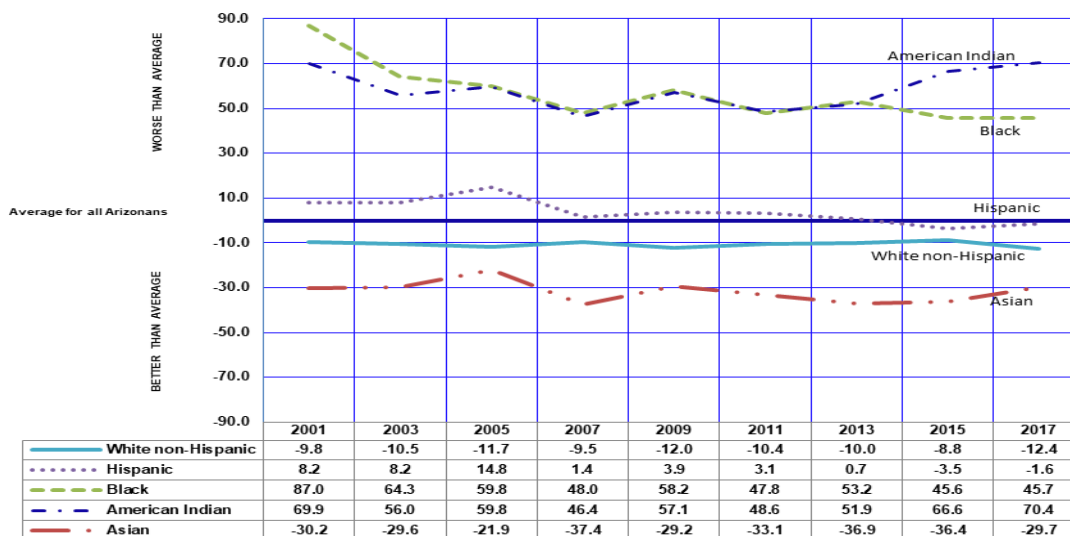


## KEY FINDINGS

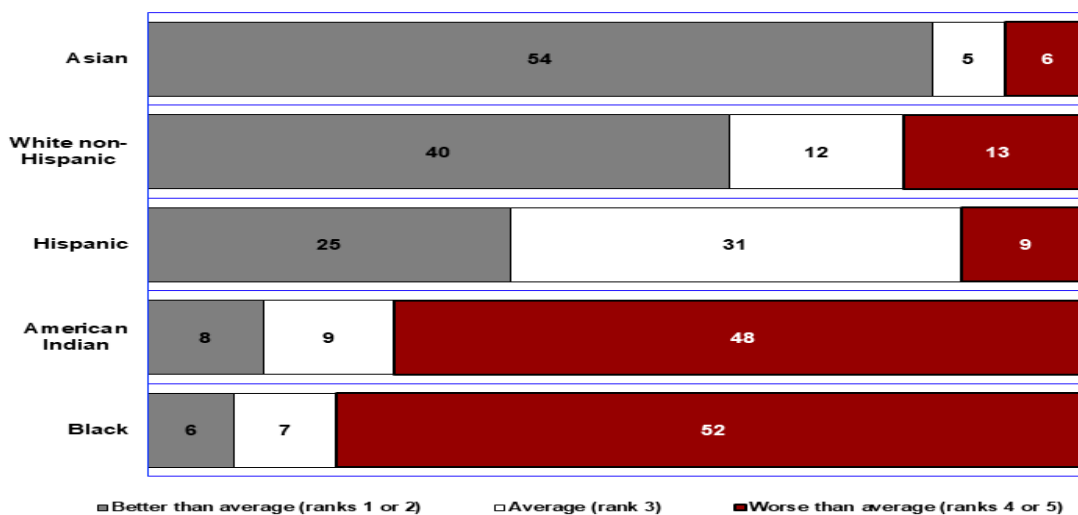
The overall inequity between the groups, as measured by the range of score values from the lowest (the most favorable standing among the groups for 2017, Asian or Pacific Islander at -29.9) to the highest (the least favorable standing for 2017, American Indians at 69.1), a decrease from 103.0 in 2015, to 99.0 points in 2017 (**Figure A**). From 2011 to 2015, Asians and White non-Hispanics continued to experience favorable change among the racial/ethnic groups, meaning that their average scores decreased, while American Indians show an increase in their average scores. (**Figure A**).

**Figure A**  
**Comparison of Average Scores by Race/Ethnicity in**  
**2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017**



In 2017, as in prior years, Arizona's Asian residents ranked highest among racial/ethnic groups in overall health status, followed by White non-Hispanics, Hispanics, American Indians, and Blacks (**Figure B**).

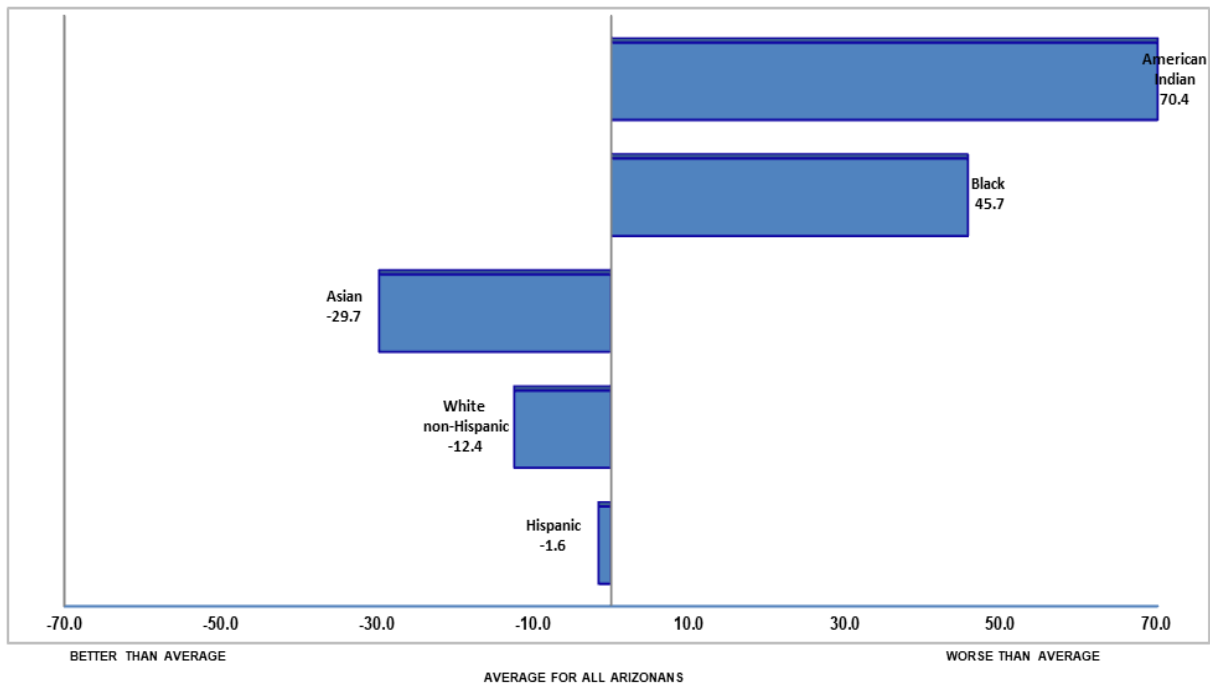
**Figure B**  
**Number of Times Each Group Ranked Better Than Average, Average, and Worse than Average on 65 Indicators, Arizona 2017**



**Figure C**

**Average Scores in 2017**

(A score is the percent above or below the average for all Arizona residents.  
A negative score reflects better than average standing on an indicator.)



**ASIANS or PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

**Average rank: 1.7\***

**Total score: -1,930.0**

**Average score: -29.7\*\***

In 2017, Asian residents of Arizona ranked best or second best among all racial/ethnic groups on 54 of 65 indicators, including low incidence of drug or alcohol induced deaths, low postneonatal mortality, and low mortality from reportable diseases, chronic diseases, and injuries. The age-adjusted mortality rate of 419.1 deaths per 100,000 Asian or Pacific Islander residents of the state was the lowest rate among all racial/ethnic groups, while the median age at death was the second highest among the racial/ethnic groups in Arizona. Trends comparison showed that the average score of -29.7 for Asian residents in 2017 was slightly better than their average score of -33.1 in 2011, -36.9 in 2013, and 36.4 in 2015, indicating reduction in some of the risk factors.

\* The average rank based on all 65 measurements (the sum of the ranks divided by 65 measurements. Ranks range between 1 = the highest rank of health indicators and 5 = the lowest rank of health indicators).

\*\* The average score based on all 65 measurements (the sum of all scores divided by 65 measurements). See section SCORES IN 2017.

## **WHITE NON-HISPANICS**

**Average rank: 2.4**

**Total score: -803.6**

**Average score: -12.4**

White non-Hispanics ranked second best in relative healthiness among racial/ethnic groups in Arizona. They ranked 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> on 40 of 65 measures of health, including low teen pregnancy rates, high utilization of prenatal care, and low premature mortality. White non-Hispanics continued to rank worse than all other racial/ethnic groups in mortality due to chronic lower respiratory diseases, drug-induced deaths, and suicide. In 2017, their overall health status score of -12.4 was higher than their overall score of -8.8 in 2015, -10.0 in 2013 and -10.4 in 2011, showing deterioration in some of the health measures. However, their age-adjusted mortality rate of 681.4 deaths per 100,000 in 2017 was lower than the total mortality rate of 704.1 in 2015 and 693.7 in 2013.

## **HISPANICS or LATINOS**

**Average rank: 2.7**

**Total score: -104.9**

**Average score: -1.6**

In 2017 Hispanics retained a 3rd place health ranking. Hispanics ranked best or second best on 25 indicators in 2017, a slight decrease from 26 in 2015, and 25 indicators in 2013. They ranked worse than average with cerebrovascular disease, cervical cancer, influenza and pneumonia, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, high teen pregnancy rates, and low utilization of prenatal care. They ranked better than average with low tobacco use among women giving birth, low incidence of death due to chronic lower respiratory diseases, and a low suicide mortality rate. **Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2007-2017** provide a detailed picture of changes over time for all of the 65 measures.

## **BLACKS or AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**Average rank: 4.1**

**Total score: 2,967.4**

**Average score: 45.7**

Overall health status of Blacks or African American has improved as shown in a decrease of the average score from 87.0 in 2001 to 45.7 in 2017. Despite this improvement, Blacks or African Americans ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among the five racial/ethnic groups on 52 of 65 measures (see **Figure B**). High mortality among children and middle-aged adults, high ratios of low birthweight and preterm births, high incidence of many reportable diseases, high mortality rates for almost all of the leading causes of death, and a high rate of premature death all lowered the ranking for this population group. However, Blacks or African Americans ranked better than average with low mortality rates from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, influenza and pneumonia, fall-related injuries, and alcohol-induced deaths.

## **AMERICAN INDIANS or ALASKA NATIVES**

**Average rank: 4.1**

**Total score: 4,575.0**

**Average score: 70.4**

In 2017, American Indian residents had the highest average score among all racial/ethnic groups in Arizona. However, they ranked 4<sup>th</sup> on 48 of the 65 health indicators (**Figure B**), better than Blacks in most cases. The overall health status of American Indians is affected by poor health outcomes on a number of health indicators including infant mortality, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes, motor vehicle accidents, and mortality from unintentional injuries, contributing to a high premature death rate. American Indians also ranked poorly on measures of maternal lifestyle and health, as well as in utilization of prenatal care. In 2017, compared to White non-Hispanics, American Indian residents of Arizona were on-average 17 years younger at time of death.

## COMPARATIVE CAUSE-SPECIFIC

In 2017, Diseases of the heart was the leading cause of death for four of the five racial/ethnic groups in Arizona: White non-Hispanic, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, and American Indian or Alaska Native (**Figure D**). The number one leading cause of death for Asian or Pacific Islander was cancer, while being the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for White non-Hispanic, Hispanic or Latino, and Black or African American. Unintentional injury was the 2<sup>nd</sup> cause of death for American Indian or Alaska Natives, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> for White non-Hispanics, Hispanic or Latinos, Black or African Americans and Asian or Pacific Islanders. Chronic lower respiratory diseases were the fourth leading cause of death for only White non-Hispanics. Cerebrovascular disease was the 4th leading cause of death for Blacks and Asians, but 5<sup>th</sup> for Hispanics in 2017. Diabetes was among the top five causes of death for all racial/ethnic groups except the white non-Hispanics. Alzheimer’s disease was specific to White non-Hispanics as the fifth leading cause of death, while chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was the fifth leading cause of death specific to American Indians.

**Figure D**  
**Comparative Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for the Five Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity in Arizona in 2017**

Rank	White non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
1	Diseases of heart 146.1	Diseases of heart 112.5	Diseases of heart 169.6	Diseases of heart 150.9	Cancer 99.4
2	Cancer 141.4	Cancer 110.9	Cancer 158.5	Unintentional injury 142.0	Diseases of heart 87.2
3	Unintentional injury 54.5	Unintentional injury 45.9	Unintentional injury 60.3	Cancer 117.1	Unintentional injury 24.3
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 48.0	Diabetes 39.4	Cerebrovascular disease 49.2	Diabetes 81.6	Cerebrovascular disease 23.6
5	Alzheimer's disease 36.1	Cerebrovascular disease 34.5	Diabetes 45.9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis 74.0	Diabetes 21.3

## COMPARATIVE RATES AND RATIOS FOR 2007 and 2017

The 130 bar charts provide both a snapshot of differences between the racial/ethnic groups in Arizona in 2017, as well as a measure of change since 2007. More detailed comparisons over time are available in a special section of the report (**Comparative Rates and Ratios for 2007 – 2017**) that documents specific changes by year from 2007 through 2017 on the 65 health status measures by racial/ethnic group.

## RISK PROFILES

Risk profiles presented on the following pages summarize how each racial/ethnic group compares to the state average for the entire set of measures of health status. These profiles use scores developed to describe the level of each of the 65 measures for each racial/ethnic group relative to the average level for all groups. The profiles visually describe the better-than-average and worse-than-average clusters of health status characteristics for each racial/ethnic group.