Section B

Adolescent Mortality
Leading Causes of Mortality among 15–29 year olds

- Unintentional injury
- AIDS
- Other infectious diseases
- Homicide, war, and other causes of intentional injury
- Maternal mortality
In much of the world, mortality is declining in the second decade
A major cause of declining juvenile mortality is the reduction in vehicular deaths
Males are between two and four times more likely to die in adolescence than females
Unintentional Injury

- Accounts for 50–80% of all deaths in the second decade of life
- Traffic-related fatalities are the leading cause of unintentional injury
- Boys are at higher risk
- In many countries, drowning is a major cause of unintentional injury
- Use of alcohol and other substances is often implicated

Photo source: http://www.tfhrc.gov/pubrds/06sep/03.htm
HIV/AIDS

- The second-leading cause of death worldwide among those 15–29 years
  - Number-one cause in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Half of all people infected with AIDS acquired HIV between ages 15 and 24
  - That equals 30 million young people since 1980
- Young people often carry HIV for years without realizing that they are affected
- Highest rates of HIV/AIDS are in Africa and the Caribbean
## Juvenile Suicide: Wide Variation among Countries

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Suicide Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest Rates</td>
<td>Lowest Rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Europe</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
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<td>North America</td>
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<td>Pacific Basin</td>
<td>Muslim countries</td>
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<td>Far East</td>
<td>Mediterranean countries</td>
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Factors Influencing Suicide Trends

- Percent of unemployment
- Duel-parent employment
- Rise in divorce
- Rise in homicide
- Rise in alcohol use
- Secularization
Other Factors Associated with Juvenile Suicide

- Social disruption
- Overcrowding
- Urban stress
- Increasing access to the means to commit suicide
Maternal Mortality

- Maternal mortality persists as a leading cause of death in developing countries
  - 40–50% of all maternal deaths are due to abortion complications
  - Ritual genital mutilation results in increased maternal death
  - Lifetime risk of maternal death
    - Developing regions: 1 in 61
    - Developed regions: 1 in 2,800
Homicide is an Increasing Concern in Many Countries

- Most violent region in the world is the Americas
  - A third of the homicides are among adolescents aged 10–19 years
  - Colombia: homicide accounts for 28% of all juvenile male deaths

- In Eastern Europe and New Independent States
  - Homicide accounts for 850% excess mortality (compared with industrialized Europe)
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