

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Important changes in the United States population will shape future efforts to improve the availability, accessibility and delivery of health and health related services. Two major changes in the demographic characteristics of the United States population are the growth of the elderly population and the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the nation's older population. This growth, plus increased expansion projected for the future, calls for a greater level of concern by persons providing services and developing public policy for the aged. It is important that providers, practitioners and policy makers are informed as to the differences of minority elderly and their counterparts in the dominant majority, as well as about the diversity that exists among minority groups. Armed with this knowledge, they will be better able to undertake the unprecedented scope of effort that will be required to design policies and programs that will meet the needs of our nation's elderly population in the 21st Century.

This document provides an overview of the demographics for each elderly minority group in Arizona as well as comparisons to national statistics. It also examines such diverse aspects as their family structure, living arrangements, economic states, and health and services utilization. These dimensions of minority aging are discussed from the perspective of seven racial groups (White; Black/African American; American Indian and Alaskan Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race; Two or More Races) and older persons of Hispanic descent. Highlights of this report are presented below:

Introduction:

- As the 21st Century began, Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for less than 75 percent of the U.S. population. The minority population was comprised of nearly as many Hispanics as Blacks, growing numbers of Asians, and a small but increasing American Indian population.
- Projections indicate that by the middle of this century, Non-Hispanic Whites will comprise a fading majority of Americans. Hispanics will be nearly one-fourth of the U.S. population while Blacks, Asians and American Indians together will also make up approximately one-fourth of America's total population.
- Arizona's Hispanic population grew by 80 percent (1.3 million persons) during the past decade and now accounts for a quarter of the state's 5.1 million people. This growth is expected to continue with the Hispanic population projected to increase to over 2 million persons by 2025, when almost one in three persons in Arizona will be of Hispanic origin.
- In 2000, there were 35 million persons age 65 years and older in the United States, a 12% increase since 1990 when 31.2 million persons were age 65+. Although the number of persons aged 65+ years increased between 1990 and 2000 their proportion of the total U.S. population decreased from 12.6% in 1990 to 12.4% in 2000.
- In 2000, Arizona's population age 65+ years accounted for 13% of Arizona's total population all ages. Between 1990 and 2000 Arizona's population age 65 years and older grew by 39.5% from about 478,700 to 667,839 older persons.
- Between 1990 and 2000, Arizona's older Hispanic population, as a percent of the state's population age 65+ years, increased by only 1%. However, for the same time period, the older Hispanic population grew in number from 35,276 in 1990 to 55,504 persons in 2000, a 57% increase.

I. U.S. Population

- During the 1990's the U.S. population increased by 32.7 million residents. It was the greatest increase in population ever recorded between two Censuses and the largest percentage increase since the 1960's.
- At the century's end, Americans were more evenly distributed regionally than they were at the beginning, largely due to population growth in the West. Today more than 22% of persons live in the West; outnumbering people living in the Northeast (19%) and are nearly as numerous as Midwesterners (23%).¹
- Compared to other regions, the West has the highest proportion of American Indians (2.8%); Asians (9.3%); Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (1%); Persons of Two or More Races (4.3%); and persons of Hispanic Origin (24.3%) comprising it's total population (Maps 3-7)
- The Northeast and Midwest have the highest proportion of Whites in their total population; 79% and 85% respectively (Map 1).
- The South had the largest Black population with almost 20% of all persons reporting their race as Black/ African American (Map 2).

U.S. Population All Ages

- Growth in life expectancy combined with stable fertility rates are shifting the U.S. age profile to one approaching roughly equal numbers of people in each age group. If population projections prove correct, in 2020 the U.S. age configuration will no longer resemble a pyramid but rather a pillar with more older and middle-aged persons relative to young persons than ever before (Figure 2).
- In 2000, Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be less than 44 years of age. While 32.4% of the Hispanic population were age 25 to 44 years, about 30% of the non-Hispanic White population was this age. Relatively few Hispanics were age 65 years and older (5.3 percent) while 14% of non-Hispanic Whites were age 65+ years(Figure3).

U.S. Population Age 65 Years and Older

- In 2000, there were 35 million persons age 65 years and older in the United States, a 12% increase since 1990 when 31.2 million persons were aged 65+ years (Table 2).
- Although the number of persons aged 65+ increased from 1990 to 2000 their proportion of the total population decreased from 12.6% in 1990 to 12.4% in 2000.²
- The most rapid growth in the older population has occurred among the oldest age groups. Since 1990, the population age 85 years and older increased by 38%, persons aged 75 to 84 years increased 23% while the population ages 65 to 74 years increased by less than 2 percent.³
- States with the greatest increase in their older population between 1990 and 2000 were: Nevada (72%), Alaska (60%), Arizona (39%) and New Mexico (30%) (Map 8).
- Of the 3,141 counties in the United States, 2,263 counties (72%) had a proportion of persons age 65 years and older that exceeded the national value of 12.4 percent (Map 8).
- Of the ten places in the U.S. with a population of 100,000 or more persons, Scottsdale, Arizona was ranked 9th with person's age 65 years and older comprising 16.7% of its total population.⁴
- Among the ten largest cities in the United States, Phoenix, Arizona had the lowest percentage of persons age 65 years or older (8.1%); roughly 4 percent below the national figure of 12.4 percent.⁵

II. Arizona Population

Racial and Ethnic Composition

- Among the 50 states, Arizona ranks 6th in the number of persons of Hispanic origin, 3rd largest in the number of American Indians, ranks 19th among states in the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders and 30th in the number of Blacks/African Americans (Table 3).
- In 2000, approximately 36% or over one-third of Arizona's population was comprised of four minority groups including: Hispanics (25% of the state's total population); American Indians (4.5%); Blacks (3%), Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.9%); Some Other Race (1%); and persons of Two or More Races (1.5%) (Table 5).
- **Arizona's racial and ethnic composition is not evenly distributed across the state. It is most visible in certain counties. The four minority groups combined comprise over half of the population of Apache (82%), Santa Cruz (82%), Navajo (58%) and Yuma (56%) (Table 5).**

Arizona's Older Adult Population: State Statistics

- In 2000, there were an estimated 35 million people age 65 years and older in the United States, accounting for 12.4% of the total population. In Arizona, there were roughly 667,839 persons age 65 years and older comprising 13% of the state's total population; slightly greater than the national figure (Table 6).
- Between 1990 and 2000, the U.S. population age 65 years and older increased by 12%, from 31.2 million to 35 million persons. During the same time period, Arizona's population age 65+ years grew by 39%, three times the national growth rate; from 478, 774 to 667,839 persons (Table 6).
- In 2000, Whites alone comprised 92% of Arizona's population age 65 years and older, Blacks alone accounted for 1.5%, 0.9% were Asian/Pacific Islanders alone, 2% American Indians alone and less than 1% were of Some Other Race. Older persons of Hispanic origin made up 8.3% of Arizona's age 65 or older population (Table 6).
- In 2000, there were 203,697 Arizonans ages 60-64 years, representing 23% of the older population aged 60+ years. The age 65-74 year olds numbered 363,841 (42% of the age 60+ years population) and persons ages 75-84 years totaled 235,473 (27% of the older population). Arizona's "old-old" population (those persons ages 85 years and over) numbered 68,525 persons, accounting for 7.5% of the older population aged 60+ years (Table 2).
- Among the 50 states, Arizona was ranked 29th **with about 654 person's ages 100 years and older. In 2000, they comprised 0.013% of the state's total population of all ages and 1 percent of persons aged 85+ years.**⁶

Arizona's Older Adult Population: County Statistics

- In 2000, approximately 871,488 persons or 17% of Arizona's total population were age 60 years and older. Among all Arizona counties, La Paz County had the highest proportion of persons age 60+ years representing 33% of the county's total population, while Coconino County had the lowest percentage (10%) of persons this age (Table 7 and Figures 4-19).
- Of all counties, Yavapai County had the highest percentage of Whites, comprising 97% of each County's population age 60 years and older. Compared with other counties, Santa Cruz had the highest percentage of Hispanics age 60 years and older (62%), while Yavapai County (3%) had the lowest percentage of Hispanics this age. For all counties, Blacks and Asians each made up 2% or less of the population age 60 years and older. (Table 7 and Figures 4-19).
- In 2000, Arizona's American Indian population Age 60 years and older predominately resided in Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties, representing 67%, 31% and 23% of each county's older population, respectively. Greenlee (13%) and Santa Cruz (11%) counties had the highest proportion of persons Age 60 years and older of Some Other Race (Table 7 and Figures 4-19).

Growth of the Older Population

- From 1990 to 2000, Arizona's population age 65 years or older grew three times as fast as the U.S. population this age; 39% in Arizona compared to 12% nationally (Table 8).
- Nationally, between 1990 and 2000 the Hispanic population aged 65 years and over increased 49% compared to a 57% growth of older Hispanics living in Arizona; 8 percent greater than the national figure (Table 8).
- Every county's older population age 65 years and older grew between 1990 and 2000 with only Greenlee County showing a decline of 5% or 47 older persons (Table 9).
- Every county's older Hispanic population grew between 1990 and 2000, ranging from a 7% increase in Greenlee County to a 125% increase in Mohave County.

Arizona Population Projections: Population Age 65 Years and Older

- Nationally by 2011, the "baby boom" generation will begin to turn 65 years-old, and by 2030, it is projected that one in five people will be age 65 years and older. The U.S. older population age 65 years and older is projected to double in size over the next 30 years, growing to 70 million by 2030.⁷
- Between 2000 and 2025, Arizona's older population is expected to almost double growing from 634,499 to 1,380,629 persons (Table 10).
- The population age 85 years and older is currently the fastest growing segment of the older population in Arizona. Between 2000 and 2005, the aged 85+ population is projected to grow from 69,848 to 88,386 persons, a 26% growth rate. The greatest growth in the age 65 or older population is anticipated to occur between 2010 and 2020,
- while for the same time period, the growth of the age 85+ group is projected to decline (Table 10).
- From 1995 to 2005, Arizona's White non-Hispanic population age 85 years and older is projected to increase by 74%, much higher than that expected for any other minority group this age (Table 10).
- Between 1995 and 2005, the growth of Hispanic persons ages 65-84 years (59%) will far out-pace the growth of White non-Hispanics this age (16% growth). It is projected that this trend will continue from 2005 to 2015 and then again between 2015 and 2025 when there will be about 2 Hispanic persons ages 65-84 years for every White non-Hispanic person in this age group (**Figure 21**).

American Indian Population: Arizona 2000

- In 2000, about 11,513 persons ages 55-64 years lived on reservations in Arizona. They accounted for 48% of the aged 55+ population. There was 4,509 persons ages 65-69 years or 19% of the total Arizona Indian reservation population age 55 years and older. Persons ages 70-74 years (3,383) and ages 75-84 years (3,484) each accounted for 14% of the total reservation population aged 55+ years. Only 1,309 persons or 5% of the reservation aged 55+ population were age 85 years or older (Table 12).
- Of the 11 reservations having a population of 1,000 or more persons, Cocopah had the highest proportion of persons ages 55-64 years (13.6%) and ages 65-69 years (9.6%). The Fort Mohave Reservation had the highest percentage of persons ages 70-74 years old (4.9%), while Cocopah had the highest proportion of persons ages 75-84 years (8.2%). All reservation areas had very few persons age 85 years and older (Table 12).

III. Social Characteristics

Educational Attainment

- In 2000, a smaller percentage (25%) of middle to older aged adults (ages 45-64 years) had graduated from high school compared with (32%) of persons aged 65+ years in Arizona. Similar to Arizona statistics, nationally older persons are better educated than younger person's ages 45-64 years. Also, Arizona's middle to older aged adults are less educated than the United State's population this age, 25% and 30% of their respective populations (Table 13).

Citizenship Status for Foreign-Born Population

- In 2000, the 30 million foreign-born U.S. residents made-up 11% of the total U.S. population and 674,000 foreign-born persons represented 13% of Arizona's total population (Table 14).
- In 2000, one half (51%) of the U.S. foreign-born population was from Latin America compared to 71% of Arizona's foreign-born population. More than a quarter (27%) of the U.S. foreign-born population was Asian, while Asians accounted for only 11.3% of Arizona's foreign-born population (Table 14).
- Mexico alone accounted for 57% of foreign-born persons from Latin America and 29% of the total U.S. foreign-born population in 2000 (Table 14).
- In 2000, less than one half of the immigrants to the United States and about one-quarter of immigrants to Arizona were naturalized citizens, although the proportion of naturalized citizens varies substantially by country of origin (Table 14).
- As of 2000, three-quarters of the U.S. and 82% of Arizona's immigrants from Mexico were not naturalized citizens (Table 14).

The Older Foreign-Born Population

- In 2000, 11% of the total foreign-born population or 3.1 million were age 65 years and older. Among the older foreign-born in 2000, 1.2 million or 38.6% were born in Europe compared with 15.3% of the total foreign-born population. About 31.3% of the older foreign were from Latin America while 51% of the total foreign-born population were from Latin America in 2000 (Table 15).
- In 2000, about two-thirds of the older foreign-born population had lived in the United States more than 30 years. A much higher proportion of the older foreign-born than the total foreign-born population are naturalized citizens; 70.2% compared to 37.4% respectively in 2000.⁸

Marital Status

- Comparable to the national average, married-couple households accounted for about 52% of all households in Arizona (Map 10).
- Nationally, in 2000, 65 percent of persons ages 65-74 were married, compared with 71 percent of Arizonans in the same age group. Among persons age 85 or older, about 31 percent of Arizonans this age were married, exceeding the national figure of 21 percent (Table 2 and Table 16).
- Persons ages 65-74 accounted for almost half (46%) of married persons age 60 years or older, greater than any other age group age 60+ years. This was true nationally, for Arizona, Maricopa and Pima counties. Interestingly, almost half as many Arizonans ages 60-64 years than ages 65-74 years were married; 27% and 46%, respectively (Table 16).

Older Veterans

- In 2000, Arizona Veterans of all races age 65 years and older comprised about 32% of the state's older civilian population. This percentage is slightly higher than the national figure of 28%. The largest proportion of Arizona Veterans age 65 or older were White (41%) followed by Hispanic (26%), persons of Two or More Races (18%), 12% each American Indian and Asian, 9% persons of Some Other Race, and 6% Black (Table 17).

IV. Living Arrangements

- In 2000, there were approximately 35 million people ages 65 years and older living in the United States, of whom 33 million (94%) were living in households within the community.
- In Arizona, about 645,721 (97%) of all persons age 65+ years were living in households, slightly greater than the national figure. Roughly 71% of older Arizonans lived in family households, 25% lived alone, while about 4% lived in group quarters of which 2 percent resided in institutions.¹³
- In Arizona, between 67% and 83% of all racial and ethnic groups age 65 years and older lived in family households. Older Asians (83%), Hispanics (79%) and (82%) persons of Some Other Race age 65+ years were most likely to live in family households and least likely to live alone.¹⁴
- Nearly 26% of Whites, 29% of Blacks and 20% of American Indians age 65 years and older in Arizona lived alone in 2000, compared with just 14% of Asians, 18% of Hispanics and 15% of persons of Some Other Race of the same age.¹⁴
- In 2000, almost 70% of all Arizona householders age 65+ years lived with their spouse, slightly greater than the national figure of 65% of older householders. La Paz County had the highest percentage of older householders living with a spouse (76%) followed by Yuma (73%) and Pinal and Yavapai each with 72% of householders age 65+ years living with a spouse.¹⁵
- By far, among all Arizona counties, White householders age 65 years and older were more likely to be living with their spouse. In nine counties, over 90% of all householders age 65+ years who lived with their spouse were White (Table 18).
- Older Hispanic householders were less likely than older White householders to live with a spouse; about half of Hispanic householders' age 65+ years in the U.S., Arizona, Maricopa and Pima Counties lived with a spouse. In Arizona, older Asian householders were much more likely to have lived with a spouse than any other minority group; 91% and 97% of Asian householders' age 65+ years (Figure 22).

Living with a Parent

- In 2000, about 10% of all householders age 65+ years in Arizona were living with a parent; slightly lower than the national figure of 12 percent. Among all counties, Santa Cruz county had the highest proportion of older householders living with a parent (20%), followed by Coconino County (12%).¹⁶
- For all counties and the state overall, a higher percentage of older Hispanic householders were living with at least one parent compared to older White householders. 9 In Santa Cruz County, approximately 91% of householders age 65 years and older living with a parent were of Hispanic origin (Table 19).¹⁷
- Higher than any other minority group, 80% of all Asian householders age 65 years and older in the U.S. and Maricopa County lived with at least one parent in 2000 (Figure 23).

Living with Others (other relatives and non-relatives)

- Among all races and ethnic groups, older Whites were least likely to live with others accounting for only about 4 percent of the population age 65+ years living in households in the U.S., Arizona, Maricopa and Pima Counties.
- In Arizona and the U.S., a greater proportion of older Asian householders (16%) than any other older minority group lived with other relatives or non-relatives (Figure 24).

Living Alone

- In 2000, people age 65 years and older were the largest share of single person households and their numbers continue to grow rapidly.¹⁹
- In 2000, about one-quarter of older Arizonans living in households lived alone, somewhat lower than the percent of person's age 65+ years living alone nationally (29%).²⁰
- Of all older persons in households, Pima County and Greenlee County had the highest percentage of older persons living alone; each 27%, respectively.²¹
- In Arizona, over 90% of all householders age 65+ years living alone were White (Table 21).
- Highest among all minority groups, Blacks' age 65+ years living alone accounted for 31% of U.S., 29% of Arizona, 37% of Maricopa and 42% of Pima Counties' total older Black populations in households (Figure 25).

Nursing Home Utilization

- In 2000, about 18 persons per 1,000 persons ages 65 years and older resided in Arizona nursing homes (Table 22).
- In the United States, about 1,557,800 persons or 4.5% of the population age 65 years and older resided in nursing homes in 2000, compared to 12,163 persons or 2% of Arizonans age 65+ years (Table 22 and Table 23).
- A slightly greater proportion of Arizona's Black (3%) and American Indian (3%) populations age 65+ years resided in nursing homes, compared to other racial and ethnic groups age 65 years and older (Table 22 and Table 23).
- In 2000, nearly 80% of all Arizona nursing home residents age 65 years and older resided in skilled care facilities located in three counties; 58% lived in Maricopa County, while 12% lived in Pima County and 10% resided in skilled nursing facilities located in Yavapai County (Table 23).

V. Households and Families

- In 2000, about one-quarter (24%) of all Arizona households had at least one person age 65+ years living there, while about one-half as many households (12%) were residence to one or more persons age 75 years and older (Table 24).
- Among all counties, Yavapai and La Paz Counties had the most households consisting of persons age 75 years and older; each reporting 17 percent, respectively (Table 24).
- In each county and for the state as a whole, females who either owned or rented a housing unit more often than their male counterparts lived alone (Table 25).

Multigenerational Households

- In 2000, multigenerational households made up 3.7% of all U.S. households and 4% of Arizona households (Table 26).

Grandparents and Grandchildren

- In 2000, approximately 7 percent of all family households in Arizona consisted of a grandchild less than 18 years of age (Table 27).
- In 2000, the racial composition of Arizona family households that had a grandchild age 18 years or younger present consisted of: Whites (52%); Blacks (6%); American Indians (17%); Asians (0.7%); households of Some Other Race (19%) and Two or More Races (6%) About 43% of all Arizona family households with at least one grandchild present were maintained by persons of Hispanic descent (Table 27).
- About 16% of Arizona's grandparents responsible for a grandchild younger than 18 years of age were living in poverty; slightly less than grandparents nationally (20%) (Table 28).

VI. Income, Wealth and Poverty

Labor Force Participation

- Approximately, 13% of older Americans age 65+ years and 9% of Arizonans the same age were in the labor force (Table 29 and Figure 26).
- In Arizona, about 58% of older workers were males, while females' age 65+ years accounted for 42% of older workers in the labor force.²⁴

Income

- In Arizona, older minorities tend to earn less than Whites age 65+ years and older but there are variations in the economic well-being within older minority groups. Household income was highest (\$75,000 or more) for older persons of Hispanic descent (5% of age 65+ households), followed by older persons of Some Other Race (4% of age 65+ households), Asians (2% of age 65+ households) and Blacks (1.4% of Age 65+ households) (Table 30).
- In Arizona, older minorities tend to earn less than Whites age 65+ years and older but there are variations in the economic well-being within older minority groups. Household income was highest (\$75,000 or more) for older persons of Hispanic descent (5% of age 65+ households), followed by older persons of Some Other Race (4% of age 65+ households), Asians (2% of age 65+ households) and Blacks (1.4% of Age 65+ households) (Table 30).
- Between 1990 and 2000, the total number of Arizona Social Security beneficiaries age 65+ years increased from 438,603 to 577,191 persons; a 32% growth rate during the ten year period (Table 31).
- In 2000, approximately 17% of married couple families in Arizona that received Social Security income were living below poverty; slightly less than the national figure (24%) (Table 33).

United States Poverty Status: Population Age 65 Years and Older

- Nationally, for the past few decades the poverty rate of people age 65+ years and older has been declining, from almost 30 percent (5.4 million people) in 1967 to 10.2 percent (3.36 million people) in 2000.²⁶
- Nationally in 2000, about 70% of all persons age 65 years and older living in poverty were women.²⁹

Arizona Poverty Status: Population Age 65 Years and Older

- Approximately, 8.4% of Arizonans age 65 years and older lived below the poverty line in 1999 (Table 34).
- In 1999, roughly 15% of older Arizonans living alone had incomes below the official poverty line.
- Arizona's older racial and ethnic minorities were at a higher risk of living in poverty than were non-minority Whites age 65+ years. In 1999, nearly 20% of older persons of Hispanic descent, 7% of Whites, 21% of Blacks, 11% of Asians, 42% of American Indians, 24% of persons of Some Other Race age 65+ years had incomes below the poverty line. Almost twice the proportion (42%) of older American Indians in Arizona than nationally (23%) lived below the poverty line (Table 35).

Disability and Poverty

- In 2000, about 13.5 million older persons or 41% of the age 65 years and older population in the United States were physically, mentally and/or emotionally disabled. Comparable to the national figures, roughly 248,000 persons or 39% of Arizonans age 65+ years reported having at least one disabling condition (Table 36).
- More women than men with at least one disability lived in poverty. The percent of older disabled women living in poverty was similar for both the U.S. and Arizona population age 65+ years; 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively (Table 36).
- In 2000, about one-quarter of all U.S. households receiving food stamps consisted of at least one person age 60 years and older. In Arizona, the proportion of households receiving food stamps with at least one member age 60+ years was 18% (Table 37).

VII. Health Status

Life Expectancy

- Since the beginning of the 20th Century life expectancy in the U.S. at birth rose from 47.3 years in 1900 to 68.2 years in 1950, and 76.9 years in 2000, a gain of nearly 30 years over the century (Table 38 and Table 39).
- In 1995, expected years free of activity limitation for the total population was 62.2 years (Table 39).
- In 2000, the average age at death from all causes for Arizonans was 71.7 years; 5.1 years before expected years of life at birth (76.7 years) for all U.S. residents.³²
- In 1999, life expectancy at birth for all U.S. residents was 76.7 years of age. Slightly over one-half (53%) of Arizona's White non-Hispanic population lived longer than 76.7 years. Roughly, 33% of Asians, 29% of Blacks, 28% of persons of Hispanic descent and only 23% of American Indians can expect to live longer than 76.7 years (Figure 28).

Causes of Death

- In 2000, the leading cause of death for Arizonan's age 65+ years was heart disease (30%), followed by cancer (22%) and cerebrovascular disease (8%), similar to the national figures for the primary causes of death. Slightly higher proportions (7.5%) of older Arizonans died from chronic respiratory disease than all Americans age 65+ years (6 percent). Alzheimer's disease was the fifth leading cause of death among Arizona elderly accounting for 3.5% of all deaths. In contrast, the fifth leading cause of death among all Americans age 65 years and older was influenza and pneumonia (3.3% of all deaths) (Table 40).
- In Arizona, a larger proportion (32%) of older Blacks died from heart disease than did persons age 65+ years of any other race. In 2000, cancer deaths accounted for about 22% of all deaths for older Whites, Hispanics, Blacks and Asians living in Arizona. Older American Indians were almost three times more likely than older persons of any other race to die from diabetes. A large percentage of Blacks (9%) and Asians (14%) age 65+ years died from cerebrovascular disease (stroke) than any other older minority group. Deaths from chronic respiratory diseases (such as: COPD, Asthma, Bronchitis, Emphysema, etc.) accounted for 8% of deaths for older Whites; about twice the percentage of deaths for any other race. Alzheimer's disease accounted for roughly 4% of deaths for older Whites, 3% for older Hispanics, 2% for older Blacks and 1% each for older American Indians and Asians.
- During 1990 to 2000, annual total mortality rates were consistently lower for rural elderly than for urban elderly. Urban compared to rural elderly had a greater risk of dying from chronic lower respiratory diseases (16%), heart disease (13%), stroke (8.9%) and cancer (2.5%).³⁵

Disability Status

- In 2000, Approximately, 30% of Whites age 65 to 74 years had at least one disabling condition compared to 52% Blacks; 37% American Indians; 33% Asians; 28% persons of Some Other Race; 23% persons of Two or More Races; and 41% of persons of Hispanic descent in the same age group.
- In 2000, there was a higher incidence of physical disabilities (28%) than mobility disabilities (16%), sensory disabilities (15%), mental disabilities (9%) and/or self-care disabilities (7%) among Arizona's civilian noninstitutionalized population age 65 years and older.

VIII. Healthcare Access, Utilization and Expenditures

Access to and Satisfaction with Health Care Services

- In 1998, only 4% of Medicare enrollees reported difficulty obtaining health care. Approximately, 3 percent of non-Hispanic White and 6% of non-Hispanic Black enrollees and roughly 5 percent of Hispanic beneficiaries' age 65+ years reported difficulty obtaining care (Table 46).

Health Care Services Utilization

- In 1998, about 44,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona received home health care services. Arizona ranked 47th among states in the number of home health clients served; 67 /1,000 enrollees. The number of clients served in Arizona was far less than nationally; 96/1,000 Medicare enrollees. In the Western Region, Nevada was the only state other than Arizona that served less than 76 clients/1,000 enrollees in 1998 (Figure 30).
- In Arizona, the home health care utilization rate was 39 visits per enrollee in 1998; slightly less than the national rate of 51 visits per persons served.
- In 1998, Arizona ranked 28th among states in the number of Medicare reimbursed nursing facility admissions; 61/1,000 Medicare Hospital Insurance Program (HI) enrollees.
- Arizona's skilled nursing facilities had fewer Medicare reimbursed days of skilled nursing care than did skilled care facilities nationally; 1,086 days/1,000 HI enrollees compared to 1,452 days/1,000 HI enrollees.
- In 2000, 13,194 or 2.3% of Arizonans age 65 years and older were receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance. Arizona ranked 26th among states in the percent of SSI beneficiaries who were age 65 years and older (Table 32).

Health Care Expenditures (All Payers)

- The percentage of health care expenditures spent on in-patient hospital care declined in Arizona from 38% in 1990 to 35% in 1998. Expenditures on nursing home care in Arizona increased from 5% to 6% and spending on home health care remained relatively stable at about 2 percent for the same period (Table 47).
- The percentage of health care expenditures spent on physician and other professional services in Arizona declined from 37% in 1990 to 34% in 1998 (Table 47).
- Expenditures on prescription drugs in Arizona has increased from 12% in 1995 to 14% in 1998, while the U.S. also saw a slight increase during the same time period from 10% to 12%, respectively (Table 47).

Medicare and Medicaid Spending

- In Arizona, Medicare and Medicaid spending on personal health care services was about \$5 million in 1998. About one-half or all Medicare payments were made for in-patient hospital care, while roughly 65% of Medicaid payments went to hospital care (Table 48).
- In Arizona, approximately 31% of total program payments (Medicare and Medicaid) were expended on physician and other professional services; while only 17% of all program payments were spent in this category nationally.

Medicare Beneficiaries' Demographic Profile

- In 1999, there were 658,193 Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona, comprising about 14% of the state's total population. The proportion of Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona was the same as the national figure for 1999; 14 percent (Table 49).
- The Medicare beneficiary population was predominately White (83%), followed by persons of Hispanic descent (13%), Black (1%) and persons of other Racial Minorities (3%) (Table 48).
- Slightly fewer physicians (95%) in Arizona accept Medicare fees as full payment for services rendered than nationally (98%) in 1998 (Table 49).

IX. Home and Community Based Services for Older Adults

- In 2000, of the 265 million U.S. citizens, an estimated 100 million had some type of chronic condition. Over time, this number is projected to grow to 134 million in 2020 and by 2050 about 170 million U.S. citizens will have at least one chronic condition.³⁹
- Approximately 25% of persons ages 75 to 79 years need help with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs), while almost 50% of persons age 85 years and older require assistance with at least one ADL.⁴⁰
- NMHCBS enrollment has increased from 18,570 unduplicated clients (counted only once) in 1997 to 20,462 unduplicated clients in 2001; a 10 percent growth rate over the four year period.⁴⁶
- In 2001, the NMHCBS client population was comprised of 67.8% White non-Hispanics, 14.7% Hispanics, 11.7% Native Americans, 4.7% Blacks, 0.3% Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 0.8% persons of Some Other Race.⁴⁸
- The total service funds for MNHCBS for SFY 2001 which were expended, totaled \$28,594,655. The state appropriation has remained at \$8 million annually since 1994.⁵⁰
- The AHCCCS budget for ALTCS (nursing facility and HCBS) was approximately 34% of the total AHCCCS budget. The ALTCS budget allocation serves 6% of the total enrolled AHCCCS population.⁵³
- ALTCS/HCBS expenditures have increased by 82% from \$50 million in FFY 1997 to 92 million in FFY 2001. [Note: ALTCS uses the federal fiscal year (FFY) calendar for annual reporting (October 1 – September 30)]⁵⁴
- The total ALTCS elderly and physically disabled population had an overall growth of 16% from 1999 to 2001. Of this population, the HCBS population grew 30% since 1999.⁵⁷
- Both NMHCBS and ALTCS/EPD programs have similar ethnic populations. In 2001, the ALTCS/EPD (Nursing Facilities and HCBS) client population was comprised of 69.2% White non-Hispanics, 15.7% Hispanics, 8.2% Native Americans, 4.5% Blacks, 1% Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 1.6% persons of Some Other Race.⁶⁰