In 2008, 35.2 percent of Arizona residents were between 20 and 44 years of age. Among the six developmental periods examined in the life span, young adulthood, with an estimated 2.3 million individuals, easily represented the largest segment of the population. However, only one in sixteen deaths in Arizona (or 6.3 percent) occurred during young adulthood.

During an average week in 2008, 54 young adults aged 20 to 44 died. The 2,829 premature deaths among 2,300,036 young adult Arizona residents produced a 2008 mortality rate of 123.0 deaths per 100,000, 33.4 percent lower than the 1998 rate of 184.8/100,000 in 1998 (Table 2C-16). Young female adults had a slightly greater improvement in their survival chances from 1998 to 2008 than did young male adults (38.8 and 33.8 percent respectively (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-16)).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2008 was Asians, Hispanic or Latino, White non-Hispanics, Black or African Americans and American Indians. If the 2008 mortality risk of Asians (i.e., their mortality rate of 52.2/100,000) was applied to all young adults in Arizona, 1,201 would have died, rather than the 2,829 who actually did.