

2A. TOTAL MORTALITY

If there was no monthly variation in proportional contribution to total annual deaths, 8.3 percent (100/12) of deaths should occur monthly. However, when the monthly distribution of resident deaths is examined, January (10.2 percent), March (9.0 percent), December (8.9 percent), February (8.8 percent), and April (8.5 percent) were higher in 2013 from the expected value (**Figure 2A-3**). September, June, October, August, July, and November were the months with the lowest proportional contributions to the total annual deaths among Arizona residents.

The majority of the 2,103 non-residents who died in Arizona during 2013 did so during March, January, February, and December. September was the month with the lowest proportional contribution (5.3 percent) to the annual death total among out-of-State residents who died in Arizona.

Figure 2A-3
Percent Annual Deaths by Month of Occurrence and Residence Status, Arizona, 2013

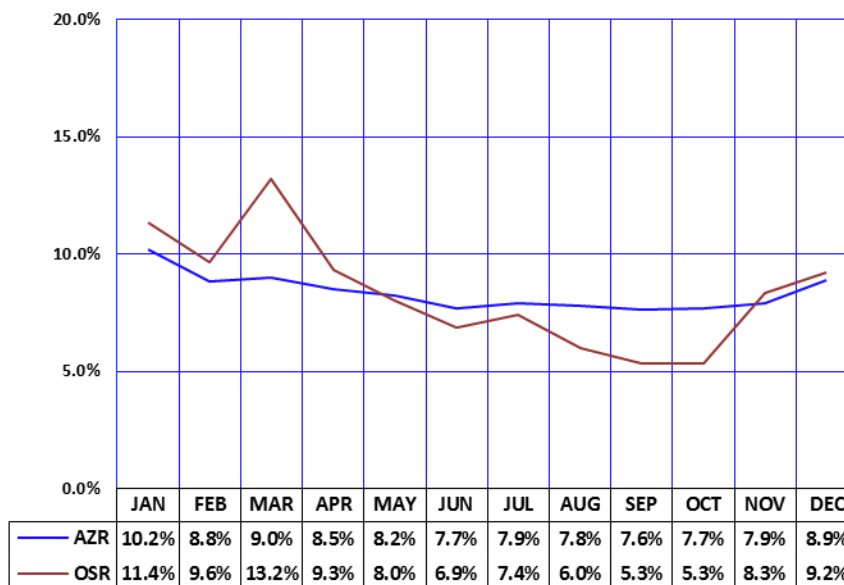


Figure 2A-4
Percentage of Deaths for which Autopsies were Reported by Race/Ethnicity and Year, Arizona Residents, 2003-2013

Autopsies were reported as performed on 4,543 decedents, or 9.1 percent of the deaths that occurred among Arizona residents in 2013. From 2003 – 2013, the percentage of deaths for which autopsies were reported varied from a high of 10.5 percent in 2004 and 2007 to a low of 8.6 percent in 2011 and 2012.

The percentage autopsied varies by the decedent's demographic characteristics. By race/ethnicity (**Figure 2A-4**) the percentage autopsied was lower for the White non-Hispanic and Asian population than for other groups. The prevalence of autopsies was substantially greater among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic or Latino sub-populations. A substantial portion of the differential in the use of autopsy by race/ethnicity reflects differences in the age and manner of death. For example, autopsies tend to be more common at younger ages and for deaths by homicide, suicide, accidents, and undetermined manner.

