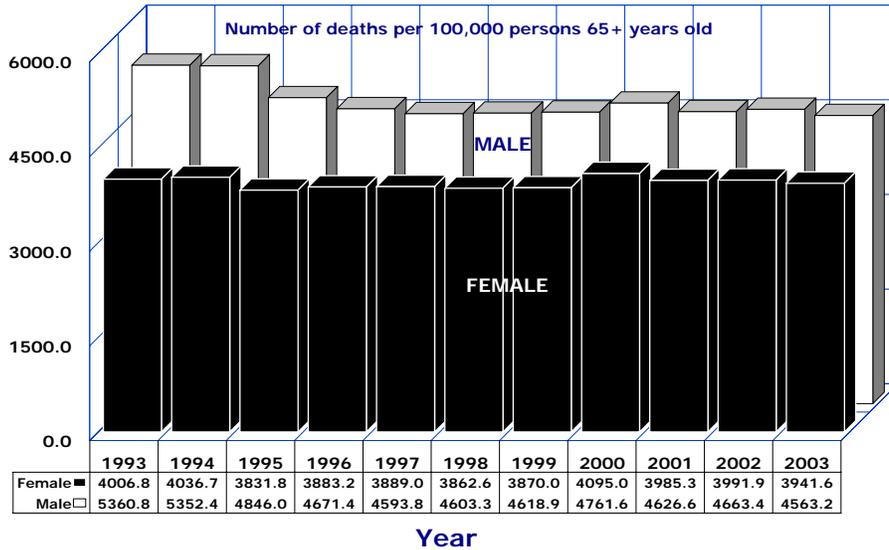


2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY
Elderly mortality (ages 65 years and older)

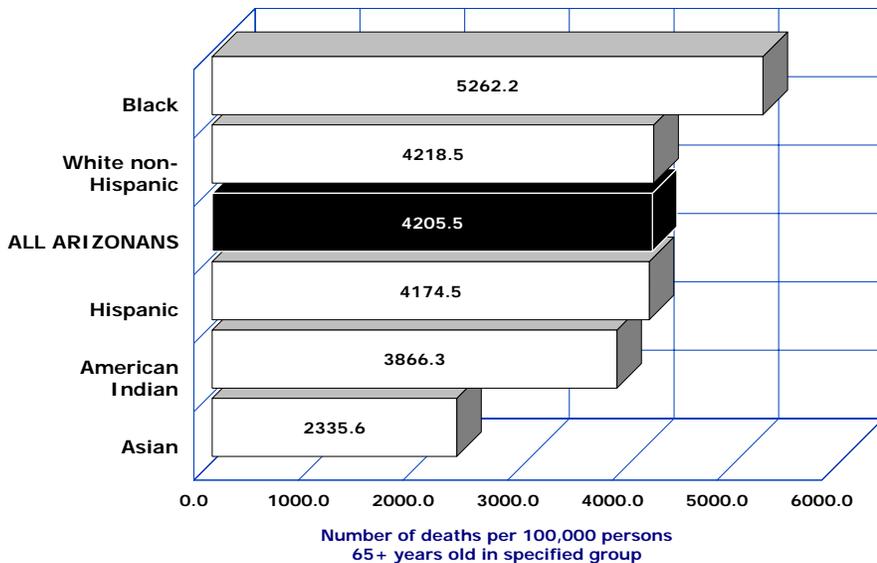
Figure 2C-21
Mortality Rates By Gender and Year Among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 1992-2003



Life ended for 30,815 elderly persons 65 years and over in 2003 for a mortality rate of 4,205.5 per 100,000 (Table 2C-24), 8.3 percent lower than the 1993 rate of 4,584.2. However, in absolute numbers, 7,906 more elderly Arizonans died in 2003 than in 1993.

The 2003 total mortality rate among elderly females was only 1.6 percent lower than their rate in 1993. In contrast, the mortality rate among elderly males decreased 15.4 percent between 1993 and 2003 (Figure 2C-21, Table 2C-24).

Figure 2C-22
Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 2003



In 2003 the mortality rate for Arizona's Black elderly residents was 2.3 times that for the Asian elderly population. The mortality rate of 2335.6/100,000 among elderly Asians was the lowest rate among the racial/ethnic groups (Figure 2C-22).

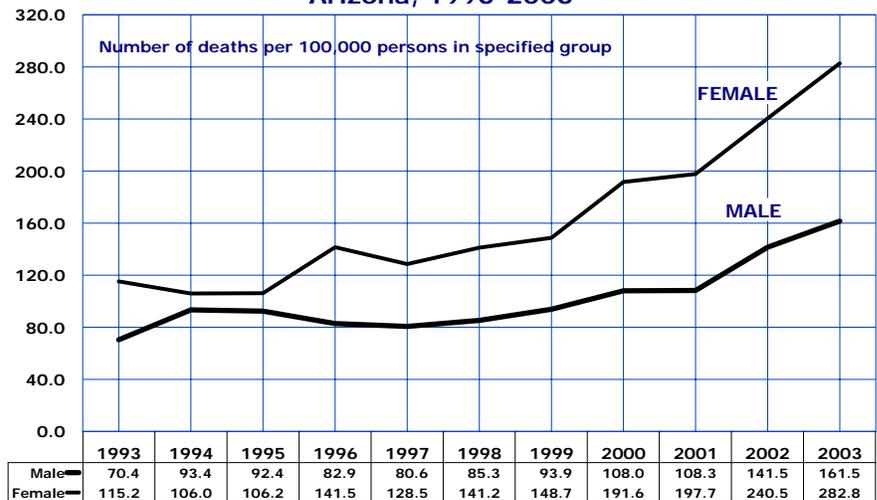
Rates for the American Indians and Asian populations should be interpreted with caution because of the reporting problems on the death certificate and in population censuses. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the American Indian rate is approximately 21 percent understated and the Asian rate is approximately 11 percent understated.

2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY
Elderly mortality (ages 65 years and older)

The comparability-modified death rate for Alzheimer's disease, the fifth leading cause of elderly mortality in Arizona in 2003, increased 2.4 times from 96.1/100,000 in 1993 to 229.0/100,000 in 2003 (**Figure 2C-23**). There were 1,153 deaths from Alzheimer's disease among elderly females in 2003, 2.2 times the number of deaths from this cause among males (**Table 2C-27**). In 1994, the Alzheimer's disease mortality risk of elderly females compared to males was 13.5 percent greater, while in 2003 the risk was 75.1 percent greater.

(For more details see the report on "*Mortality from Alzheimer's disease among Arizona residents, 1990-2000*" available online at www.azdhs.gov/plan/mfad/toc00.htm)

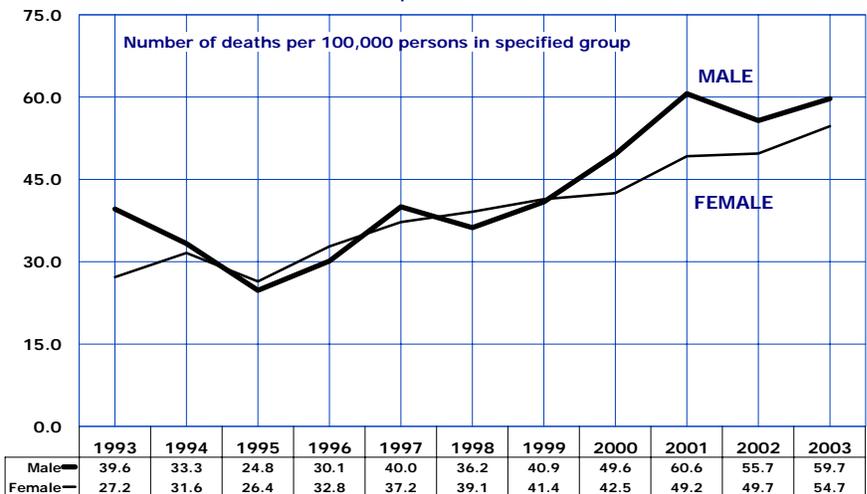
Figure 2C-23
Trends in Mortality Rates for Alzheimer's Disease by Gender
Among Elderly 65 Years and Older by Year,
Arizona, 1993-2003



Note: the rates for 1993-1999 are based on the number of deaths according to ICD-9. The rates for 2000-2003 are based on the number of deaths according to ICD-10. For comparability, the rates for 1993-1999 are adjusted using the preliminary comparability ratio of 1.5536 from NCHS. Comparability ratio of 1.0 indicates that the same number of deaths was assigned to a cause of death whether ICD-9 or ICD-10 was used.

Figure 2C-24
Trends in Mortality Rates for Falls and Fall-Related Injuries
by Gender Among Elderly 65 Years and Older by Year,
Arizona, 1993-2003

Among unintentional injury deaths unrelated to motor vehicles, Arizona's elderly experienced a substantial increase in mortality from *fall-related injuries* (**Figure 2C-24**). In 2003, 417 elderly Arizona 65 years or older died from *fall-related injuries*, compared to 200 in 1993. The rate of *fall-related deaths* among elderly males increased 2.4 times from 24.8/100,000 in 1995 to 59.7/100,000 in 2003. The rate of fall-related deaths among elderly females increased by 107.2 percent (2.1 times) during that time.



Note: the rates for 1993-1999 are based on the number of deaths according to ICD-9. The rates for 2000 - 2003 are based on the number of deaths according to ICD-10. For comparability, the rates for 1993-1999 are adjusted using the preliminary comparability ratio of 0.8409 from NCHS. Comparability ratio of 1.0 indicates that the same number of deaths was assigned to a cause of death whether ICD-9 or ICD-10 was used.