The observed racial/ethnic status of Arizona's older adults in 2010 stands in contrast to the projected racial/ethnic composition of Arizona's older adults in 2050. As displayed in Table 1 and Figure 1, the proportion of older Arizonans who are White non-Hispanic is expected to decrease 23 percent from 2010 to 2050, with the proportion of the population being Hispanic or Latino increasing by 17 percent. The percentage of Arizona's older adult population who are Asian or Pacific Islander, Black or African American, and American Indian or Pacific Islander also is expected to increase, but at a much lower rate than that of Hispanics.

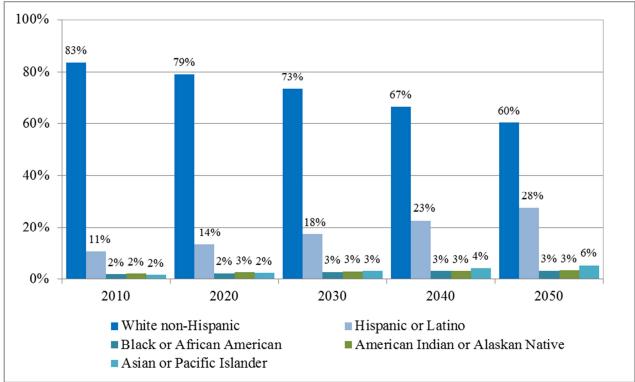


Figure 1. Projections of Arizona's Population of Adults Age 65 and Older by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 - 2050

Finally, Figures 2 and 3 provide representation of Arizona's population age distribution by gender and age-group for 2010 and 2050. Included in the figures are the dependency ratios for 2010 and 2050, expressing the ratio of dependent individuals (the young and old who typically do not work) to working members of society (those aged 15 - 64 who typically do work).

In 2010, the population pyramid can be described as roughly stationary, meaning birth rates have remained stable over recent years (indicated by the fairly even distribution of population by age group and gender from age 5 and under to age 50 - 54) and that death rates among older adults were relatively low. The dependency ratio in 2010 was fairly balanced at 53.9, meaning for every 100 working individuals there were about 54 individuals who were likely not working.