The lives of 346 of the 431,964 resident adolescents (15-19 year olds) prematurely ended in 2005, resulting in a total mortality rate of 80.1 deaths per 100,000 adolescents. This mortality rate was 38.6 percent lower than the 1995 rate of 130.4/100,000 (Table 2C-12). The reduction in total mortality from 1995 to 2005 was larger for adolescent males (42.1 percent) than females (24.7 percent, Figure 2C-9, Table 2C-12). From 2004 to 2005, the total mortality rate declined for adolescent females but increased for males.

From best to worst survival chances of adolescents 15-19 years old, the 2005 rank-order was Asian, White non-Hispanic, Black, Hispanic and American Indian (Figure 2C-10). If the 2005 total mortality rate for Asian adolescents applied to all adolescents, 106 would have died: 240 less than the 337 who actually did.
In 2005, as in 1995, suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death among Arizona adolescents. The suicide death rate for adolescent females almost tripled from 2.1/100,000 in 2002 to 5.8/100,000 in 2005 (Figure 2C-11, Table 2C-12). Following a decline from 2002 to 2003, the suicide death rate for adolescent males increased for the second consecutive year from 14.8 suicides per 100,000 in 2003 to 18.0/100,000 in 2004 and 22.0/100,000 in 2005. The male to female ratio in suicide mortality rates decreased from 8.9:1 in 1995 to 3.8:1 in 2005. In other words, male adolescents were 3.8 times more likely to kill themselves in 2005 than female adolescents, compared to 8.9 more likely in 1995.

Both in 1995 and 2005, homicide was the 2nd leading cause of death of 15 to 19 years olds. From 2004 to 2005, the homicide rates increased for both adolescents males and females (Figure 2C-12, Table 2C-12). The homicide rate increased by 32.4 percent for male adolescents from 18.5 homicides per 100,000 in 2004 to 24.7/100,000 in 2005. The homicide rate almost doubled among adolescent females increasing by 92 percent from 2.5 homicides per 100,000 in 2004 to 4.8/100,000 in 2005. The male to female mortality risk for homicide decreased from 7.4 times greater in 2004 to 5.1 times greater in 2005.