The lives of 324 of the 391,964 resident adolescents (15-19 year olds) prematurely ended in 2002, resulting in a total mortality rate of 82.7 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 4.5 percent lower than the 2001 rate of 86.6/100, (Table 2C-12). The reduction in total mortality from 2001 to 2002 was substantially larger for adolescent females (13.4 percent) than males (1 percent, Figure 2C-9).

From best to worst survival chances of adolescents 15-19 years old, the 2002 rank-order was Asian, White non-Hispanic, Black, Hispanic and American Indian (Figure 2C-10). If the 2002 total mortality rate for American Indian adolescents applied to all adolescents, 767 would have died: 443 more than the 324 who actually did.
The suicide death rate for adolescent males increased by 13.2 percent (15.2/100,000 in 2001 to 17.2/100,000 in 2002 (Figure 2C-11, Table 2C-12). In contrast, the suicide death rate for adolescent females declined by 61.8 percent from 5.5 suicide per 100,000 in 2001 to 2.1/100,000 in 2002. This widened the male to female ratio in suicide mortality from 2.7:1 in 2001 to 8.2:1 in 2002. In other words, male adolescents were 8 times more likely to kill themselves in 2002 than female adolescents.

Both male and female adolescents had substantial increases in their homicide death rates from 2001 to 2002 (12.3 and 45.5 percent respectively) (Figure 2C-12, Table 2C-12). Male compared to female adolescents had an eight times higher mortality risk from homicide in 2002 (rates of 25.6/100,000 and 3.2/100,000 respectively). The 2002 male adolescent homicide death rate exceeded each of the five cause-specific death rates for female adolescents (Table 2C-12).