In 2015, a total of 196 deaths were recorded among 1,268,973 children aged 1-14 years residing in Arizona. The 2015 childhood mortality rate of 15.4 per 100,000 was 13.5 percent lower than the 2014 mortality rate of 17.9 (Table 2C-7). The mortality rate declined for both male and female children in 2014 to 2015. (Figure 2C-5, Table 2C-7).

The five causes with the greatest mortality rates in childhood from 2005-2015 were accidents (unintentional injuries), malignant neoplasms, congenital malformations, homicide, and suicide (Table 2C-7).

American Indian children had the highest 2015 total mortality rate (50.3 deaths per 100,000) followed by Black or African American children (25.2/100,000; Figure 2C-6). The mortality rates of Asian, White non-Hispanic, and Hispanic or Latino children were lower than the average rate for all groups.

It is important to note that the mortality rate for Asians is based on a very low death count (Table 2C-10) thus not statistically reliable. In 2015, there were approximately 16 children who died of accidental drowning and submersion, around 16 children who died of assault, and 12 completed suicides of children aged 1-14 years (Table 2C-10).
2C. AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY
Childhood mortality (ages 1-14 years)

From 2014 to 2015, overall mortality rates decreased for both urban and rural children (Figure 2C-7, Table 2C-8). From 2005 to 2015, the total mortality rates decreased by 19.9 percent for rural children, but even more so for urban children by 33.8 percent.

From 2014 to 2015, the mortality rate for accidents decreased for urban children but increased for rural children (Table 2C-8). The mortality rate for unintentional injuries among rural children (9.5/100,000) was 2.2 times greater than the rate among urban children (4.3/100,000, Table 2C-8). In 2015, 13 children in urban areas died of accidental drowning while fewer rural children died of this cause (Table 2C-10).

Urban females aged 1-14 years old had the lowest mortality risk among gender by area groups in 2015, followed by urban males, rural females, and rural males.

Notes: a Number of deaths per 100,000 persons, 1-14 years old in specified group; b Urban counties are Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, and Yuma Counties. Rural counties are those remaining.