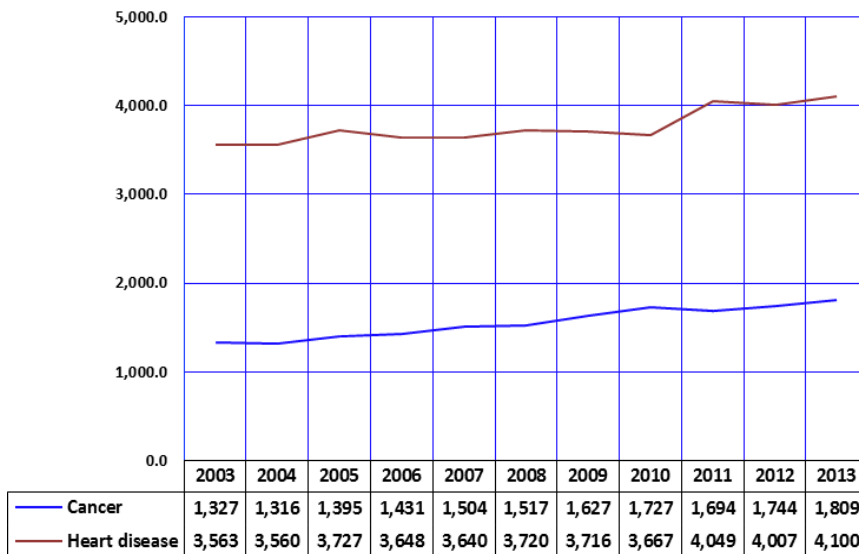


## 2B. LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

### Diseases of heart and malignant neoplasm (cancer)

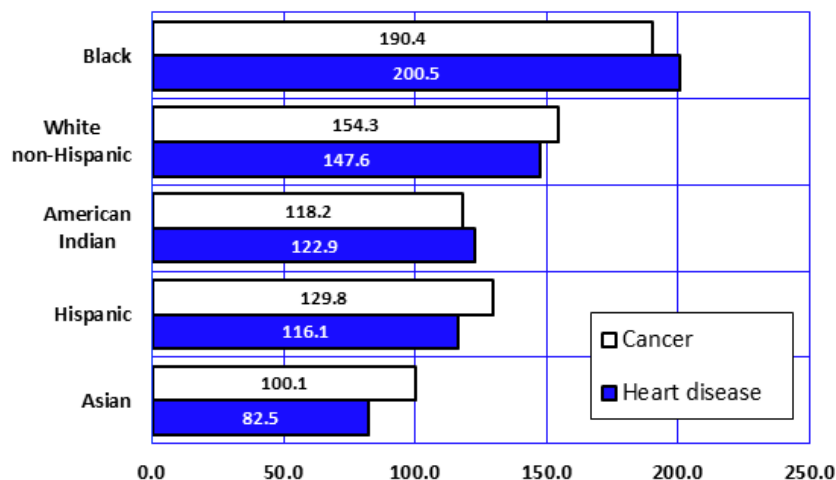
**Figure 2B-8**  
Deaths from Heart Disease and Cancer among Arizonans 85+, 2003-2013



Among Arizonans age 85 and over, heart disease is the number one leading cause of death by a wide margin. In 2013, adults aged 85 and over accounted for 16.2 percent of all deaths from cancer but 39.1 percent of all deaths from heart disease. In 2013, the median age at death for heart disease was 81 years (**Table 2D-3**) and a minority of deaths (44.1 percent, **Table 2D-4**) were premature, i.e., before reaching the expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (78.7 years as of 2011).

However, from 2003 to 2013, the number of deaths from cancer increased by 36.3 percent among Arizonans 85 years or older, more than double the increase observed in diseases of the heart (a 15.1 percent increase).

**Figure 2B-9**  
Age-adjusted Mortality Rates<sup>a</sup> for Heart Disease and Cancer by Race/Ethnicity, Arizona, 2013



Arizona's White non-Hispanics were 78.9 percent more likely to die from diseases of the heart and 54.1 percent more likely to die from malignant neoplasms in 2013 than Asians, the groups with the lowest risk of each respective cause of death (**Figure 2B-9, Table 2B-4**). Compared to Asians, Black or African American Arizonans were 90.2 percent more likely to die of cancer and 2.4 times more likely to die of heart disease.

Among White non-Hispanics, Hispanics, and Asians, the relative risk of death from cancer exceeded the mortality risk of death from heart disease in 2013 (**Table 2B-3**).

Notes: <sup>a</sup> Number of deaths per 100,000 population age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard.