During an average week in 2004, 58 young adults aged 20 to 44 died. The 3,013 premature deaths among 2,137,094 young adult resident of Arizona produced a 2004 mortality rate of 141.0 per 100,000, 6.7 percent lower than the 2003 rate, and the lowest rate of the eleven-year period from 1994 to 2004 Male young adults had a substantially greater improvement in their survival chances from 1994 to 2004 than did female young adults (37.6 and 19.3 percent respectively (Figure 2C-13, Table 2C-16).

The rank order of survival chances of young adults from best to worse by race/ethnicity in 2004 was Asians, White non-Hispanics, Hispanics or Latinos, Blacks or African Americans and American Indians. If the 2004 total mortality rate for Asians was applied to all young adults in Arizona, 1,276 would have died, rather than the 3,013 who actually died.
2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY

Mortality of young adults (ages 20-44 years)

Among the unintentional injury deaths unrelated to motor vehicles, Arizona’s young adults experienced an increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses (poisoning by drugs, Figure 2C-15). In 2004, 267 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs, compared to 179 deaths in 1994.

The mortality rate for accidental poisoning by drugs declined from a high of 14.9 deaths per 100,000 in 1999 to 13.0/100,000 in 2003.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease dropped from being the 5th leading cause of death among young adults in 1996 to 6th leading cause in 1997 and 7th leading cause beginning in 1998.

Fifty-three percent of the 2004 deaths from HIV disease (82 out of 156) occurred among Arizonans 20-44 years old (Table 2C-28). HIV infection was not among the five leading causes of death for females in the 1994-2004 period. Males accounted for 71 (86.6 percent) of 82 young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2004 (Table 2C-19).