In 2011, 33.2 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 2.1 million individuals, easily represented the largest segment of the population. However, only one in seventeen deaths in Arizona (or 6.0 percent) occurred during young adulthood.

The number of deaths among young adults decreased from 2,829 in 2008 to 2,796 in 2010, but increased to 2,856 in 2011. The 2,856 premature deaths among 2,137,727 young adult Arizona residents produced a 2011 mortality rate of 133.6 deaths per 100,000, 6.7 percent greater than the 2009 rate of 125.2/100,000 (Table 2C-15). Both male and female young adults had mortality rates that slightly increased from 2009 to 2011 (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-15).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2011 was Asians, Hispanics or Latinos, White non-Hispanics, Black or African Americans, and American Indians. If the 2011 mortality risk of Asians (i.e., their mortality rate of 46.1/100,000) was applied to all young adults in Arizona, 985 would have died, rather than the 2,856 who actually did.
In 2011, 453 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning (Table 2C-18), compared to 274 deaths in 2001. The mortality rate for accidental poisoning among young adults (21.2/100,000) for the third time exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries (15.2/100,000; Figure 2C-15). In the 20-44 year age group, 445 of the 453 accidental poisonings (98.2 percent) were due to drug overdose.

In 2011, fewer Arizonans 20-44 years old died from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease (31) than from morbid obesity (33 deaths; Table 2C-18).

Of the 99 deaths from HIV disease in 2011, 31.3 percent occurred among Arizonans 20-44 years old (Table 2C-27). Males accounted for 87.1 percent of young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2011 (Table 2C-18).

The mortality rate for HIV disease among young male adults decreased by 67.9 percent from the recent peak of 7.8/100,000 in 2002 to 2.5/100,000 in 2011.