Adolescents refer to those individuals between the ages of 15 to 19, an important developmental period marking the transition from childhood to adulthood. In 2008, an estimated 451,910 adolescents resided in Arizona (Table 10C-1), comprising 6.9 percent of the State’s population. The lives of 297 resident adolescents prematurely ended in 2008, resulting in a total mortality rate of 65.7 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 27.7 percent lower than the 1998 rate (Table 2C-12). In fact, the adolescent mortality rate in 2008 was the lowest rate since 1980.

The likelihood of dying was 2.2 times as high for adolescent boys than girls in 2008 (Figure 2C-9, Table 2C-12).

From best to worst survival chances of adolescents 15-19 years old, the 2008 rank-order was Asian, White non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Black and American Indian (Figure 2C-10). If the 2008 mortality risk of Asian adolescents (i.e., their mortality rate) applied to all adolescents, 162 would have died: 135 less than the 297 who actually did.