

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2007

Arizona's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	5,939,292
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,580,436
State Poverty Rate ³	15.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20.3
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	18.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	23.9

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Arizona had 35,993 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,623 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 7,344 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 children, and representing a 51.8% increase from 2003. Of these children, 76.6% were neglected, 20.5% were physically abused, and 5.8% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 23 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Arizona.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 9,119 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,469 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 40.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 16.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 44.9% were white, 8.4% were black, 37.0% were Hispanic, 2.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,108 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 57.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 729 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 15.1% decrease from 839 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 9,119 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 2,119 or 23.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 55,671 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,119 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 31.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 43.0% were white, 6.6% were black, 41.0% were Hispanic, 1.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.6% were of other races.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona decreased from 98,165 in March 2005 to 86,493 in March 2006, a decrease of 13.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 39,496, a 9.4% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arizona was at 39.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Arizona spent \$305,055,004 in TANF funds, including 59.8% on basic assistance, and 40.2% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Arizona collected and distributed \$266,572,458 in child support funds, an increase of 7.6% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$751 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$14.44 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Arizona had an estimated monthly average of 31,100 children served by subsidized child care; 38,500 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 29,100 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona, a family of three could make no more than \$26,556, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Arizona had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 13,215 Arizona children, the same as in 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 513,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona, representing 48.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 7,682 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona, representing 1.8% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Arizona spent \$10,053,221 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$1,309 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- In 2005, Arizona had 88,005 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.4% increase from 2004, when 87,681 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2003, 6,414 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Arizona a ranking of 34 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³¹
- In 2003, 593 infants younger than 1 year died in Arizona, giving the state a ranking of 33 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Arizona was 35.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 98.4. This reflects a total rate of 60.1 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³³
- Cumulative through 2004, 9,276 adults and adolescents, as well as 44 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arizona.³⁴
- In 2004, an estimated 55,000 children age 12–17, and 302,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arizona.³⁵

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 453 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Arizona.³⁶
- In 2004, 31,000 Arizona teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁷
- In 2004, 10% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁸
- In 2004, approximately 33,000 children age 12–17 in Arizona needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 36,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2003, 49 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.95 per 100,000 children.⁴¹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 15 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, a 46% decrease from 28 in 2002.⁴²
- In 2005, 50,371 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 4.8% decrease from 52,893 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 1,548 were for violent crimes and 506 were for possession of a weapon.⁴³
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,890 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.⁴⁴

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Arizona spent \$322,184,769 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁵ Of this amount, 63% was from federal funds, and 37% was from state funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$201,867,169 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 20% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 28% was from TANF, and 10% came from other federal sources.⁴⁷

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- Out of 9,119 children in out-of-home care in Arizona on September 30, 2004, only 3,889 , or 42.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

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.⁴⁹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵⁰
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵¹

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