

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2006

Arizona's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	5,743,834
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	1,547,260
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	14.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	21.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	17.6

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 33,964 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 33,649 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 4,838 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 3.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.4% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 74.4% were neglected, 22.2% were physically abused, and 6% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 14 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Arizona.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 7,469 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,211 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 37.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Arizona children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 46% were white, 8.7% were black, 35.9% were Hispanic, 2.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,796 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 55.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 839 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 5.8% increase from 793 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 7,469 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 2,404 or 32.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 59,180 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 7,469 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 31.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 43.7% were white, 7.5% were black, 40.5% were Hispanic, 2.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.1% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona decreased from 115,860 in March 2004 to 98,165 in March 2005, a decrease of 15.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 43,223, a 13.5% decrease from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arizona was at 39.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸

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- In 2004, Arizona spent \$305,055,004 in TANF funds, including 59.8% on basic assistance, and 40.2% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2004, Arizona collected and distributed \$247,704,782 in child support funds, an increase of 6.1% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$776 per month, or 94.2% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²¹

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

- In 2004, an estimated monthly average of 38,600 of Arizona's children received subsidized child care; 29,100 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 26,600 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona, a family of three could make no more than \$25,860, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Arizona had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 13,215 Arizona children, the same as in 2003.²⁵

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, 438,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.2% of the total number of enrollees in Arizona.²⁶
- In 2001, 7,682 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 1.8% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona.²⁷
- Arizona spent \$1,309 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Arizona had 87,681 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.1% decrease from 2003, when 90,468 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Arizona was 35.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 102.0 births. This reflects a total rate of 61.1 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 9,166 adults and adolescents, as well as 42 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Arizona.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 52,000 children ages 12–17, and 436,000 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 2004, 11% of Arizona teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 38.9% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2004, 10% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 32,000 children ages 12–17 in Arizona needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 35,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 54 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.32 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁷

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JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2002, 28 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, a 3.7% increase from 27 in 2001.³⁸
- In 2004, 52,893 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 2.9% increase from 51,400 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 1,553 were for a violent crime and 522 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,884 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

- 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. Of this number, 60.5% was from federal funds, and 39.5% was from state funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$159,312,366 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 30.1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 25.1% was from TANF, 0.2% came from Supplemental Security Income, 0.4% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 0.9% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 7,469 children in out-of-home care in Arizona on September 30, 2003, only 3,116 children, or 41.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁴⁶
- 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 \$56,857.⁴⁷

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