2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY

Adolescent mortality (ages 15-19 years)

The lives of 337 of the 417,019 resident adolescents (15-19 year olds) prematurely ended in 2004, resulting in a total mortality rate of 80.8 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 30.1 percent lower than the 1994 rate of 115.6/100,000 but it was 7.2 percent greater than the 2003 rate of 75.4 (Table 2C-12). The reduction in total mortality from 1994 to 2004 was larger for adolescent males (34.2 percent) than females (20.2 percent, Figure 2C-9, Table 2C-12).

From best to worst survival chances of adolescents 15-19 years old, the 2004 rank-order was Asian, White non-Hispanic, Hispanic, American Indian and Black (Figure 2C-10). If the 2004 total mortality rate for Asian adolescents applied to all adolescents, 106 would have died: 231 less than the 337 who actually did.
The suicide death rate for adolescent females more than doubled from 2.1/100,000 in 2002 to 5.0/100,000 in 2004 (Figure 2C-11, Table 2C-12). Following a decline from 2002 to 2003, the suicide death rate for adolescent males increased by 21.6 percent from 14.8 suicides per 100,000 in 2003 to 18.0/100,000 in 2004. The male to female ratio in suicide mortality rates decreased from 7.5:1 in 1994 to 3.6:1 in 2004. In other words, male adolescents were 3.6 times more likely to kill themselves in 2004 than female adolescents, compared to 7.5 more likely in 1993.

From 2003 to 2004, the homicide rates declined for both adolescent males and females (Figure 2C-12, Table 2C-12). Despite this decline, the 2004 mortality risk for homicide was 7.4 times greater for adolescent males (18.5 per 100,000) than females (2.5/100,000).