During an average week in 2005, 60 young adults aged 20 to 44 died. The 3,121 premature deaths among 2,214,484 young adult resident of Arizona produced a 2005 mortality rate of 140.9 per 100,000, virtually identical to the 2004 rate of 141.0/100,000, and the lowest rate of the eleven-year period from 1995 to 2005. Male young adults had a substantially greater improvement in their survival chances from 1995 to 2005 than did female young adults (39.8 and 28.3 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 2005 was Asians, White non-Hispanics, Hispanics or Latinos, Blacks or African Americans and American Indians. If the 2005 total mortality rate for Asians was applied to all young adults in Arizona, 1,357 would have died, rather than the 3,121 who actually died.
From 1990 to 1999, Arizona’s young adults experienced an increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses (poisoning by drugs, Figure 2C-15). In 2005, 274 deaths of young adults were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs, compared to 171 deaths in 1995 and 61 deaths in 1990.

After reaching its recent peak in 1999, the mortality rate for accidental poisoning by drugs declined to 12.4/100,000 in 2005.

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-eight percent of the 2005 deaths from HIV disease (79 out of 135) occurred among Arizonans 20-44 years old (Table 2C-28). Males accounted for 67 (84.8 percent) of 79 young adult deaths from HIV disease in 2005 (Table 2C-19).