

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2008

Arizona's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	6,166,318
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,580,436
State Poverty Rate ³	14.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	18.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	22.5

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Arizona had 37,377 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 37,088 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 4,204 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 children, and representing a 20.5% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 75% were neglected, 21.3% were physically abused, and 6.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 22 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Arizona.⁹
- In 2005, 9,685 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,119 children in 2004. In 2005, 41.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 15.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 43.1% were white, 7.9% black, 39.6% Hispanic, 2.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,358 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 53.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 1,012 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 28% increase from 729 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 9,685 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 3,787, or 39.1%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 53,962 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,685 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 30.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care in 2005, 40.1% were white, 6.2% were black, 44.9% were Hispanic, 2.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.5% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona decreased from 82,861 in March 2006 to 75,324 in March 2007, a decrease of 7.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 35,232, a 16% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arizona was at 40% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Arizona spent \$309,260,515 in TANF funds, including 44.3% on basic assistance, 2.1% on transportation, 53.6% on nonassistance, and none on child care.²⁰
- In 2006, Arizona collected and distributed \$283,504,310 in child support funds, an increase of 6.4% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$766 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$14.74 per hour working a 40-hour week.²²

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

- 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 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona a family of three could make no more than \$27,390, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no children were on the waiting list for child care assistance in Arizona.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 13,175 Arizona children, a 0.3% increase from 2005.²⁶

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

- In 2004, 639,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona, representing 45.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 6,290 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Arizona spent \$44,483,216 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,072 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Arizona reported spending \$106,643 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Arizona reported spending \$37,130 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Arizona had 96,669 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an 8.96% increase from 2005, when 88,005 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 6,710 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Arizona a rank of 16 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 630 infants younger than age 1 died in Arizona, giving it a rank of 25 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 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 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2005, 10,210 adults and adolescents, as well as 66 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arizona.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 54,000 children ages 12–17, and 297,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arizona.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 535 children aged out of out-of-home care in Arizona.³⁸
- In 2005, 28,000 Arizona teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 17% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 32,000 children ages 12–17 in Arizona needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 35,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 51 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.04 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 43 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, a 187% increase from 15 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 50,744 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 0.74% decrease from 50,371 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 1,622 were for violent crimes and 541 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,890 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.⁴⁶

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. Of this amount, 63% was from federal funds, and 37% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- 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.⁴⁸
- Out of 9,685 children in out-of-home care in Arizona in 2005, only 4,648 children, or 48%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

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