

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2005

Arizona's Children At a Glance

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| State Population (2003) ¹ | 5,580,811 |
| State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ² | 1,519,312 |
| State Poverty Rate (2003) ³ | 15.4% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴ | 21.2% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵ | 18.6% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶ | 26.1% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 52,288 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Arizona, a rate of 35.3 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 5,114 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 3.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 70.4% were neglected, 24.9% were physically abused, and 7.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 21 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Arizona.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 6,211 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,234 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 32.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.3% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 47.7% white children, 9.7% black children, 34.1% Hispanic children, 2.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 6.2% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Arizona.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,763 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 56.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 793 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 15.0% decrease from 938 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 6,211 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 2,128 or 34.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 71,172 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,211 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 26.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 45.4% were white, 7.5% were black, 39.5% were Hispanic, 1.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.9% 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 92,500 in March 2002 to 111,334 in March 2003, an increase of 20.4%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 47,302, a 20.1% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Arizona was 44% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Arizona spent \$341,685,995 in TANF funds, including 51.3% on cash assistance and 48.7% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Arizona collected and distributed \$229,628,128 in child support funds, an increase of 8.1% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$780 per month, or 95% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²²

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Arizona served an estimated monthly average of 28,100 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 38,400 children were served, and in 1999, when 36,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 53% of Arizona's median income, or \$24,156, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Arizona had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 13,215 Arizona children were served by Head Start, a 0.6% decrease from 2002.²⁶

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 459,285 Arizona children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 60.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Arizona had 90,468 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.4% decrease from 2002, when 92,705 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 420 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Arizona. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 11,363, reflecting a rate of 61.2 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 8,529 adults and adolescents, as well as 41 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Arizona.³⁰
- In 2001, 58 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.66 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 46,000 children ages 12–17, and 407,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 12% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 6% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 19% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, 27 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, compared with 15 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 51,400 children under age 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 2% increase from 50,583 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 1,427 were for violent crimes and 459 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,884 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.³⁷

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R A R I Z O N A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Arizona spent \$263,162,613 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 61% was from federal funds and 39% was from state funds.³⁹

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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- In 2002, of the \$263,162,613 spent for child welfare, 22% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% was from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 18% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources. The remaining funds (39%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 6,211 children in out-of-home care in Arizona on September 30, 2002, only 2,294 or 37% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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.⁴²
- 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 those children and families.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴⁴
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Arizona was \$26,526 ; the median income for a family of four in Arizona was \$56,857.⁴⁵

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