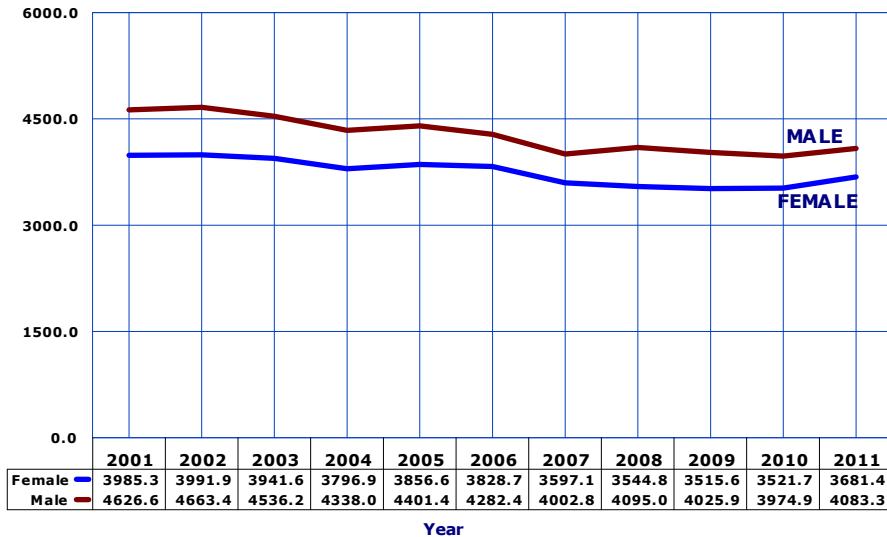


2C.AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY  
**Elderly mortality (ages 65 years and older)**

**Figure 2C-21**  
**Mortality Rates by Gender and Year among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 2001-2011**



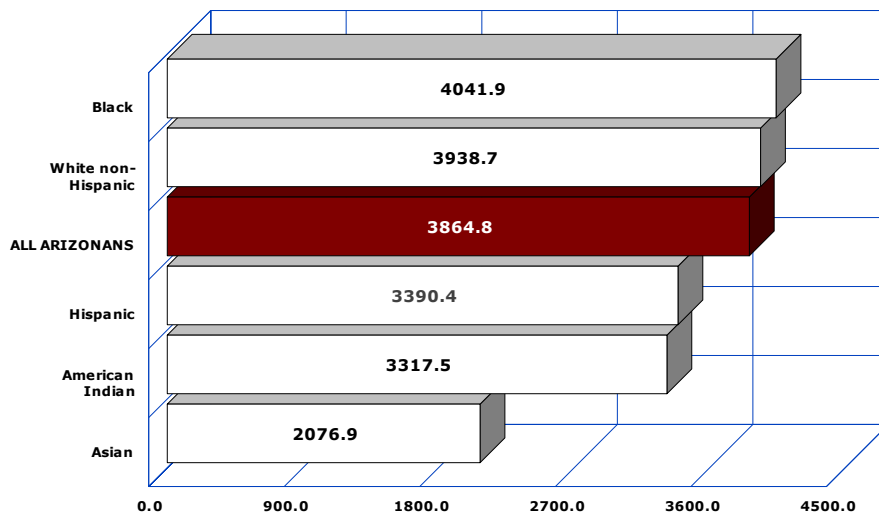
Number of deaths per 100,000 persons, 65+ years old in specified group.

In 2011, an estimated 887,953 elderly 65 years and older of age resided in the State (**Table 10A-1**). No other age group has as great a disproportionate gender distribution as the elderly. As a result of the higher total mortality rates for males in each of the earlier periods of lifespan, 19.5 percent more elderly women than men were alive in 2011.

The 2011 elderly mortality rate of 3864.8 per 100,000 was 9.5 percent lower than the 2001 rate of 4269.8, but was the highest mortality rate since 2007 (**Table 2C-23**).

Survival chances generally have improved from 2001 to 2011 for both elderly males and females. The 2011 total mortality rate among elderly females was 7.6 percent lower than their rate in 2001. The mortality rate among elderly males decreased 11.7 percent from 2001 to 2011 (**Figure 2C-21, Table 2C-23**).

**Figure 2C-22**  
**Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 2011**



Number of deaths per 100,000 persons, 65+ years old in specified group.

In 2011 the mortality rate for Arizona's Black or African American elderly residents was nearly 2 times that of the Asian elderly population. The mortality rate of 2076.9 /100,000 among elderly Asians was the lowest rate among the race/ethnic groups (**Figure 2C-22**). American Indian elderly had the second lowest mortality rate in 2011.

The fact that American Indian elderly have one of the lowest elderly mortality rates is related to their relatively high mortality rates at younger ages. American Indians who survive to 65 years or older are a select group and thus tend to out-survive their similarly-aged racial/ethnic counterparts who have lower mortality rates at earlier ages.

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

The two tables (**Tables 2C-23 and 2C-24**) provide mortality rates for the five causes with the greatest number of deaths over the 2001 – 2011 period.

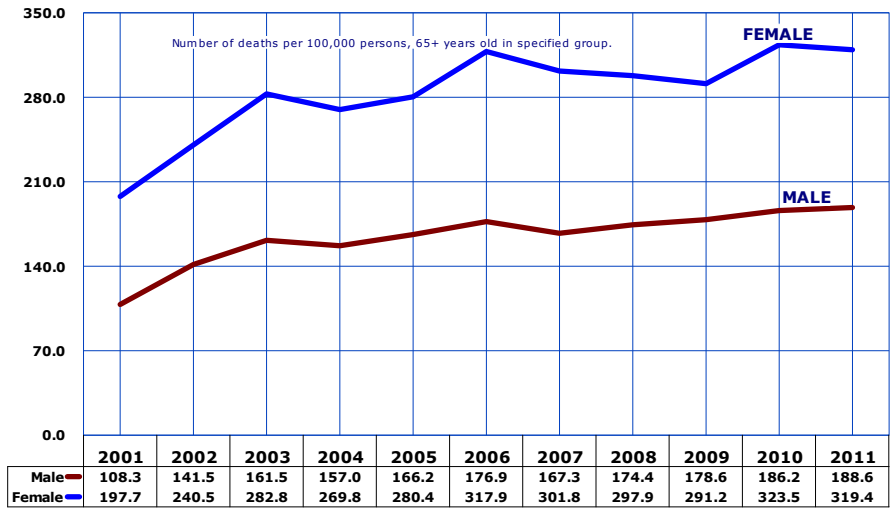
In 2011, Alzheimer’s disease (2,307 deaths) accounted for 6.7 percent of elderly mortality.

From 2009 to 2011, gender-specific death rates for Alzheimer’s disease increased by 9.7 percent for elderly females (**Figure 2C-23**) and by 5.6 percent for elderly males.

There were 1,544 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease among elderly females in 2011, 2.0 times the number of deaths from this cause among males (763; **Table 2C-26**).

White non-Hispanic elderly accounted for 87.3 percent of the 2011 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease (based on data in **Table 2C-26**).

**Figure 2C-23**  
**Trends in Mortality Rates for Alzheimer’s Disease by Gender and Year among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 2001-2011**



**Figure 2C-24**  
**Trends in Mortality Rates for Falls and Fall-related Injuries by Gender and Year among Elderly 65 Years and Older, Arizona, 2001-2011**

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 2011, 683 elderly Arizonans 65 years or older died from *fall-related injuries*, compared to 375 in 2001, and 4.7 times as many as the number of those who died from motor vehicle-related injuries (144; **Table 2C-26**).

In 2011, those 85 years old or older, experienced the largest number of *fall-related deaths* (391), followed by Arizonans 75-84 years old (220 deaths), and the youngest elderly 65-74 years old (72 fall-related deaths). There is more data available online at <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/im/falls.htm>

