Death claimed the lives of 247 of the 1,270,887 children (1 to 14 years old) residing in Arizona in 2012. Their 2012 mortality rate of 19.4 per 100,000 was 10.9 percent greater than the rate of 17.5 in 2010 (Table 2C-7). Both males and females experienced an increase in their total mortality rates from 2011 to 2012 (Figure 2C-5, Table 2C-7).

The five causes with the greatest number of deaths in childhood from 2002-2012 were accidents (unintentional injuries), malignant neoplasms, congenital malformations, homicide, and suicide (Table 2C-7).

American Indian children had the highest 2012 total mortality rate (57.4 deaths per 100,000) followed by Black or African American children (37.7/100,000; Figure 2C-6). The mortality rates of Hispanic or Latino and White non-Hispanic children were lower than the average rate for all groups.

In 2012, there were 19 children who died of accidental drowning and submersion, 13 children who died of assault, and 8 completed suicides of children aged 1-14 years (Table 2C-10). The number of American Indian children killed in motor vehicle accidents nearly tripled from 2011 to 2012.
From 2011 to 2012, the mortality rates increased for both urban and rural children (Figure 2C-7, Table 2C-8). From 2002 to 2012 the total mortality rates decreased by 18.8 percent for urban children and by 11.6 percent for rural children.

From 2011 to 2012, the mortality rate for accidents slightly increased for urban children and slightly decreased for rural children (Table 2C-8). The mortality rate for unintentional injuries among rural children (10.9/100,000) was 2.3 times greater than the rate among urban children (4.7/100,000, Table 2C-8). The mortality rate for accidental drowning was similar for urban children (1.5/100,000) and rural children (1.6/100,000).

Urban females 1-14 years old had the lowest mortality risk among gender by area groups in 2012, followed by urban males, rural females, and rural males.