Death claimed the lives of 320 of the 1,109,672 children (1 to 14 years old) residing in Arizona in 2001. The mortality rate among Arizona children 1-14 years old increased for the second consecutive years from 24.1/100,000 in 1999 to 28.8/100,000 in 2001 (Table 2C-20). The 2001 total female mortality was 28.4 percent greater and among males 4.7 percent greater than their respective rates in 2000 (Figure 2C-5). Still, the rate of 28.3 deaths per 100,000 children was the third lowest rate of the eleven-year period from 1991 to 2001 (Table 2C-8).
Total mortality increased for both urban and rural children from 2000 to 2001. The temporal pattern underlying the changes in mortality between 1991 and 2001 greatly differed by region. From 1993 to 1998, the mortality rate of rural children decreased by 54.6 percent, while the urban children experienced a much lower reduction by 12.3 percent. After 1998 to 2001, the mortality rate of urban children increased by 27.6 percent, 1.7 times as much as the increase of 16.5 in the mortality risk of rural children (Figure 2C-7). Thus, the risk of death of rural children compared to their urban peers dropped from 81 percent greater in 1993 to 29.3 percent greater in 2001, narrowing the geographic inequity.

Urban females 1-14 years old had the lowest 2001 mortality risk among gender by area groups, followed by urban males, rural females and rural males.

* Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma Counties.