In 2016, a total of 231 deaths were recorded among 1,262,086 children aged 1-14 years residing in Arizona. The 2016 childhood mortality rate of 18.3 per 100,000 was 18.5 percent higher than the 2015 mortality rate of 15.4 (Table 2C-7). The mortality rate increased for both male and female children between 2015 and 2016 (Figure 2C-5, Table 2C-7).

The five causes with the greatest mortality rates in childhood from 2006-2016 were accidents (unintentional injuries), malignant neoplasms, congenital malformations, homicide, and suicide (Table 2C-7).

American Indian children had the highest 2016 total mortality rate (49.0 deaths per 100,000) followed by Black or African American children (28.6/100,000; 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).
From 2015 to 2016, overall mortality rates increased for both urban and rural children (Figure 2C-7, Table 2C-8). From 2006 to 2016, both urban and rural children have witnessed a decrease in mortality rate. The decline was however more markedly among urban children (18.0 percent) than rural children (0.3 percent).

From 2015 to 2016, the mortality rate for accidents increased for both urban children and rural children (Table 2C-8). In 2016, the mortality rate for unintentional injuries among rural children (10.8/100,000) was 2.2 times greater than the rate among urban children (5.0/100,000; Table 2C-8). In the same year, 20 children died of accidental drowning; all of them resided in urban areas (Table 2C-10).

Urban females aged 1-14 years old had the lowest mortality risk among gender by area groups in 2016, followed by rural females, urban males, and rural males.

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