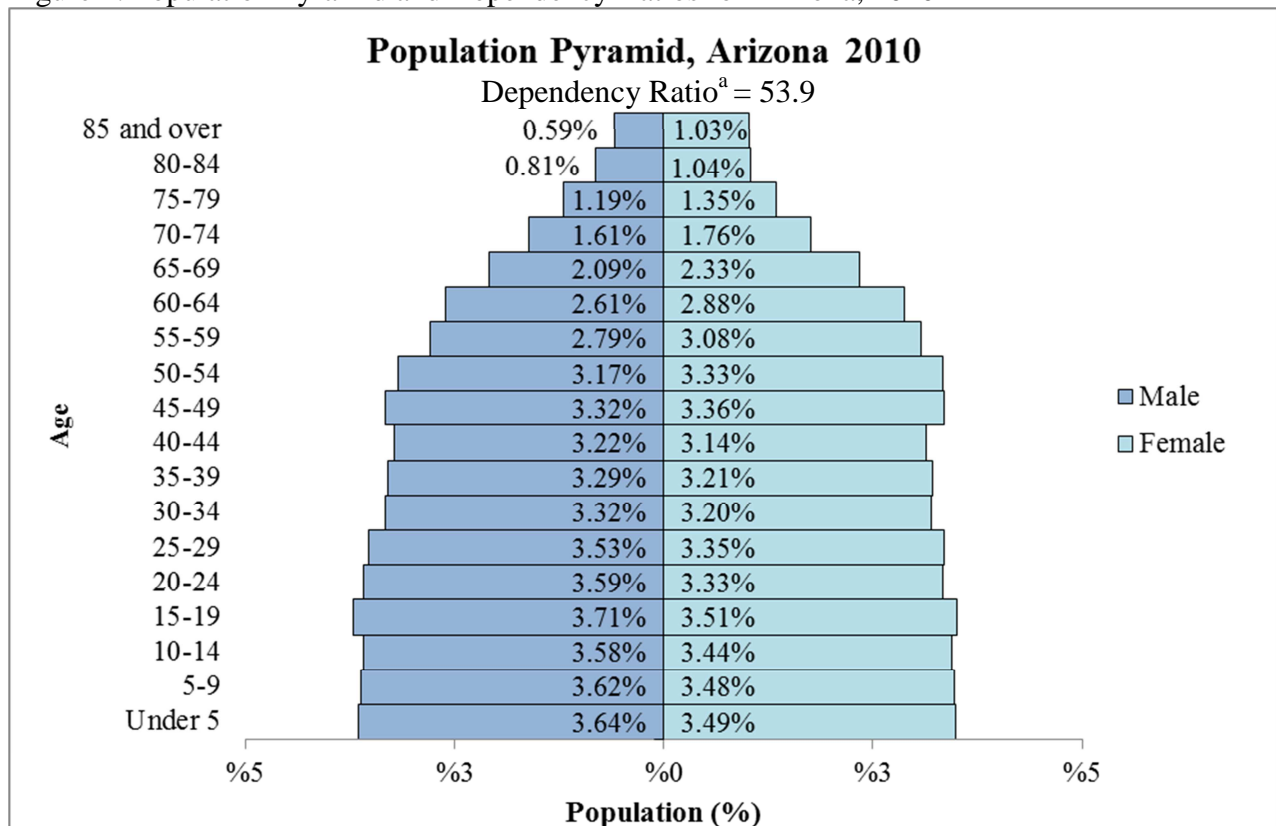


Figure 2. Population Pyramid and Dependency Ratios for Arizona, 2010



Notes: ^a Dependency ratio = (Arizona residents 0 – 14 years + Arizona residents 65 + years)/ Arizona residents 15 – 64.

In comparison, the population pyramid representing Arizona's projected population age composition in 2050 can be described as contractive, meaning the birth rate (represented by those under the age of 5) is low (compared to 2010), and the dependency ratio is high. In 2050, it is projected that there will be nearly 67 individuals dependent on the wages and taxes of every 100 working individuals in Arizona.

Looking closer at the distribution of Arizonans age 65 and older in 2010 and 2050, it is clear that a greater proportion of the population will be age 65 and older in 2050 than were in 2010. Specifically, the proportion of adults age 65 and older in 2010 was about 14 percent while the projected proportion of the population ages 65 and older in 2050 will be about 21 percent. This is especially transparent at the oldest ages, with the percent of the population represented by men and women age 85 and older in 2050 being 2.7 percent greater than in 2010. This means that by 2050, not only will a greater proportion of Arizona's population be among Arizona's older adults, but also that a greater proportion of Arizona's older adult population will be represented in the oldest age groups.