2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY
Adolescent mortality (ages 15-19 years)

The lives of 304 of the 403,088 resident adolescents (15-19 year olds) prematurely ended in 2003, resulting in a total mortality rate of 75.4 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 35.6 percent lower than the 1993 rate of 117.0/100,000 and was the lowest rate of the eleven-year period from 1993 to 2003 (Table 2C-12). The reduction in total mortality from 1993 to 2003 was larger for adolescent males (37.7 percent) than females (30.6 percent, Figure 2C-9, Table 2C-12).

From best to worst survival chances of adolescents 15-19 years old, the 2003 rank-order was Asian, White non-Hispanic, Black, Hispanic and American Indian (Figure 2C-10). If the 2003 total mortality rate for American Indian adolescents applied to all adolescents, 791 would have died: 487 more than the 304 who actually did.
Adolescent mortality (ages 15-19 years)

The suicide death rate for adolescent females increased by 95.2 percent from 2.1/100,000 in 2002 to 4.1/100,000 in 2003 (Figure 2C-11, Table 2C-12). In contrast, the suicide death rate for adolescent males declined by 2.0 percent from 9.9 suicide per 100,000 in 2002 to 9.7/100,000 in 2003. The male to female ratio in suicide mortality rates decreased from 4.6:1 in 1993 to 2.4:1 in 2003. In other words, male adolescents were 2.4 times more likely to kill themselves in 2003 than female adolescents, compared to 4.6 more likely in 1993.

A similar to suicide pattern of gender-specific changes in mortality rates was observed for homicide. The homicide rate for adolescent females increased by 28 percent from 3.2/100,000 in 2002 to 4.1/100,000 in 2003 (Figure 2C-12, Table 2C-12). In contrast, the homicide rate for adolescent males decreased by 25.4 percent from 2002 to 2003. Despite this decline, male compared to female adolescents had a 4.7 times higher mortality risk from homicide in 2003 (rates of 19.1/100,000 and 4.1/100,000 respectively).