2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY

Middle-age adult mortality (ages 45-64 years)

The 1,517,833 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 8,855 deaths or an average of 24 deaths per day. The total mortality rate of middle-aged adults slightly decreased from 591.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2008 to 590.0/100,000 in 2009 (Table 2C-20), and it was 12.9 percent lower than the 1999 rate of 677.1 deaths per 100,000.

The 2009 total mortality rate among middle-age females was 10.4 percent lower and among middle-aged males 14.8 percent lower than their respective rates in 1999 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-20).

The five causes with the greatest number of deaths, 1999-2009 were malignant neoplasms, diseases of heart, accidents, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and chronic lower respiratory diseases (Table 2C-20).

American Indian middle-aged adults, followed by Blacks or African Americans and White non-Hispanics had the three highest mortality rates (846.9 deaths per 100,000, 808.8 per 100,000, and 593.9/100,000 respectively) among the race/ethnic groups. If the 2009 total mortality rate for Asian middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 4,584 middle-aged adults would have died rather than 8,855 who actually did.
In recent years, middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses. In 2009, 314 deaths were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs (Table 2C-23), compared to 93 deaths in 1999.

Beginning in 2007, the mortality rate for accidental drug poisoning exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries among the middle-aged (Figure 2C-19). In 2009, the rate of 23.2 fatal drug overdoses per 100,000 middle-aged adults was 65.7 percent greater than the mortality rate of 14.0/100,000 for motor vehicle accidents. White non-Hispanic accounted for 297 or 76.6 percent of all accidental poisoning deaths, including drug overdoses, gases, and vapors (Table 2C-23).

In 2009, as in the past, rural middle-aged males had the poorest survival chances (Figure 2C-20, Table 2C-22). Rural middle-aged male chances of death in 2009 were 28.6 percent greater than urban males, 65.2 percent greater than rural females, and 110.3 percent (2.1 times) greater than urban females.

Number of deaths per 100,000 persons, 45-64 years old in specified group.