2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY

Middle-aged adult mortality (ages 45-64 years)

The 1,402,314 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 8,618 deaths or an average of 24 deaths per day. The total mortality rate of middle-aged adults decreased by 8.7 percent from 673.1 deaths per 100,000 in 2005 to 614.6/100,000 in 2006 (Table 2C-20), and it was 10.5 percent lower than the 1996 rate of 686.8 deaths per 100,000.

The 2006 total mortality rate among middle-age females was 5.7 percent lower and among middle-aged males 13.6 percent lower than their respective rates in 1996 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-20).

Black middle-aged adults, followed by American Indians and White non-Hispanics had the three highest mortality rates (872.5 deaths per 100,000, 775.4/100,000, and 638.3/100,000 respectively) among the race/ethnic groups. If the 2006 total mortality rate for Asian middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 2,725 middle-aged adults would have died rather than 8,618 who actually did.
Middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses. In 2006, 264 deaths were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs, compared to 81 deaths in 1996.

The mortality rate for accidental drug poisoning increased by 217.7 percent (3.2 times) from 6.2 deaths per 100,000 middle-aged adults in 1996 to 19.7/100,000 in 2005 (Figure 2C-19). In 2006, the mortality rate for accidental drug overdoses among middle-aged adults decreased by 4.6 percent to 18.8 deaths per 100,000.

In 2006, as in the past, rural middle-aged males had the poorest survival chances (Figure 2C-20, Table 2C-22). Rural middle-aged male chances of death in 2006 were 17.4 percent greater than urban males, 63.8 percent greater than rural females, and 96.5 percent greater than urban females.