



ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Arizona's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	6,500,180
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,707,680
State Poverty Rate ³	18.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	26.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	23.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	23.1%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Arizona had 33,433 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,188 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 4,025 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 2.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 9.9% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 2,465 were neglected, 1,108 were physically abused, and 268 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 28 children in Arizona died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 9,569 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,731 children in 2006. In 2007, 3,787 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,794 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Arizona children in out-of-home care in 2007, 42.0% were white, 8.3% black, 40.0% Hispanic, 2.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.8% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,384 children exiting out-of-home care in Arizona in 2007, 47.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,635 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 16.8% increase from 1,400 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 9,569 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,492 or 26.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 58,709 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,569 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 32.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care in 2007, 38.4% were white, 7.4% were black, 45.2% were Hispanic, 2.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.3% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona increased from 75,996 in March 2008 to 82,883 in March 2009, an increase of 9.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 38,048, a 6.2% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arizona was at 40.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Arizona spent \$325,107,208 in TANF funds, including 40.5% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, <1% on transportation, and 59% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Arizona spent \$96,973,823 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 197,586 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Arizona collected and distributed \$325,000,291 in child support funds, an increase of 6.1% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$835 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.07 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Arizona had a monthly average of 29,800 children served by subsidized child care; 30,200 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 30,900 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona, a family of three could make no more than \$29,052, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Arizona had 178 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,175 Arizona children, a 2.4% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 674,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona—47.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 14,275 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 14,275 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 135 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Arizona had 65,837 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.1% increase from 2007, when 64,453 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Arizona had 278,000 uninsured children, representing 16.0% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 7,289 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Arizona a rank of 15 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 651 infants under age 1 died in Arizona, giving it a rank of 22 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Arizona was 34 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 109. This reflects a total rate of 62 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 10,929 adults and adolescents, as well as 46 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arizona.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12–17, and 295,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arizona.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 573 children aged out of out-of-home care in Arizona.³⁸
- In 2008, 32,000 Arizona teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 38,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 109,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 22,000 children ages 12–17 in Arizona needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 25,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 86 Arizona children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.6 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 46 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, a 21.1% increase from 38 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 53,826 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 3.2% increase from 52,173 arrests in 2007. Of the

arrests in 2008, 1,617 were for violent crimes and 538 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,737 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Arizona spent \$455,807,056 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, 44% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$255,126,056 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 16% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 28% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 9,569 children in out-of-home care in Arizona in 2007, only 4,312, or 45.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

ARIZONA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.⁵¹
 - The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for that child and family.⁵²
 - According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
 - In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Arizona was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Arizona was \$56,067.⁵⁴
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