In 2015, 33 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 6.0 percent of all deaths occurred during young adulthood.

The number of deaths among young adults rose 4 percent from 2005 to 2015. Compared to 2014, the young adult mortality rate increased for both male and female, but more so among young adult females (7.7 percent) than young adult males (4.9 percent) (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-15).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2015 was Asian, Hispanic or Latino, White non-Hispanic, Black or African American, and American Indian. American Indian young adults had a mortality rate 2.2 times greater than Black or African American adults, the racial/ethnic group with the second highest young adult mortality rate. The American Indian young adult mortality rate was 2.9 times greater than the state average for young adults and 8.1 times greater than Asian young adults.
In 2015, 529 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning (Table 2C-18), an increase of 14.5 percent from 2014. The mortality rate for accidental poisoning among young adults (23.7/100,000) exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries for the seventh straight year (Figure 2C-15). Among the young adults 20-44 years, 482 of the 529 accidental poisoning were due to drug overdose (ICD10 X40-44) and 40 were due to alcohol poisoning (ICD10 X45).

In 2015, more Arizonans 20-44 years old died from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease than from morbid obesity (Table 2C-18).

Of the 109 deaths from HIV disease in 2015, about 28 percent occurred among Arizonans 20-44 years old (Table 2C-27). Males accounted for 80.6 percent of young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2015 (Table 2C-18).

The mortality rate for HIV disease among young male adults decreased 12 percent from 2.5/100,000 adults 20-44 years in 2014 to 2.2/100,000 in 2015.