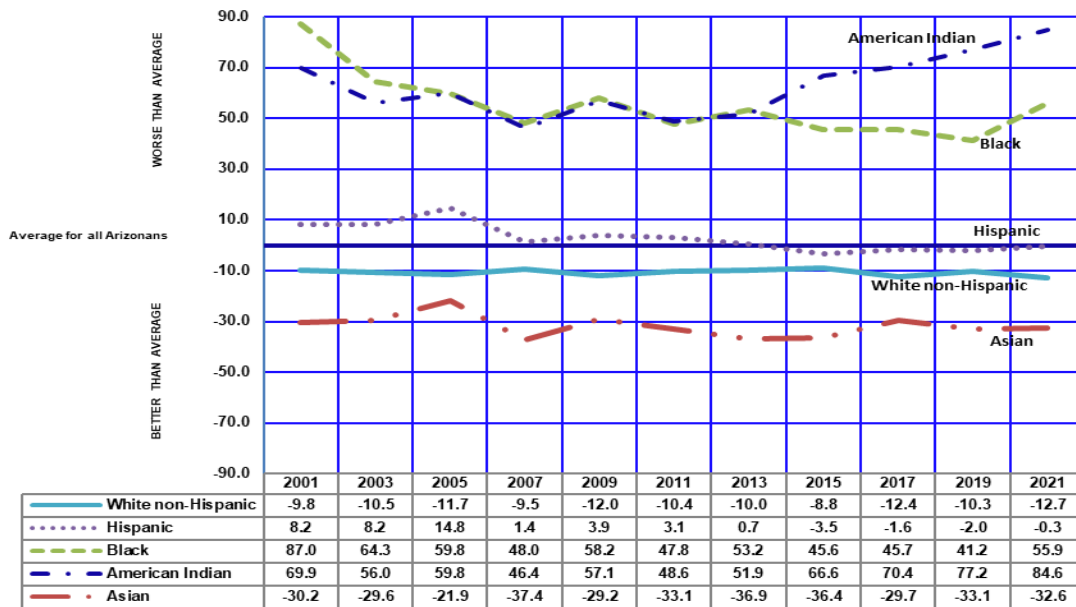


## KEY FINDINGS

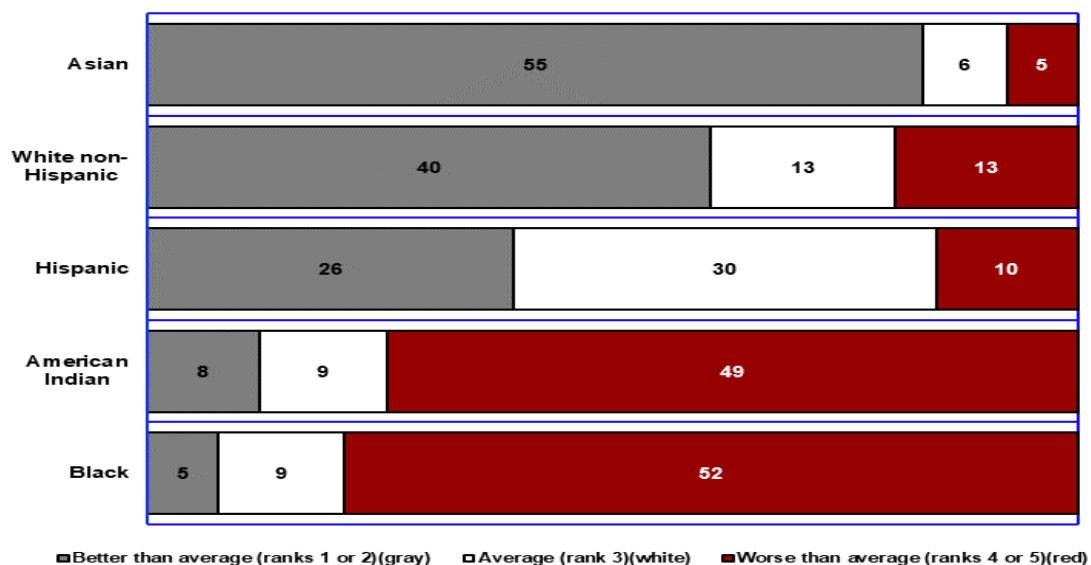
The overall inequity between the groups was measured by the range of score values from the lowest (the most favorable standing among the groups for 2021, Asian or Pacific Islander at -32.6) to the highest (the least favorable standing for 2021, American Indians at 84.6). A score of 0 is the average for all Arizona residents. In 2021, there was a larger range at 117.2 compared to the previous years of 110.3 in 2019, and 100.1 in 2017 (**Figure A**). Thus, showing a case for growing inequity between the groups.

**Figure A**  
**Comparison of Average Scores by Race/Ethnicity in**  
**2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021**



In 2021, as in prior years, Arizona's Asian residents ranked highest among racial/ethnic groups in overall health status, followed by White non-Hispanics, Hispanics, American Indians, and Blacks (**Figure B**).

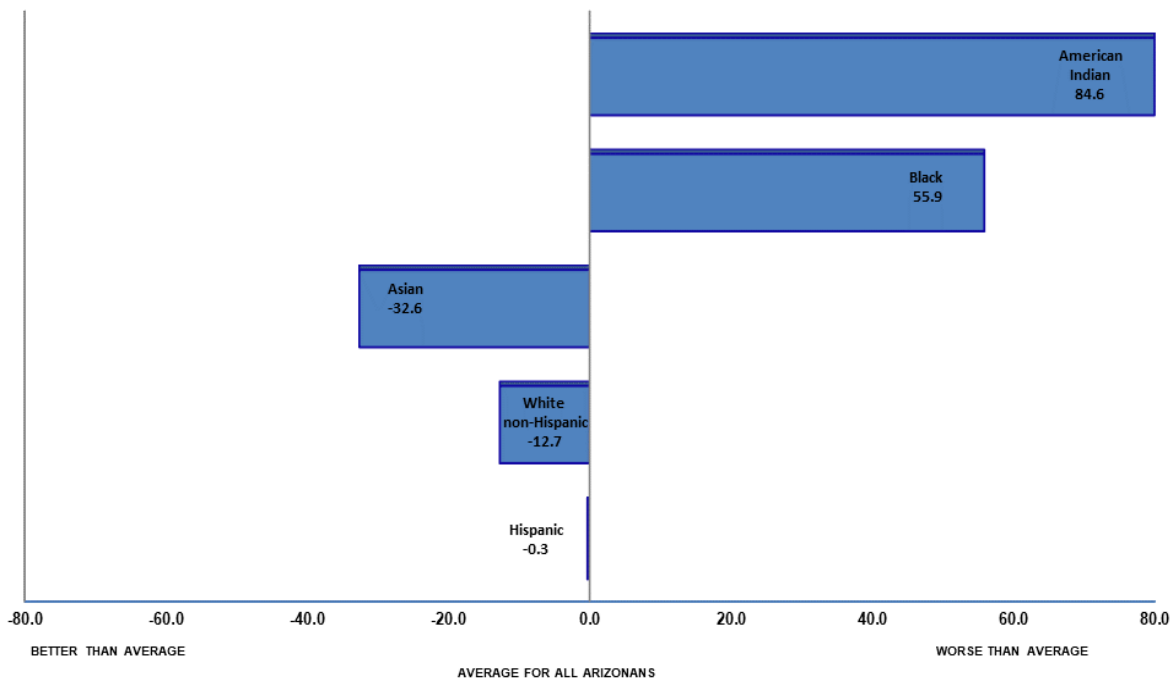
**Figure B**  
**Number of Times Each Group Ranked Better Than Average, Average, and Worse Than Average on 66 Indicators, Arizona 2021**



**Figure C**

**Average Scores in 2021**

(A score is the 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: 1.6\***

**Total score: -2,150.6**

**Average score: -32.6\*\***

In 2021, Asian residents of Arizona ranked best or second best among all racial/ethnic groups on 55 of 66 indicators, including, sudden infant death syndrome, low incidence of drug or alcohol induced deaths, low postneonatal mortality, and low mortality from reportable diseases, chronic or infectious diseases, and injuries. The age-adjusted mortality rate of 597.0 deaths per 100,000 Asian or Pacific Islander residents of the state was the lowest rate among all racial/ethnic groups, while the median age at death was the second highest among the racial/ethnic groups in Arizona. Trend comparison showed a small increased risk of poor health outcomes among Asian residents in 2021 (average score -32.6) compared to 2019 (average score -33.1).

\* The average rank based on all 66 measurements (the sum of the ranks divided by 66 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 66 measurements (the sum of all scores divided by 66 measurements). See section SCORES IN 2021.

### **WHITE NON-HISPANICS**

**Average rank: 2.4**

**Total score: -840.0**

**Average score: -12.7**

White non-Hispanics ranked second best in relative healthiness among racial/ethnic groups in Arizona. They ranked 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> on 40 of 66 measures of health, including low teen pregnancy rates, high utilization of prenatal care, and low premature mortality. White non-Hispanics ranked worse than all other racial/ethnic groups in mortality due to chronic lower respiratory diseases and lung cancer. In 2021, their average health status score of -12.7 indicated improvement in some of the health measures compared to 2019 (average score -10.3). Their age-adjusted mortality rate of 835.4 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, was much higher than the total mortality rate of 674.5 in 2019 and 681.4 in 2017.

### **HISPANICS or LATINOS**

**Average rank: 2.8**

**Total score: -22.3**

**Average score: -0.3**

In 2021 Hispanics retained a 3rd place health ranking. Hispanics ranked best or second best on 26 indicators in 2021, a slight change and increase from 25 in 2019 and 2017. They ranked better than average with low incidence of death due to chronic lower respiratory diseases, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), tobacco use among women giving birth, suicide mortality, and lung cancer. They ranked worse than average in many indicators including but not limited to mortality due to COVID-19, diabetes, teen pregnancy rates, HIV/AIDS incidence, and nephritis. *Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2011-2021* provide a detailed picture of changes over time for all of the 66 measures.

### **BLACKS or AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**Average rank: 4.1**

**Total score: 3,691.4**

**Average score: 55.9**

Overall health status of Blacks or African Americans has improved as shown in a decrease of the average score from 87.0 in 2001 to 41.2 in 2019, but showed an increase of 55.9 in 2021. Despite this improvement, Blacks or African Americans ranked 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> among the five racial/ethnic groups on 52 of 66 measures (see **Figure B**). Blacks or African Americans ranked better than average with low mortality rates from fall-related injuries, alcohol-induced deaths, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. They ranked worse than average on indicators that included, but not limited to deaths due to assault (homicide), infant mortality from low birthweight/short gestation, HIV disease, and drowning.

### **AMERICAN INDIANS or ALASKA NATIVES**

**Average rank: 4.1**

**Total score: 5,583.8**

**Average score: 84.6**

In 2021, American Indian residents had the highest average score among all racial/ethnic groups in Arizona which indicates worse outcomes overall. Contrastingly, American Indian residents ranked better than average on several indicators, such as infant mortality from low birthweight/short gestation, lung cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, colorectal cancer, and Alzheimer's disease. American Indian residents ranked 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> among the five racial/ethnic groups on 49 of 66 measures (see Figure B). Worse than average scores included measures such as mortality due to alcohol, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes, motor vehicle injuries, assault, and COVID-19. In 2021, compared to the median age at death (74) for all race/ethnicities in Arizona, American Indian residents of Arizona had the youngest median age at death at 59.

## COMPARATIVE CAUSE-SPECIFIC

In 2021, diseases of the heart were the leading cause of death for two of the five racial/ethnic groups in Arizona: White non-Hispanics and Black or African Americans, while ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> for Hispanic or Latinos, and Asian or Pacific Islanders, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for American Indian or Alaska Natives (**Figure D**). The number one leading cause of death for Hispanics or Latinos, American Indian or Alaska Natives, and Asian or Pacific Islanders was COVID-19, while ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for Black or African Americans, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for White non-Hispanics. Cancer was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for White non-Hispanics, 3<sup>rd</sup> for Hispanic or Latinos, Black or African Americans, and Asian or Pacific Islanders but ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for American Indian or Alaska Natives. Unintentional injury was the 2<sup>nd</sup> cause of death for American Indian or Alaska Natives, 4<sup>th</sup> for White non-Hispanics, Hispanic or Latinos, and Black or African Americans, but ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for Asian or Pacific Islanders. Cerebrovascular disease was the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for Asians and 5<sup>th</sup> for Blacks in 2021. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was the fourth leading cause of death specific to American Indians, while chronic lower respiratory diseases were the fifth leading cause of death specific to White non-Hispanics and diabetes was among the top five causes of death specific to Hispanic or Latinos.

**Figure D**  
**Comparative Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for the Five Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity in Arizona in 2021**

Rank	White non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
1	Diseases of heart 154.7	COVID-19 220.5	Diseases of heart 193.3	COVID-19 394.4	COVID-19 120.1
2	Cancer 136.0	Diseases of heart 123.5	COVID-19 168.5	Unintentional injury 206.9	Diseases of heart 97.6
3	COVID-19 103.5	Cancer 110.9	Cancer 154.4	Diseases of heart 145.9	Cancer 94.4
4	Unintentional injury 74.8	Unintentional injury 66.6	Unintentional injury 101.3	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis 145.7	Cerebrovascular disease 32.3
5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 39.8	Diabetes 42.5	Cerebrovascular disease 61.9	Cancer 128.9	Unintentional injury 30.5

## COMPARATIVE RATES AND RATIOS FOR 2011 and 2021

The 132 bar charts provide both a snapshot of differences between the racial/ethnic groups in Arizona in 2021, as well as a measure of change since 2011. More detailed comparisons over time are available in a special section of the report (**Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2011 – 2021**) that documents specific changes by year from 2011 through 2021 on the 66 health status measures by racial/ethnic group.

## RISK PROFILES

Risk profiles presented on the following pages summarize how each racial/ethnic group compares to the state average for the entire set of measures of health status. These profiles use scores developed to describe the level of each of the 66 measures for each racial/ethnic group relative 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 racial/ethnic group.