The 1,221,474 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 7,928 deaths or an average of 22 deaths per day. The total mortality rate of middle-aged adults slightly decreased from 653.6 deaths per 100,000 in 2003 to 649.1/100,000 in 2004 (Table 2C-20), and it was 14.3 percent lower than the 1994 rate of 757.2 per 100,000.

The 2004 total mortality rate among middle-age females was 11.3 percent lower and among middle-aged males 16.2 percent lower than their respective rates in 1994 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-20).

Black middle-aged adults, followed by American Indians had the two highest mortality rates (1032.2 deaths per 100,000 and 1019.2/100,000 respectively) among the racial/ethnic groups. If the 2004 total mortality rate for American Indian middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 12,608 middle-aged adults would have died rather than 7,928 who actually did.
Like the young adults, also middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses. In 2004, 216 of middle-aged adults were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs (Table 2C-23), compared to 36 deaths in 1994. The 2004 rate for accidental drug overdoses among middle-aged Arizonans (17.7/100,000) was 3.6 times greater than the rate of 4.9/100,000 reported for 1994 (Figure 2C-19).

In 2004, 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 2004 were 23 percent greater than urban males, 69 percent greater than rural females, and 2.1 times (110.9 percent) greater than urban females.

* Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma Counties.