In 2017, 32.6 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 2.3 million individuals, easily represented the largest segment of the population. However, only 6.2 percent of all deaths occurred during young adulthood.

The number of deaths among young adults rose 13.6 percent from 2007 to 2017. Compared to 2016, the young adult mortality rate increased 3.5 percent for males and decreased 2.3 percent for females (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-15).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2017 was Asian, Hispanic or Latino, White non-Hispanic, Black or African American, and American Indian.

American Indian young adults had a mortality rate 2.5 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 3.0 times higher than the state average for young adults and 9.2 times greater than Asian young adults.

Note: * Number of deaths per 100,000 persons, 20-44 years old in specified group.
2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY
Young adult mortality (ages 20–44 years)

In 2017, 679 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning (Table 2C-18), an increase of 11.5 percent from 2016. The mortality rate for accidental poisoning among young adults (29.9/100,000) exceeded the mortality rate for motor vehicle-related injuries. In the past decade, excess of mortality due to accidental poisoning has been consistently recorded for each since 2009 (Figure 2C-15). Among the young adults 20–44 years, 641 accidental poisoning deaths were due to drug overdose (ICD-10 X40-44) and 32 deaths were due to alcohol poisoning (ICD-10 X45).

In 2017, of the 88 deaths from HIV disease about 23 percent occurred among Arizonans 20–44 years old (Table 2C-27), a decrease from 29 percent in 2016. Males accounted for 90.0 percent of young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2017 (Table 2C-18).

The mortality rate for HIV disease among young male adults decreased 15.5 percent from 1.8/100,000 adults 20–44 years in 2016 to 1.5/100,000 in 2017.