In 2012, 33.1 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 2.2 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 in 2011 (n = 2,856) and 2012 (n = 2,900). The 2,900 premature deaths among 2,147,785 young adult Arizona residents produced a 2012 mortality rate of 135.0 deaths per 100,000, 1.0 percent greater than the 2010 rate of 133.6/100,000 (Table 2C-15). Compared to 2011, the mortality rate for male young adults slightly decreased while female young adults had mortality rates that slightly increased (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-15).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2012 was Asian, Hispanic or Latino, White non-Hispanic, Black or African American, and American Indian. If the 2012 mortality risk of Asians (i.e., their mortality rate of 43.7/100,000) was applied to all young adults in Arizona, 939 would have died, rather than the 2,900 who actually did.
In 2012, 398 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning (Table 2C-18), compared to 453 deaths in 2011. The mortality rate for accidental poisoning among young adults (18.5/100,000) for the fourth time exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries (14.9/100,000; Figure 2C-15). In the 20-44 year age group, 394 of the 398 accidental poisonings (99.0 percent) were due to drug overdose.

In 2012, fewer Arizonans 20-44 years old died from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease (32) than from morbid obesity (40 deaths; Table 2C-18).

Of the 98 deaths from HIV disease in 2012, 32.7 percent occurred among Arizonans 20-44 years old (Table 2C-27). Males accounted for 96.9 percent of young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2012 (Table 2C-18).

The mortality rate for HIV disease among young male adults slightly increased from 2.5/100,000 in 2011 to 2.8/100,000 in 2012.