



## 2D.

### **PATTERNS OF PREMATURE MORTALITY**

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Compared with White non-Hispanics, the racial/ethnic minority groups in Arizona had greater percentages of people younger than 25 years in 2013 (45.7 vs. 26.3 percent). In contrast, people aged 65 years and older accounted for 21.0 percent of White non-Hispanics, but only 6.3 percent of all ethnic minority groups combined (percentages based on race-and-age-specific population denominators in **Table 10C-1**).

Arizona's population distribution by age and race/ethnicity is related to patterns of mortality among these subgroups. In 2013, of all deaths among the elderly (65 years and older), 84.5 percent were White non-Hispanics, 9.8 percent were Hispanic or Latino, with the three remaining racial/ethnic groups comprising only 5.7 percent of all deaths in this age group (**Table 2C-26**). Looking at younger ages, Native American children comprised only 6.1 percent of Arizona's population age 1 – 14, but accounted for 15.1 percent of all childhood deaths. Native American adolescents represented only 5.8 percent off all adolescents but accounted for 13.1 percent of all adolescent deaths. Finally, Native American young adults (ages 20 – 44) represented 5.2% of all young adults but comprised 14.1 percent of all young adult deaths. In summary, Arizona's racial/ethnic minority groups tend to experience mortality earlier in life than Arizona's White non-Hispanics.

Beginning with the 2005 edition of the report, information about the arithmetic mean age at death was supplemented with information about the median age, or the age in the center of the distribution when sorted by age (see **Table 2D-1**). The median age is higher than the arithmetic mean age in negatively skewed distributions.