Death claimed the lives of 286 of the 1,176,805 children (1 to 14 years old) residing in Arizona in 2003. Their 2003 mortality rate of 20.9 per 100,000 was the second lowest of the eleven-year period from 1993 to 2003 (Table 2C-8). Females, but not males experienced a decline in their total mortality rates from 2002 to 2003 (Figure 2C-5). However, from 1993 to 2003, both genders experienced substantial declines of at least 45 percent in their rates of death from unintentional injuries in accidents (Table 2C-8).

American Indian children had the highest 2003 total mortality rate (45.3/100,000), followed by Black children (42.5/100,000) (Figure 2C-6). The mortality rates for Asian, White non-Hispanic and Hispanic children were lower than the average rate for all groups.
Total mortality slightly increased for both urban and rural children from 2002 to 2003. The temporal pattern underlying the changes in mortality between 1993 and 2003 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. From 1999 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). The increase in total mortality rates from 2002 to 2003 was identical for both urban and rural children.

Urban females 1-14 years old had the lowest 2003 mortality risk among gender by area groups, followed by urban males, rural males and rural females.