In 2012, the 1,594,698 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 9,898 deaths, or an average of 27 deaths, per day. The total number of deaths among 45 – 64 year old Arizona residents was higher in 2013 (n = 9,898) than any year since 1980, and is likely the greatest number of deaths among this age group in Arizona’s history (Table 2C-19).

The 2013 total mortality rate among middle-age females was 2.8 percent lower, and among middle-aged males 6.6 percent lower than their respective rates in 2003 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-19). In 2013, the mortality rate for males age 45 - 64 was 68.7 percent greater than for females of the same age group.

The five causes with the greatest number of deaths in 2003-2013 were malignant neoplasms, diseases of heart, accidents, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and chronic lower respiratory diseases (Table 2C-19).

American Indian, Black or African American, and White non-Hispanic middle-aged adults had the three highest mortality rates (943.5/100,000, 788.7/100,000, and 661.0/100,000, respectively) among the racial/ethnic groups.

If the 2013 total mortality rate for Asian middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 3,173 middle-aged adults would have died rather than the 9,898 who actually did.
In recent years, middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental poisoning, increasing 26.1 percent from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, 426 deaths were attributed to accidental poisoning (Table 2C-22), compared to 168 deaths in 2003. Of the 426 accidental poisoning deaths in this age group, 386 were drug overdoses (ICD10 X40-X44) and 35 were alcohol poisoning (ICD10 X45).

Beginning in 2007, the mortality rate for accidental poisoning exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries among the middle-aged (Figure 2C-19). In 2013, the rate of 29.0 per 100,000 middle-aged adults was 60.2 percent greater than the mortality rate of 18.1/100,000 for motor vehicle accidents. White non-Hispanics accounted for 316 or 74.2 percent of all accidental poisoning deaths (Table 2C-22).

In 2013, as in the past, rural middle-aged males had the poorest survival chances (Figure 2C-20, Table 2C-21). The mortality rate for rural middle-aged males in 2013 was 40.3 percent greater than for urban males, 79.1 percent greater than rural females, and 131.0 percent (2.3 times) greater than urban females.