Adolescence refers to individuals between the ages of 15 and 19, an important developmental period marking the transition from childhood to adulthood. In 2019, an estimated 474,952 adolescents resided in Arizona, comprising 6.6 percent of the State’s population (Table 10A-1). The lives of 300 resident adolescents prematurely ended in 2019, resulting in a total mortality rate of 63.2 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 13.1 percent higher than the 2009 rate (Table 2C-11).

The likelihood of dying was over two-fold greater for adolescent boys than for adolescent girls in 2019 (Figure 2C-9, Table 2C-11).

The five causes with the greatest number of deaths over the 2009-2019 period were unintentional injuries in accidents, suicide, homicide, malignant neoplasms, and diseases of heart (Table 2C-14).

In 2019, adolescents who were Asian, Hispanic, or White had greater survival chances than the state average for all adolescents. American Indian had the lowest survival chances of all racial/ethnic groups (Figure 2C-10). If the 2019 mortality risk of Asian adolescents (i.e., their mortality rate) was applied to all adolescents, only 219 would have died: 81 less than the 300 who actually did.
In 2019, fifty-one suicide deaths were recorded among Arizonans age 15-19 years, a decrease from 81 recorded in 2018 (Table 2C-14). In 2019, as in prior years, male adolescents accounted for the absolute majority (68.6 percent) of completed suicides.

The suicide rate in 2013 was the lowest recorded since at least 1990 (Figure 2C-11, Table 2C-11). Between 2009 and 2019, the adolescent male suicide rate (14.4/100,000) decreased 10.6 percent, while the adolescent female suicide rate (6.9) increased by 38.0 percent. The male to female ratio in suicide mortality rates increased from 3.2:1 in 2009 to 2.1:1 in 2019. In other words, male adolescents were almost 2.1 times more likely to kill themselves than female adolescents, compared to 3.2 times in 2009.

During the 11-year period, from 2009 to 2019, the overall adolescent mortality rate due to homicide increased by 1.1 percent. However, there were some gender differences in homicide rates, marked by an increase of 11.8 percent among adolescent males, and a decrease of 36.6 percent among their female counterparts (Figure 2C-12, Table 2C-11). From 2018 to 2019, the overall mortality rate of adolescent homicide deaths increased by 46.8 percent. Looking at gender specific homicide mortality, there was a substantial increase of 74.7 percent for males but a decrease of 25.7 percent for females in the 2018-2019 years.