The 1,107,040 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 6,998 deaths or an average of 19 deaths per day. The total mortality rate of middle-aged adults decreased for the second consecutive year from 677.1/100,000 in 1999 to 632.1/100,000 in 2001 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-20), and was 14.3 percent lower than the 1991 rate.

The 2001 total mortality rate among middle-aged females was 15.4 percent lower and among middle-aged males 14 percent lower than their respective rates in 1991 (Table 2C-20).

Black middle-aged adults, followed by American Indians had the two highest mortality rates (996.1/100,000 and 981.4/100,000 respectively) among the racial/ethnic groups. If the 2001 total mortality rate for Black middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 11,029 middle-aged adults would have died rather than 6,998 who actually did.
Like the young adults, also middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses. In 2001, 145 of middle-aged adults were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs, compared to 78 deaths in 2000 and 7 deaths in 1991. In 2001 rate for accidental drug overdoses among middle-aged Arizonans was 11.9 times the rate reported for 1991 (13.1/100,000 vs.1.1/100,000, Figure 2C-19).

In 2001, as in the past, rural middle-aged males had the poorest survival chances among the gender by area groups (Figure 2C-20). Rural middle-aged male chances of death in 2001 were 16 percent greater than urban males, 92 percent greater than rural females, and 97 percent greater than urban females.

* Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma Counties.