In 2010, an estimated 881,831 elderly over 64 years of age 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 in each of the earlier periods of lifespan, 19.5 percent more elderly women than men were alive in 2010.

The 2010 elderly mortality rate of 3728.2 per 100,000 was 15.1 percent lower than the 2000 rate of 4390.7, and it was the lowest annual elderly mortality rate of the eleven years from 2000 to 2010 (Table 2C-23).

Survival chances improved from 2000 to 2010 for both elderly males and females. The 2010 total mortality rate among elderly females was 14.0 percent lower than their rate in 2000. The mortality rate among elderly males decreased 16.5 percent from 2000 to 2010 (Figure 2C-21, Table 2C-23).

In 2010 the mortality rate for Arizona’s Black or African American elderly residents was 2 times that for the Asian elderly population. The mortality rate of 2006.0 /100,000 among elderly Asians was the lowest rate among the race/ethnic groups (Figure 2C-22). Hispanic or Latino elderly had the second lowest mortality rate in 2010.
The two tables (Tables 2C-23 and 2C-24) provide mortality rates for the five causes with the greatest number of deaths over the 2000 – 2010 period.

In 2010, Alzheimer’s disease (2,301 deaths) accounted for 7.0 percent of the elderly mortality.

From 2009 to 2010, gender-specific death rates for Alzheimer’s disease increased by 11.1 percent for elderly females (Figure 2C-23) and by 4.3 percent for elderly males.

There were 1,553 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease among elderly females in 2010, 2.1 times the number of deaths from this cause among males (748; Table 2C-26).

White non-Hispanic elderly accounted for 87.1 percent of the 2010 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 substantial increase in mortality from fall-related injuries (Figure 2C-24). In 2010, 675 elderly Arizonans 65 years or older died from fall-related injuries, compared to 305 in 2000, and 5.4 times as many as the number of those who died from motor vehicle-related injuries (125; Table 2C-26).

In 2010, those 85 years old or older, experienced the largest number of fall-related deaths (381), followed by Arizonans 75-84 years old (213 deaths) and the youngest elderly 65-74 years old (81 fall-related deaths). There is more data available online at http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/im/falls.htm