Death claimed the lives of 271 of the 1,144,139 children (1 to 14 years old) residing in Arizona in 2002. Their 2002 mortality rate of 23.7 per 100,000 was the lowest of the eleven-year period from 1992 to 2002 (Table 2C-8). The 2002 total mortality was the decade’s lowest for boys but not for girls (Figure 2C-5). From 1992 to 2002, both genders experienced substantial declines of at least 35 percent in their rates of death from unintentional injuries in accidents (Table 2C-8).

American Indian children had the highest 2002 total mortality rate (55.8/100,000), followed by Black children (32.6/100,000) and Hispanic children (25.0/100,000) (Figure 2C-6).
Total mortality declined for both urban and rural children from 2001 to 2002. The temporal pattern underlying the changes in mortality between 1992 and 2002 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). Total mortality declined from 2001 to 2002 almost three times more for urban (20.2 percent lower rate) than rural children (7.4 percent lower rate).

Urban females 1-14 years old had the lowest 2002 mortality risk among gender by area groups, followed by urban males, rural males and rural females.