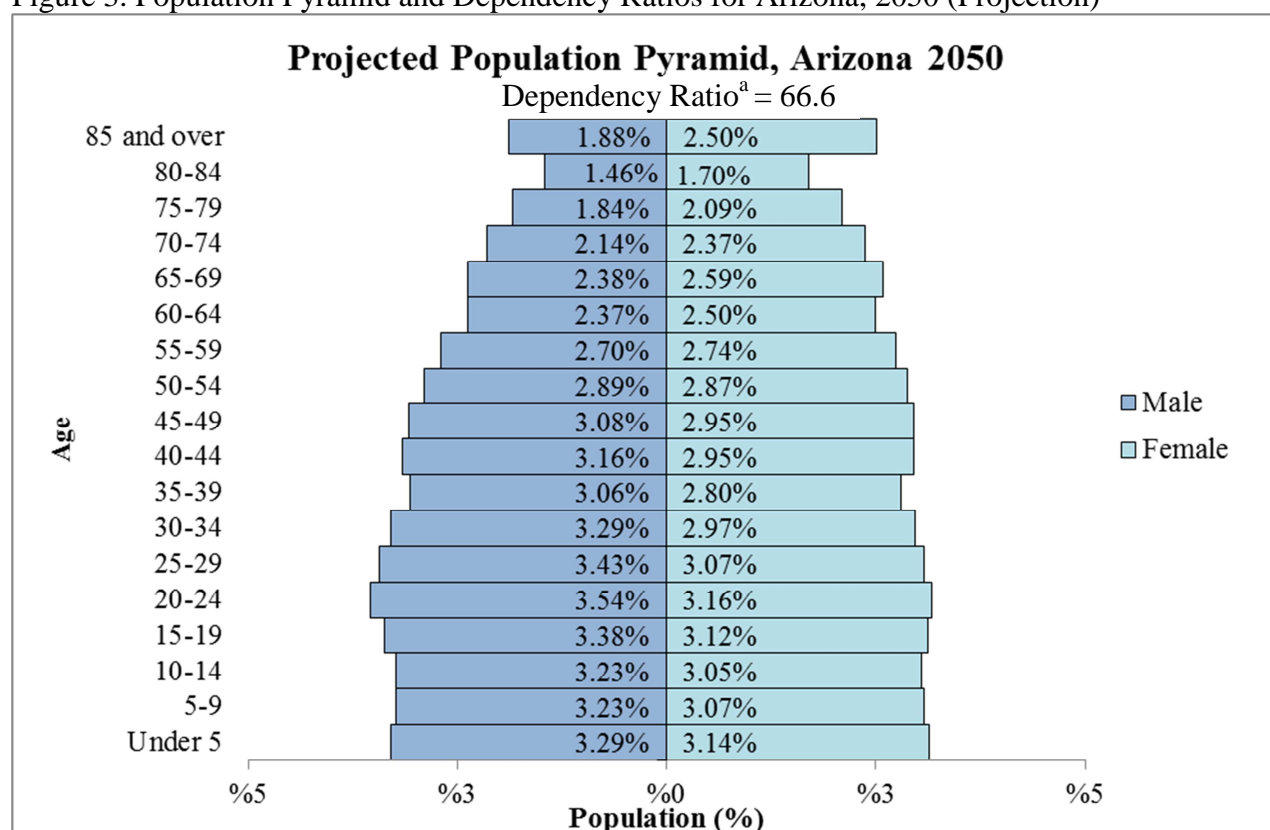


Figure 3. Population Pyramid and Dependency Ratios for Arizona, 2050 (Projection)



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

2.4 Conclusion

Based on the population projections analyzed here, Arizona can expect a rapidly increasing number of residents age 65 and older who will come to account for a greater proportion of the overall population than they currently do. This increasing percentage of Arizonans age 65 and older will be more racially and ethnically diverse than the current population of older adults, meaning specialized courses of intervention and treatment will need to be developed to address health outcomes that disproportionately affect Hispanic and Latino older adults.

The confluence of these forces requires targeted and effective policies that will help reduce the costs of the healthcare burden posed by a greater proportion of adults living with chronic diseases associated with aging. To help guide these discussions, this report attempts to describe the current health of Arizona's older adult population, the patterns of their interactions with the healthcare system, and the common causes of mortality they must face. In doing so, we hope to offer useful information to support the progression of health and wellness among Arizona's aging population.