic groups in our State and to stimulate viable initiatives to improve the health of **all** Arizonans.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ARIZONA'S RACIAL/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 6,438,178 Arizona residents in 2011, approximately 3,779,432 (58.7 percent) were White non-Hispanic, 1,827,753 (28.4 percent) were Hispanic or Latino, and 360,414 (5.6 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Natives. Blacks or African Americans accounted for 270,944 or (4.2 percent) of the State's population. Asians or Pacific Islanders, the smallest racial/ethnic group, represented 3.1 percent of the total population (199,635 people).

It is important to note that the population denominators for 2011 are not exact enumerations of the State's residents in different racial/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 Arizona's residents. These recent events have shaped the racial/ethnic distribution of Arizona's population, meaning projections used to estimate the State's population that were not able to take these factors into account contain some bias, generally reflecting larger populations, especially of Hispanics or Latinos, than those actually residing in Arizona.

Compared with the White non-Hispanics, racial/ethnic minority groups have had greater percentages of people younger than 25 years (27.1 vs. 47.1 percent). In contrast, people aged 65 years and older accounted for 19.5 percent of White non-Hispanics, but only 5.6 percent of all racial/ethnic minority groups combined. Among Arizonans less than 25 years old in 2011, more than one out of two (55.0 percent) was a race/ethnicity other than White non-Hispanic. Among Arizona's adults 65 years old or older, eight out of ten (83.2 percent) were White non-Hispanic (**Table A**).

**Table A. POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2011**

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP IN 2011	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	2,278,658	1,025,087	1,253,572	895,583	117,674	171,722	68,593
Percent	35.4%	27.1%	47.1%	49.0%	43.4%	47.6%	34.4%
25-64 years	3,271,567	2,015,913	1,255,655	837,815	135,531	166,386	115,923
Percent	50.8%	53.3%	47.2%	45.8%	50.0%	46.2%	58.1%
65+ years	887,953	738,433	149,520	94,356	17,739	22,306	15,119
Percent	13.8%	19.5%	5.6%	5.2%	6.5%	6.2%	7.6%
<b>Total, all ages**</b>	<b>6,438,178</b>	<b>3,779,432</b>	<b>2,658,746</b>	<b>1,827,753</b>	<b>270,944</b>	<b>360,414</b>	<b>199,635</b>
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Similar to differences in the age composition of Arizona's population by race/ethnicity is the contrasting pattern of proportional mortality by age group. In 2011, the elderly (65 years and older) comprised 77.0 percent of the total mortality among White non-Hispanics, compared to 43.5 percent among American Indians, 52.5 percent among Blacks, 56.0 percent among Hispanics, and 61.4 percent among Asians. In 2011, only 1.5 percent of White non-Hispanics who died were less than 25 years old. In comparison, 8.6 percent of individuals who were of a racial/ethnic group other than White non-Hispanic died before reaching 25 years of age.

**Table B. MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARIZONA, 2011**

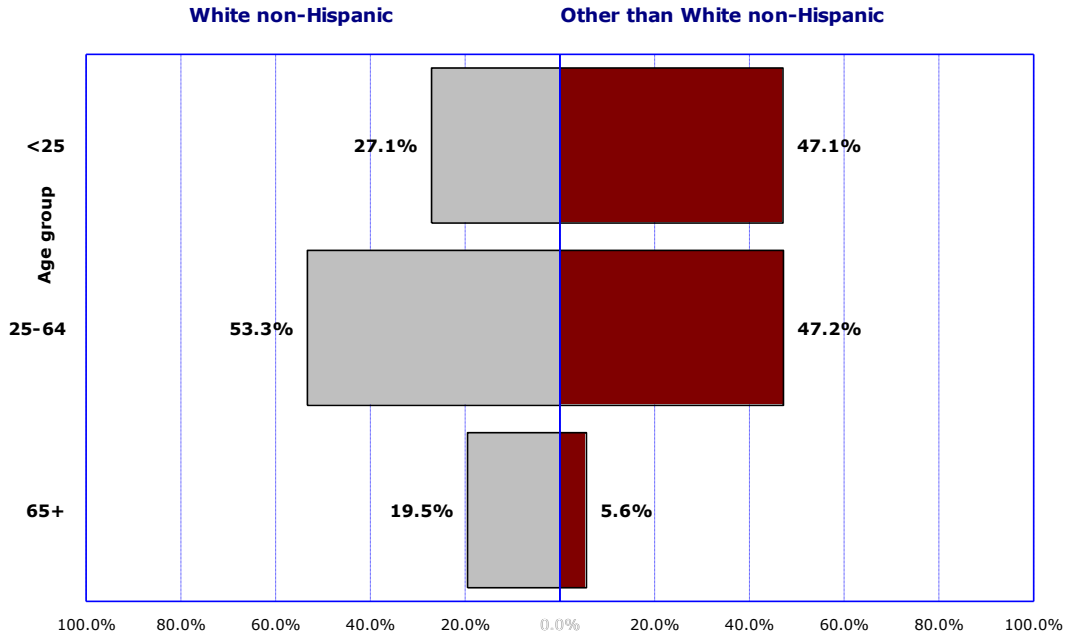
MORTALITY BY AGE GROUP IN 2011	All groups	White non-Hispanic	Other than White non-Hispanic <sup>a</sup>				
			Total	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
< 25 years	1,399	567	800	520	91	167	22
Percent	2.9%	1.5%	8.6%	9.1%	6.7%	9.8%	4.3%
25-64 years	11,814	8,124	3,523	1,994	559	795	175
Percent	24.8%	21.5%	37.9%	34.9%	40.9%	46.7%	34.2%
65+ years	34,318	29,085	4,970	3,199	717	740	314
Percent	72.2%	77.0%	53.5%	56.0%	52.5%	43.5%	61.4%
<b>Total, all ages<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>47,547</b>	<b>37,779</b>	<b>9,295</b>	<b>5,714</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>511</b>
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: <sup>a</sup> Includes groups other than Hispanic, Black, American Indian, and Asian; <sup>b</sup> Includes unknown age; Source: The 2011 death certificate file for Arizona residents.

In 2011, the absolute majority of deaths of American Indian (56.5 percent) and Black (47.6 percent) residents of Arizona occurred before the age of 65 years, compared to 23.0 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, 2011**



**Percent distribution of deaths by age group and race/ethnicity, Arizona, 2011**

