In 2016, an estimated 1,122,454 residents age 65 years and older resided in the state (Table 10A-1). No other age group has as great of a disproportionate gender distribution as the elderly. As a result of the higher total mortality rates for males at earlier ages, 17.9 percent more elderly women than men were alive in 2016.

The 2016 elderly mortality rate of 3,669.5 per 100,000 was 9.0 percent lower than the 2006 rate of 4,031.3 (Table 2C-23).

The 2016 total mortality rate among elderly females was 12.0 percent lower than their rate in 2006. The mortality rate among elderly males decreased 6.2 percent during the same period (Figure 2C-21, Table 2C-23).

In 2016 the mortality rate for Arizona’s White non-Hispanic elderly residents was 1.8 times that of the Asian elderly population. The mortality rate of 2,135.9/100,000 among elderly Asians was the lowest rate among the racial/ethnic groups (Figure 2C-22). Hispanic or Latino elderly had the second lowest mortality rate in 2016 at 3,154.9/100,000.
Tables, 2C-23 and 2C-24 provide mortality rates for the five causes with the greatest number of deaths over the 2006–2016 period.

In 2016, Alzheimer’s disease (3,048 deaths; Table 2C-26) accounted for 7.4 percent of elderly mortality. From 2015 to 2016, mortality due to Alzheimer’s disease increased for elderly males while it slightly declined for elderly females (Figure 2C-23).

There were 1,975 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease among elderly females in 2016, almost twice the number of deaths from this cause among males (1,073; Table 2C-26). White non-Hispanic elderly accounted for 85.2 percent of the 2016 deaths from Alzheimer’s disease (based on data in Table 2C-26).

Among unintentional injury deaths unrelated to motor vehicles, Arizona’s elderly experienced an increase in mortality from fall-related injuries (Figure 2C-24). In 2016, 973 elderly Arizonans 65 years or older died from fall-related injuries, compared to 894 in 2015, an 8.8 percent increase (Table 2C-26).

In 2016, those 85 years old or older experienced the largest number of fall-related deaths (555), followed by Arizona’s 75-84 years old (290), and the youngest elderly 65-74 years old (128).