In 2014, an estimated 1,025,105 residents age 65 years and older 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 at earlier ages, 15.0 percent more elderly women than men were alive in 2014.

The 2014 elderly mortality rate of 3,610.4 per 100,000 was 10.6 percent lower than the 2004 rate of 4,038.0 and was the lowest mortality rate among the elderly since 1980, and likely the lowest mortality rate amongst this age group in Arizona’s record (Table 2C-23).

The 2014 total mortality rate among elderly females was 11.0 percent lower than their rate in 2004. The mortality rate among elderly males decreased 10.5 percent during the same period (Figure 2C-21, Table 2C-23).

In 2014 the mortality rate for Arizona’s White non-Hispanic elderly residents was about 2 times that of the Asian elderly population. The mortality rate of 1,916.4 /100,000 among elderly Asians was the lowest rate among the racial/ethnic groups (Figure 2C-22). Hispanic or Latino elderly had the second lowest mortality rate in 2014 at 3,330.3/100,000.
Tables 2C-23 and 2C-24 provide mortality rates for the five causes with the greatest number of deaths over the 2004 – 2014 period.

In 2014, Alzheimer’s disease (2,311 deaths; Table 2C-26) accounted for 6.2 percent of elderly mortality. From 2013 to 2014, gender-specific death rates for Alzheimer’s disease decreased for both elderly males and elderly females (Figure 2C-23).

There were 1,519 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease among elderly females in 2014, almost twice the number of deaths from this cause among males (792; Table 2C-26). White non-Hispanic elderly accounted for 85.1 percent of the 2014 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease (based on data in Table 2C-26).

Among unintentional injury deaths unrelated to motor vehicles, Arizona’s elderly experienced a modest decline in mortality from fall-related injuries (Figure 2C-24). In 2014, 758 elderly Arizonans 65 years or older died from fall-related injuries, compared to 767 in 2013, a 1.2 percent decrease (Table 2C-26).

In 2014, those 85 years old or older experienced the largest number of fall-related deaths (n = 434), followed by Arizonans 75-84 years old (n = 227), and the youngest elderly 65-74 years old (n = 97).