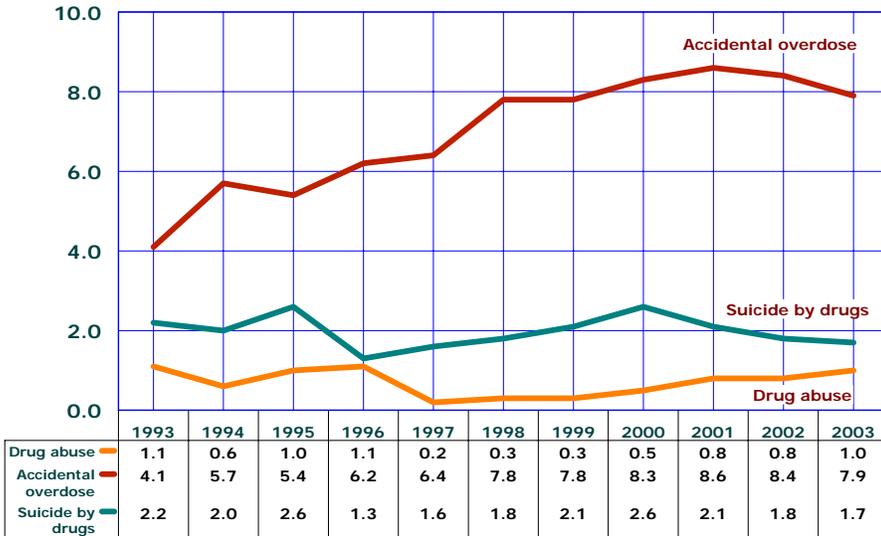


DRUG-RELATED DEATHS, ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 8-1
Drug-Related Death Rates* by Mortality Category and Year, Arizona, 1993-2003



This report provides data on poisoning by misuse of, abuse of, or dependence on drugs, medications and biological substances other than alcohol.

Accidental overdoses of drugs, followed by intentional self-poisoning (suicide) and drug abuse are the three major categories of drug-related mortality (Figure 8-1). In 2003, 652 Arizonans died from drug poisoning in various circumstances (Table 1), 2.1 times as many as in 1993 (Table 2).

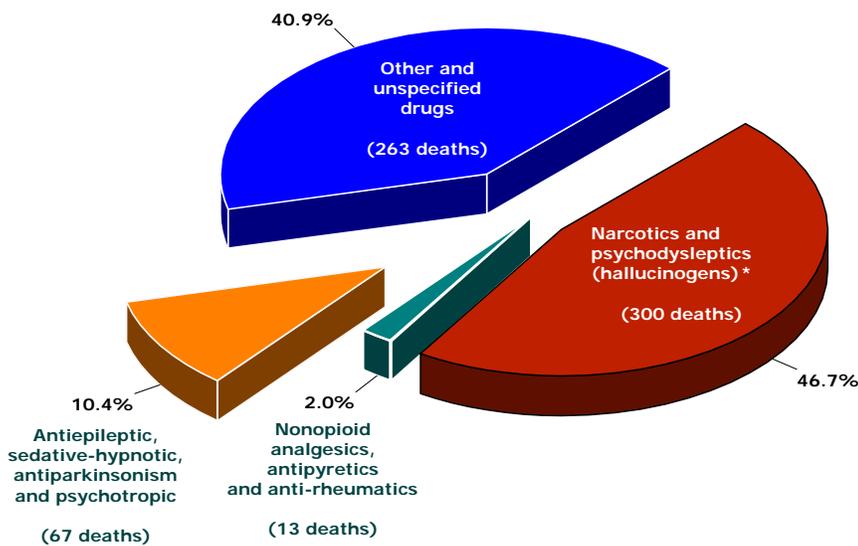
Effective with data for 2000, causes of drug-related death are classified by the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), replacing the Ninth Revision (ICD-9) used in 1979-1999. In addition, beginning with the 2000 data year, cause-of-death data presented in this publication were coded by the National Center for Health Statistics using computerized procedures for coding of medical information. Both the conversion to ICD-10 and computerized coding contributed to at least some the breaks in comparability over time of cause of death statistics for accidental poisoning by drugs and intentional self-poisoning by drugs.

* Number of deaths per 100,000 population.

Note: Drug-related mortality from 2000 to present is classified according to the Tenth Revision of the Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). The drug-related mortality for 1993-1999 is classified by ICD-9. The rates for 2000-2001 are from the WISQARS site at http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/nicpc/mortrate_10_sy.html.

Causes of death attributable to drug-related mortality include not only deaths from dependent and nondependent use of drugs (legal or illegal), but also poisoning by and adverse effects of medically prescribed and other drugs. The category of "drug-related deaths" excludes accidents, homicides and other causes indirectly related to drug use. Also excluded are newborn deaths due to mother's drug use.

Figure 8-2
Percentage and Number of Drug-Related Deaths by Type of Drug, Arizona, 2003



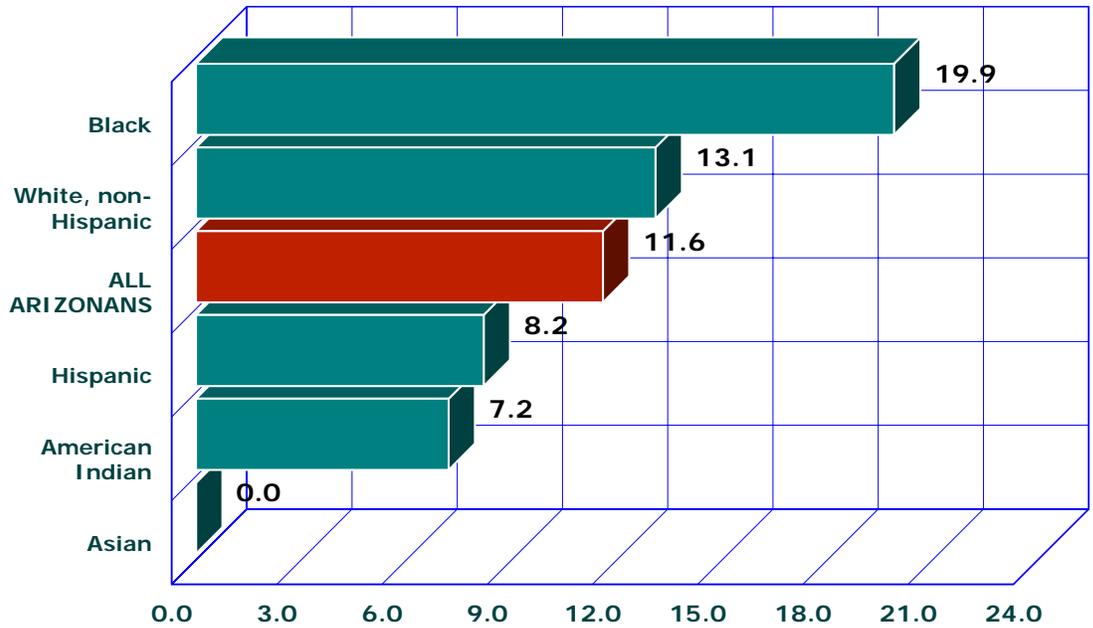
In 2003, 300 deaths of Arizona residents were attributed to narcotics, and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens) (Figure 8-2). Sixty-seven deaths had antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and other psychotropic drugs as agents. There were thirteen deaths attributed to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics. Other and unspecified drugs accounted for 263 deaths, or 40.9 percent of total drug-related mortality.

* Includes cannabis, cocaine, codeine, heroine, LSD, mescaline, methadone, morphine, opium.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS, ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

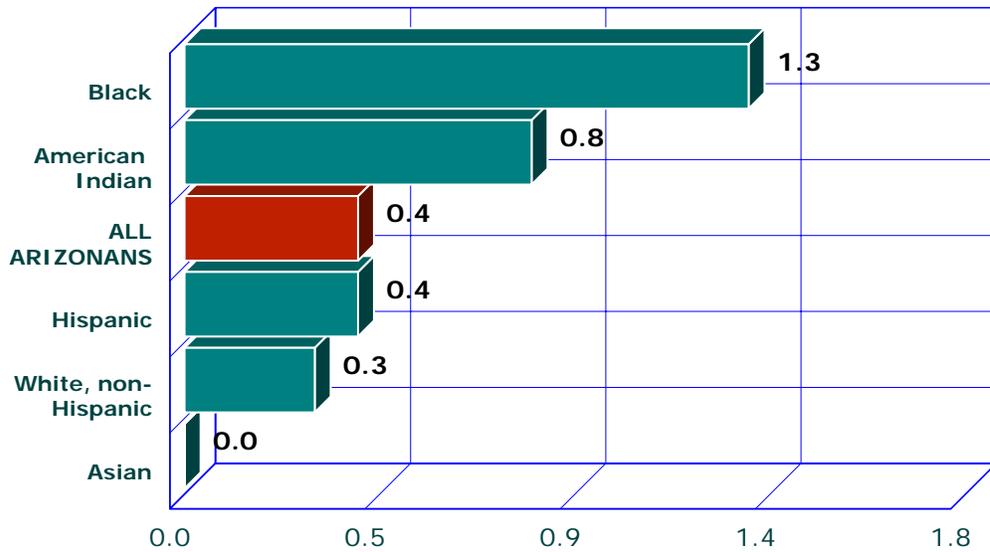
Figure 8-3
Drug-Related Death Rates* by Race/Ethnic Group,
Arizona, 2003



In 2003, Black residents of Arizona had the highest rate of drug-related deaths, (19.9 per 100,000; **Figure 8-3**) followed by White non-Hispanics, Hispanics and American Indians. There were no drug related deaths among Asian residents of the State.

* Number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in specified group

Figure 8-4
Mortality Rates* for Abuse of Psychoactive Substances
by Race/Ethnic Group, Arizona, 2003



In 2003, Black and American Indian residents of the State had the highest mortality rates for abuse of psychoactive substances (**Figure 7-4**), such as cannabis, cocaine, heroine, LSD, mescaline, methadone, morphine and opium.

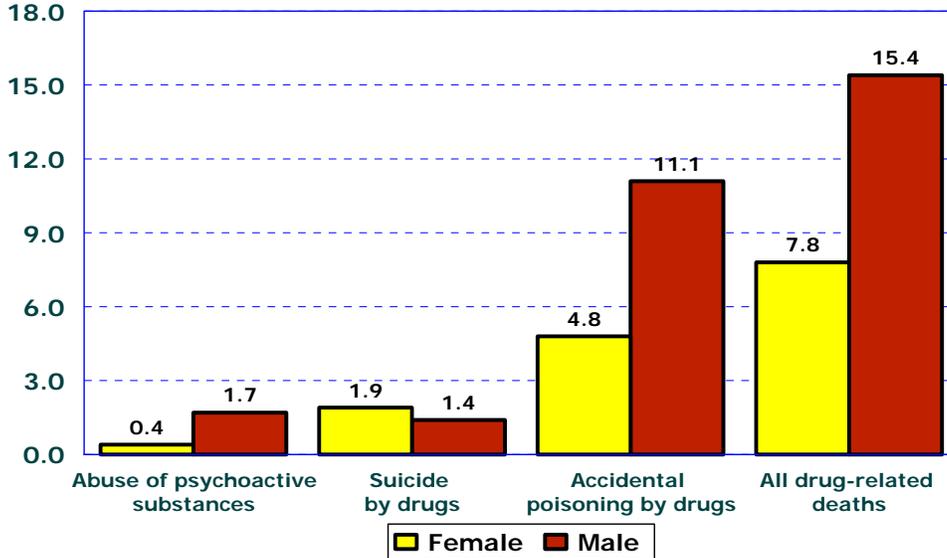
* Number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in specified group

NOTE: Psychoactive substances include cannabis, cocaine, codeine, heroine, LSD, mescaline, methadone, morphine, opium.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS, ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

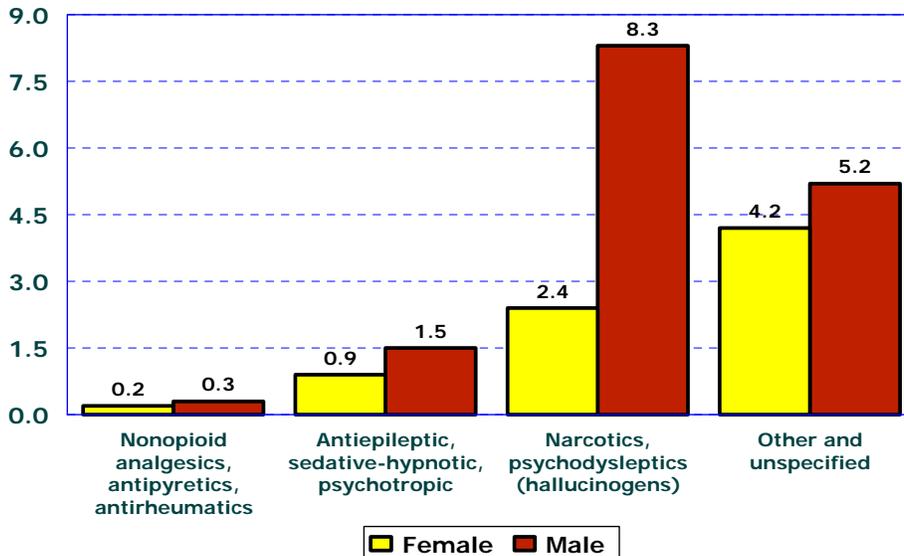
Figure 8-5
Drug-Related Death Rates* by Mortality Category and Gender, Arizona, 2003



The 2003 rate of drug-related deaths among males (15.4/100,000) was almost 2 times the rate for females (7.8/100,000; **Figure 8-5**). The death rate for accidental overdoses among males (11.1/100,000) was 2.3 times the female rate of 4.8/100,000. In contrast, the female rate for suicide by drugs exceeded the respective rate among males by 36 percent.

* Number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in specified group

Figure 8-6
Drug-Related Death Rates* by Type of Drug and Gender, Arizona, 2003



The male mortality rate for narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallu-cinogens) was 3.5 times higher than the respective female rate (**Figure 8-6**). All gender-specific mortality rates by type of drug were greater for males than females.

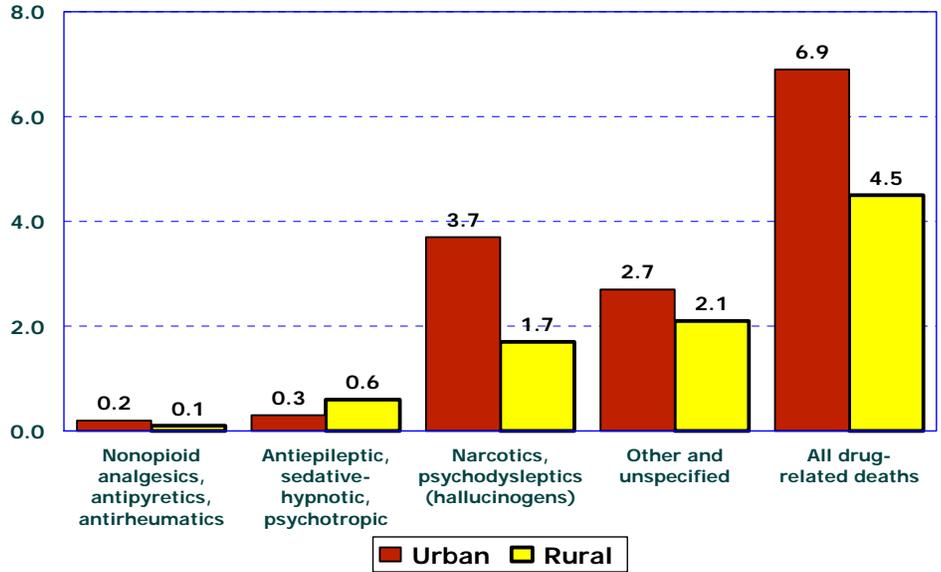
* Number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in specified group

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS, ARIZONA, 1993-2003

KEY FINDINGS

Figure 8-7
Drug-Related Death Rates by Type of Drug and Urban*/Rural Area, Arizona, 2003

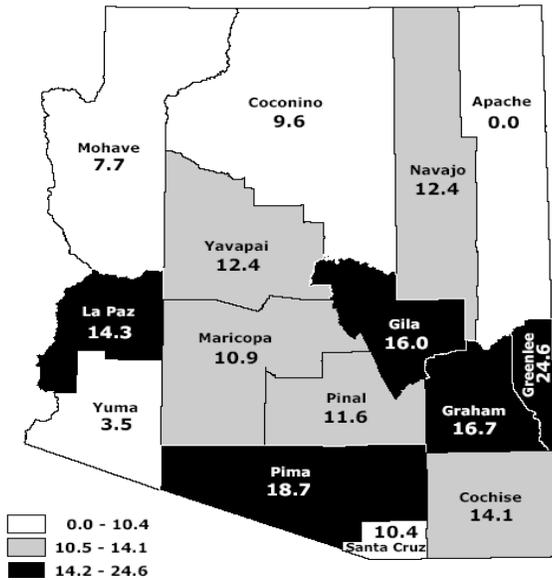
Relative to rural residents, the 2000 mortality risk of urban residents was 1.5 greater for all drug-related causes (Figure 8-7). In particular, urban compared to rural residents were 2.2 more likely to die from the abuse of narcotics and psychodysleptics (3.7/100,000 vs. 1.7/100,000). In contrast, rural residents had a mortality disadvantage with respect to urban residents on overdoses of sedative-hypnotic and psychotropic drugs.



* Number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 persons in specified group

Figure 8-8
Age-Adjusted* Mortality Rates for Drug-Related Deaths by County of Residence, Arizona, 2003

The age-adjusted drug-related mortality rates varied in Arizona in 2003 from zero (no fatalities) in Apache county to 24.6/100,000 in Greenlee County.



NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION (age-adjusted to 2000 standard)

ARIZONA RATE = 12.0