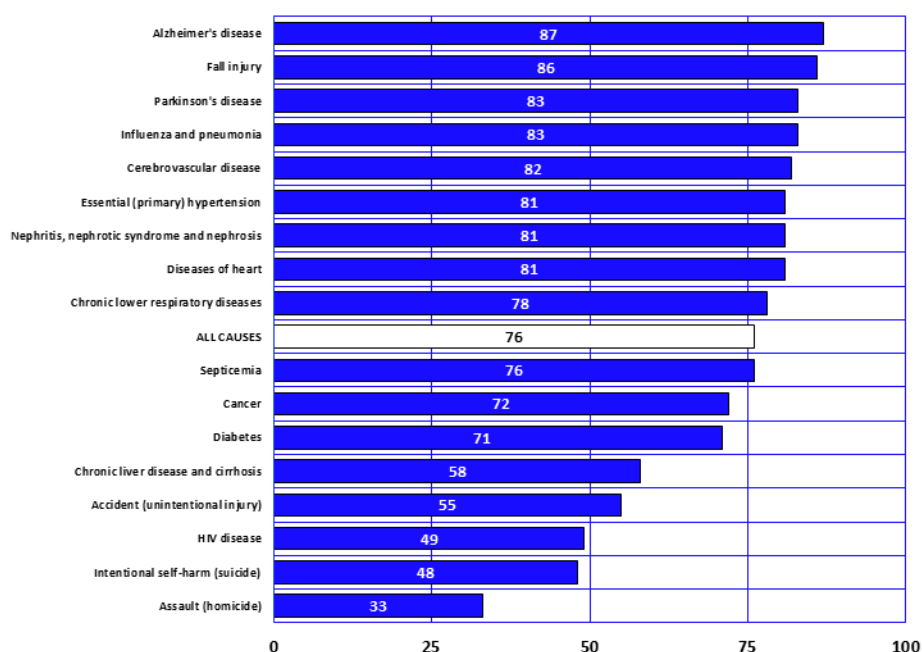


2D. PATTERNS OF PREMATURE MORTALITY

Figure 2D-3
Median Age at Death for Selected Leading Causes of Death,
Arizona, 2013

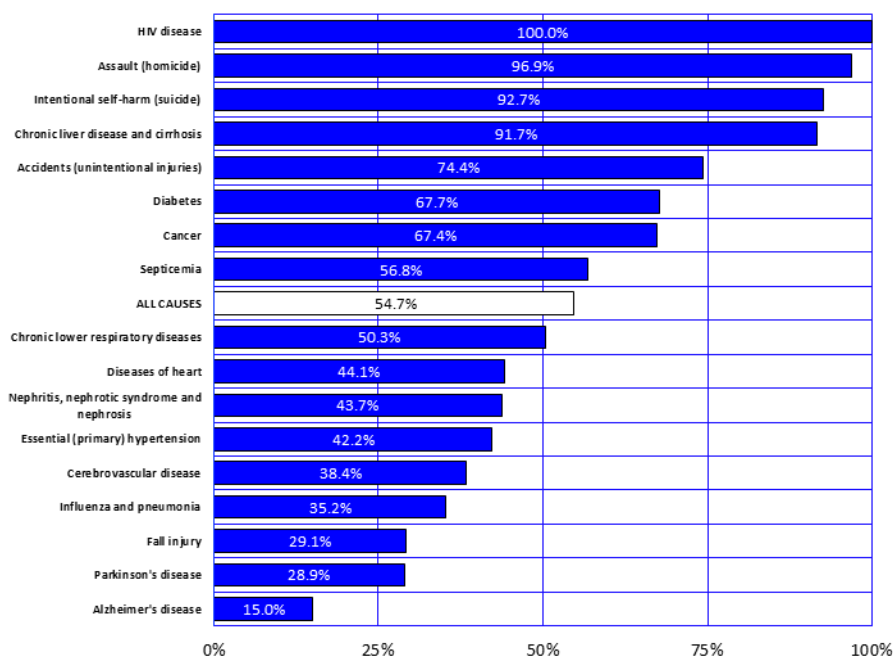


In 2013, *Alzheimer's disease* had the highest median age of death at 87 years (**Figure 2D-3**), exceeding by 11 years the median age at death for all causes (**Figure 2D-3, Table 2D-3**).

Among the leading causes of death, *homicide* had the lowest median age at death of 33 years.

From 2003 to 2013, *cancer* has replaced *diseases of the heart* as the leading cause of death (based on the number of deaths). This epidemiologic transition in mortality risks is likely to have long lasting implications for the life expectancy of Arizonans, because the median age at death from *cancer* (72 years) is substantially lower than the median age at death from *diseases of the heart* (81 years).

Figure 2D-4
Percent of Deaths before Expected Years of Life^a Reached for Selected Leading
Causes of Death, Arizona, 2013



Notes: ^a Expected years of life at birth for all U.S. residents (78.7 years).

Only 15.0 percent of deaths from *Alzheimer's disease* occurred before the age of 78.7 years, i.e., before the expected years of life were reached. In contrast, all deaths from *HIV disease* were premature (**Figure 2D-4, Table 2D-4**) and the median age at death from *HIV disease* increased from the previous year at 49 years (**Figure 2D-3, Table 2D-3**).

A minority of deaths from *diseases of heart* were premature (44.1 percent). In contrast 67.4 percent of deaths from *cancer* occurred before the expected years of life were reached.