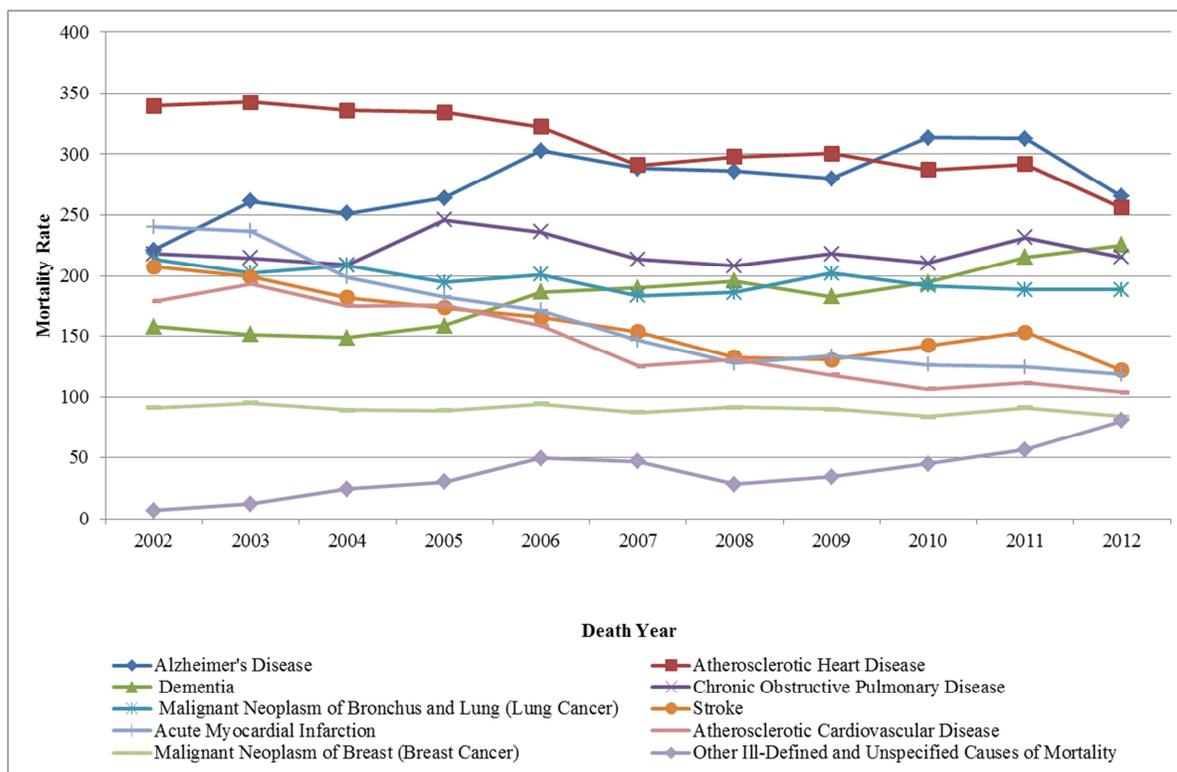


Figure 11. Specific Leading Causes of Death Among Arizona Resident Females, 65 Years and Older, 2002 – 2012



The greatest increase in mortality rate of all the causes examined was for dementia, representing a 54 percent increase from 2002 (87.1 per 100,000) to 2012 (133.8 per 100,000). Similarly, the number of deaths from Alzheimer’s disease rose 72 percent during the period, representing a 27 percent increase in the Alzheimer’s mortality rate. The mortality rate increased slightly for Parkinson’s disease from 2002 (78.8 per 100,000) to 2012 (83.5 per 100,000).

Contrary to previously mentioned increases, there were several noteworthy decreases. While rates for all causes considered diseases of the heart showed significant reductions, the largest decrease was a 53 percent decrease in the rate of death from acute myocardial infarction, followed by a 26 percent decrease in the rate of death from atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Finally, the rate of death from stroke declined by 41 percent for resident males 65 years and over during the period.