FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

2014
NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

August 2014

The past years have been rewarding for the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports specifically created for the North Phoenix Region in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Through funded programs, partnerships and community outreach, we have positively impacted the lives of many young children and their families. The new 2014 Needs and Assets report is vital to informing the continued work in building a truly integrated early childhood system for young children, and to achieving our greater vision of overall stronger communities.

The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets vendor, Applied Survey Research, for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the North Phoenix region. The new report will help guide the decisions of the new Phoenix North and Phoenix South Regional Partnership Councils as they continue the mission to serve the young children and their families within the Phoenix area.

We hope this report will not only be of use to the First Things First councils, but to the greater community. Together with our dedicated volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens in Phoenix and throughout the entire State.

This report, along with the many other tools, materials, and reports of our council and First Things First statewide, can be accessed through www.azftf.gov.

Sincerely,

Cindy Quenneville, Chair

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The way in which children develop from infancy to well-functioning members of society will always be a critical subject matter. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and thus, in turn, is fundamental to all aspects of wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This 2014 Needs and Assets Report for the North Phoenix Region provides data, analysis and observations which help us in understanding the areas of need and resources for young children. The report will serve as a resource as we continue to work to identify and address areas in which children and families can be supported. The needs of young children and families are outlined in the executive summary and documented in further detail in the full report.

The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the future decisions and funding allocations; all in an effort to build a truly comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders who participated in numerous work sessions and community forums throughout the past years. The success of First Things First was due, in large measure, to the contributions of the hundreds of individuals who gave their time, skill, knowledge and expertise to support the work of First Things First.

To the past members of the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. The work that has been done has laid a solid foundation for the new Phoenix North and Phoenix South Regional Partnership Councils who will continue to guide the work of First Things First in the city of Phoenix.

We also want to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the American Community Survey, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE CITY OF PHOENIX AND OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN

The city of Phoenix is the sixth most populous city in the United States and is home to nearly 1.5 million people. The First Things First Board established three regions in the city of Phoenix: North, Central and South. This executive summary contains information about the city as a whole, and comparisons between the three First Things First Regions of Phoenix.

Based on 2010 census data, there were over 131,000 children from birth through 5 in the three combined First Things First Regions of Phoenix, with the largest number in the South Phoenix Region (52,303), followed by North Phoenix (45,008) and Central Phoenix (34,047).

Demographics

Types of Families

When looking at the types of families with children birth through 5, there were 52,627 married-couple families in Phoenix, 19,489 single female-headed families, and 9,776 single male-headed families in 2010.

- There was a higher percentage of married-couple families with children birth through 5 in the North Phoenix Region (67%), followed by the South (61%) and Central Phoenix Regions (58%) in 2010.

The Race and Ethnicity of Children

The children of Phoenix are culturally and ethnically diverse. When looking across the entire city, over half of children ages birth through 5 were identified as Hispanic or Latino (58%), followed by White (28%), African American (6%), Asian (3%), and American Indian (2%).

- The South Phoenix Region had the highest percentage children birth through 5 who identified as Hispanic or Latino (78%), followed by Central Phoenix Region (68%) and North Phoenix Region (35%).

- The North Phoenix Region had the highest percentage of children birth through 5 who identified as White (51%), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (18%) and South Phoenix Region (9%).

- The South Phoenix Region had the highest percentage of children birth through 5 who identified as African American (8%); the North Phoenix Region the highest percentage Asian (4%); and the Central Phoenix Region the highest percentage American Indian (3%).

The Top Languages in the City

The U.S. Census does not collect data about what languages are spoken by children under 5 years old, but when looking at children and adults five years and older, the majority of people in the city of Phoenix spoke either English (63%) or Spanish (31%), and the next top three languages were Arabic, African Languages, and Navajo.

- The region with the highest percentage of Spanish speakers was the First Things First South Phoenix Region (55%), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (37%), and the North Phoenix Region (15%).

The Economy

Unemployment

The unemployment rate measures the number of people who do not have jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks.

- There is good news in the area of unemployment in Phoenix City; it dropped from 11.2% in 2010 to 7.0% in 2013.

Income

One way to look at local incomes is to look at median family incomes, meaning half of families earned more than the median and half earned less. However, when looking at median incomes in the City of Phoenix, there was wide variation depending on the composition of the family. Married-couple families with children reported incomes of $70,670 per year, while female single-headed families reported $30,282 and male single-headed families $41,999.

- Married-couple families were the most common type of family in the city, but their median incomes varied widely across the three regions depending on what school district area they lived in. Incomes ranged from a low of $32,591 (Alhambra Elementary District Area in the Central Phoenix Region) to a high of $98,640 per year (Paradise Valley Unified School District Area in North Phoenix Region).

- Single female-headed families were the next most common type of family with a range of incomes from $9,795 (Phoenix Elementary School District Area in the Central Phoenix Region) to $44,338 (Deer Valley Unified School District Area in the North Phoenix Region).

Poverty

Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food and basic health care; they are also at higher risk for experiencing crime and violence. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower

levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment.[1] Arizona had the fifth highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010, with 1 out of 4 children living in poverty.

- Child poverty varied widely across the three regions with almost half (48%) of children birth through 5 in the Central Phoenix Region lived in families in poverty, followed by 35% in the South Phoenix Region and 19% in the North Phoenix Region.

Food

When children lack of adequate food, they can experience poor physical and mental health, difficulty learning, increased school absences, and lower test scores. Households are classified as food insecure if one or more household members went hungry at least once during the year because the household could not afford enough food to eat.[2]

- One in 4 children (25%) under the age of 18 lived in food insecure households in Maricopa County in 2011.

Early Care and Education

The Early Childhood System

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.[3] Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, provides critical support for working families.

- The Central Phoenix Region had the capacity to serve the greatest percentage of children with parents in the work force through licensed care facilities. It is estimated that 52% of the Central Phoenix Region children ages 0-11 with parents in the labor force have access to licensed care, followed by 40% in the North Phoenix Region and 19% in the South Phoenix Region.

- The median daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from $20.00 to $42.50, depending on the age of the child and whether it was in-home based care or in a child care center in 2012.

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[1] Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 23*(3), 314-329.

[2] Feeding America. (2013). Map the Gap. Retrieved from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2010). *Link between child care and academic achievement and behavior persists into adolescence*. Retrieved from http://www.nichd.nih.gov

Family Literacy and School Success

When families read to their infants and preschool children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.[4] The First Things First Family and Community Survey assess family literacy and school readiness activities by interviewing parents and caregivers regarding the frequency of these activities in their home. Another way to assess children's long term school success is to look at third grade reading scores. Third grade reading scores are known to be correlated with high school graduation rates. The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

- Family and Community Survey respondents in the North Phoenix, Central Phoenix, and South Phoenix regions all reported engaging their child in literacy related activities less often than parents in the state as a whole in 2012. Less than half of parent respondents in each of the three regions reported that they read stories to their child/children 6 to 7 times in the past week.

- The North Phoenix Region had the highest reading scores: 65% to 87% of 3rd grade children in all of the school districts were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading, followed by the Central Phoenix Region (58% to 85%, depending on the school district), and the South Phoenix Region (54% to 73%) in 2013.

Children with Special Needs

It is crucial to have early identification of children's special needs so that children can get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.[5] Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive, and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth. Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) is an interagency system of supports and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. In addition to AzEIP, children who have developmental disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disabilities, and autism are eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

- Roughly 1% of children birth through 5 in each of the Phoenix Regions were receiving AzEIP services in 2009/10. The greatest number of children were served in the North Phoenix Region (509), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (420) and the South Phoenix Region (241).

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[4] Levy, B. A., Gong, Z., Hessels, S., Evans, M. A., & Jared, D. (2006). Understanding print: Early reading development and the contributions of home literacy experiences. Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 93(1), 63-93.

[5] Steele, M.M. (2004). Making the case for early intervention for young children at risk for learning disabilities. *Early childhood Education Journal*. 32(2), 75-79.

- There were more children birth through 5 in the North Phoenix Region receiving DDD services (524), followed by the South Phoenix Region (496) and the Central Phoenix Region (384) in 2012.

Access to Health Care and Health Insurance

Children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.[6] Children who don't have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.[7]

- Approximately 13% of children in Maricopa County went without medical insurance in 2012, similar to 2011. Regional break-downs were not available.

Healthy Births

Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes. Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds), and five times more likely to die.[8]

- 81% to 86% of women in the three regions began prenatal care during their first trimester in 2012; however the percentages were lower in the Central Phoenix Region (81%), compared to the South Phoenix Region (83%) and the North Phoenix Region (86%).

Immunizations

Immunizations help to prevent a number of serious and sometimes fatal diseases in young children such hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox).[9]

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[6] Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4*. Retrieved from http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHIimproves.pdf

[7] American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). *MediKids fact sheet*. Retrieved from http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf

[8] U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm

[9] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.) Five Important Reasons to Vaccinate your Child. Retrieved from http://www.vaccines.gov/

- The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.[10] Based on data available, the First Things First South Phoenix Region had the largest percentage of children ages 19 through 35 months who had completed their vaccination schedule at 53%, followed by the Central Phoenix Region (40%), and the North Phoenix Region (39%) in 2012.

Child Safety

In situations of abuse and neglect, children may be removed from parents' home by a child welfare agency and placed in foster care. Children may also enter the child welfare system due to parental abandonment, illness (physical or emotional), incarceration, AIDS, alcohol/substance abuse, and death. Severe behavioral problems in the child including chronic absenteeism may also result in foster care placement.[11]

- The South Phoenix Region had the greatest number of children birth through 5 living in foster care (653), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (477), and the North Phoenix Region (412) in 2012. This represented roughly 1% of children in each of the three regions.

Knowledge of Child Development

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.[12]

- The majority of parents and caregivers who participated in the Family and Community Survey in 2012 (73%-84%) in the First Things First Phoenix Regions understood that a child's first year has a major impact on school performance. Fewer parents (68%-78%) believed that a parent's emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence their child's intellectual development. Yet, 26%-35% of parents in the First Things First Phoenix Regions understood that a parent can significantly impact a child's brain development prior to birth.

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[10] Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.

[11] American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology. (2014). Forster Care. Retrieved July 2014 from http://www.aacap.org/

[12] The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *In Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

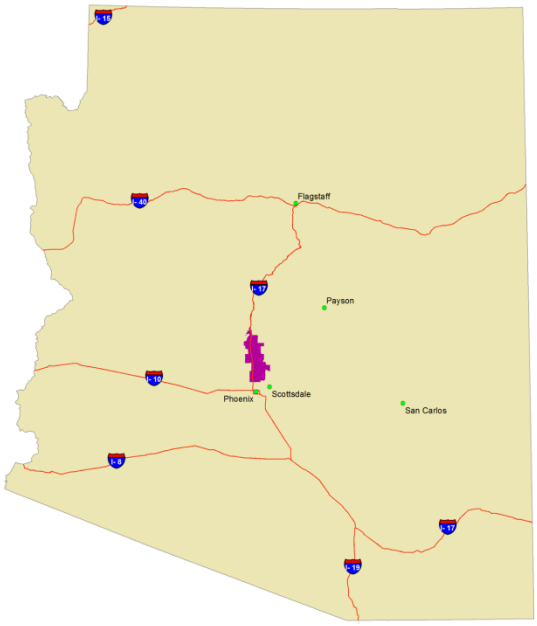
DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: WHO ARE THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE NORTH PHOENIX REGION?

About the First Things First North Phoenix Region

The City of Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, covers more than 517 square miles and has a population of nearly 1.5 million. The First Things First Board established three regions in the city of Phoenix: North, Central and South. The First Things First North Phoenix Region is composed of small communities in close proximity to the Phoenix Metro area. The region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Sunnyslope, the North Central Corridor, Deer Valley, Anthem, Moon Valley, and New River.

Sunnyslope has a strong sense of place, with its own historical society, and houses the John C. Lincoln Health Network which is the largest employer in the community. [13] North Central Corridor is one of the pricier areas of Phoenix and has a largely rural feel despite its proximity to downtown. Moon Valley also has a strong sense of community which can be seen in the regional newspaper, the Moon Valley Tattler.

The First Things First North Phoenix Region is served by three regional schools districts, including Washington Elementary School District, Deer Valley Unified School District, and Paradise Valley Unified School District. Data on the First Things First North Phoenix Region are often presented by school districts serving the area as the district boundaries are similar to the regional boundaries and many services for children birth through 5 are related to school resources and future academic success.



[13] Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum. (2012). A Brief History of Sunnyslope. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org/sunnyslopehistory.html

BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics describe the regions' population including gender, age, ethnicity, and language. These factors are important to help First Things First provide services that fit local needs.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Population
- Family Types
- Race/Ethnic Distribution
- Refugee Population
- Language Characteristics

Population

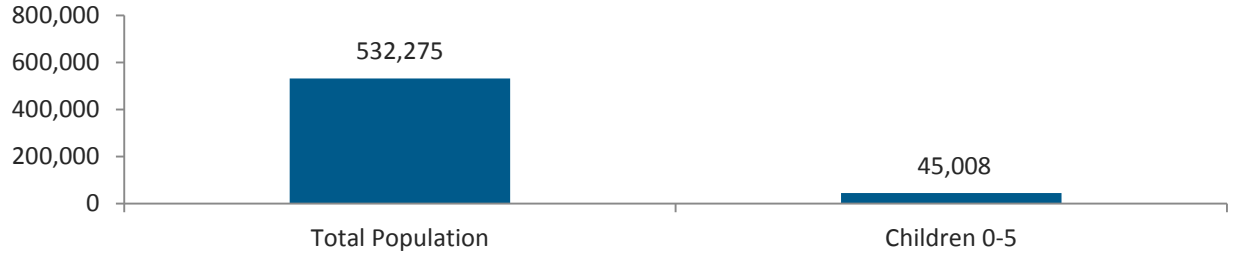
Why It Is Important

Population changes are based on three key factors: births, deaths, and migration. It is important to track these changes so that public policymakers can place resources where they are most needed. For example, if there is a big increase in the birth rate, it will be necessary to have more resources allocated to serving infants and toddlers including pediatric health care, child care, and K-12 education. The U.S. Census is the primary source for demographic data, however, while these data provide a general understanding of the region, it is important to recognize their limitations as they are self-reported and rely heavily on the Bureau's ability to reach and build trust with local community members.

What the Data Tell Us

An estimated 45,008 children under the age of six years old live in the North Phoenix Region. Children birth through 5 represent roughly 9% of the overall population.

Total Population Estimates, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2010



Source: First Things First. (2014). Population Estimates.
Note: Data based on U.S. Census 2010 calculated by census tract, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

Family Types

Why It Is Important

Family structure is an important factor in the health and development of young children. Household structures and family environments have been correlated with children's educational achievement and physical wellbeing.[14] A study by McLanahan and Percheski suggests that the links between family structure, income inequality and ethnicity are not only compounded by one

[14] Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). Poverty, family structure, and child wellbeing: Indicators from the SIPP. *U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23*. Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html.

another but increase over the generations. The authors describe a cycle where single motherhood leads to higher child poverty rates and poverty exacerbates racial inequalities.[15]

The effects of single parent households on the health and wellbeing of children have been long recognized. However, continued economic challenges have added pressure to families across the country, creating new alternative family structures, including multigenerational households and households in which grandparents are raising children. These grandfamilies require unique programs and services targeted at bridging the generation gap.[16]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)*** supports individuals applying for child support services in Arizona regardless of income, residency, nationality, or gender. The department helps to establish paternity; establish child support payments for the parent whose children live in the home; modify child support payments; enforce child support and locate absent parents. DES recognizes and provides services to grandparents raising grandchildren and other custodians.
- ***The Duet Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program*** is a county-wide program assisting grandparents raising grandchildren. The Phoenix office offers information, referrals, support groups, workshops, and legal guidance as well as financial assistance for children to attend extracurricular programs, summer programs and group activities.
- ***Arizona Children's Association*** offers many resources to families depending on desired need. Services range from, but are not limited to, family preservation services, behavioral health services, foster care services, parenting education, and transitional living services.
- ***Southwest Human Development*** offers comprehensive assessment services, treatment, and coordination with other services for families in crisis. These services are offered for families with children living in Phoenix that are experiencing complex problems.
- ***Valle Del Sol*** offers parenting classes and family support services that enhance parenting skills and improve family functioning. Valle Del Sol also offers a Parent Aide Program that serves the parents and caregivers of children involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) in an effort to eliminate future need of CPS involvement.

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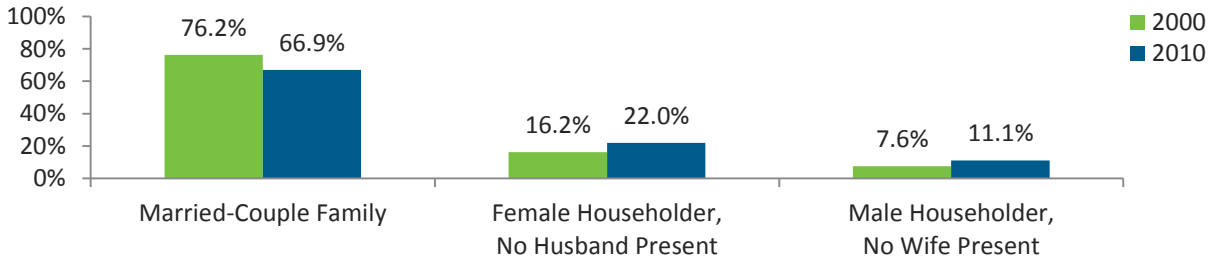
[15] McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008). Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities. Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 34: 257 -276.

[16] Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E. (Sep 2009). A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. School Psychology Quarterly, Vol 24(3), 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226

What the Data Tell Us

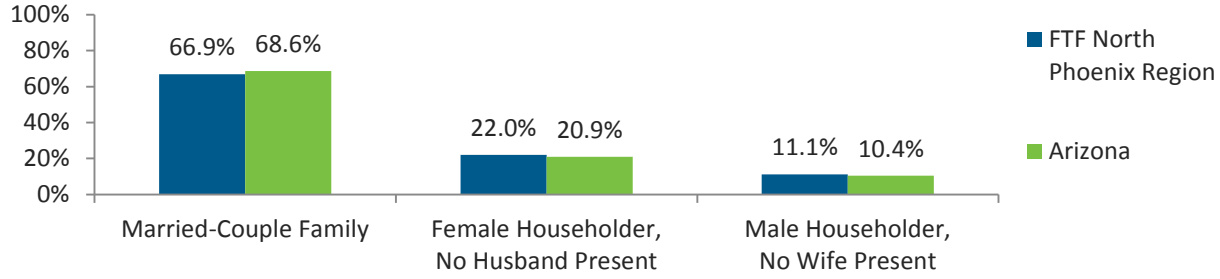
The percentage of single parent families with children birth through 5 in the First Things First North Phoenix Region increased between 2000 and 2010, especially for single female-headed households which rose from 16% to 22%. Household types were fairly similar between the region and the state, with only a slightly higher percentage of married-couple families in the state (69%) as compared to the First Things First North Phoenix Region (67%).

Types of Families with Children Birth through 5, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). Table P015- Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table P38: Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from http://www.factfinder.gov/.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

Types of Families with Children Birth Through 5, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P38- Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

Data on grandparent households are limited. The American Community Survey asks respondents if they are a grandparent with children under 18 in their home but there are no questions regarding the number of total grandparent-led households. Therefore, the data presented below are the percentage of children living in grandparent-led households not the percentage of grandparent-led households. There were an estimated 4,237 children under the age of 18 living in grandparent-led households in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. This represents 3% of children under age 18, lower than the state at 5%. Of those families, 70% also had the parent present in the household.

Children Under 18 Years Old Living with Grandparents, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTH PHOENIX REGION		ARIZONA
	Number of Children	Percent of Children under 18	Percent of Children under 18
Grandparent-led households	4,237	3.2%	4.5%
Parental Presence			
Parent Present	2,981	2.2%	3.3%
No Parent Present	1,256	0.9%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B10002- Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent by Grandparents Responsibility and Presence of Parent. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population under 18 by Age. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these numbers due to small population sample.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

Race/Ethnic Distribution

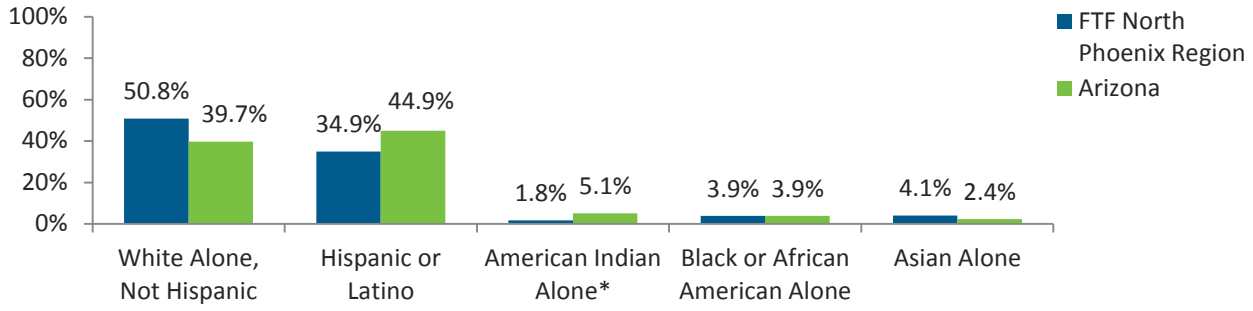
Why It Is Important

Arizona is a very ethnically diverse state with large percentages of Whites, Latinos, and American Indians. Understanding racial and ethnic diversity within the region allows First Things First to provide culturally appropriate services to families of different backgrounds.

What the Data Tell Us

In the First Things First North Phoenix Region, half (51%) of children birth through 5 were identified as White, followed by 35% Hispanic or Latino, 4% Black or African American, 4% Asian, and less than 2% American Indian. In the state of Arizona overall, 45% of children birth through 5 were identified as Hispanic or Latino, 40% were identified as White, 5% American Indian, 4% African American and less than 3% Asian.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Birth through 5, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1, Table PCT12H-L. Retrieved 2012 from http://factfinder2.census.gov/.
Note: The U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts. Respondents are asked whether or not they are of Hispanic origin in addition to their racial classification. In order to conform to common reporting standards data are shown for those who identified as Hispanic or Latino, and those who did not identify as Hispanic or Latino by race. Percent may not equal 100% due to rounding and additional race categories including multi-ethnic and other.
*The U.S. Census combines American Indian and Alaska Native. The term Alaska Native has been omitted from our report for relevance.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

"THERE IS A SMALL AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION IN ARIZONA,
so there are fewer resources dedicated to them, even though they may need the support. African American families experience health disparities and disparities in employment. But it's hard to find funding sources for African American families."

- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation

Refugee Population

Why It Is Important

Refugee populations are often faced with many challenges resettling in a new country. For the many refugees going from rural undeveloped countries to life in urban centers, integrating into new education, health care systems and the work force can be difficult, as they may face language barriers both when seeking and receiving services. However, there are also many benefits to resettlement for both those with refugee status and the community receiving refugee populations. Distinct cultural centers provide diversity of thought, opinion, language, and culture to the communities in which they settle.

A refugee is defined as:

"any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself of herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership with a particular social group, or political opinion."[17]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The International Rescue Committee*** in Phoenix provides a wide variety of services to refugees, including assistance with initial needs such as housing, food, clothing, employment and small business assistance, English language classes, and ongoing culturally appropriate support.
- ***Catholic Charities Community Services*** provides support from the moment individuals arrive at the airport, teaching them about their new community and preparing homes with furnishings.
- ***Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest Refugee and Immigration Services Division*** provides comprehensive resettlement and adjustment services including employment support, and legal assistance that can help with immigration, citizenship, residency, and reunification petitions.
- ***Maricopa County Department of Public Health*** provides scheduled health screenings and medical services to refugees in Maricopa County.
- ***Area Agency on Aging*** provides services specific to elderly refugee populations, providing outreach, case management and referral services as well as English language classes, translation, housing management and assistance, counseling, and transportation services.
- ***Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program*** offers resettlement services and cash and medical assistance for eligible beneficiaries. Services are only available for refugees and include, but are not limited to, preventative health services, behavioral health services, cash assistance, and medical assistance.

[17] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1980). RRP Refugee Act.

- ***Iraqi American Society for Peace and Friendship*** offers programs and services designed to assist new immigrants in the Phoenix metro area in becoming more self-sufficient. Services include, but are not limited to, education, advocacy, empowerment programs, job referrals, translation services, and medical care assistance.

What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County received close to 3,000 refugees in 2013. Refugees arrived from all over North Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. In 2013, the most common countries of origin included Iraq (1,062), Cuba (374) and Somalia (342).

Refugee Arrivals, Maricopa County, Top Ten Countries of Origin

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2013
Iraq	1,062
Cuba	374
Somalia	342
Myanmar	242
Democratic Republic of the Congo	147
Burma	113
Iran	106
Bhutan	93
Eritrea	61
Afghanistan	53
Total Arrivals	**2,840**

Source: Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program Representative. Personal communication, February 26, 2014.

Language Characteristics

Why It Is Important

In Arizona, English is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Spanish and Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache.[18] According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a "limited English speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over speaks only English or speaks English less than "very well" in addition to another non-English language. In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. All the members of a limited English speaking household are classified as limited English speaking, however these households may include members under 14 years old who speak English well.

[18] The Center for Public Education. (2000).*Top five languages by state*. Retrieved from http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org

While the ability to speak two languages has benefits, if no one in the household speaks English well, the family is likely to encounter difficulties accessing health and other social services, finding higher wage employment, and talking with children's teachers.[19]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Rio Salado College*** offers free, non-credit classes for legal residents who want to improve their English skills. The program has six different levels, and students can learn at their own pace.
- ***Phoenix College*** offers English as a second language classes.
- ***International Rescue Committee*** provides services to immigrants including translation services and language classes.
- ***Arizona Department of Education*** offers English language classes for adults as well as GED preparation classes, testing, and transcripts.
- ***Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS)*** offers a Spanish Bilingual Assistant class that trains bilingual Spanish speaking staff to serve as health care interpreters. Students participate in clinical practice and written and listening/comprehension exercises.
- ***The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County*** (LVMC) offers free self-paced English Language learning online and at their LEARN Reed Center in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.
- ***Valle Del Sol Community Resource Center, Washington Elementary School*** offers ESL classes and services to kids and adults alike. These services are free and are designed to work with the whole family to help them become more empowered and self-sufficient.

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (77%) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, followed by Spanish (15%), and other languages (8%) in 2007-2011. When looking at children ages 5 to 17, approximately 7% lived in linguistically isolated households in 2011.

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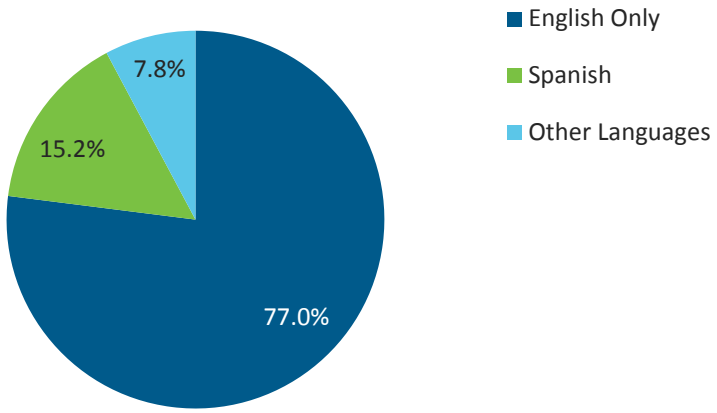
[19] Behrman, R.E. & Shields, M.K. (2004). Children of immigrant families: Analysis and recommendation. *Children of Immigrant Families Journal, 14*(2).

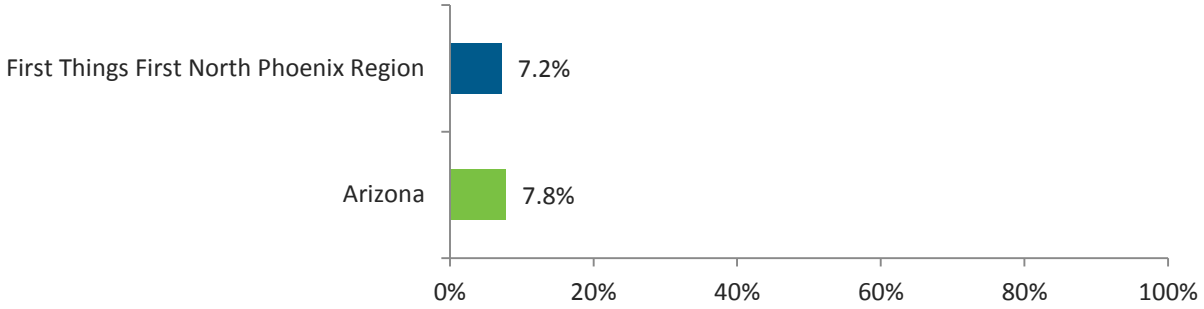
Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 and Over, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



N=484,550
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B16001- Language spoken in the home for ages 5 and over, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov/.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

According to 2007-2011 American Community Survey estimates, 7% of children ages 5 through 17 lived in limited English speaking households. This was slightly lower than the state of Arizona at nearly 8%.

Children Ages 5 Through 17 Living in Limited English Speaking Households, [20] 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



FTF N. Phoenix n=99,694 AZ n=352,921
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B16003- Age by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over in Households in Which No One 14 and Over Speaks English Only or Speaks a Language other than English at Home and Speaks English "Very well". *American Community Survey*. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov/.
Note: Values are the number of children ages 5 through 17 living in linguistically isolated households divided by the total number of children ages 5 through 17 living in households.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

[20] A "limited English speaking" household is one "in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English and no person 14 years old and over who speaks a language other than English speaks English 'Very well.' In other words, a household in which all members 14 years old and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than 'Very well' (have difficulty with English)." (U.S. Census Bureau).

ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. While the economy has improved, the nation still faces economic challenges that greatly impact families and their children.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Income
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Economic Supports
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Affordability and Foreclosures
- Homelessness

Income

Why It Is Important

Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the wellbeing of its residents. The income of families is related to the health, wellbeing, educational attainment and future economic success of children.

What the Data Tell Us

Median household income means that half of the households earn more than the median household income, and half earn less. Based on 2007-2011 estimates, the median family income for a married-couple family with children under 18 in Maricopa County was over $79,000. Yet, for single female-headed households with children under 18, it was just slightly more than $29,000. There were big differences in income based on where a family lived within the county and the family composition. The median income for a married-couple family with children under 18 in the area served by Paradise Valley Unified School District was $98,640, compared with $36,946 for a single female householder in the same area. A single female householder in the area served by Washington Elementary was just $24,575.

Median Family Income of Families with Own Children Under 18 Years, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

AREA	MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILY	MALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO WIFE PRESENT	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO HUSBAND PRESENT
Deer Valley Unified School District Area	$96,253	$49,274	$44,338
Paradise Valley Unified School District Area	$98,640	$44,881	$36,946
Washington Elementary School District Area	$61,430	$35,666	$24,575
Maricopa County	**$79,307**	**$39,931**	**$29,182**
Arizona	$73,631	$38,064	$26,491

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2011 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years. American Community Survey. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
All other data from First Things First, Regional Profiles.
Note: Data are based on School District Area, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is used as an indicator of how much income is needed for a family to meet its minimal basic needs without the need for public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is dependent on geographic location, family structure, and the age of the children. In 2012, the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Maricopa County was $51,115 annually for a single parent with two children and $58,798 for a family with two parents, a preschooler and school age child.

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Maricopa County, 2012

MONTHLY EXPENSE	FAMILY TYPE			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler School-age	2 Adults + Infant Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler School-age
Housing	$871	$871	$871	$871
Child Care	$861	$1,319	$1,419	$1,319
Food	$388	$582	$731	$799
Transportation	$295	$295	$561	$561
Health Care	$394	$417	$464	$472
Miscellaneous	$281	$348	$405	$402
Taxes	$563	$695	$748	$742
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-$53	-$100	-$100	-$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	-$83	-$167	-$167	-$167
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly	$19.99	$24.20	$14.01 per adult	$13.92 per adult
Monthly	$3,518	$4,260	$4,931	$4,900
Annual	$42,214	$51,115	$59,179	$58,798

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2012). Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org.

Unemployment

Why It Is Important

Healthy communities require an adequate supply of jobs that generate enough income to pay for basic needs. The unemployment rate as defined by the International Labour Organization measures the number of people who are without jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks.[21] The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. Since the economic recession began, much attention has been paid to the unemployment rate and its inability to capture data on individuals that are underemployed or have stopped searching for work. However, it remains the primary indicator of a community's economy. Job growth is an additional indicator of economic wellbeing and Arizona has one of the highest projected growth rates in the U.S. with an expected 59,000 non-farm related jobs in 2014.[22]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Arizona Workforce Connection*** offers employment opportunities, career advising, job readiness workshops, transportation allowances and daycare assistance (for eligible participants) to job seekers.
- ***The Arizona DES Employment Services Program (Seventh Street Office)*** matches employers with qualified applicants.
- ***Chicanos Por La Causa*** provides adult education classes, GED classes, job readiness classes, job skills training, and job placement services to residents of Maricopa County.
- ***Epi-Hab Phoenix, Inc.*** provides meaningful employment for individuals with epilepsy and other challenges. Jobs offered consist mainly of handwork and include mailing and shipping services, sorting, folding, packaging, shrink wrapping, inspection/cleaning, and assembly/disassembly.
- ***Friendly House*** connects business and job seekers by hosting job fairs, assisting businesses with small/medium scale recruitment, providing space for job interviews, and matching candidates to available jobs. The organization also provides direct services to job seekers, including job-related workshops and assessments, career guidance, and onsite computers.

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[21] International Labour Organization. (1982). Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the Thirteen International Conference of Labour Statistics. Thirteenth International Conference on Labour Statistics.

[22] Office of Employment and Population Statistics. (2014). Gradual Nonfarm Employment Growth. Arizona Department of Administration. Retrieved 2014 from http://azstats.gov/

What the Data Tell Us

The unemployment rate in Phoenix City was 7% in 2013, showing a steady decrease from the 11% seen in 2010. The trend was similar to Maricopa County and the state, which also saw decreases between 2010 and 2013.

Unemployment Rate

PLACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Phoenix City	**3.8%**	**6.1%**	**10.4%**	**11.2%**	**9.0%**	**7.7%**	**7.0%**
Maricopa County	3.2%	5.1%	9.1%	9.6%	8.5%	7.2%	6.7%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.4%	9.4%	8.3%	7.9%

Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2014). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer.* Retrieved 2014 from http://www.workforce.az.gov/.
Note: Data for Maricopa County are less reservation areas.

Poverty

Why It Is Important

With more than 1 in 4 children living in poverty, Arizona had the 5th highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010.[23] Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and lack basic health care. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment.[24]

What the Data Tell Us

Developed in the early 1960's, the Federal Poverty Thresholds (more commonly known as Federal Poverty Levels) were based on three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate food plan, as determined by the Department of Agriculture. This figure presupposes that the average family spends one-third of their income on food. Annual adjustments for inflation occur, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, but the Federal Poverty Thresholds do not consider other factors besides food, such as child care, and housing costs.

[23] Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org

[24] Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 23(3), 314-329.

The federal poverty guidelines are used by federal and state governments to determine eligibility for government assistance. There are several programs that use these guidelines or percentages of the guidelines (such as 125% or 185% of the federal poverty guidelines), such as Head Start, food stamps, school lunch programs, low-income energy assistance, children's health insurance programs, and Medicare. The federal poverty guideline for 2013 was $19,530 for a family of three, and $23,550 for a family of four.

> **"IT IS EASIER TO THINK ABOUT ONE DAY OF THE YEAR**
> (40% of donations and food for the year come in around Thanksgiving and Christmas)
> rather than tackling the reasons people need food in the first place.
> It is important that we do whatever we can do to take on the issue of poverty and define what it takes to help people move from the point of crisis to self-sufficiency."
>
> *- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank*

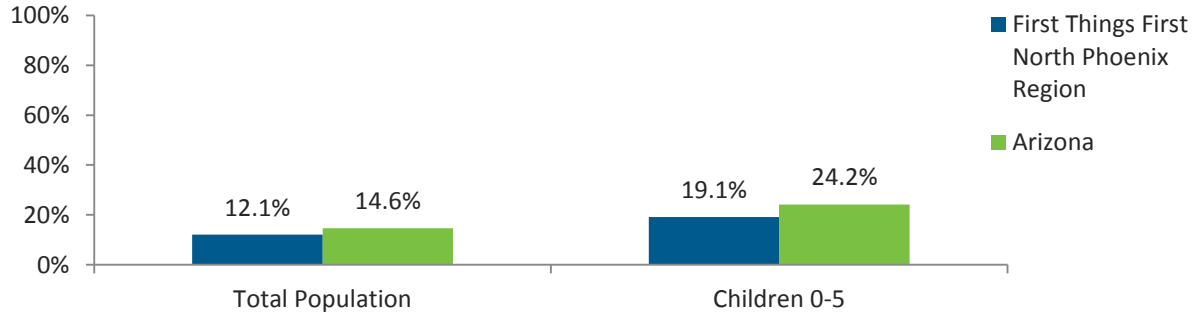
Federal Poverty Guidelines by Family Size in the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Family Size	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	$10,210	$10,400	$10,830	$10,830	$10,890	$11,170	$11,490
2	$13,690	$14,000	$14,570	$14,570	$14,710	$15,130	$15,510
3	$17,170	$17,600	$18,310	$18,310	$18,530	$19,090	$19,530
4	$20,650	$21,200	$22,050	$22,050	$22,350	$23,050	$23,550
5	$24,130	$24,800	$25,790	$25,790	$26,170	$27,010	$27,570
6	$27,610	$28,400	$29,530	$29,530	$29,990	$30,970	$31,590
7	$31,090	$32,000	$33,270	$33,270	$33,810	$34,930	$35,610
8	$34,570	$35,600	$37,010	$37,010	$37,630	$38,890	$39,630

Source: Department of Health and Human Services (2013). *Federal Register.* Retrieved 2014 from https://www.federalregister.gov/
Note: In 2014, for families over 8 persons, add $4,060 for each additional person.

It is estimated that 19% of children under the age of 6 years old in the First Things First North Phoenix Region are living in poverty, a higher percentage than residents of all ages (12%).

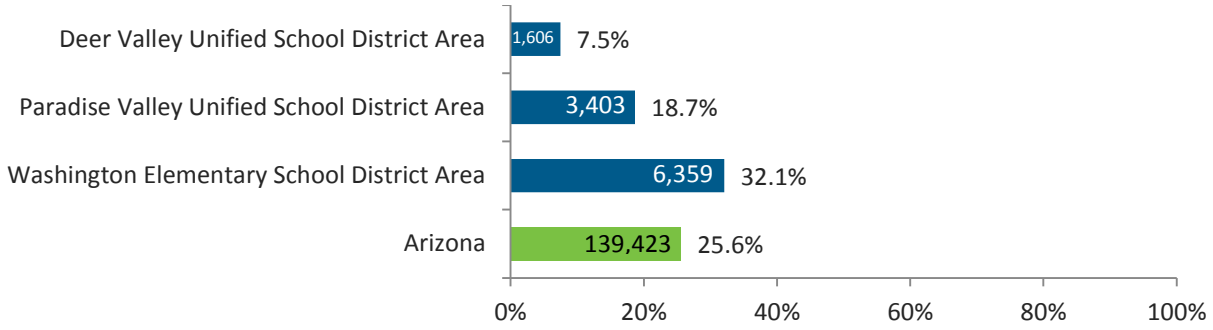
Poverty Estimates, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimate



Source: First Things First. (2014). Population and Poverty Estimates.
Note: Data based on 2010 U.S. Census data, calculated by census tract.

More than 1 in 4 children (32%) ages birth through 5 living within the boundaries of the Washington Elementary School District are living below the poverty level, according to 5-year Census estimates.

Children Birth Through 5 in Families Earning Less than the Federal Poverty Level, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B17006- Poverty status in the past 12 months of related children under 18 years, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Data are based on School District areas, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

Economic Supports

Why It Is Important

Many families need economic support to meet their basic needs during periods of reduced income, illness, or unemployment. Some families are falling into the income eligibility gap for support services. To be eligible for federal and state supports, a family has to be extremely low-income. Those who earn slightly more are not eligible for support, yet often have difficulty meeting their basic needs. There is still a need, therefore, for supplemental services like food banks and clothing for those families.

Snapshot of Community Assets

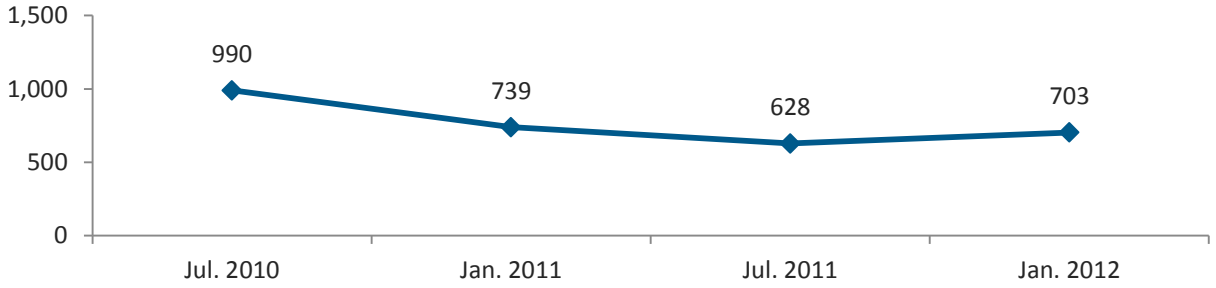
- ***The John F. Long Family Services Center*** provides emergency rental and utility assistance in crisis situations, the center is located just outside the region.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul*** offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. Assistance may include direct financial or in-kind service, intervention, or consultation.
- ***Black Family and Child Services of Arizona's*** Family Support Program offers a variety of services to families, including assistance in locating emergency shelter, provision of emergency food, diapers and clothing, positive parenting information, and help connecting with other community resources.
- ***Catholic Charities*** offers a free FDIC-created financial education series focused on financial recovery, credit use, and loans (including how to avoid predatory lending).
- ***The Sunnyslope Family Services Center*** is a multi-purpose agency offering emergency financial assistance to individuals and families living in Phoenix.

What the Data Tell Us

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides some temporary cash assistance for struggling families with children, while the parent/parents are trying to return to work.[25] Between July 2010 and January 2012, the number of families with children birth through 5 receiving TANF decreased 29% from 990 to 703 families in 2012. The decline is mostly the result of legislative action, whereby:

- Effective July 1, 2010, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 60 months to 36 months. All families that had received TANF from 37 to 60 months were immediately removed from the TANF roles.
- Effective August 1, 2011, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 36 months to 24 months. All families that had received TANF for more than 24 months were immediately removed.

Families with Children Birth Through 5 Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

[25] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008, November 20). About TANF. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html

Food Insecurity

Why It Is Important

Approximately 16 million children lived in households without enough food in the U.S. in 2010. In 2011, Arizona was among the top 5 states with the highest rate of food insecure children under 18.[26]

> **"IT IS A HUMBLING, HUMILIATING, AND TRAGIC EXPERIENCE**
> to look yourself in the mirror and say that you cannot feed yourself and your family."
>
> *- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank*

The lack of nutritious food is harmful to any individual, but food insecurity is particularly devastating to children and can have long-term consequences. Chronic under nutrition, food insecurity, unhealthy foods, and hunger can lead to poorer physical and mental health, difficulty learning, lower test scores, increased school absences, tardiness, and suspensions.[27] This makes children more likely to experience poverty when they become adults.

For families who earn above 185% of the poverty level (where WIC and SNAP eligibility ends) but are still unable to afford enough food, charitable services and programs become their safety net.[28]

> **"FOOD INSECURITY IS DIFFERENT FROM HUNGER,**
> it's about not having access to enough food for a healthy life."
>
> *- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks*

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The LifeBridge Community Alliance*** provides community members with food boxes, some emergency financial assistance, and information about additional resources and services.

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[26] Feeding America. (2012). *Child hunger facts.* Retrieved from http://www.feedingamerica.org

[27] Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, (2002). *The consequences of hunger and food insecurity for children, evidence from recent scientific studies* .Massachusetts: Brandeis University.

[28] Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. (2011). *Map the meal gap: Child food insecurity.* Feeding America.

- ***The Desert Mission Food Bank*** provides emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.

- ***The Roadrunner Park Farmers Market*** is located in Northeast Phoenix near Paradise Valley, is open year round, and offers a range of local produce.

    - The Roadrunner Park Farmers Market accepts Quest/EBT cards (electronic food stamps) and Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers (coupons worth up to $30 per year for women and children who participate in WIC's Supplemental Nutrition Program).

- ***Community Food Connections*** works to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas, including bringing wireless food stamp terminals to open air markets.
- ***Association of Arizona Food Banks*** offers information regarding food bank locations, services provided, and other food-related resources.

> ***"FOOD BANKS SERVE ABOUT 128,000 FAMILIES EVERY WEEK ACROSS THE STATE*** *of Arizona, with about 65% to 70% of those families in Maricopa County."*
>
> *- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks*

- ***The Phoenix Public Market***, located at 721 N. Central, is open all year round and offers a range of local produce.

    - The Phoenix Public Market accepts Quest/EBT cards (electronic food stamps) and Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers (coupons worth up to $30 per year for women and children who participate in WIC's Supplemental Nutrition Program).

- ***Kitchen on the Street (KOS AZ)*** partners with local schools in the Phoenix area to provide food assistance programs to meet the food needs of children and families. They provide Bags of Hope (food backpacks) with individually portioned, shelf-stable meals and snacks on Fridays; family food pantries on school campuses where families can donate their time in the pantry in exchange for food; and Market on the Street centers with perishable food. They also provide financial education.

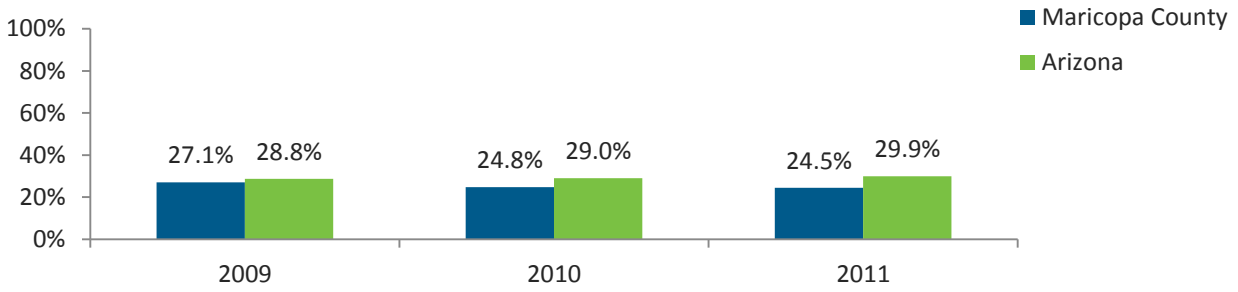
What the Data Tell Us

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food. Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity.[29]

Food insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.[30]

Roughly one in four children in Maricopa County lived in households without enough food in 2011.

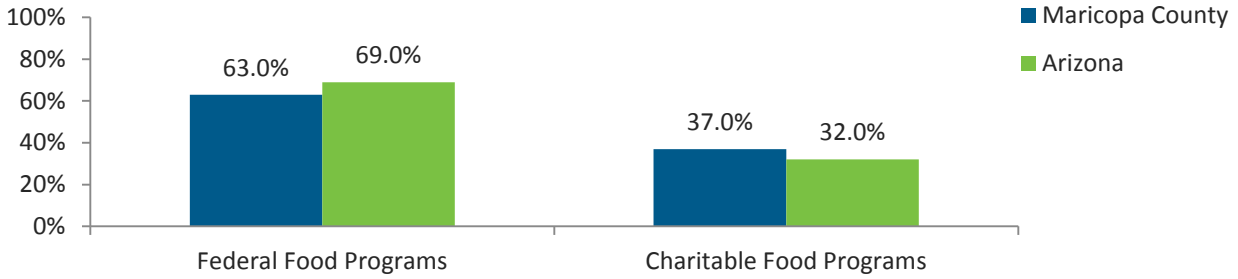
Food Insecurity Rate of Children Under 18



Source: Feeding America. (2013). Map the Gap. Retrieved 2014 from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.
Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.
Note: Please see methodology for explanation on how the food insecurity rate is calculated.

Over a third (37%) of Maricopa County's food-insecure households had incomes that were not eligible for supplemental federal food services like WIC and SNAP in 2011. Charitable organizations in Maricopa County are tasked with providing services to those households.

Supplemental Food Program Eligibility of Children Under 18, 2011



Source: Feeding America. (2013). *Map the Gap*. Retrieved from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.
Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.
Note: Due to rounding, percentage may equal more than 100%.

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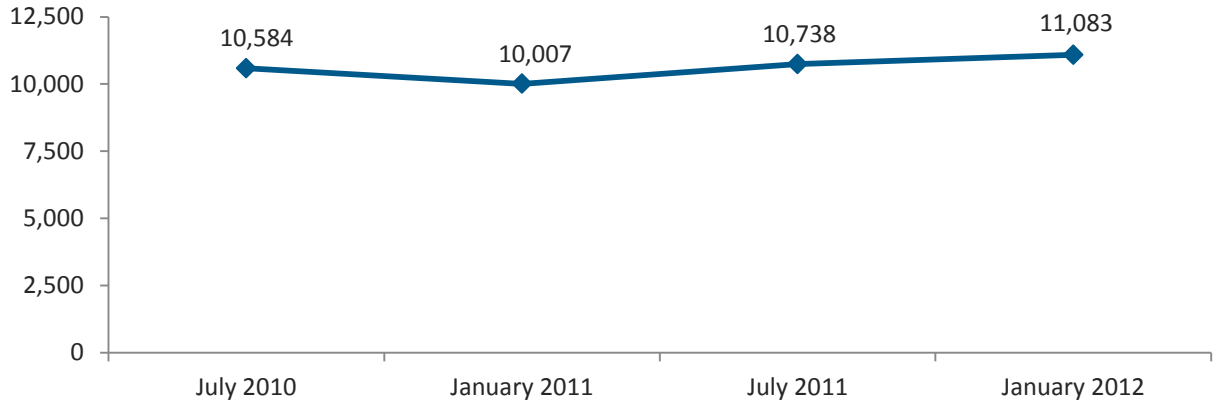
[29] Feeding America (2013). *Map the Gap*. Retrieved from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.
[30] Ibid.

> **"THE BENEFIT LEVELS FOR SNAP ARE VERY LOW, ABOUT $115 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL,** or an average of $267 for a household per month. That only provides enough food for about 2 ½ weeks. The food bank provides assistance for an additional 2 ½ days. But what do they do for the rest of the month?"
>
> *- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks*

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously called Food Stamps, provides benefits to individuals struggling to obtain food for their families. The program focuses on providing nutritional assistance that can be used on any foods that can be eaten in the home. In 2009, 48% of all SNAP participants were children. The average SNAP benefit is $29/week for a qualifying individual.[31]

In the First Things First North Phoenix Region, 11,083 families with at least one child ages birth through 5 were receiving SNAP benefits in January 2012.

Families with at Least One Child Birth Through 5 Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was formerly the Food Stamp Program.
Note: Data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

Participants in the WIC program receive nutritious supplemental foods, health screening services, age-appropriate nutrition information, and referrals to health and human services.

The number of WIC participants decreased slightly in the First Things First North Phoenix Region between 2011 and 2012 (375 participants). Yet, more than 11,000 women, infants, and children were receiving benefits in 2012.

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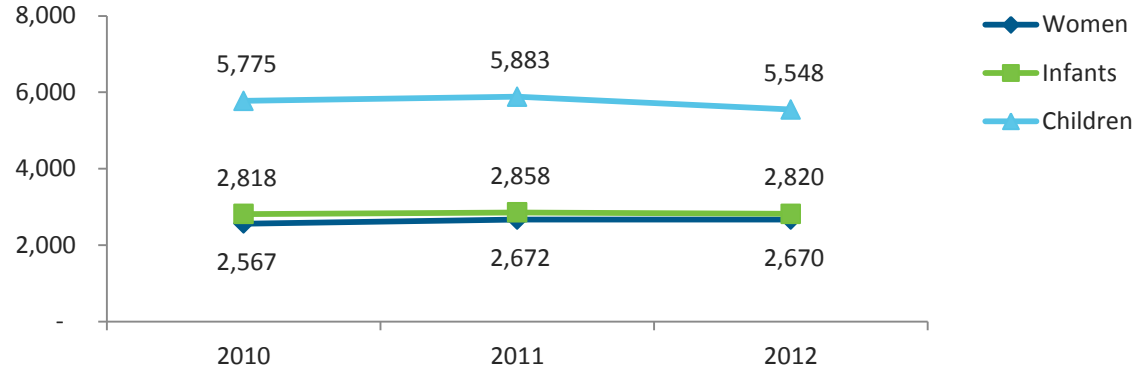
[31] Map the Meal Gap. (2011). Child Food Insecurity. Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Feeding America.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participants, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Snapshot of WIC participation by zip code. (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: First Things First North Phoenix Region data are the combination of zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes). Data shown for First Things First North Phoenix Region only include ZIP codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them.

Children in families that earn between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level qualify for reduced-cost meals from the National School Lunch Program. Children in families at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for free meals.[32]

The Deer Valley Unified School District had zero schools with over 90% of students eligible for free and reduced price meals.

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2013/2014 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2013/14
Deer Valley Unified School District	
Anthem School	19%
Arrowhead Elementary School	31%
Barry Goldwater High School	49%
Bellair Elementary School	52%
Boulder Creek High School	17%
Canyon Springs	31%
Constitution Elementary School	86%
Copper Creek Elementary	14%
Deer Valley High School	35%
Deer Valley Middle School	66%
Desert Mountain School	28%
Desert Sage Elementary School	34%
Desert Sky Middle School	53%
Desert Winds Elementary School	68%
Diamond Canyon Elementary	15%
Esperanza Elementary School	63%

[32]United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009, August). National School Lunch Fact Sheets. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/AboutLunch/NSLPFactSheet.pdf

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2013/2014 School Year (Cont.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2013/14
Deer Valley Unified School District (Cont.)	
Gavilan Peak Elementary	15%
Greenbrier Elementary School	31%
Highland Lakes School	25%
Hillcrest Middle School	18%
Las Brisas Elementary School	18%
Legend Springs Elementary	16%
Mirage Elementary School	63%
Mountain Ridge High School	13%
Mountain Shadows Elementary School	52%
New River Elementary School	34%
Norterra Canyon K-8	21%
Park Meadows Elementary School	57%
Paseo Hills Elementary	56%
Sandra Day O'Connor High School	15%
Sierra Verde Elementary	18%
Stetson Hills Elementary	19%
Sunrise Elementary School	78%
Sunset Ridge Elementary	15%
Terramar Elementary	17%
Village Meadows Elementary School	83%
West Wing Elementary	12%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	
Aire Libre Elementary School	75%
Arrowhead Elementary School	78%
Boulder Creek Elementary School	12%
Cactus View Elementary School	65%
Campo Bello Elementary School	81%
Copper Canyon Elementary School	6%
Desert Cove Elementary School	37%
Desert Shadows Elementary School	17%
Desert Shadows Middle School	13%
Desert Springs Preparatory Elementary School	15%
Desert Trails Elementary School	10%
Eagle Ridge Elementary School	55%
Echo Mountain Intermediate School	89%
Echo Mountain Primary School	81%
Explorer Middle School	7%
Fireside Elementary School	5%
Grayhawk Elementary School	4%
Greenway Middle School	90%
Hidden Hills Elementary School	49%
Horizon High School	9%
Indian Bend Elementary School	74%
Larkspur Elementary School	73%
Liberty Elementary School	21%
Mercury Mine Elementary School	22%
Mountain Trail Middle School	24%
North Canyon High School	50%
North Ranch Elementary School	14%

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2013/2014 School Year (Cont.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2013/14
Paradise Valley Unified School District (Cont.)	
Palomino Intermediate School	98%
Palomino Primary School	93%
Paradise Valley High School	46%
Pinnacle High School	9%
Pinnacle Peak Elementary School	5%
Polaris High School	50-54%
Quail Run Elementary School	22%
Roadrunner School	41%
Sandpiper Elementary School	15%
Shadow Mountain High School	32%
Shea Middle School	43%
Sonoran Sky Elementary School	7%
Sunrise Middle School	33%
Sunset Canyon School	53%
Vista Verde Middle School	64%
Whispering Wind Academy	41%
Wildfire Elementary School	4%
Washington Elementary School District	
Abraham Lincoln Traditional School	49%
Acacia Elementary School	74%
Alta Vista Elementary School	85%
Arroyo Elementary School	76%
Cactus Wren Elementary School	79%
Chaparral Elementary School	67%
Cholla Middle School	78%
Desert Foothills Middle School	62%
Desert View Elementary School	90%
Gompers Center for the Handicapped	>80%
Ironwood Elementary School	65%
John Jacobs Elementary School	68%
Lakeview Elementary School	82%
Latch School - CNP Washington ESD	51%
Lookout Mountain School	26%
Manzanita Elementary School	84%
Maryland Elementary School	83%
Moon Mountain School	82%
Mountain Sky Middle School	59%
Mountain View Elementary School	90%
Ocotillo School	82%
Orangewood School	80%
Palo Verde Middle School	86%
Richard E Miller School	86%
Roadrunner Elementary School	85%
Royal Palm Middle School	87%
Sahuaro School	79%
Shaw Butte School	88%
Sunburst School	66%
Sunnyslope Elementary School	91%
Sunset School	80%

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2013/2014 School Year (Cont.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2013/14
Washington Elementary School District	
Sweetwater School	62%
Tumbleweed Elementary School	79%
Washington Elementary School	89%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *National school lunch program and school breakfast program.* Received from First Things First.

> **"AT THE FOOD BANKS WE ARE SEEING MORE AND MORE WORKING FAMILIES** who are just not earning enough, an increasing number of military families, and aging baby boomers—more seniors are coming. We do not have enough food for people. They can only access the food bank once a month. We do not like to deny food to any family, so we try not to turn people away, but we often will ration food instead."
>
> *- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks*

Housing Affordability and Foreclosures

Why It Is Important

The physical condition of a home, the neighborhood in which it is located, and the cost of rent or mortgage are strongly associated with the health, wellbeing, educational achievement, and economic success of those who live inside the home. A study by Children's Health Watch found that children of families that were behind on their mortgage/rent in the past year were more likely to be in poor health and have an increased risk of developmental delays than children whose families were stably housed.[33]

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of affordable housing is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Individuals who spend more than 30% of their income on housing may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Many families across the country have been negatively affected by the mortgage crisis. When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally.

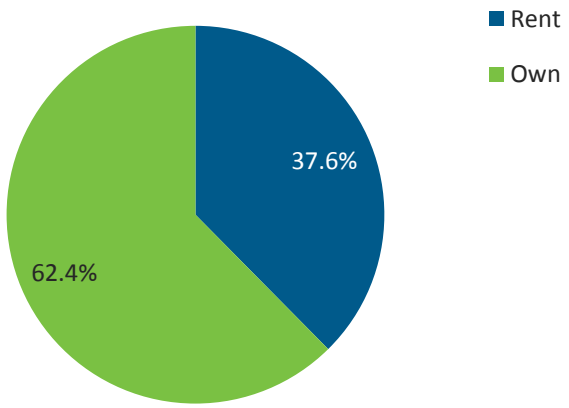
[33] Children's Health Watch. (2011). Behind closed doors: The hidden health impacts of being behind on rent. Retrieved from http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/

While not all children who experience a foreclosure will become homeless, they often experience the same increased mobility associated with homelessness.[34]

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of occupied housing units in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were owner-occupied representing about two-thirds of all units, according to 2007-2011 estimates.

Owner vs Renter Occupied Units, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

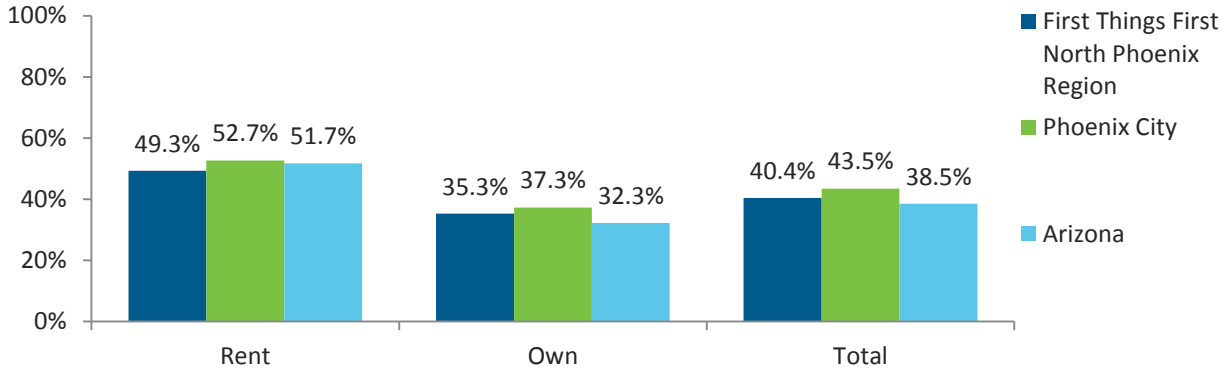


N=201,927 occupied units
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table DP04- Selected housing characteristics 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey.* Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov/.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

[34] Lovell, P. and Isaacs, J. (2008). *The Impact of the Mortgage Crisis on Children and Their Education*. First Focus, Brookings Institute. Retrieved June 29 2010 from http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04_mortgage_crisis_isaacs.aspx

Although HUD recommends spending no more than 30% of one's income on housing costs, about 40% of residents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region and the state overall reported spending more than 30%, according to 2007-2011 estimates. Renters in the region, the city of Phoenix and Arizona spent more of their income on housing than did residents who own.

Percentage of Residents Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table DP04- Selected housing characteristics 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey.* Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov/.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

The foreclosure rate in the First Things First North Phoenix region has decreased in recent years. The foreclosure rate is slightly higher in Maricopa County than in Arizona overall (1 in 929 compared to 1 in 1,305). The highest rate of foreclosure in the First Things First North Phoenix Region was in the 85053 zip code, with 1 in 930 homes in foreclosure in February 2014.

Foreclosures by ZIP Code, First Things First North Phoenix Region, February 2014

ZIP CODES	NUMBER	RATE
85020	188	1 in 2,253
85021	149	1 in 1,648
85022	227	1 in 1,386
85023	146	1 in 1,271
85024	124	1 in 1,709
85027	285	1 in 1,557
85028	57	1 in 1,474
85029	251	1 in 1,046
85032	340	1 in 2,328
85050	104	1 in 1,277
85051	273	1 in 1,295
85053	224	1 in 930
85054	46	1 in 3,622
85083	63	1 in 1,041
85085	76	1 in 995
85086	228	1 in 1,112
85087	53	1 in 2,988
Maricopa County	**1,061**	**1 in 929**
Arizona	NA	1 in 1,305

Source: RealtyTrac. (2014). Retrieved 2014 from http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter/az-trend.html
Note: The foreclosure rate is calculated by dividing the total housing units (based on the most recent estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau) by the total number of properties that received foreclosure filings during the month.

Homelessness

Why It Is Important

Homelessness among young children, and the high mobility often associated with homelessness, can lead to behavior problems and reduced academic success in school.[35] The McKinney-Vento Act ensures that homeless children receive transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless), regardless of what district the family resides in. It requires schools to register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.[36]

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

1. Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing;
2. Children living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;
3. Children living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Children awaiting foster care placement;
5. Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.);
6. Children living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, a bus, or train station.[37]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Madison Street Veterans Association*** offers emergency shelter and day to day shelter for veterans who are homeless. Other programs include job search assistance and a transitional living house for veterans seeking to become more self-sufficient.
- ***Phoenix Shanti Group*** provides housing, education, and client services to individuals, and loved ones affected by HIV/AIDS. Transitional housing is available for those who qualify and both counseling and rehabilitation services are available as well.

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[35] Zerger, S. (2004, February). Health care for homeless Native Americans. *National Health Care for the Homeless Council.* Retrieved June 2010 from http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/FINALHnNativeHealth.pdf

[36] Though the definition of homeless was expanded in 2012 to include those who are unstably housed, or in imminent danger of losing their nighttime residence, the data presented reflect information collected prior to the definitional change.

[37] McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

- ***UMOM New Day Centers*** offer short-term shelter and support services to homeless families. Other programs and populations served are transitional housing for veterans, a shelter for single women, and a child development center for UMOM resident children.
- ***The Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter*** located on S. 12th street, offers temporary housing and other resources to homeless families for up to 90 days. The apartment-style complex includes 18 two bedroom units specifically for adults with children under 18.

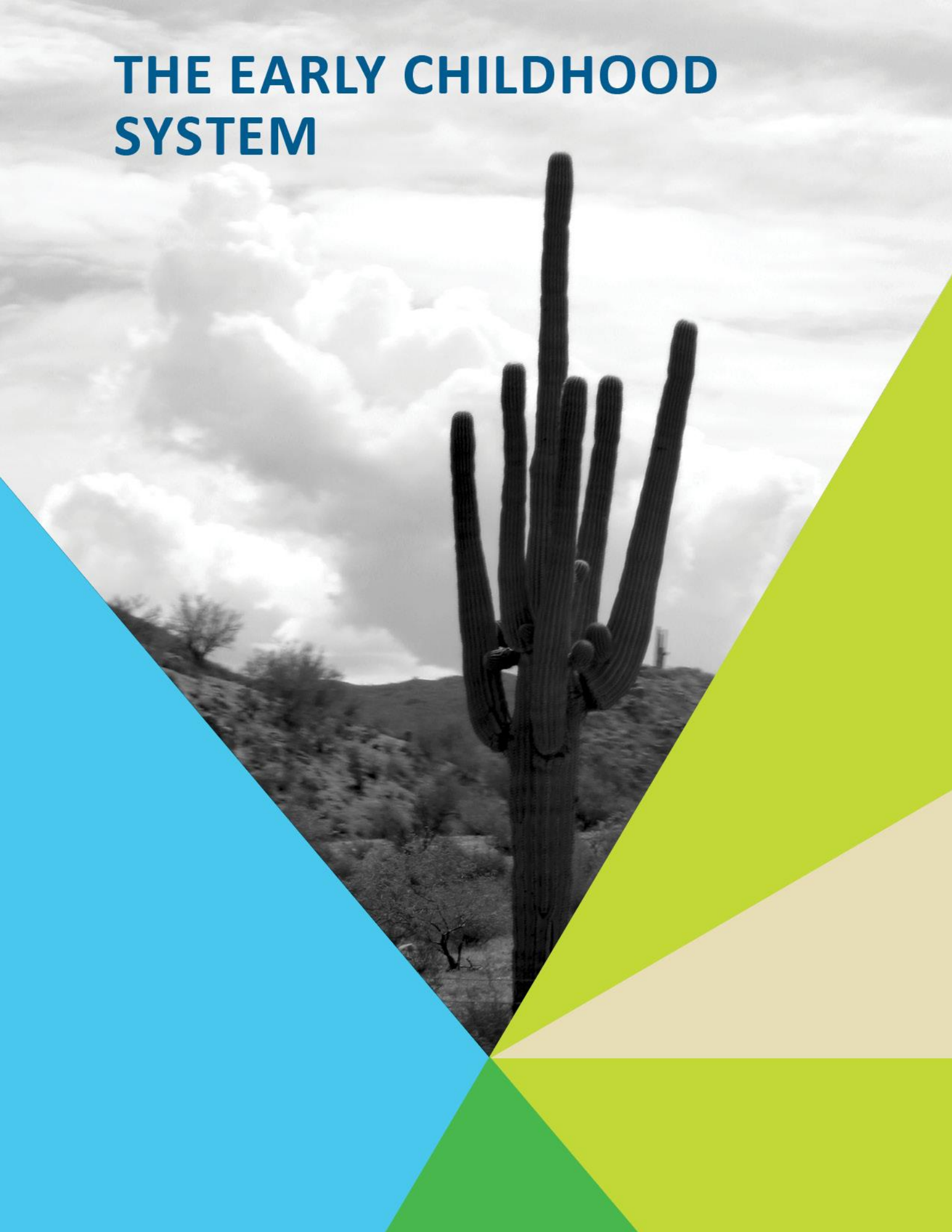
What the Data Tell Us

Homeless Children, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2010	2011	2012	2013
Deer Valley Unified	26	17	34	50
Paradise Valley Unified	90	144	150	146
Washington Elementary	NA[1]	NA[1]	338	375

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). ADE Multidata Database. (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Preschool homeless children include only students attending preschools associated with public school districts.
[1]Washington Elementary data not reported for 2010 and 2011.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



EARLY CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Children begin learning at birth and need quality learning environments that support optimal growth and development. Children exposed to high quality early education are less likely to need additional support later in school, score higher on school readiness tests and are more likely to advance to college.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Early Child Care and Development

- Child Care Access and Enrollment
- Cost of Child Care
- Child Care Providers
- Parent Knowledge of Child Development

Special Needs

- Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services

Education

- School Enrollment
- School Readiness
- 3rd Grade Test Scores
- Graduation Rate
- Educational Attainment
- Family Literacy

Early Child Care and Development

Child Care Access and Enrollment

Why It Is Important

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.[38] Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, provides critical support for working families. Child care choices include center-based facilities, family and child care homes, and informal care by family (kin) and friends (kith).

Family, friend, and neighborhood child care programs are a likely option for parents who cannot afford licensed child care centers or live in areas where licensed child care centers are not available. In Arizona, as many as 50% of children birth through 5 are being cared for by relatives or neighbors.[39] Family, friend, and neighbor programs are used to provide these relatives and neighbors with access to information and training on child development, health, and safety issues.

Quality Child Care is defined by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R) as having the following indicators of quality in a child care program.[40] These apply to centers and home-based programs:

- *Health and Safety*: Meeting the state's health and safety standards. DES Certified Homes, DHS Certified Group Homes, DHS Licensed Child Care Centers and CCR&R Registered Homes are all required to have at least one person that is CPR and First Aid certified.
- *Supervision*: Children having adult supervision at all times, including while sleeping, "to prevent injuries and ensure children are engaged in activities to promote healthy growth and development."
- *Group Sizes*: Matching the child's needs with the right group size to enhance learning.

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[38] U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2010). *Link between child care and academic achievement and behavior persists into adolescence*. Retrieved from http://www.nichd.nih.gov

[39] First Things First. (2011). *Annual report*. Retrieved from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf

[40] Arizona Child Care Resource & Referral. (2014). *Quality indicators – What to look for*. Retrieved from http://www.arizonachildcare.org/families/childcare-indicators.html

- *"Ratios*: The younger the child, the more one-on-one care he/she may need." For DES Certified Homes, there is 1 adult for every 6 children ratio in place. For a DHS Certified Group Home, the rate is 1 adult for every 5 children. For DHS Licensed Child Care Centers, this ratio varies by age and number of children within this age group. For example, for infants, the ratio is 1:5 while the ratio for children 5 years and older is 1:20.
- *"Caregiver Education and Turnover*: An important indicator of quality is the level of education and continuing professional development that the child care provider has. In addition, low staff turnover provides consistency of care for children." Training requirements vary by type of child care. For Certified Homes, there must be at least 6 hours of training per year, while Certified Group Homes and Licensed Child Care Centers must have 12 and 18 hours, respectively.
- *"Accreditation*: Generally, being an accredited program means they follow the national standards with the purpose of meeting higher requirements than the minimum state regulations."
- *"Family Involvement*: Quality programs work closely with parents to ensure that they are kept informed about their child's development, and that they offer family members both planned and unplanned opportunities to observe and participate in activities."

> **"WHEN FAMILIES CAN'T AFFORD CHILD CARE, THEY HAVE TO FACE A CHOICE** of leaving their kids home alone or risk loss of their job. When they can't get health care, they have to cope with sick children or end up in the emergency room after their child becomes even sicker. These are two specific safety net services that were cut and which directly contribute to the number of neglect reports that are received by the Department."
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
    - Funds qualified health professionals to assist child care providers in achieving high health and safety standards for the children in their care.
    - Provides Quality First funding to early care and education centers and homes to improve program quality. Quality First was started by First Things First in 2009 to increase the availability of quality early care and education in child care centers and homes. It is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for programs serving children birth through 5. This system helps providers to: develop lessons focused on early literacy; support teachers in becoming better trained to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; and purchase age-appropriate learning materials. The ratings of nearly 1,000 providers are publicly available to parents across the state at http://qualityfirstaz.com/index.html. The Quality First website provides a checklist that parents can use to help assess the quality of child care centers and homes and the ratings of nearly 1,000 providers. This information can

be found at http://qualityfirstaz.com/parents-and-families/tools-to-help-you-choose/QFChecklist082013-Version1.pdf

- Funds a Quality First Mental Health Warmline for child care providers who need information about mental health services.
- Provides Quality First scholarships to children to attend quality early care and education programs.
- Funds Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) an organization which provides family, friends and neighbors who act as caregivers training and financial resources. It is designed to improve the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes.

- ***The Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)*** helps parents to find quality early care programs in their community. CCR&R maintains a list of child care providers who are licensed by the Department of Health Services, certified by the Department of Economic Security, or registered with the CCR&R. There are providers that are registered with the CCR&R that are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receive CPR and First Aid training. CCR&R helps to match children to programs that fit their needs based on age, personality, special needs, and location. Parents are also provided with a checklist to use when visiting potential child care providers. More information on CCR&R can be found at http://arizonachildcare.org/families/find-quality-childcare.html

- ***The Head Start Program*** is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. Head Start programs are available throughout the Phoenix area. Head Start programs in Arizona annually serve nearly 23,000 children and over 21,500 families through a network of 30 community-based non-profit organizations, Indian Tribal Council, local governments, and school districts. Altogether, Head Start programs provide comprehensive Head Start services at over 500 locations throughout the state.

> ***"WE ONLY SERVE 27% OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START.***
> *We do not come anywhere close to serving all the children who are eligible."*
>
> *- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,*
> *City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division*

What the Data Tell Us

There were 89,727 children birth through 11 living in the First Things First North Phoenix Region according to 2007-2011 estimates. It is estimated that approximately 59,758 of those needed child care. The estimated number of children who needed child care is based on married families with both parents in the work force and single parent families with one parent in the work force. Based on these estimates, 40% of children ages birth through 11 years old who needed care had child care slots available to them in 2013. This left an estimated 35,826 children age birth through 11 without formal child care, forcing parents to look for alternative solutions such as relying on support from friends and family.

Estimated Child Care Need and Availability, First Things First North Phoenix Region

Child Care Indicator	Number
Estimated Number of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force	59,758
Estimated Number of Child Care Slots (Ages 0-12)	23,932
Estimated Percent of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available	**40.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B23008- Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents. *American Community Survey 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.
Note: For more information on how the estimated child care need and availability were calculated please see Appendix A.

There were a total of 238 child care programs in the region with an approved capacity of 23,932 slots for children ages birth through 12 years. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) child care centers had the largest approved capacity in the region, with 14,157 approved child care slots.

Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2014

	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY[2]
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	115	14,157
Child Care Public Schools	65	9,469
Child Care Small Group Homes	16	138
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	13	52
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Registered Child Care Homes[1]	29	116
Total Programs	**238**	**23,932**

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services, Child Care Centers and Small Groups Homes by Zip Code. Retrieved, 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/als/databases/index.htm.
Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (2011). North Phoenix Region CCR&R. Received 2014 from First Things First.
[1]Providers registered with Child Care Resource and Referral are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receiving CPR and First Aid training.
[2]Approved capacity includes slots for children ages birth through 12 years. Therefore, the capacity for children birth through 5 may be less than the values presented. Total programs approved capacity may be less than the values presented as the total does not include approved capacity from certified and unregulated child care homes.

Quality First – a signature program of First Things First – partners with regulated early child care providers to make quality, research-based improvements, to help children birth through 5 thrive. Quality First has provided education for teachers to expand their expertise in working with young children. As of May 2014, there were over 900 Quality First early care and education settings in the state of Arizona. These programs serve just over 50,000 children between the ages of 0-5, approximately 9% of the 0-5 population.

There were approximately 6,230 children birth through 5 enrolled in a Quality First Program in the First Things First North Phoenix Region as of May 30, 2014. Less than one-quarter of children were enrolled in Quality First sites with a star rating of 3-5.

Quality First Enrollment by Quality First Star Ratings, First Things First North Phoenix Region

QUALITY FIRST RATING	0-2 YEARS OLD	3-5 YEARS OLD	SPECIAL NEEDS & SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	PROVIDERS
1-2 Stars[1]	1,998	2,713	101	4,812	NA
3-5 Stars[2]	522	846	50	1,418	NA
Total	**2,520**	**3,559**	**151**	**6,230**	**86**

Source: Arizona First Things First. (2014). *Personal correspondence with program representative.* Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Data on enrollment pulled May 30, 2014. Data on providers pulled June 20, 2014.
Note: Enrollment data are self-reported by the child care provider. Child enrollment numbers do not include children with special needs.
[1]Committed or approaching quality standards.
[2]Meets or exceeds quality standards.

The Head Start Program is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. In 2012-2013 Head Start served almost 2,000 children in the Phoenix area; Early Head Start served more than 1,200; and Migrant Head Start served over 800.

> **"WE ARE SEEING MORE NEWLY QUALIFYING FAMILIES FOR HEAD START.**
> They had good jobs, but then they lost them in the economic crisis.
> They do not even know how to access services, and they need support around the guilt and embarrassment of applying for services."
>
> *- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,*
> *City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division*

Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Phoenix Area[1], 2012-13

	EARLY HEAD START	HEAD START	MIGRANT HEAD START
Enrollment			
Funded Enrollment[2]	836	1,653	840
Cumulative Enrollment[3]	1,203	1,912	840
Age			
Pregnant Women	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Less than 1 Year Old	28.7%	0.0%	8.1%
1 Year Old	32.7%	0.0%	11.5%
2 Years Old	33.4%	0.1%	18.0%
3 Years Old	1.6%	29.6%	28.0%
4 Years Old	0.0%	70.3%	34.4%
Demographics			
Income Eligible	84.3%	88.4%	89.5%
Receipt of Public Assistance	9.4%	6.7%	1.5%
Foster Children	1.4%	0.8%	0.2%
Homeless	3.3%	1.7%	0.6%
Over Income	1.6%	2.4%	8.1%

Source: Arizona Head Start. (2013). Head Start Program Information Reports. (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from Arizona Head Start.
[1]Phoenix Area data include the following Head Start grantees: Chicanos Por La Causa, Southwest Human Development, City of Phoenix, and Crisis Nursery, Inc.
[2]The term "funded enrollment" refers to the number of children and pregnant women that are supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year. Funded enrollment numbers include enrollment slots funded by State or other funds when used by grantees as required nonfederal match.
[3]The term "cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant women that Head Start programs serve throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the Program Information Report (PIR), than indicated by the funded enrollment numbers.

"WE SEE TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE CHILDREN THAT COME TO HEAD START, especially in language, literacy and math. They come in really low, but then they have the greatest gains in those three areas. One kindergarten teacher told me that she can always pick out the Head Start students in her classroom. They are much more prepared to start kindergarten than their peers who haven't had the benefit of quality preschool."

- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,
City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division

Cost of Child Care

Why It Is Important

Child care can be very costly for families. The cost of child care has grown twice as fast as the median income of families with children in the United States since 2000.[41] However, some families are benefiting from local child care programs and subsidies that significantly lessen these costs. For those who qualify, Head Start child care is provided at no cost to parents. Low-income parents who are working, in job training, or in school can receive child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The statutory limit for eligibility for child care assistance is 85% of the state median income. In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security (DES) administrates CCDF subsidies. In addition to CCDF subsidies, Arizona was the first in the nation to launch a statewide scholarship program through its First Things First Emergency Child Care Scholarships.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
    - Funds Quality First Child Care Scholarships that enable children from low-income families to attend quality early care and education programs.
- ***Department of Economic Security (DES) Subsidies*** assist eligible families in Arizona with child care costs, enabling parents to participate in employment and specific education and training activities related to employment or in certain other circumstances when parents are unable to provide care. Families may choose from a variety of child care providers including Department of Health Services (DHS) licensed child care centers, DHS-certified child care group homes, DES-certified small family child care homes, and in some instances, non-certified relatives.

What the Data Tell Us

The median daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from $20.00 for an approved child care home to $42.50 for center based care, in 2012. For part-time child care, the median daily cost ranged from $10.00 to $33.40. Having a child under one in child care was more costly than having a child age one through five.

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[41] McSweeney, T. (January 29, 2010). Helping Middle Class Families with Soaring Child Care Costs. In the White House. Retrieved July 1, 2010 from www.thewhitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/29/helping-middle-class-families-with-soaring-child-care-costs.

Median Daily Cost of Child Care, Maricopa County, 2012

AGE OF CHILD	CENTERS	APPROVED HOMES	CERTIFIED GROUP HOMES	UNREGULATED HOMES
Full Time				
Children Under One	$42.50	$20.00	$30.00	$30.00
1 and 2 Year Olds	$39.07	$20.00	$26.00	$30.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds	$34.00	$20.00	$26.00	$30.00
Part Time				
Children Under One Year Old	$33.40	$12.00	$20.23	$20.00
1 and 2 Year Olds	$31.20	$12.00	$20.00	$20.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds	$24.50	$10.00	$19.00	$20.00

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2012). Market Rate Survey. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Part-time is fewer than 6 hours a day.
Note: Data presented are for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's District 1, Maricopa County.

For decades, Arizona has assisted eligible families with a portion of the cost of child care through a voucher program that the legislature established under welfare reform. Assistance is provided to three categories of families: 1) Child Protective Services (CPS) and foster care related, 2) Welfare to Work, and 3) Low income working families struggling to support their children and stay off welfare. CPS and welfare-related child care are considered mandatory and not subject to the waiting list.[42]

In February 2009, the state began turning away all eligible low income working families by placing them on a waiting list. To date, all state funds have been eliminated from the subsidy; the subsidy was cut $81 million, a 40% reduction overall; 22,300 fewer children are being served; over 33,000 children have been denied; children from low income working families have been reduced 70%; 7,200 children are on the waiting list (this does not reflect the total need); and 2,800 jobs are already lost – including teachers no longer employed due to budget cuts.[43]

The number of children receiving Department of Economic Security (DES) child care subsidies in the First Things First North Phoenix Region decreased from 2,328 children in 2009 to 1,330 in 2012, a loss for nearly 1,000 children.

[42] Arizona Child Care Association. (2013, May 10). Status of child care subsidy. Retrieved from http://azcca.org/category/des-news
[43] Ibid.

Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

	2009	2010	2011	2012
North Phoenix Region				
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies	3,098	1,837	1,692	1,529
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies	2,328	1,412	1,500	1,330
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies	75.2%	76.9%	88.7%	87.0%
Arizona				
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies	38,126	23,244	21,511	19,426
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies	29,089	17,891	17,596	17,765
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies	76.3%	77.0%	81.8%	89.9%

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Child care subsidies]. Unpublished data. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data are reported as of January of each year.

Child Care Providers

Why It Is Important

The preparation and ongoing professional development of early child care professionals is closely linked to increased student learning and development.[44] According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, teachers who have good preparation in early childhood education can apply their knowledge of child development, use appropriate teaching strategies, meet the social/emotional demands of young children, understand children's thinking, know how to build student learning over time, and understand language and literacy developments.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*:
  - Provides TEACH scholarships to help child care center teachers, directors, and providers obtain their Early Childhood Associate's Degree or Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate. The program offers recipients with support for tuition, books, travel, and paid release time.
  - Offers professional REWARD$ to help retain qualified teachers to care for and educate young children. The program was launched in FY 2010 and provides each recipient with financial incentives ranging from $300 to $2,000.

[44] Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

- Works with Paradise Valley Community College to provide education and training in community settings for early care and education professionals.
- Funds mental health consultation for teachers and caregivers.
- Funds qualified health professionals who assist child care providers in achieving high standards related to health and safety for the children in their care. Improves the health and safety of children in a variety of child care settings.
- Funds Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) an organization which provides family, friends and neighbors who act as caregivers training and financial resources. It is designed to improve the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes.

What the Data Tell Us

There are a number of programs in or close to the First Things First North Phoenix Region offering programs in Early Childhood Education. There are also a number of online programs offered by colleges in Arizona.

ECE Professional Development Programs, First Things First North Phoenix Region

COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION	DEGREE	DEGREE NAME	LOCATION
Maricopa Community Colleges	Child and Family Professional Development	Academic Certificate	Chandler- Gilbert Mesa Rio Salado Scottsdale
Maricopa Community Colleges	Child Development Associate Preparation	Certificate of Completion	Glendale Paradise Valley
Maricopa Community Colleges	Child and Family Organizations Management and Administration	Certificate of Completion	Glendale Rio Salado
Phoenix College	Courses and Easy Transfer	Early Childhood Education	Phoenix and Online
Arizona State University	B.A. M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education	Online
Childcare Education Institute	C.D.A. Certificate	Child Development Associate	Online
Northern Arizona University	B.A.S. B.S.Ed. M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online Flagstaff Flagstaff
Prescott College	B.A. B.A.	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Special Education	Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ

ECE Professional Development Programs, First Things First North Phoenix Region (Cont.)

COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION	DEGREE	DEGREE NAME	LOCATION
Rio Salado College	Certificate	Early Childhood Education	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Learning and Development	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Administration and Management	Online
	A.T.P.	Early Childhood Teacher Education	Online
University of Phoenix	M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). College or institution website searches.

Parent Knowledge of Child Development

Why It Is Important

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.[45] The Arizona Parent Kit is offered to families statewide, including new parents in hospitals. It includes instructional DVDs, resource guides, helpline information, and a baby book to inform and empower new parents.

> **"IT'S HARD TO REACH ALL THE VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO NEED SUPPORT** in this region, so we are starting a train the trainers program for mothers about early childhood development, so that mothers can be trained to offer other mothers support in their own homes. Maybe once the mothers see that they are really smart and capable, they will be able to get more education, and expand into better jobs."
>
> *- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation*

[45]The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *In Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

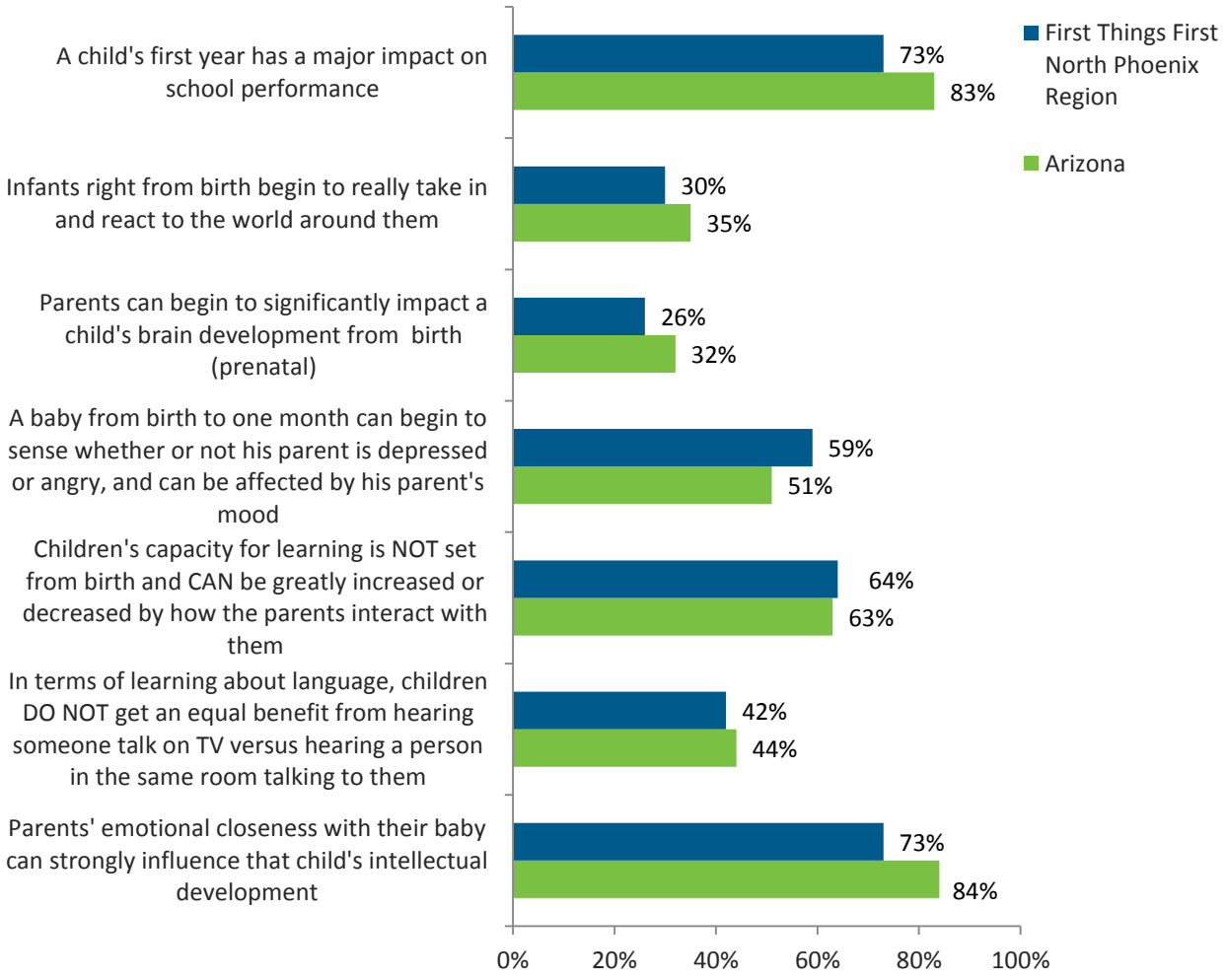
Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
    - Funds in-home visitation support and parenting education to help parents of children birth through 5 reduce stress, enhance family functioning, promote healthy child development, and engage in positive parent-child interactions.
    - Works with the Deer Valley Unified School District, Washington Elementary School District, and Paradise Valley Unified School District, to provide local resource centers that offer information, referral, training, and education to families of children birth through 5. These resources are also offered at two family resource centers located in community organizations, rather than school districts, in the North Phoenix Region.
- ***The North Central Parenting Group*** is a non-profit organization that provides fee-based parenting skills classes on topics such as nutrition and child development.
- ***New Directions Institute*** offers parents and caregivers workshops on child development and school readiness.
- ***Father Matters*** offers monthly programs and workshops, including Fathers Mentoring Fathers, Teen Fatherhood, Financial Literacy, and Court and Custody. The organization also offers a weekly parenting class called "Parenting across Cultures" that focuses on strengthening multi-ethnic families and communities.
- ***Friendly House*** provides in-home training and instruction in child care, behavior management, child development, household management and non-violent parent/child interactions. It also provides some in-home counseling for individuals and families, and in-office crisis counseling.
- ***Catholic Charities'*** services for families include counseling on a variety of topics, including parenting and family conflict.
- ***Amigos Center,*** a satellite program of the Wesley Community Center, offers child development programs for local residents.

What the Data Tell Us

Seventy-three percent of First Things First North Phoenix parent survey respondents in 2012 understood that a child's first year has a major impact on school performance. Seventy-three percent of parents believed that parent's emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence their child's intellectual development; lower than the state at 84%. Only 26% of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region responded that a parent can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development from prenatal, lower than the state at 32%.

Parent Understanding of Child's Cognitive Development, 2012

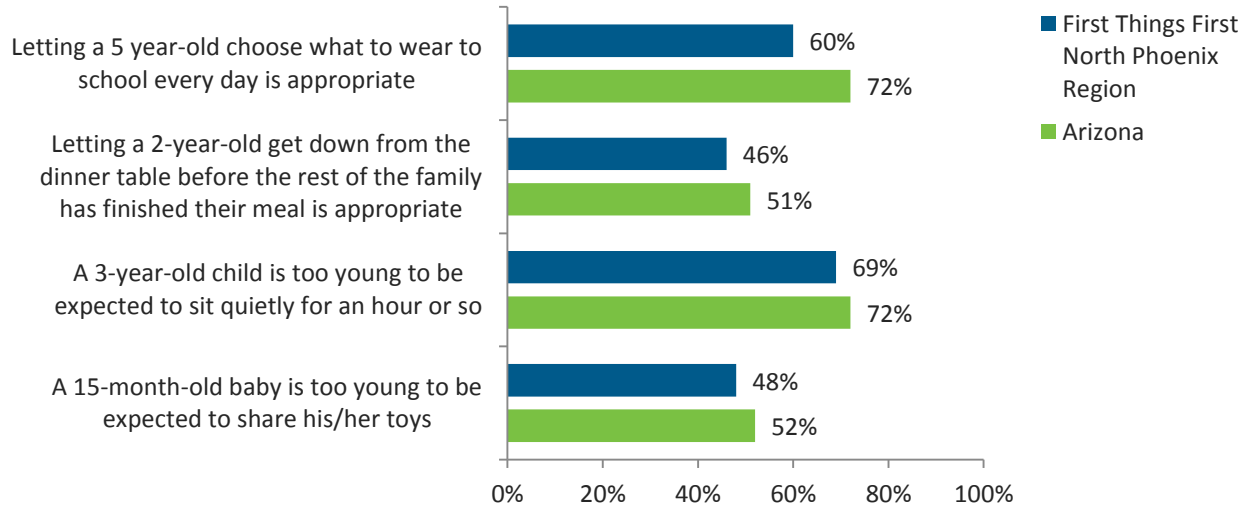


n=200

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ. Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Roughly half (48%) of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region knew a 15-month-old was too young to be expected to share their toys. Forty-six percent knew that it was appropriate to let a two year old get down from the table before other family members had finished their dinner. A higher percentage of parents understood that a 3-year-old was too young to be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so (69%).

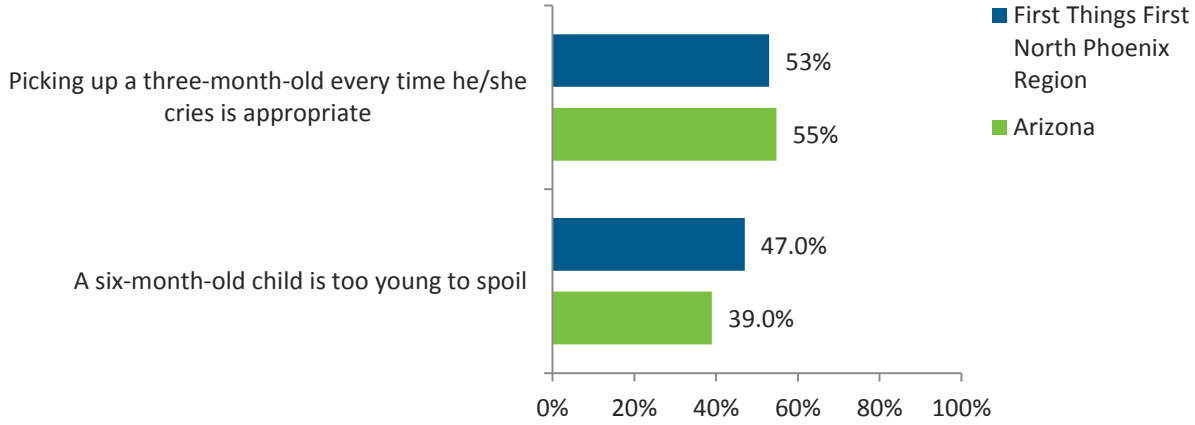
Parent Understanding of Child's Social and Emotional Development, 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

Parents in the region needed more information on the social and emotional development of children. Less than half of parents understood that a six-month-old child was too young to spoil and only slightly more than half thought it was appropriate to pick up a three-month-old every time he/she cried.

Parent Knowledge of Child's Social and Emotional Development, 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

Special Needs

Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services

Why It Is Important

Early identification of children with special needs helps ensure these children get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.[46] Developmental screenings, including oral health, vision, cognitive development and auditory screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth, setting them up for success by identifying early on when services are needed.

The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development unit helps to improve outcomes for students with disabilities through with teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development. They work to improve the knowledge, skills, and services of staff in all school districts and charter schools in Arizona.

The Arizona State Performance Plan is dedicated to improving achievement for students with disabilities and assisting schools in complying with indicators like preschool placements and outcomes.

On July 1, 2013, Raising Special Kids and the ADE Parent Information Network (PIN) merged their parent training activities to create a "one-stop shop" for parents to increase their knowledge and skills for participation and decision-making in special education. The resources formerly provided by the PIN, including documents, trainings, and the lending library, are now available through Raising Special Kids. The program serves every county in Arizona by providing essential information to parents to be active participants in all areas of their child's special education (free resources, trainings, workshops, and consultations).

State budget cuts have led to dramatic reductions or complete eliminations in behavioral health services (also known as mental health services). Over 4,600 children have lost behavioral health services completely. Four thousand children served by the Children's Rehabilitation Services program lost medical services and therapies in 2009 that may result in long-term health impairment.

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[46] Steele, M.M. (2004). Making the Case for Early Identification and Intervention for Young Children at Risk for Learning Disabilities, *Early Childhood Education Journal*, Vol. 32, 2, 75-79.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
  - Funds the ***EAR Foundation of Arizona*** to provide children with developmental screenings and referrals for follow up services. These services increase children's access to preventive health care and help to identify potential learning problems early on.
- ***Arizona Literacy and Learning Center*** offers a variety of literacy, speech, reading, and auditory services for children who have literacy/dyslexia and other language-based disorders. Children are given screenings and matched with programs meeting their needs in an effort to allow them to meet their potential.
- ***The Foundation for Blind Children*** offers a wide range of support to visually impaired children and their families in Arizona. The Foundation's services include information, education and support for infants birth through 3, recreational activities, family support groups, and shared activities for parents and children. They also assist with advocacy in schools and with social service providers.
- ***Phoenix Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation*** offers services to help restore sight and/or hearing to those who lack assistance from another agency. Vision and hearing screenings are held through schools and health fairs and equipment is provided to preschoolers, kindergartners, and seniors at no cost.
- ***VALLEYLIFE*** offers a variety of programs for children and adults with special needs in an effort to help them lead lives filled with choices, independence, and dignity. Programs include, but are not limited to, residential housing assistance, adult day centers, vocational training, and in-home support for those seeking assistance in caring for a loved one.

What the Data Tell Us

While there were a limited number of Audiologists in the First Things First North Phoenix Region (3), there were a number of Speech Language Pathologists (211) and Speech Language Assistants (46) in the area in 2014.

Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First North Phoenix Region

TYPE OF PROVIDER	2009	2014
Audiologists	4	3
Speech Language Assistant	46	46
Speech Language Pathologists	183	211

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2014). [Provider databases]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Data based on number of providers with a license that are registered with a zip code in the Central Phoenix Region.

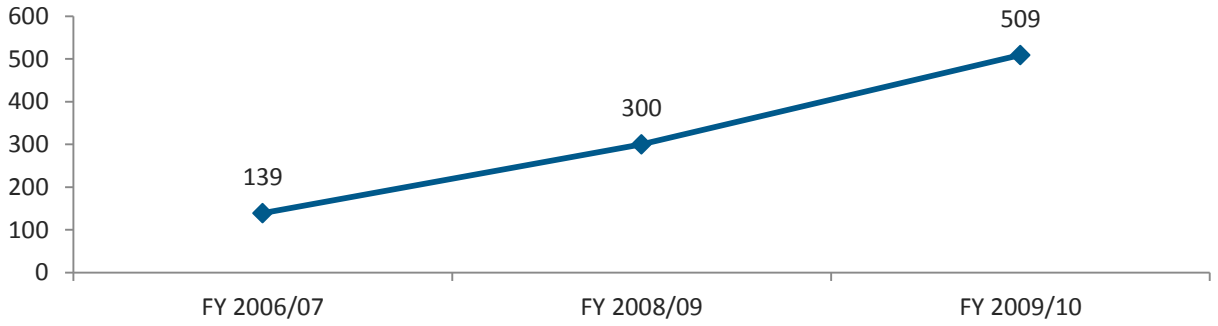
The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) provides early intervention and interagency support to toddlers and infants who may be experiencing developmental delays or disabilities. AzEIP provides Early Intervention services to children birth to three, using a team-based

approach. The team's focus is on collaborative coaching of families as the primary intervention strategy. The family and team work together to implement goals that achieve important functional outcomes in natural environments.

State funding for early intervention services was eliminated in November 2010 and federal stimulus was used to backfill state funding cuts. As a result, families must share some cost in order to receive services, a practice which may deter many from obtaining services until children turn three years old, when the local school districts assume responsibility for services for children with disabilities.

There were 509 children receiving AzEIP services in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2009/10. This number increased from 139 children in 2006/2007.

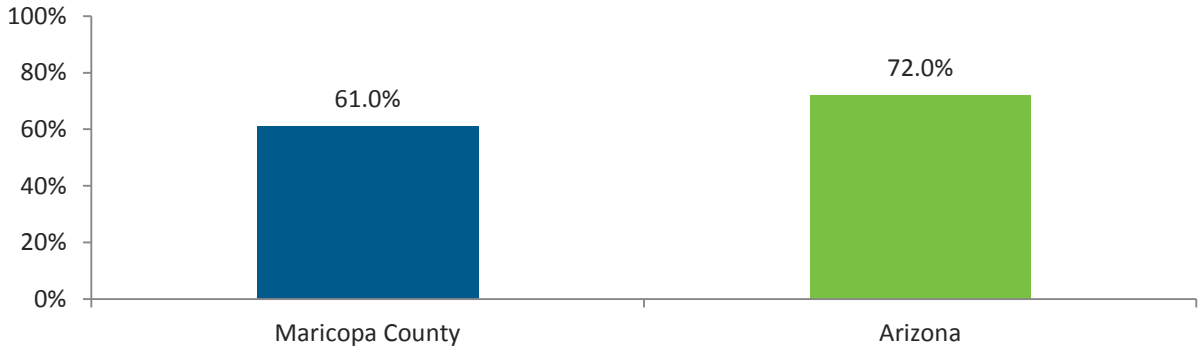
Children Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Arizona early intervention program (AzEIP) Services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

A component of the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services for children with special needs is the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of referral to AzEIP. Sixty-one percent of infant and toddlers in Maricopa County with IFSPs received it within 45 days of referral, which is lower than Arizona at 72%.

Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Received it Within 45 Days of Referral, 2009/2010

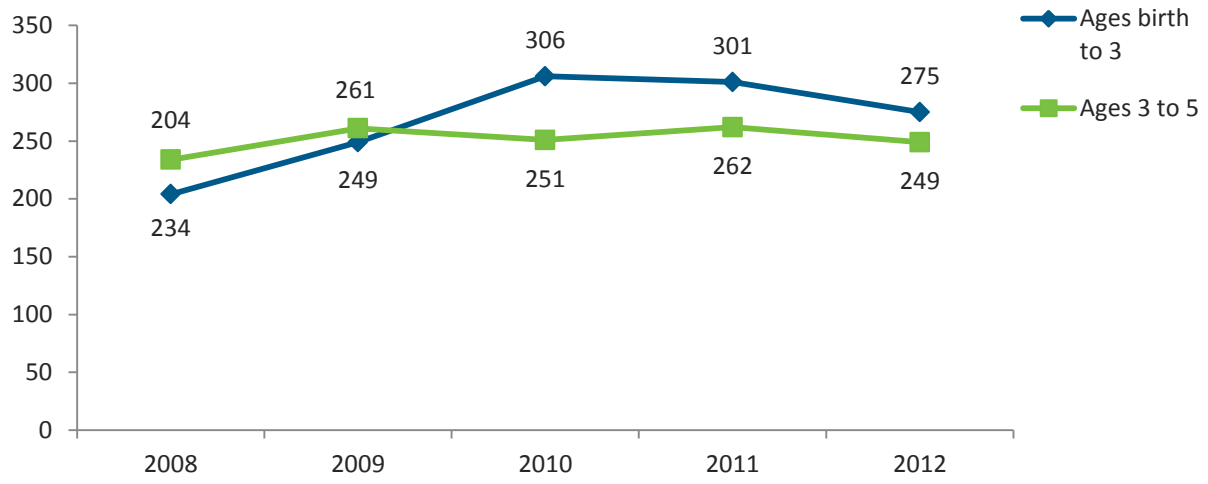


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2010 from https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx.
Note: 2009 data are cases serviced between 04/01/2009 and 06/30/2010.
Note: Data are most recent year available.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is a department for children under the age of six who may be experiencing developmental delays (including epilepsy, autism, cerebral palsy or cognitive intellectual disability), or adults who were diagnosed under the age of 18. DDD provides services and programs to eligible individuals and coordinates services and resources through a central administrative office.

In 2012, there were more children under three years of age receiving services from the DDD than there were children ages three through five.

Children Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). [Children receiving division of developmental disabilities services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.
Note: Children are eligible for DDD services if they are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

From 2010 to 2013, the percentage of children in the First Things First North Phoenix Region school districts who were receiving special education remained fairly constant for all three school districts. Only Deer Valley Unified had a slight increase, from 9% to 11%.

Students Identified and Receiving Special Education, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

	2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Deer Valley Unified	1,851	9.4%	1,845	9.9%	1,832	10.1%	1,890	10.6%
Paradise Valley	2,522	14.0%	2,451	13.6%	2,521	14.0%	2,530	14.0%
Washington Elementary	2,713	14.6%	2,578	14.6%	2,500	14.1%	2,646	14.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). [Special education]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Education

Children's success in school is improved by a combination of promoting physical and mental health, increasing literacy, and enhancing social and emotional skills. Typically, children who do well in school have early literacy skills and higher social and emotional skills at entry to kindergarten. However, Arizona students scored below the national average on every subject at every grade level tested, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).[47]

School Enrollment

Why It Is Important

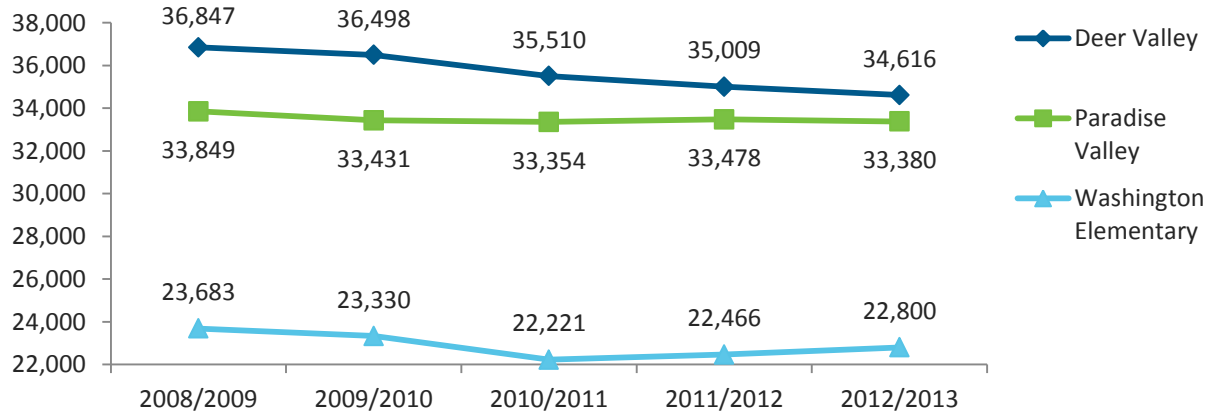
School enrollment data are used to determine school funding and to plan for services and programs for students.

The First Things First North Phoenix Region is composed of three public school districts: Deer Valley Unified, Paradise Valley Unified, and Washington Elementary. There are also additional charters schools in the area. The First Things First North Phoenix Region also overlaps a small piece of the Madison Unified District, though the children they serve primarily live in other areas.

What the Data Tell Us

Just over 2,000 preschool children and more than 7,400 kindergarteners were served by the three districts in school year 2012/13. Between 2008/09 and 2012/13, enrollment for preschool increased in Deer Valley and Paradise Valley Unified School Districts. Total enrollment decreased slightly in all three regional school districts during the same five year period.

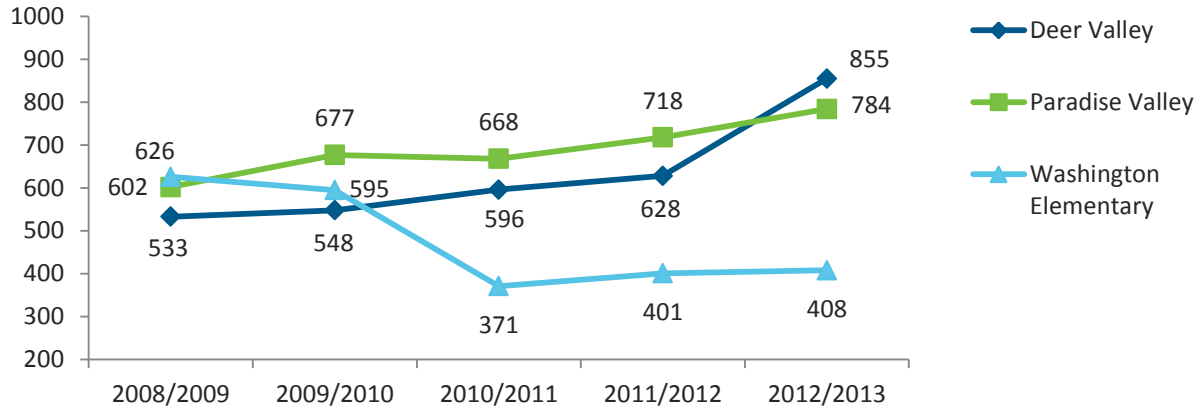
Total Enrollment, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts



Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). Research and Evaluation. Retrieved from http://www.ade.state.az.us/.

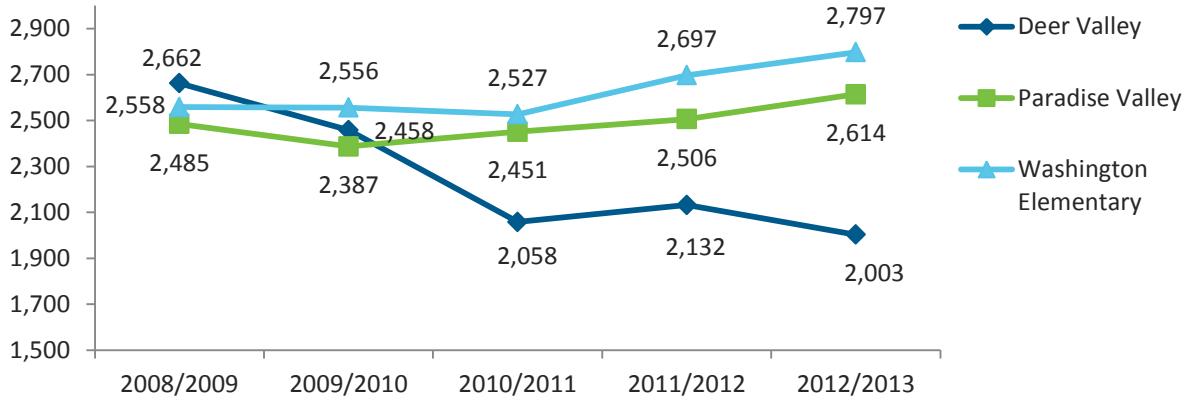
[47] Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org

Preschool Enrollment, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts



Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research and Evaluation. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.ade.state.az.us/.

Kindergarten Enrollment, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts



Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research and Evaluation. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.ade.state.az.us/.

The First Things First North Phoenix Region is also home to a number of charter schools. These charter schools served nearly 9,500 children in 2013.

Total Enrollment, First Things First North Phoenix Region Charter Schools

	2011	2012	2013
Great Hearts Academies - Anthem Prep	180	265	271
Arizona Montessori Charter School of Anthem dba Caurus Academy	254	292	277
Hearn Academy, The - A Ball Charter School	472	482	512
BASIS Phoenix	NA	NA	292
Imagine Bell Canyon	378	434	408
Benchmark School	408	420	400
Adams Traditional Academy	365	496	633
Imagine Cortez Park Middle	80	96	79
Imagine East Mesa Elementary	596	661	664
EduPreneurship Student Center (ESC) Phoenix	63	69	72
Imagine Avondale Elementary	486	NA	NA
Imagine Camelback Elementary	469	523	538
Imagine Coolidge Elementary	529	679	720
Imagine Surprise Middle	NA	NA	73
Havasu Preparatory Academy	NA	NA	206
South Pointe Junior High School	NA	96	58
Madison Heights Elementary School	470	528	510
Madison Richard Simis School	1,067	1,053	1,029
Milestones Charter School	268	249	237
Inspire Education, A Mission Charter School	49	158	87
Mission Schools	86	NA	NA
Montessori Day Public Schools Chartered - Mountainside	152	167	174
Imagine Cortez Park Elementary	577	621	621
Imagine Charter School at Sierra Vista	351	411	301
Reid Traditional Schools' Painted Rock Academy	NA	NA	266
Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy	NA	NA	676
Sage Academy	NA	76	117
South Pointe Junior High School	66	NA	NA
Stepping Stones Academy	142	139	161
Bennett Academy - Venture Site	NA	NA	100
Venture Academy	71	73	NA
Valley Academy	681	690	NA
Westwind Middle School	9	5	NA
Total Students	**8,269**	**8,683**	**9,482**

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). ADE Multidata Database. (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: The schools listed above are located within the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

School Readiness

Why It Is Important

Children, who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, and are more successful in their careers. They are also less likely to be involved in crime and drugs.[48] A study of high needs schools showed that of children who were ready for kindergarten, 62% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3rd grade. Of children who were not ready for kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3rd grade. Typically, children will not make up the learning gap that they started off with when they entered kindergarten.[49]

> **"FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN TO BE SCHOOL READY,**
> we must first address the issue of poverty and adverse childhood experiences, to reduce the corrosive effects of those conditions on childhood development."
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

In Arizona, children's literacy and reading skills, between kindergarten and 6th grade, are currently assessed by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). While the DIBELS assessments only measure skills related to the letter knowledge component of kindergarten readiness, they provide some picture of how well children are prepared for school.

First Things First (FTF) is committed to understanding and improving children's health and development from birth to the beginning of kindergarten. The adoption of 10 School Readiness Indicators that address health, development, and education for young children are explicitly designed to evaluate Arizona's progress on eliminating disparities in child outcomes and closing the opportunity and readiness gap. The first of the 10 indicators is a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) across the five domains of learning. A KEA provides families, teachers and schools with a holistic look at what children know and are able to do.

Over the past year, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), working in collaboration with the State Board of Education, FTF and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust have led efforts to move forward on developing and implementing a KEA, which once adopted in Arizona, will be called the Kindergarten Development Inventory (KDI). In FY 2015, initial pilot tests in a small number of schools will begin with the draft assessment. More extensive field testing is anticipated in FY

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[48] Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. *Big Ideas for Children*. First Focus, Washington, DC.

[49] Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.

2016, as well as convening state experts to review assessment materials, and conducting focus groups and other in-depth forums with parents, teachers, administrators and other constituencies to explain and develop support for the assessments. Arizona will then conduct a formal procurement process to select a common KDI instrument and develop a plan to phase in the assessment and make it available statewide.

What the Data Tell Us

Data regarding school readiness were not readily available for the First Things First North Phoenix Region. School districts in the region were unable to provide data in a consistent format.

3rd Grade Test Scores

Why It Is Important

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child's reading level at the end of 3rd grade. In 3rd grade it is expected that children will show evidence of reading comprehension and be able to read unfamiliar words through various strategies. Reading proficiency at this point prepares the student for 4th grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."[50] The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure 3rd grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

> **"WE COMPARED HEAD START CHILDREN WITH NON HEAD START CHILDREN**
> in one of our school districts by looking at 3rd grade AIMS test scores.
> The Head Start kids were doing better in math and reading—
> you can still see the benefits of Head Start at 3rd grade."
>
> *- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,*
> *City of Phoenix Human Services Department Education Division*

What the Data Tell Us

Eighty-seven percent of 3rd grade students in the Deer Valley Unified School District and 82% of 3rd graders in the Paradise Valley Unified School District were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading in 2013. These scores were higher than student's scores at Washington Elementary School District where nearly one-third of students were below standards in reading.

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[50] Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/

AIMS Reading: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Total Enrolled	Percent Passing	Total Enrolled	Percent Passing	Total Enrolled	Percent Passing	Total Enrolled	Percent Passing	Total Enrolled	Percent Passing
Deer Valley Unified School District	36,047	82%	36,495	83%	35,150	85%	35,009	84%	34,616	87%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	33,849	79%	33,431	81%	33,354	84%	33,478	81%	33,380	82%
Washington Elementary School District	23,683	65%	23,330	67%	22,221	67%	22,466	67%	22,800	65%
Arizona	**1,080,047**	**72%**	**1,071,887**	**73%**	**1,083,348**	**76%**	**1,096,040**	**75%**	**1,102,319**	**75%**

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *School report cards.* Retrieved from http://www.ade.state.az.us.
Note: The percent passing are those that met or exceeded the standard.

Similar to the AIMS 3rd grade reading scores, students at Deer Valley Unified School District and Paradise Valley Unified School Districts scored higher on AIMS math than students at Washington Elementary School District. When comparing 2007 to 2013 data, the AIMS math scores declined in each of the school districts in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

AIMS Math: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard, First Things First North Phoenix Regional School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Deer Valley Unified School District	82%	76%	77%	79%	80%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	81%	73%	78%	75%	75%
Washington Elementary School District	67%	60%	58%	56%	56%
Arizona	**73%**	**65%**	**68%**	**69%**	**68%**

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *School report cards.* Retrieved from http://www10.ade.az.gov.
Note: The percent passing are those that met or exceeded the standard.

Graduation Rate

Why It Is Important

High school graduation is an important indicator of future economic and personal success. Youth who leave high school prior to graduation are more likely to experience lower earnings and unemployment.[51] Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including child abuse, substance abuse, unaddressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.[52]

There are differences in graduation rates by ethnicity in Arizona which may be due to language and cultural barriers, as well as higher poverty rates. It is important to identify the contributing factors to these low graduation rates in order to ensure greater success for all children.[53]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Vestar Branch Boys and Girls Club*** offers after-school programs, before-school programs, and multiple learning centers that offer youth tutoring, homework, and school help. Also offered are summer camps that keep youth engaged in school-related activities.

What the Data Tell Us

Eighty-eight percent of Paradise Valley Unified School District students graduated in 2012. Deer Valley Unified had 91% of their high school students graduating in 2012, an increase from 88% in 2009.

4-Year Graduation Rate, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Deer Valley Unified School District	88.0%	85.6%	88.8%	91.1%	91.0%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	88.0%	88.8%	89.9%	88.5%	88.3%
Arizona	74.9%	76.1%	75.4%	77.9%	76.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d). Research Evaluation Section. Retrieved 2014 from https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad/.
Note: Washington Elementary School District does not have a high school.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

[51] United States Department of Education. (n.d.). Promoting Educational Excellence for all Americans, Questions and Answers on No Child Left Behind. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.ed.gov/
[52] U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth, 2000. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf
[53] Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org

Educational Attainment

Why It Is Important

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success. Those who obtain a high school diploma, or further education, have better employment opportunities. Low educational attainment is also associated with lower income or poverty. Limited education, employment and income can all impact other quality of life areas including access to health care and life expectancy.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Friendly House*** offers free adult education services that include adult basic education and GED test preparation. They also offer a TRiO/Educational Talent Search Program that supports kids in staying in school who might otherwise drop out of school. The program assists youth in getting their high school diplomas and enrolling in college. Services include mentoring, study skills assistance, cultural activities, and a one-week summer camp.
- ***The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County (LVMC)*** offers free self-paced GED preparation online and at their Lynn Reed Center.
- ***Maricopa Center for Adolescent Parents*** offers free GED preparation classes for pregnant or parenting mothers between the ages of 16 and 21. The center also offers free child care and nutritious snacks.
- ***Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. (ACYR)*** offers an adult education/GED program designed to prepare adults to become more literate and meet their potential. The program offers a small participant to instructor ratio, coordination with employment-training programs, and a connection between education and "real life" situation planning.

What the Data Tell Us

According to 2007-2011 estimates, at least one-third of Deer Valley and Paradise Valley Unified School District area residents over the age of 25 had a bachelor's or advanced degree, compared to 20% of residents in the Washington Elementary School District area.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

	< HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME COLLEGE OR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
Deer Valley Unified School District	7.2%	21.9%	38.0%	22.6%	10.3%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	8.1%	19.8%	33.2%	25.7%	13.1%
Washington Elementary School District	17.6%	27.6%	34.2%	25.7%	7.2%
Arizona	14.8%	24.7%	34.1%	16.8%	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1501- Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey.* Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Data are based on School District area, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.
Note: Data presented represent all people living within the geographic region, not only those children and families enrolled in the district.
Note: Zip code or community level data were unreliable due to a margin of error greater than 90%.

Family Literacy

Why It Is Important

When families read to their infants and preschool children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.[54] Other key activities such as playing games and exercising also help children learn and develop.

The national Reach Out and Read program promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children and educating parents about the importance of reading to children. Reach Out and Read Arizona was established in 2002 and is a coalition of 188 sites serving 103,711 of Arizona's children each year. Reach Out and Read Arizona trains medical providers to integrate literacy into well child visits by giving new books to children between the ages of 6 months through 5 years. Annually, sites give over 193,176 new developmentally appropriate books to families.[55]

[54] Levy, B. A., Gong, Z., Hessels, S., Evans, M. A., & Jared, D. (2006). Understanding print: Early reading development and the contributions of home literacy experiences. Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 93(1), 63-93.
[55] Reach Out and Read Arizona Coalition. (2013). About Reach Out and Read Arizona. http://www.roraz.org/about-roraz.asp

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***
  - Partners with the City of Phoenix Libraries and others to provide community-based literacy programs that help parents encourage their children's love of books. Families could participate in these programs in a variety of settings including apartment complexes, pediatricians' offices, and libraries. The Phoenix Public Library system has five branches that serve the First Things First North Phoenix Region (Juniper, Cholla, Mesquite, Acacia, and Agave). The libraries offer early literacy activities such as Preschool Storytime, Family Storytime, and Toddler Time.
  - Funds ***Reach Out and Read*** which prepares Phoenix's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to recommend books and encourage family reading. Medical providers are trained to stress the importance of literacy in child rearing by giving new books to children ages sixth months to five years old.
- ***The North Valley Regional Library*** serves the communities of New River, Anthem, and Desert Hills. Programs include Babytime, Stories for Ones, Time for Twos, and Preschool Storytime.
- ***The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County*** offer literacy programs to those seeking to prepare for the GED. Also offered are language classes, writing programs, and job training programs.
- ***Read On Arizona*** is a partnership of agencies, organizations, and community stakeholders across the state that is committed to creating a continuum of services to improve language and literacy outcomes for children birth through 8 years old. Read On Arizona has networks in Phoenix and Greater Phoenix.

What the Data Tell Us

Research in 40 countries showed that children in homes with more than 100 children's books performed much better in reading achievement at 4th grade than did children with 10 or fewer books.[56] More parents reported having fewer books in the region compared to the state. Thirteen percent of parent respondents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported having 10 or fewer books in their home, higher than in the state as a whole (9%). About one-third (32%) of parents in the region reported having 100 or more books in the home, similar to the state (30%).

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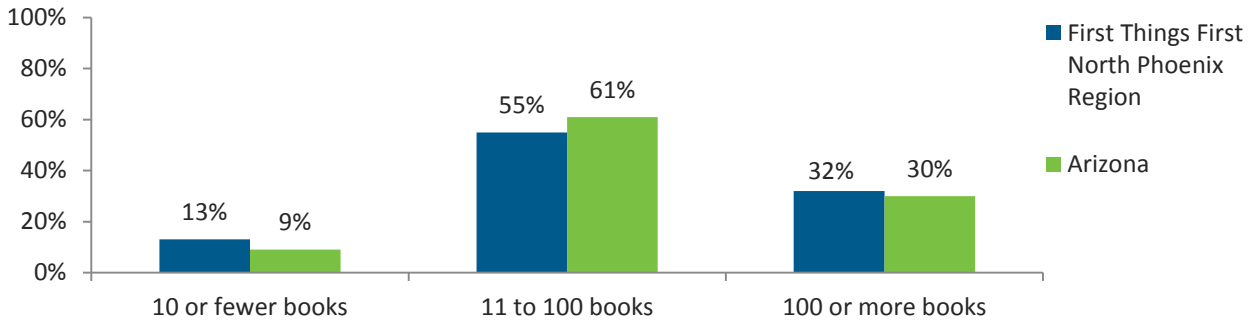
[56] Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement. (1998). Improving the Reading Achievement of America's Children. University of Michigan.

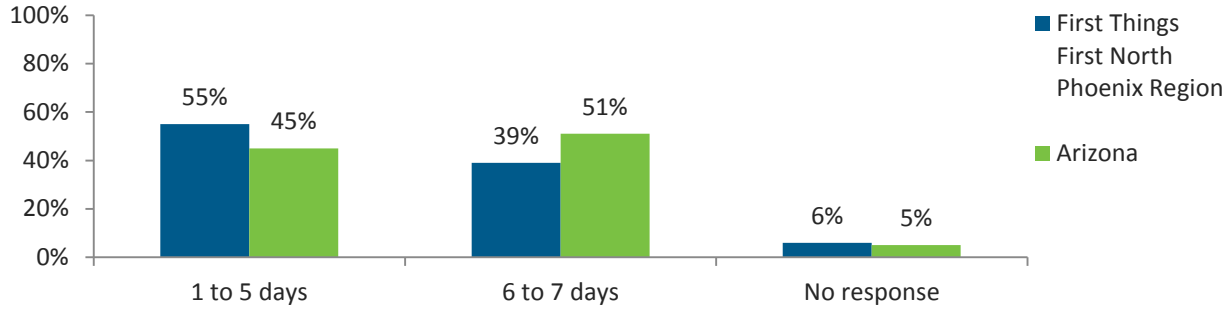
How Many Children's Books – Including Library and E-books – Do You Have Right Now in Your Home?



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Percent may add to more than 100% due to rounding.

Parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported engaging their child in literacy related activities less often than parents in the state as a whole in 2012. Thirty-nine percent of parents in region reported reading to their child six to seven days in the past week, lower than the state (51%).

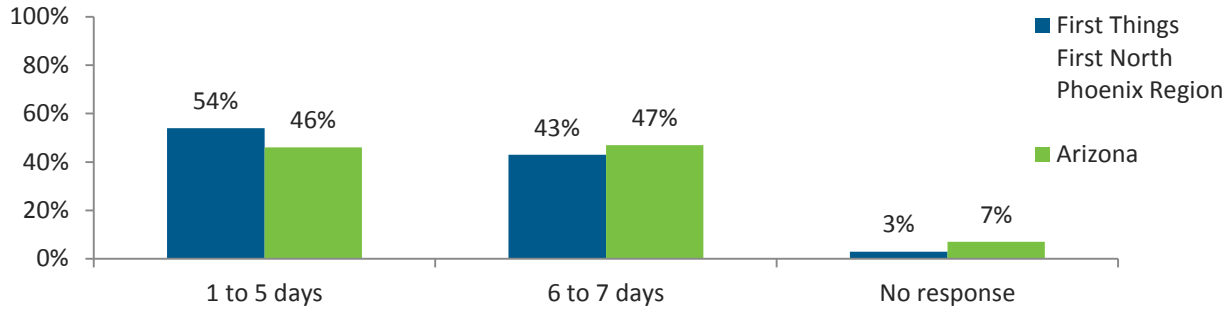
During the Past Week, How Many Days Did You or Other Family Members Read Stories to Your Child/Children? 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

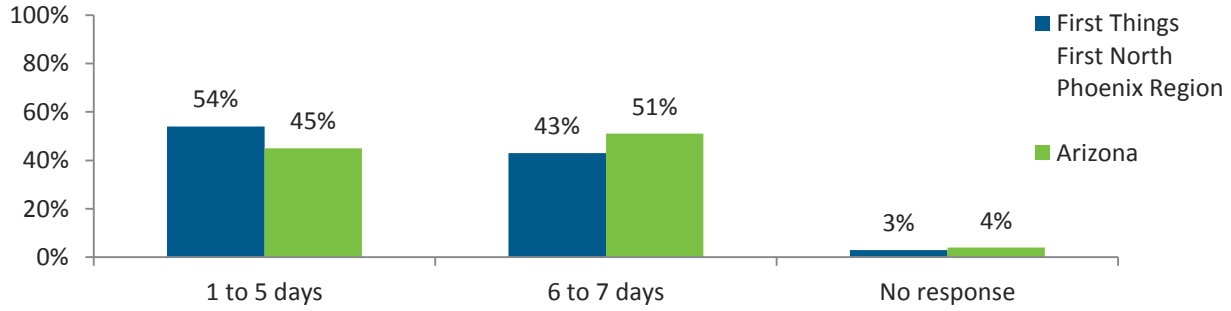
Parents were asked about the frequency in which they engaged in literacy activities beyond reading. Nearly half (46%) of parents in the region reported that their child/children scribbled, pretended to draw, or drew with them or another family member more than five days per week in 2012. Forty-three percent of parents in the region reported telling stories or singing songs with their child/children, with the same frequency.

During the Past Week, How Many Days Did Your Child/Children Scribble, Pretend Draw, or Draw with You or Another Family Member? 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

During the Past Week, How Many Days Did You or Another Family Member Tell Stories or Sing Songs to Your Child/Children? 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

FAMILY SUPPORTS

All parents need support. Having someone to rely on in a time of need improves the overall wellbeing of parents and children. At the same time, every family has strengths. We need to recognize and build on the capacity and resilience of our families, while helping provide them with the support needed to best care for their children.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Community Supports

- Family and Community Supports

Social Services

- Child Abuse
- Foster Care
- Juvenile Justice
- Children of Incarcerated Parents

Community Supports

Family and Community Supports

Why It Is Important

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources.

> **"NOW WE ARE SEEING MORE INTENSITY -**
> more homelessness, more families staying with other families,
> more troubles with jobs and transportation, more children with autism,
> more domestic violence and child abuse, more grandparents raising children,
> it's more intensified."
>
> *- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation*

Snapshot of Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
  - Funds classes on parenting, child development and problem solving skills in community based settings.
  - Funds voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, focusing on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition.
  - Provides funding for ***Southwest Human Development*** which offers a number of services to families including Healthy Families, Parenting Partners Plus, and Common Sense Parenting. They offer New Beginnings to support parents going through divorce as well as coordinated child support programs.
- ***Parents as Teachers*** is a home visiting program for pregnant women and families with children birth to 5 years of age. Its vision is that all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential. All prospective parents and parents with a child age birth to 5 are eligible for the program.
- ***Nurse-Family Partnership*** is a nurse home visiting program to aid women who are having their first child. The service is free to all who are eligible and provides a specially trained nurse to visit the home throughout the pregnancy and continue to visit until the child is two years old. The program helps parents build and maintain a safe and nurturing home environment.

- ***John C. Lincoln Desert Mission*** provides behavioral health and related services through the Marley House Behavioral Health Center helping to stabilize families in crisis and assist them in becoming self-sufficient.
- ***Valle Del Sol Community Resource Center, Washington Elementary School*** offers family support and stabilizations services, parenting classes, counseling, and parent aid services to families. All services are available in English and Spanish and AHCCCS, private pay, and other health plans are accepted.
- ***Maricopa County Parent Support Center*** offers voluntary services to parents and caregivers to help them address the stress of parenting.
- ***Fresh Start Women's Resource Center*** offers a low-cost self-help resource center where women can receive help and mentorship on parenting, finance, and personal growth.
- ***Healthy Families*** is an initiative to get parents and their children off to a healthy start by strengthening bonds between children birth through 5 and their family. Healthy Families has no income requirements and seeks to promote parent-child interaction and child development by stimulating positive family interaction, connecting families with medical providers, and linking families with community resources.
- ***Maricopa County Parent Support Center*** offers voluntary services to parents and caregivers to help them address the stress of parenting.
- ***Arizona Department of Health Services*** provides behavioral health and related services through an outpatient clinic in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, Metro on 31st street.
- ***Birth to Five Helpline*** located in Phoenix is a toll-free call line offering free developmentally appropriate resources and information for parents of young children and their caregivers. This service includes, but is not limited to, topics related to health, child development, and nutrition.

"IT'S AMAZING HOW HEAD START FAMILIES SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, especially refugee families. They support each other in learning English, and how to connect their child to the school system. Families begin to understand the importance of education and of being advocates for their children and their families. Children's attendance gets better, parents become more engaged in the classroom and in parent teacher conferences."

- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,
City of Phoenix Human Services Department Education Division

- ***Good Fit Counseling Center*** located in Phoenix is a counseling service for children birth through 5 and their families. Services include, but are not limited to, child and family counseling, play therapy, and developmental assessments, and may take place at the Good Fit Counseling Center or at the family's home.

> **"ALL OF OUR FAMILIES HAVE ASSETS, SUCH AS LANGUAGE,**
> history, music, culture, but the last few years, people are not recognizing their own assets as much, especially when they are losing jobs and can't provide the best housing, clothes or food for their children. They feel like they have less to offer.
> But we start with the belief that their value is what is inside of them."
>
> *- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation*

Social Services

Child Abuse

Why It Is Important

Child abuse and neglect are found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all factors that can lead to adults abusing children.[57] Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children. The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is $210,012 in 2010 dollars, including $32,648 in childhood health care costs. It is therefore essential that communities work to prevent child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.[58]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
    - Funds Court Teams led by superior court judges that monitor case plans and supervise placement for children birth to five who are involved with the court system.

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[57] Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2004, February). Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/pdfs/riskprotectivefactors.pdf

[58] Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims, 11,* 113-128; and Child abuse: The hidden bruises. (2008, May). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruises

- ***Parent Aide*** is a contract program through DES/CPS intended for children who are in placement as a result of child abuse or neglect. Parent Aide seeks to monitor and improve parent-child relations through supervised visitations, parent skills training, the creation of parenting curriculums, and through progress reports.

> **"THERE WAS A 34% INCREASE IN THE REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT** from 2009-2013, during the same time child care subsidies were cut by 75%. Also during that time, foster care placements increased 45%. Clearly there is a direct relationship between families' access to child care and child maltreatment. In Arizona infants and toddlers make up over one-third of all the 16,000 children in foster care today."
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

What the Data Tell Us

The number of cases of child abuse and neglect in Maricopa County have fluctuated from year to year, partially due to budget changes for child welfare services. In fiscal year 2013, there were 1,066 substantiated cases of child abuse in Maricopa County, down considerably from approximately 2,000 in 2011. Neglect is consistently the leading type of child maltreatment.

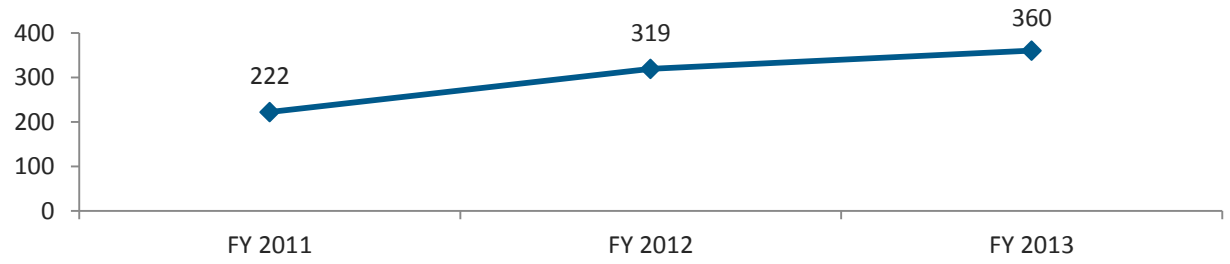
Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Maricopa County

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Emotional Abuse	<10	0	0
Neglect	1,629	522	939
Physical Abuse	372	70	104
Sexual Abuse	67	25	23
Total	**<2,078**	**617**	**1,066**

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2013). *Child welfare report.* Retrieved from https://www.azdes.gov.
Note: Fiscal year represents October 1st – September 30th.

There were 360 children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2013, up from 222 children in 2011.

Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Child protective services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.
Note: First Things First North Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region. See methodology for a list of zip codes.

Foster Care

Why It Is Important

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is care for children ages birth through 17 who are removed from their parents' or guardians' home and placed in a different setting such as a family foster care home, relatives' home, group residential home, or an institutional care facility. It is generally held that the child's best interests are served by being with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues at home so as to reunite the family.[59] Some children are placed into foster care because their parents were deported due to immigration laws. Immigrant victims of domestic violence are at particular risk of losing their children.[60]

> **"THE FOSTER CARE CASELOAD IN ARIZONA HAS SEEN THE LARGEST GROWTH** of any state in the country in the last five years. I believe what precipitated that growth are the reductions in safety net services such as subsidized childcare, healthcare for working families, and home visiting programs. There were many families that lost services very dramatically as of February 13th, 2009."
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

[59] Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family Preservation Services. Retrieved 2010 from http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/
[60] Applied Research Center. *Shattered Families* November 10, 2011. Retrieved from www.arc.org/shatteredfamilies.

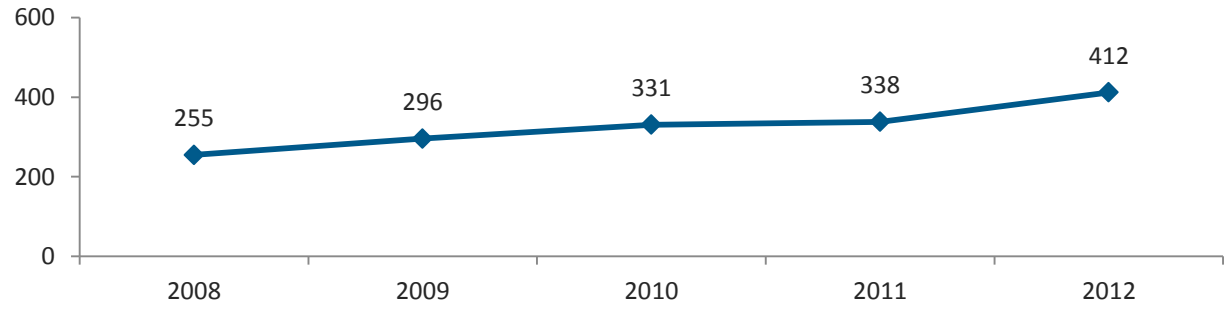
Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Hope and Future, Inc.*** offers summer camps for teens and preteens in the foster care system as well as mentoring programs, scholarships and extracurricular opportunities for foster girls.
- ***Arizona's Children's Association*** provides foster care, adoption, behavioral health, and child abuse prevention programs for individuals with AHCCCS.
- ***Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation*** provides monetary assistance for activities, education, and other items/services in order to improve the quality of life for foster children in the state of Arizona.
- ***Black Family and Child Services of Arizona*** provide training for foster parents and offers a foster-adopt program aimed at increasing the number of foster children who are formally adopted by their foster families. They serve children and families in the metropolitan Phoenix area.

What the Data Tell Us

In 2012, there were 412 children in foster care who entered between the ages of birth through 5 in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. This number has been steadily rising since 2008, when 255 children were in foster care.

Children in Foster Care that Entered Care Between the Ages of Birth Through 5, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2014). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from First Things First.

Juvenile Justice

Why It Is Important

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety, as it is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.[61] To reduce juvenile crime, it is important that the community promote youth assets and positive attitudes by providing opportunities for education, mentoring, employment, and leadership.

What the Data Tell Us

Juvenile arrests steadily decreased between 2007 and 2011 in both the county and the state. The juvenile arrest rate of youth ages 8-17 in Maricopa County decreased from 46.4 per 1,000 to 36.6 per 1,000 between 2007 and 2011.

Juvenile Arrests Ages 8 Through 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maricopa County	**25,075**	**46.4**	**27,094**	**47.5**	**25,229**	**44.6**	**22,313**	**40.2**	**20,238**	**36.6**
Arizona	53,346	60.7	54,259	60.3	51,602	56.7	45,318	50.3	42,071	46.8

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from http://kidscount.org.
Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.
Note: Juvenile arrest rate is based on total juvenile arrests per 1,000; data does not specify severity or type of crime.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Maricopa County also saw a decrease in the number of juvenile arrests for violent crime from 906 in 2007 to 608 in 2011.

Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes Ages 8 Through 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maricopa County	**906**	**1.7**	**959**	**1.8**	**746**	**1.4**	**672**	**1.2**	**608**	**1.1**
Arizona	1,604	1.8	1,630	1.8	1,355	1.5	1,245	1.4	1,082	1.2

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from http://kidscount.org.
Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

[61] Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs, *Harvard Education Review*

The number of juvenile arrests for drug crimes for children and youth ages 8 to 17 went down slightly between 2007 and 2011 in Maricopa County.

Juvenile Arrests for Drug Crimes Ages 8 Through 17

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maricopa County	**2,383**	**4.4**	**2,370**	**4.4**	**2,285**	**4.1**	**2,444**	**4.4**	**2,214**	**4.0**
Arizona	5,456	6.2	5,440	6.1	5,507	6.2	5,417	6.0	5,109	5.7

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from http://kidscount.org.
Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.
Note: Juvenile arrest rate is based on total juvenile arrests per 1,000; data does not specify severity or type of crime.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Why It Is Important

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability, especially due to the increased likelihood of single parent households or grandfamilies. These children are more likely to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested. They are also more likely to later be incarcerated themselves if preventive steps are not taken.[62] It is estimated that more than 1.7 million children are children of incarcerated parents in the United States. According to the Arizona Children's Association, almost 200,000 such children live in Arizona, which has one of the highest incarceration rates of any Western state.[63]

What the Data Tell Us

Data on the number of children with incarcerated parents are limited. In 2007, the Pima Prevention Partnership did a comprehensive study of parents in the Arizona Prison and Jail system. Maricopa County hosted the majority of the state's prison population. Sixty-six percent of Arizona's children affected by parental incarceration lived in Maricopa County in 2007.

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[62] Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers. *Council of State Governments Justice Center*. Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf

[63] Northern Arizona University. (2014). Unintended Victims: A Project for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Their Caregivers. http://nau.edu/SBS/CCJ/Children-Incarcerated-Parents/

Estimated Number of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2007

	MARICOPA COUNTY	ARIZONA
Percent of State Prison Population	65.5%	100.0%
Number of Prisoners in each County of Residence	25,503	40,777
Number of Incarcerated in County Jails	9,200	15,972
Number on Probation	25,951	47,293
Total Population of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Jail and Prison)	58,995	93,245
Total Population of Children Affected by Parental Incarceration	103,112	171,662

Source: Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents. *Arizona: Bill of Rights Project.* Retrieved 2011 from http://thepartnership.us.

More than 1 in 5 children whose parents are incarcerated in the state of Arizona are under the age of 4.

Estimated Daily Number of Children of Arrested and Incarcerated Parents, Arizona, 2007

ARRESTS BY FACILITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN*	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4
Correctional System		
Federal Prison System in Arizona	5,681	1,250
Arizona State Prison	68,731	15,121
Arizona Correctional System Total	95,669	21,047
Probation Department		
Federal Probation	8,500	1,870
Arizona State Probation Total	80,398**	17,688

Source: The Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents Report. *Arizona: Bill of Rights Project.* Retrieved 2011 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf.
* On average, every inmate in Arizona has 1.7 minor children less than 18 years.
** It is assumed that similar percentages of men and women in jail and on parole and probation are parents.

HEALTH

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development so that children can become successful, healthy, and thriving adults. It is critical that children have access to health care to ensure that they have a chance at obtaining optimum health.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Maternal and Child Health

- Prenatal Care
- Birth Characteristics
- Substance Abuse During Pregnancy
- Teen Births
- Immunizations

Health Care

- Health Insurance
- Primary Care
- Oral Health Care

Chronic Disease and Mortality

- Illness
- Asthma
- Obesity and Overweight
- Diabetes
- Leading Causes of Death

Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Care

Why It Is Important

Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care for pregnant women, including screening and treatment for medical conditions and help for issues such as smoking, alcohol, and substance abuse that are linked with poor birth outcomes. Some research has shown that babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers receive prenatal care.[64] Lack of prenatal care is often associated with lack of health insurance and other barriers to health care, including communication difficulties, lack of child care, and transportation obstacles.[65] Women are advised to seek prenatal care early in their pregnancy (in the first trimester) and to have effective, high quality prenatal care visits throughout the pregnancy.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Centro de Salud Wesley Community Center*** offers a variety of services to expectant mothers, including health screenings, pregnancy tests, prenatal care, diabetes management, and mental health counseling.
- ***Baby Arizona*** provides low-income pregnant women with health care before the AHCCCS application process is complete.
- ***Life Choices Women's Clinic*** offers services including, but not limited to, pregnancy tests, family planning, well woman exams, and ultrasounds to women and families seeking such services.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** offers a variety of services to expecting mothers, including prenatal care, referrals, and classes on topics such as nutrition and gestational diabetes.
- ***The International Rescue Committee's*** services include prenatal and postnatal care for refugee women, as well as oral health care for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee mothers.
- ***South Central Family Health Centers***, part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), offer bilingual pregnancy and postpartum depression support groups for mothers.

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[64] U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm

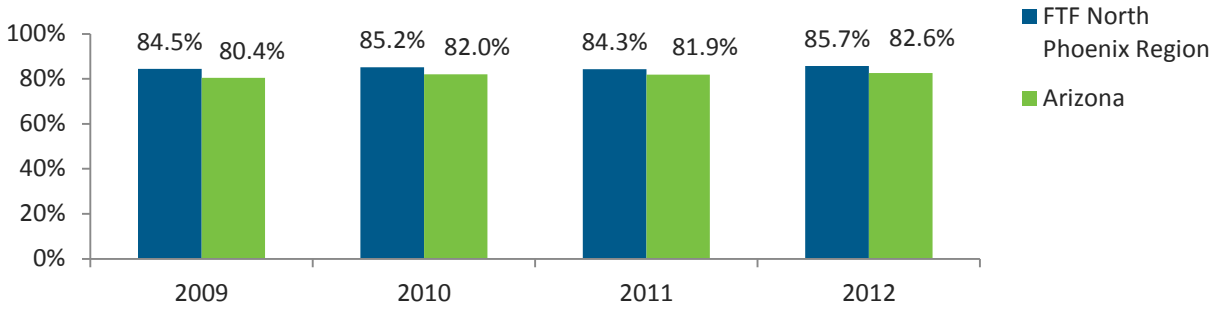
[65] American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Universal maternity care. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893

- ***Native Health*** provides comprehensive prenatal care, including office visits, ultrasounds, and blood/lab work. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.

What the Data Tell Us

A higher percentage of women in the First Things First North Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy as compared to women in Arizona as a whole. In 2012, 86% of women in the region began prenatal care in the first trimester, compared to 83% of all women in the state.

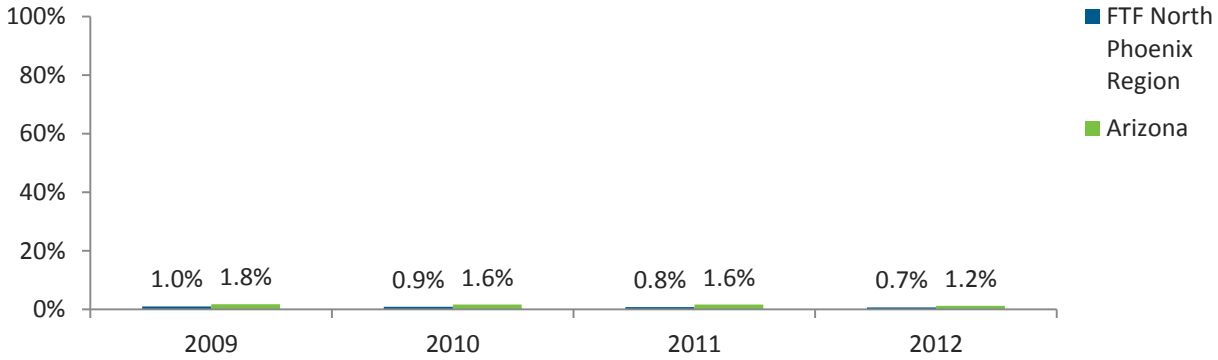
Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Percentage of total births.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

A small percentage of women did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy, 0.7% in the First Things First North Phoenix Region and 1.2% statewide in 2012.

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Percentage of total births.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Birth Characteristics

Why It Is Important

The total number of births in a community is important for service planning and provides an idea of what is happening for families in the region. While the population continues to grow there have been fewer births at the national level since the economic downturn. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings, have been correlated with both fertility and birth outcomes.[66]

There are many factors surrounding a child's birth that are related to infant and child survival, health, and development. Low birth weight in particular is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.[67] Low births weights are commonly associated with pre-term births which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.[68]

> **"OVER HALF OF BIRTHS ARE TO FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY AND ON AHCCCS, AND POVERTY IS**
> the largest risk factor for poor childhood outcomes"
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

What the Data Tell Us

There were a total of 7,480 births in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2012. This number is similar to the number of total births over the past four years.

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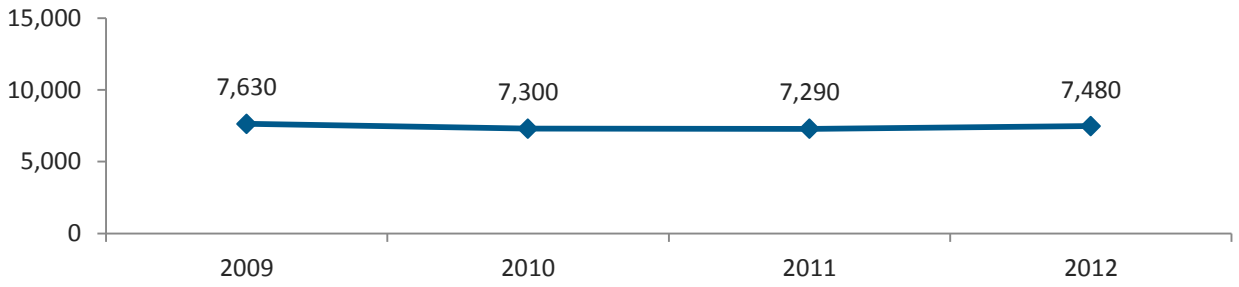
[66] Livingston, G., and the Pew Research Center. (2012). In a Down Economy, Fewer Births. Pew Social and Demographic Trends. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/10/12/in-a-down-economy-fewer-births/

[67] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). *Child health USA 2008-2009.* Retrieved from http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/

[68] March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm Births. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4

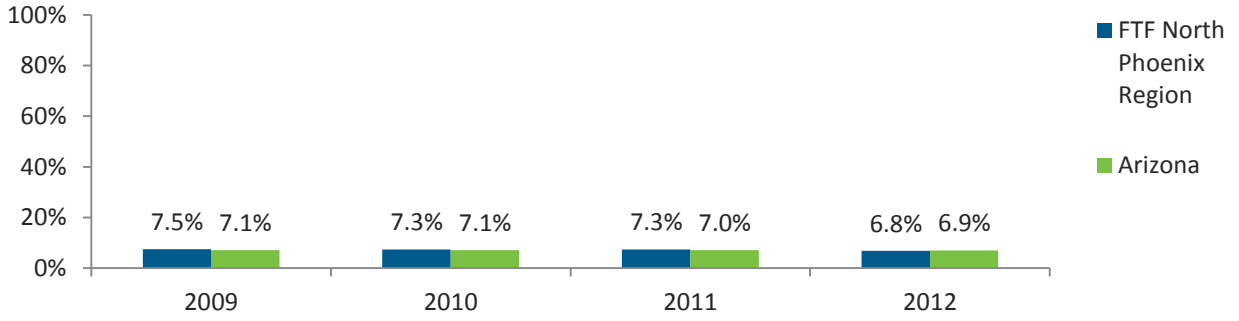
Total Births, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Of the 7,480 births, 7% were born with a low birth weight, a number that has remained about 7% over the prior four years.

Births with Low Birth Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams)



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Percentage of total births.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Substance Abuse During Pregnancy

Why It Is Important

Tobacco and alcohol use by pregnant women has a number of serious consequences. Infants prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop a range of disorders known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders such as developmental delays in thinking, speech, movement or social skills, poor coordination, and heart defects.[69] Furthermore, smoking tobacco during pregnancy is the single

[69] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Retrieved 2007 from http://www.cdc.gov.

most preventable cause of illness and death among infants. Babies born to smokers are more likely to be born prematurely, with a low birth weight, and to have reduced life expectancy.[70]

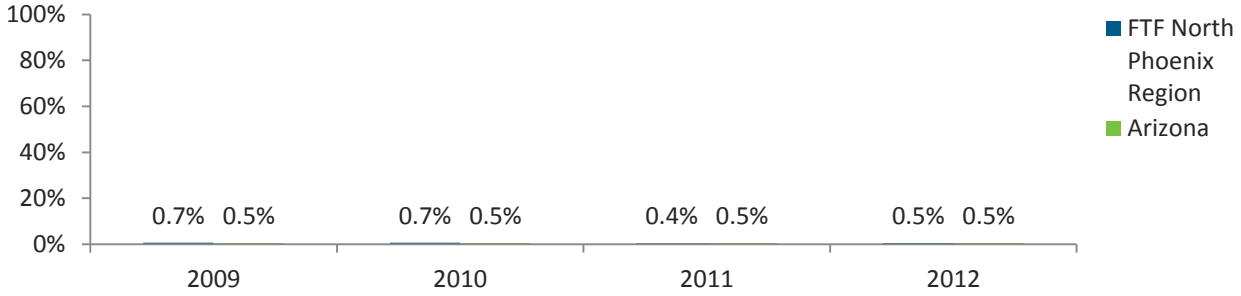
Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Nicotine Anonymous*** offers group support to anyone who wants to stop smoking or using products that have nicotine in them. Sunnyside Presbyterian Church is one of the meeting sites.
- ***Southwest Behavioral Health Metro Outpatient Clinic*** offers drug and alcohol counseling for adults, and counseling for adults and children with sliding scale fees.
- ***Alcoholics Anonymous Salt River Intergroup*** offers 12-step support groups that help adults get sober and stay sober by sharing their experience, strength and hope.
- ***Black Family and Child Services*** offers behavioral health and substance abuse counseling to those in need of such services. Behavioral health services are available to youth under age 18 and substance abuse services are available to adults ages 18 to 65.
- ***Ebony House Alcohol and Drug Treatment*** offers individualized outpatient services to adults 18 and older seeking to end their physical dependency on drugs or alcohol. Services are available on a sliding scale fee for income eligible participants.
- ***Lifewell Behavioral Wellness*** offers drug and alcohol counseling, living skills instruction, and social support for those dealing with drug and/or alcohol abuse. Other services include, but are not limited to, day programs, residential programs, supportive education, and transportation services.

What the Data Tell Us

Less than one percent (0.5%) of births were to mothers who drank alcohol during pregnancy in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2012.

Births to Mothers Who Drank Alcohol During Pregnancy

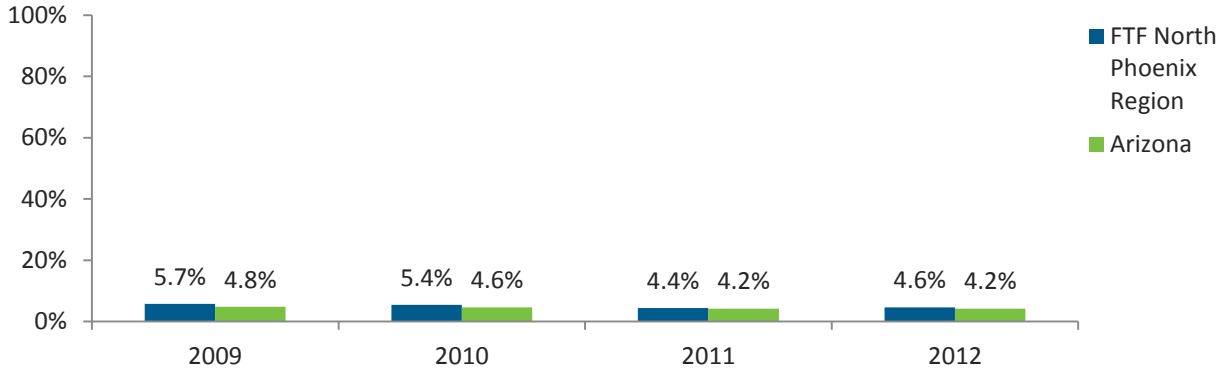


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

[70] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Tobacco Use and Pregnancy. Retrieved 2007 from http://www.cdc.gov.

Approximately 5% of births were to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, higher than in the state at 4% in 2012.

Births to Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Teen Births

Why It Is Important

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay childbirth. Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and therefore have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.[71] Arizona had the 12th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2012.[72]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Child and Family Resources*** offers a number of programs for young parents such as support to complete their educations, learning about child development, positive parenting techniques and finding quality child care.
- ***The Teen Parent Support Program*** supports young mothers and fathers ages 19 and under in completing their educations, learning positive parenting techniques and finding quality child care.

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[71] National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues. Retrieved 2004 from http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf.

[72] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2014). Birth: Final Data for 2012. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf#table02

What the Data Tell Us

There were 494 births to mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2012, down from 692 births in 2009.

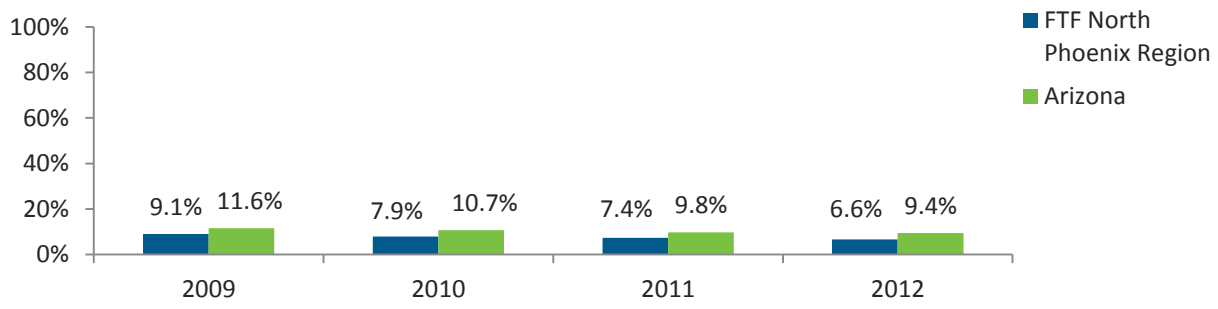
Births to Teen Mothers, First Things First North Phoenix Region

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Teen Births	692	577	542	494
Total Births	**7,630**	**7,300**	**7,290**	**7,480**

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

In 2012, 7% of births were to teen mothers in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, lower than the state of Arizona at 9%.

Births to Teen Mothers



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Immunizations

Why It Is Important

Immunization requirements help to prevent against a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care. The required vaccinations protect against hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox).

A standard measure of vaccinations, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received the appropriate number of vaccines across a wide range of diseases; it is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.[73]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI)*** offers free information and "Ask the Expert" events for parents to ask questions about shots and immunizations.
- ***The Phoenix Fire Department's Baby Shots Program*** offers free immunizations to children birth through 18 at clinics throughout the city, including the Deer Valley Community Center.
- ***Maricopa Department of Public Health*** offers free immunizations to children ages 0 through their 19th birthday at their Roosevelt Clinic. The immunizations are provided free of charge and those receiving immunizations are encouraged to bring immunization record books to every visit.
- ***Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership*** publishes immunization information and a list of immunization clinics throughout Phoenix and Maricopa County at www.mcchip.org.

What the Data Tell Us

The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.[74] Based on data available, 39% of children, ages 19 through 35 months, in the First Things First North Phoenix Region had completed their vaccination schedule in 2012. This was lower than the state of Arizona overall.

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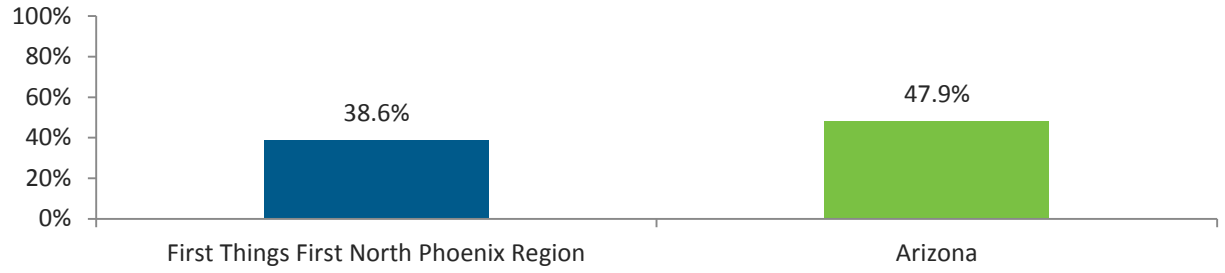
[73] U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (May 2010). National Immunization Survey. Retrieved June 2010 from http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis.

[74] Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed 4:3:1:3:3:1 Vaccination Schedule, 2012



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIIS). (Unpublished data). Received 2014 from First Things First.
Note: First Things First North Phoenix Region data are based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within region.
Note: Children with a completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.

Immunizations for children from 19 through 35 months in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were consistently lower than those of the state overall. There was a lower percentage of children with the DTap vaccine in the region (48%), compared to the state (55%). The DTap includes a vaccine against pertussis, also known as whooping cough. This is a cause for concern due to the recent national and state epidemic of whooping cough. According to Will Humble, the Arizona Director of Health, there were 988 cases of pertussis in Arizona in 2012, signifying a 300% to 400% increase in the disease. Furthermore, there were 14 infant deaths in the United States from the disease in 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control.[75] New babies are too young to get the pertussis vaccine, but they can catch the disease from older children or parents who are not immunized or have not received the booster.

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Required Immunizations by Type, 2012

	FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTH PHOENIX REGION	ARIZONA
4+ DTap	48.0%	55.3%
3+ Polio	62.7%	70.2%
1+ MMR	73.1%	74.3%
3+ Hep B	65.9%	71.1%
3+ HIB	67.6%	72.8%
1 Varicella or Hx	73.6%	73.5%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIIS). (Unpublished data). Retrieved 2014 from First Things First.
Note: First Things First North Phoenix Region data are based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within region.
Note: Children with a completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.

[75] Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services Director's Blog retrieved March 28, 2014 at http://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/?tag=whooping-cough

Health Care

Health Insurance

Why It Is Important

A key measure of access to the health care system is whether a child has health insurance. Children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.[76] Children who do not have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.[77] Uninsured children have less access to health care, are less likely to have a regular source of primary care, and use both medical and dental care less often. To help parents get insurance for their children, there is a toll-free hotline in Arizona to request an application for KidsCare/AHCCCS.

> **"IMPROVING HEALTH COVERAGE FOR KIDS**
> has got to be an extremely high priority. Arizona is 49th in the country and in a downward trend. Every health intervention (mental health, well child visits, dental care, etc.) needs coverage. Children cannot have any of these interventions if they can't afford it. If a child is covered, they have a better chance to succeed."
>
> *- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance*

In 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed and was implemented in 2014. While the effects of ACA are still largely unknown, a recent study published in Health Affairs estimated that nationally, 3.2 million children are expected to gain health care coverage, cutting the number of uninsured children in the U.S. by 40%. Rates of the uninsured are expected to decline for children in all income groups, with the steepest decline expected for children in families with incomes between 138% and 250% of poverty. The increase in coverage will come from expansions in Medicaid and CHIP, as well as the new subsidized exchange coverage and the impact of the requirement to secure coverage.[78]

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[76] Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4.* Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHIimproves.pdf

[77] American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). MediKids Fact Sheet. Retrieved June22, 2010 from http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf,

[78] Improving Coverage For Children Under Health Reform Will Require Maintaining Current Eligibility Standards For Medicaid And CHIP *Health Aff* December 2011 30:122371-2381

> **"RECENTLY WE HAVE NOTICED THAT PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE** affordable, easy ways to get covered, or the importance of getting your kids covered, so this education is part of what we focus on during our outreach."
>
> *- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance*

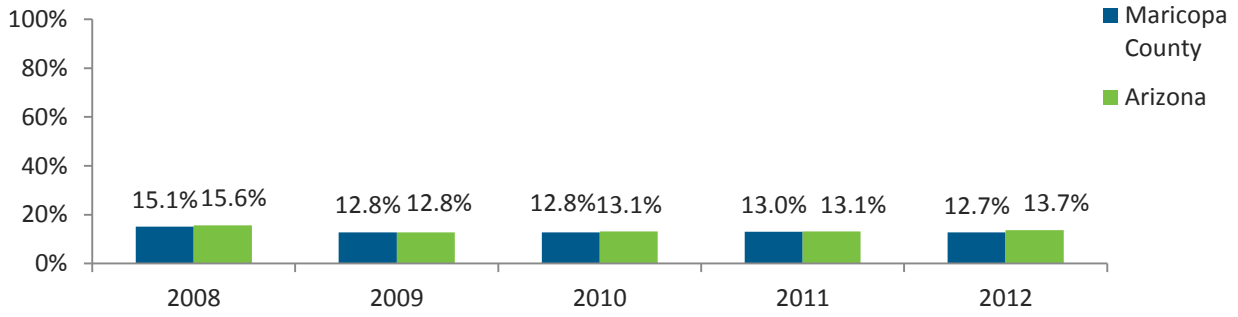
Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
  - *Works with the* ***Children's Action Alliance*** to assist families in applying for or renewing their publicly-funded health insurance.
- ***Maricopa Integrated Health System*** offers children and their families' effective case management and connects them to appropriate, coordinated health care. These services improve health care services for children and improve their future development by ensuring they have a regular source of child care.
- ***Maricopa County Department of Public Health*** offers health care assistance to homeless families and individuals through its Health Care for the Homeless program. The program's services include, but are not limited to, health screenings, nutrition assistance, case management, and mental health services for those seeking such services.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic*** offer basic health care services to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.

What the Data Tell Us

Nearly 13% of children in Maricopa County went without medical insurance in 2012.

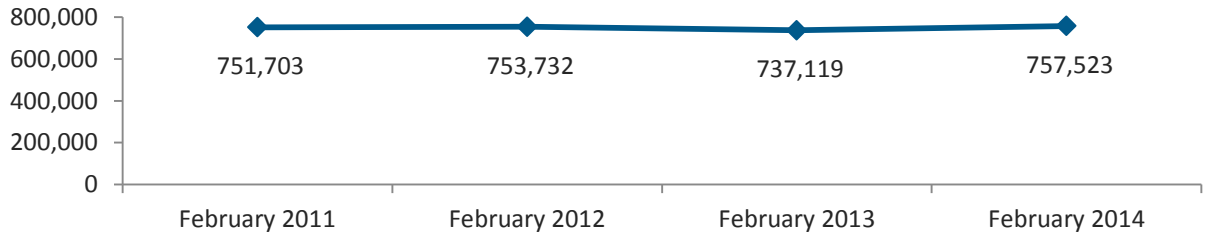
Children Without Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 18 and Younger)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Retrieved 2014 from https://www.census.gov/.
Note: See Appendix for definition of those counted as insured.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

There were 757,523 individuals enrolled in AHCCCS in Maricopa County in February 2014.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2012). Population by County. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx.

There have been many changes to health coverage in recent years. KidsCare enrollment numbers have dropped drastically in recent years as the KidsCare Office is no longer able to approve any new applications. Enrollment in the KidsCare Program has been frozen since January 1, 2010 due to lack of funding for the program. The KidsCare Office continues to process renewals and changes for eligible children. However families with eligible KidsCare children must complete their renewal and make their premiums on time to avoid losing KidsCare coverage.

In addition to traditional KidsCare, KidsCare II was a new children's coverage program available May 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013, for a limited number of eligible children funded through three hospital systems. KidsCare II has the same benefits and premium requirements as KidsCare.

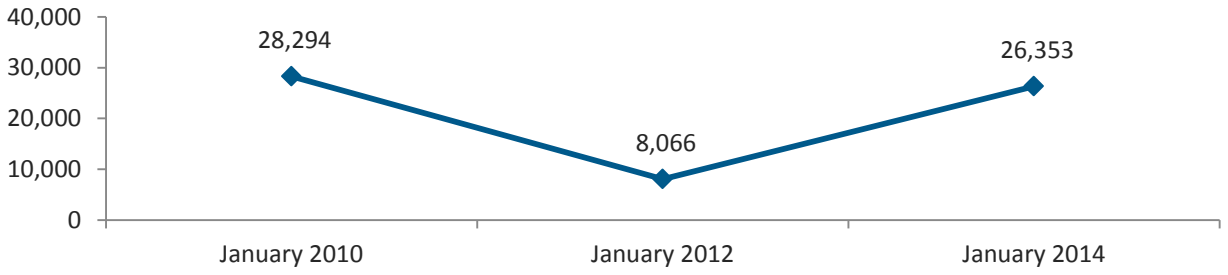
According to the Federal Authority for KidsCare II, the program expired on January 31, 2014. Originally, the program was set to expire December 31, 2013, but AHCCCS requested a one-month extension. Notices were sent to about 23,000 families with income between 100-133% FPL who transitioned to Medicaid effective January 1, 2014. Notices were also sent to about 14,000 families with income over 133% FPL who would need to apply for coverage under the Federally Facilitated Marketplace where premium subsidies are available for eligible households. Regular KidsCare remains in effect with frozen enrollment. Just over 3,300 children on regular KidsCare were transitioned to Medicaid and about 2,600 children remain enrolled in the KidsCare program.

> **"BY LOSING KIDSCARE, OUR STATE CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM,** our families in Arizona lost a huge source of coverage that families in every other state have access to."
>
> *- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance*

The number of children in Maricopa County enrolled in KidsCare in January 2014 was more than 26,000. This was after a drop in enrollment to roughly 8,000 children in 2012. Enrollment in the KidsCare Program has been frozen since January 1, 2010 due to lack of funding for the program.

The KidsCare Office is processing renewals and changes for eligible children, which may account for the continued changes in enrollment after the 2010 freeze.

KidsCare Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2014). Kids Care Enrollment. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx.

Primary Care

Why It Is Important

Access to primary care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation, language, and education.[79] Children's access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more serious health problems. However, there are not enough doctors or therapists in the state to serve many communities, especially children with special health care or socio-emotional needs. The Arizona Department of Health Services defines Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including the ratio of providers to the population, the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight babies, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates.[80]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*:
    - Funds the *EAR Foundation of Arizona* to provide children with developmental, vision, and/or hearing screening and referrals for follow up services. These services increase children's access to preventive health care.

[79] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). National Healthcare Disparities Report 2003. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6

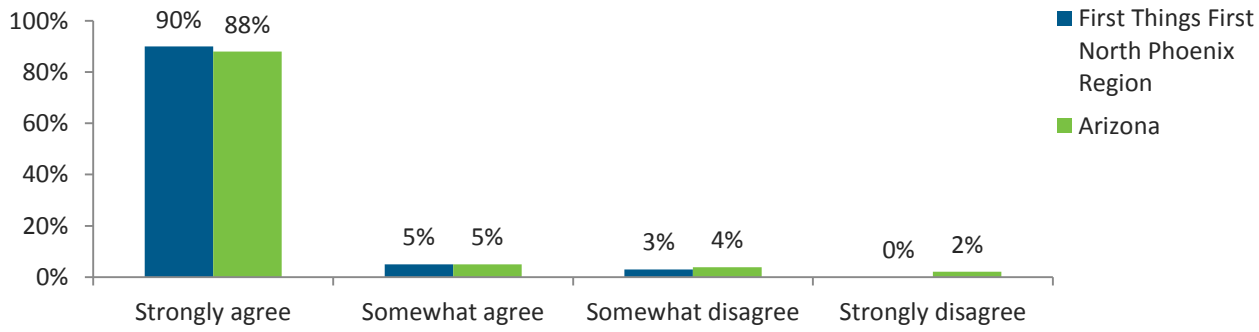
[80] Arizona Department of Health Services. Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health. (2010). Arizona Medically Underserved Areas. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm.

- ***The Sunnyslope Family Health Center,*** part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), offers affordable primary care to community members. MIHS's Financial Assistance Program offers a sliding fee scale and works with those who are uninsured and have been denied by AHCCCS.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** offers primary and preventative health care for all ages and provides a sliding fee scale for those individuals and families without insurance.
- ***Native Health*** offers well child check-ups and immunizations, adult and teen check-ups, and prevention-focused health screenings. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- ***Desert Mission Community Health Center*** works to address the health and social needs of struggling families in North Phoenix helping the most vulnerable community members. Desert Mission offers affordable primary health care to children and families who have no health care resources.

What the Data Tell Us

The vast majority of First Things North Phoenix parent survey respondents (90%) strongly agreed that their children had regular visits with the same doctor's office, suggesting that most children had a consistent medical home.

Parent Responses to the Statement "My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits at the Same Doctor's Office."



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering "do not know" or refusing to answer.

The Phoenix Sunnyslope Primary Care Area is recognized as a medically underserved area not due to the number of providers, but due to the number of low-income residents. The population to primary care provider ratio in Phoenix Sunnyslope is better than in Maricopa County as a whole and there are slightly more patients for every provider in Maricopa County (739:1) as compared to the entire state (785:1). The same is not true when looking at the ratio of dentists in the area. The population to dentist ratio in Phoenix Sunnyslope (11,404:1) is worse than in Maricopa County as a whole (5,351:1).

Population to Provider Ratio, 2012

AREA	PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER RATIO	DENTIST RATIO
Phoenix Sunnyslope	496:1	11,404:1
Maricopa County	**739:1**	**5,351:1**
Arizona	785:1	5,724:1

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

The breakdown of regional providers shows 111 local registered nurses, 50 emergency medical staff, and 46 primary care physicians. There were very few dentists in the Phoenix Sunnyslope Health Service Area, compared to Maricopa County overall.

Health Care Providers, 2012

TYPE OF PROVIDER	PHOENIX SUNNYSLOPE	MARICOPA COUNTY
Primary Care Physicians (M.D. and D.O.)	46	5,260
Physician Assistants	11	1,323
Nurse Practitioners	10	2,099
Registered Nurses	111	39,913
Dentists	2	726
Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives	0	116
Emergency Medical	50	18,653

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Oral Health Care

Why It Is Important

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem. Arizona has substantial disparities in oral health where low-income children, Hispanic children, and children of color have more dental needs.[81] Dental diseases can be serious and are linked to premature birth, low birth weight infants, failure to thrive, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and stroke. Dental care is the most common unmet health need in children, and is the cause of impaired speech development, inability to concentrate in school, poor social relationships, and reduced self-esteem.[82] Experts recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for tooth decay.[83]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council***:
    - Funds the ***EAR Foundation of Arizona*** to provide children with oral screening and referrals for follow up services. These services increase children's access to preventative health care.
- ***Arizona Department of Health Services*** provides oral health screenings, outreach to dentists, and encourages regular dental visits for children. These services are provided in a variety of community-based settings.
- ***South Central Health Center,*** part of Maricopa Integrated Health System, offers sliding scale fee dental services.
- ***Desert Mission Children's Dental Clinic*** provides dental care to children ages four through 20 from families with limited financial resources. The clinic is staffed by volunteer dentists and hygienists, takes AHCCCS, and uses a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic*** offers basic health care services to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Doctors, dentists, nurses, physician assistants, and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.

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[81] The Oral Health of Arizona's Children. (2005). Arizona Department of Health Services. Office of Oral Health. Retrieved November 2005 from http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm

[82] Arizona department of Health Services, Bureau of Women and Children's Health, Office of Oral Health. *The State of American Indian Children's Oral Health in Arizona.* Retrieved May 2011 from http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm

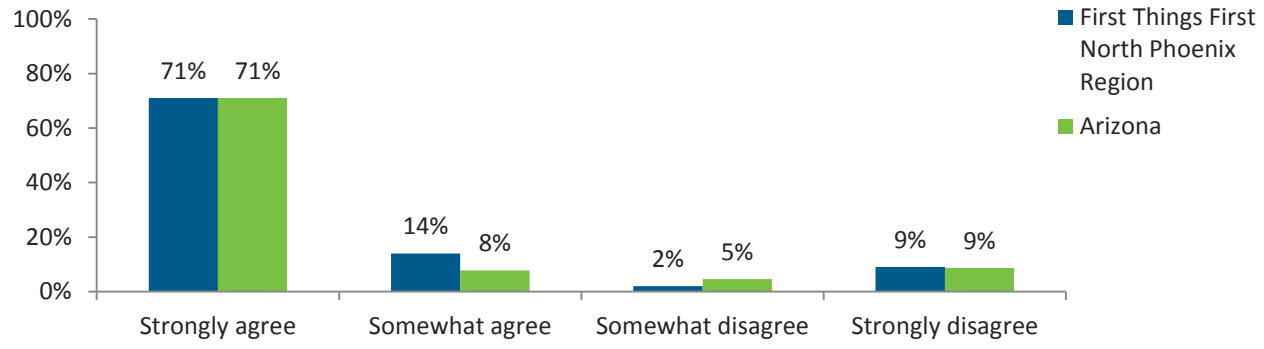
[83] American Association for Pediatric Dentistry. (2004). *Policy on the Dental Home.* Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf

- ***The Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix*** offers a full-service dental facility at its Bob & Renee Parsons Dental Clinic for children who lack dental insurance and do not qualify for state assistance. Services include, but are not limited to, oral exams, fillings, extractions, and emergency surgery.
- ***American Dental Association (ADA)*** offers dental services to children through its Give Kids a Smile Program. This program joins dentists across the country with underserved communities to provide dental services to children and is available at many locations in the Phoenix metro area.

What the Data Tell Us

Two-thirds of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region strongly agreed that their child age five and under had regular visits with the same dental provider in 2012.

Parent Responses to the Statement "My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits with the Same Dental Provider." 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.
Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering "not sure."

Chronic Disease and Mortality

Illness

Why It Is Important

Communicable diseases are conditions that can be transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal. Reporting cases of communicable diseases is essential to preventing further spread and protecting the public health of the community. State and federal agencies have certain diseases that are required by law to be reported.

What the Data Tell Us

Vaccine preventable diseases increased between 2008 and 2012. This increase was due to the high number of pertussis cases, also known as whooping cough.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Maricopa County

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Vaccine Preventable	23	70	51	121	432
Enteritides	1,842	1,825	1,424	1,325	1,350
Hepatitides (Hepatitis)	185	175	132	191	118
Tuberculosis	188	247	264	208	198

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov.
Notes: Vaccine Preventable includes verified cases of measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, and *H. influenzae*. Enteritides includes cases of amebiasis, campylobacteriosis, cholera, cryptosporidiosis, *E. coli*, Salmonellosis, *Salmonella*, shigellosis, and typhoid fever. Hepatitides include cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Asthma

Why It Is Important

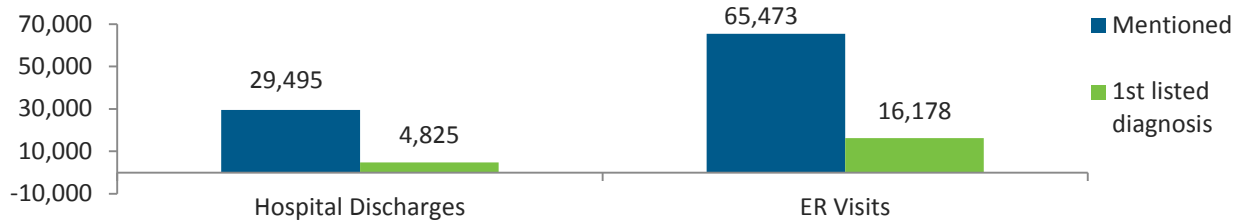
Children have smaller airways than adults, which makes asthma especially serious for them. Many things can cause asthma, including allergens (mold, pollen, animals, and irritants such as, cigarette smoke and air pollution), weather (cold air, changes in weather), exercise, and infections, including the flu and the common cold.[84] Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.[85] Even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care. Well-controlled asthma allows for less symptoms and decreases interference with normal activities, including sleep, work, and school.[86]

What the Data Tell Us

There were 65,473 emergency room visits where asthma was mentioned in medical records in Maricopa County in 2011. Of those 16,178 listed asthma as the primary diagnosis. There were 29,495 hospital discharges mentioning asthma, of those 4,825 listed asthma as the primary diagnosis.

[84] U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. (2010). Asthma. *Medline Plus.* Retrieved June 23 2010 from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmainchildren.html.
[85] Ibid.
[86] The Mayo Clinic. (2010). Asthma. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2.

Emergency Room Visits and Hospital Discharges for Individuals with Asthma, Maricopa County 2011



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, (2012). Emergency Room Visits and Discharges of Patients with Asthma, Table 7. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Obesity and Overweight

Why It Is Important

Children and adolescents with a BMI between the 85th and 94th percentiles are generally considered overweight, and those with a BMI at or above the gender- and age-specific 95th percentile are typically considered obese. Overweight and obese conditions in children can lead to severe physical and emotional health effects, including a greater risk of hospitalization, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, and depression. Furthermore, overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight adults, and this increases to 80% if one or both parents are overweight.[87]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department*** has 27 neighborhood parks, 13 community parks, and 4 district parks in its Northeast Division.
    - Park offerings in the First Things First North Phoenix Region include lighted sports fields, lighted basketball courts, exercise courses, and/or playgrounds; specifics vary by park.
    - Recreation activities in specific locations in the First Things First North Phoenix Region include ballet and tap dancing lessons for three to five year olds, swimming lessons for children with recommended ages starting at six months old, and a variety of age-specific gymnastics and movement classes for children between eight months and five years old.

[87] Goran, M. (2001). Metabolic precursors and effects of obesity in children: A decade of progress, 1990–1999. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 73(2), 158-171.

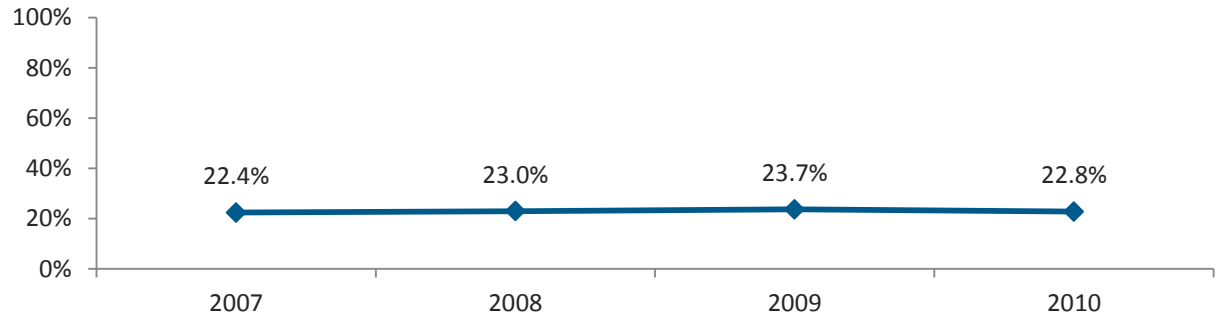
- ***Boys and Girls Club*** organizations in the Phoenix metro area offer a wide array of services and activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Summer camps and year-round programs offer youth the chance to engage in fun activities that stress the importance of physical activity.

- ***YMCA*** clubs in the Phoenix metro area offer a wide array of services and activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Summer camps and year-round programs offer youth the chance to be engaged in fun activities that stress physical activity.

What the Data Tell Us

Data on childhood obesity is not available for the First Things First North Phoenix Region. However, obesity is an issue for adults in the region. A four year trend shows nearly one in four adults in Maricopa County are obese.

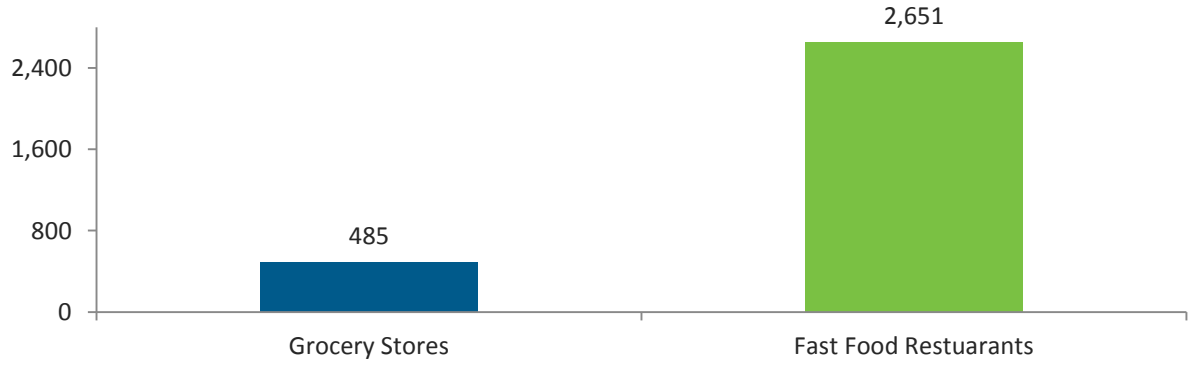
Age-Adjusted Estimates of Adults Age 20 and Older Who are Obese, Maricopa County



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2011 from http://www.cdc.gov/
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

In Maricopa County, there were over five times as many fast food restaurants (2,651) as grocery stores (485) in 2011.

Number of Grocery Stores and Fast Food Restaurants, Maricopa County, 2011



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (2011). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2014 from http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Diabetes

Why It Is Important

While type II diabetes is primarily associated with overweight adults over age 40, inactivity and increased obesity rates have led to greater incidence in children. Children with type II diabetes are at greater risk for the long-term complications of diabetes, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Early diagnosis and treatment of type II diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes complications. The cornerstones of diabetes management for children with type II diabetes are weight management and increased physical activity.[88]

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Centro de Salud Wesley Community Center*** offers diabetes management education and services.
- ***The Sunnyslope Family Health Center*** offers individual instruction to community members with diabetes. Topics include healthy eating, exercise, prevention of long-term problems, stress management, and blood sugar checks.
- ***Mission of Mercy's*** free mobile health care services include diabetes management and education to assist patients with diabetes to gain better control of their blood sugar levels and prevent complications.
- ***Native Health*** offers diabetes management services, including blood sugar control assistance, glucose machine education, insulin management and diabetic nutrition. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- ***Interfaith Cooperative Ministries/Cathedral Health Services'*** medical clinics for uninsured community members include diabetes tests in their range of services.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** provides sliding fee diabetes screenings.

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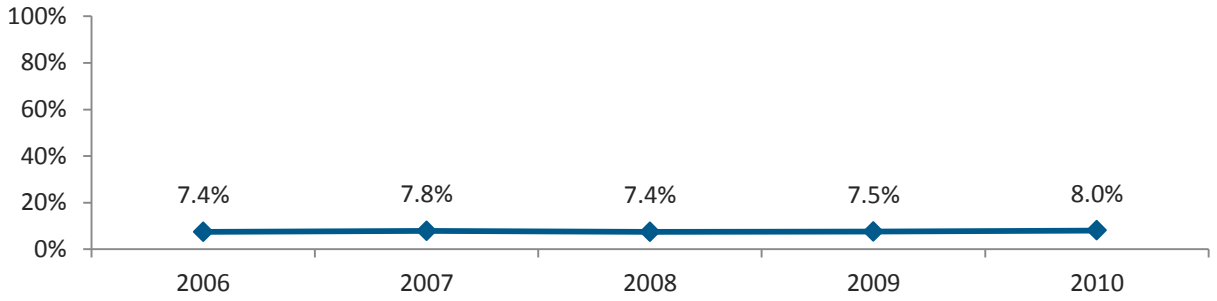
[88] National Diabetes Education Program. (2008). Overview of diabetes in children and adolescents. Retrieved 2012 from www.yourdiabetesinfo.org

What the Data Tell Us

Eight percent of adults in Maricopa County were estimated to have diabetes in 2010, similar to the previous five years.

Age-Adjusted Estimates of Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes, Maricopa County



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.cdc.gov/
Note: Includes adults age 20 and older.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Leading Causes of Death

Why It Is Important

A report was released by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration looked at 70 years of infant mortality data in the United States in comparison to 37 other countries. The infant mortality rate in the United States showed a consistently downward trend over those 70 years from 55.7 per 1,000 live births in 1935 to 6.8 in 2007. However, the U.S. ranked poorly when compared to other countries, 31 out of 37 in 2006.[89] Further, there are large disparities in infant mortality based on race and ethnicity in the U.S. According to the 2006 linked birth/infant death data, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was highest for non-Hispanic blacks (13.4), followed by American Indians/Alaska Natives (8.3), non-Hispanic whites (5.6), Mexicans (5.3), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (4.6). The leading causes of death are birth defects, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and complications with the mother.

What the Data Tell Us

Infant mortality in Maricopa County decreased from 6.1 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 5.9 deaths in 2012. The infant mortality rate in Maricopa County has remained similar to that of the state of Arizona as a whole.

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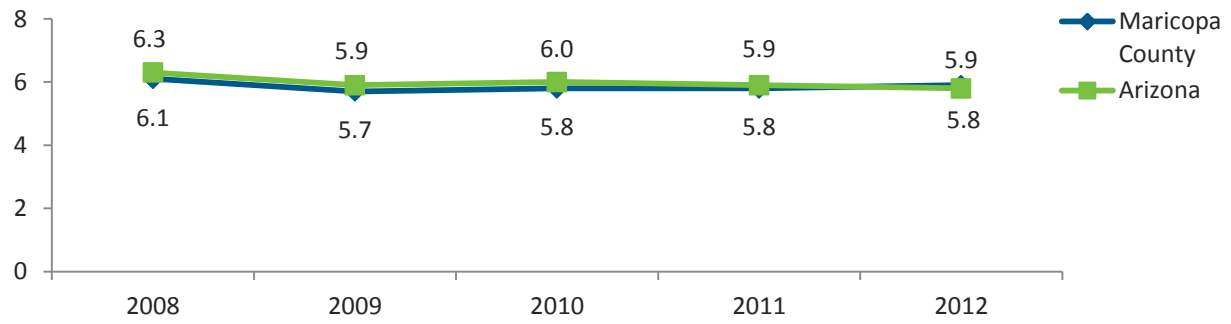
[89] Singh, G.K., van Dyck, P.C. (2010). Maternal and Child Health Bureau Infant Mortality in the United States, 1935-2007: Over Seven Decades of Progress and Disparities. *Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau*, pp 1-8. Retrieved in 2014 from http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/images/mchb_infantmortality_pub.pdf

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.
Note: Under-five mortality rates and infant mortality rates are not actual rates but a probability of death expressed as rate per 1,000 live births.[90]

Total deaths over the past five years have been decreasing for children under 18 in Maricopa County. The most frequent cause of death for children under 18 years old was medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS) with 188 deaths in Maricopa County in 2011. Deaths due to prematurity dropped from 187 in 2007 to 129 in 2011.

Cause of Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS)	252	226	196	195	188
Prematurity	187	159	158	118	129
Motor Vehicle Crash	43	30	43	32	19
Undetermined	25	52	50	44	32
Other	141	110	95	97	110
Total Maricopa County	**648**	**577**	**542**	**486**	**478**

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Child Fatality Review Report, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.azdhs.gov/.
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.
Note: Data on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) are suppressed due to the number of deaths being less than 20.

[90] World Health Organization. (2010). Probability of dying aged < 5 years per 1000 live births (under-five mortality rate). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.who.int/whosis/indicators/2007MortChild/en/

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COLLABORATION

Every parent can benefit from networking with other parents and hearing from experts. In order for parents and children to access the services and supports they need, they must know that they exist and where to find them. Raising awareness about the local network of supports and services for parents is essential.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Parent Perception of Early Childhood Services

Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services

Why It Is Important

It is important to know the perceptions of parents about early childhood services in the region so that First Things First can work with partner agencies to improve services and supports to parents.

> **"THERE IS SO LITTLE IN TERMS OF FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION,** and places for families to get help if they are unemployed, or facing foreclosure, or needing childcare. First Things First has worked very well to put a number of resources for families with young children in place, and those are primarily early childhood focused services where our opportunity for improving outcomes is greatest."
>
> *- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

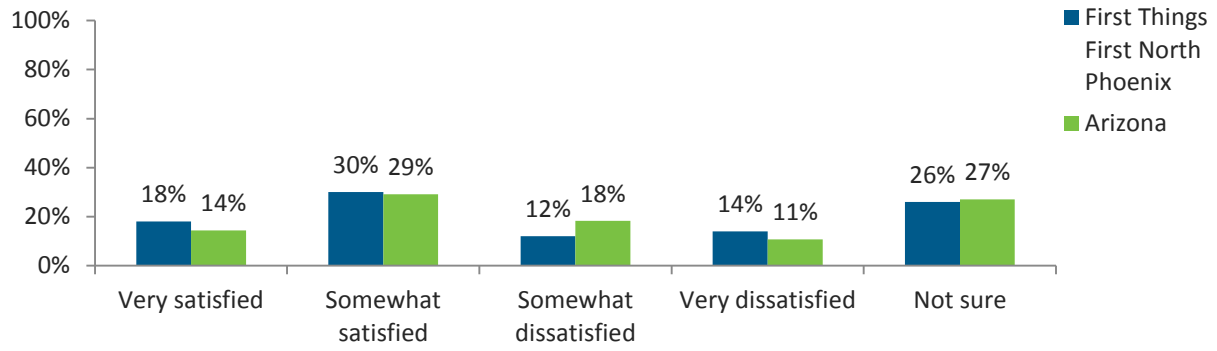
Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:*
    - Funds media-based public awareness campaigns, community outreach, and other strategies to increase community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.
    - Funds statewide evaluation efforts which includes studies and evaluation work which inform the Board and Regional Partnership councils.
    - Funds coordination and improvement efforts to streamline processes including applications, service qualifications, service delivery and follow up for families with young children.

What the Data Tell Us

Eighteen percent of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported they were very satisfied with the way care providers and government agencies work together and communicate with each other in 2012.

Parent Responses to the Question "How Satisfied Are You with How Care Providers and Government Agencies Work Together and Communicate with Each Other?" 2012

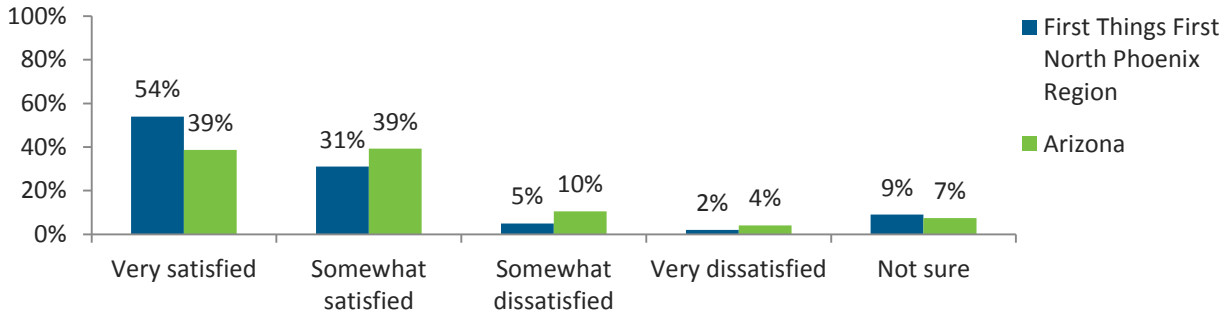


n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Over half of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported they were very satisfied with community information and resources available to them about children's development and health in 2012. Seven percent reported they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the information and resources available to them.

> **"I REALLY SEE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST THINGS FIRST TO BE PART** of the outside change agent that helps with early child development. First Things First is elevating the conversation of why early childhood education is something that we should all be paying attention to."
>
> *- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank*

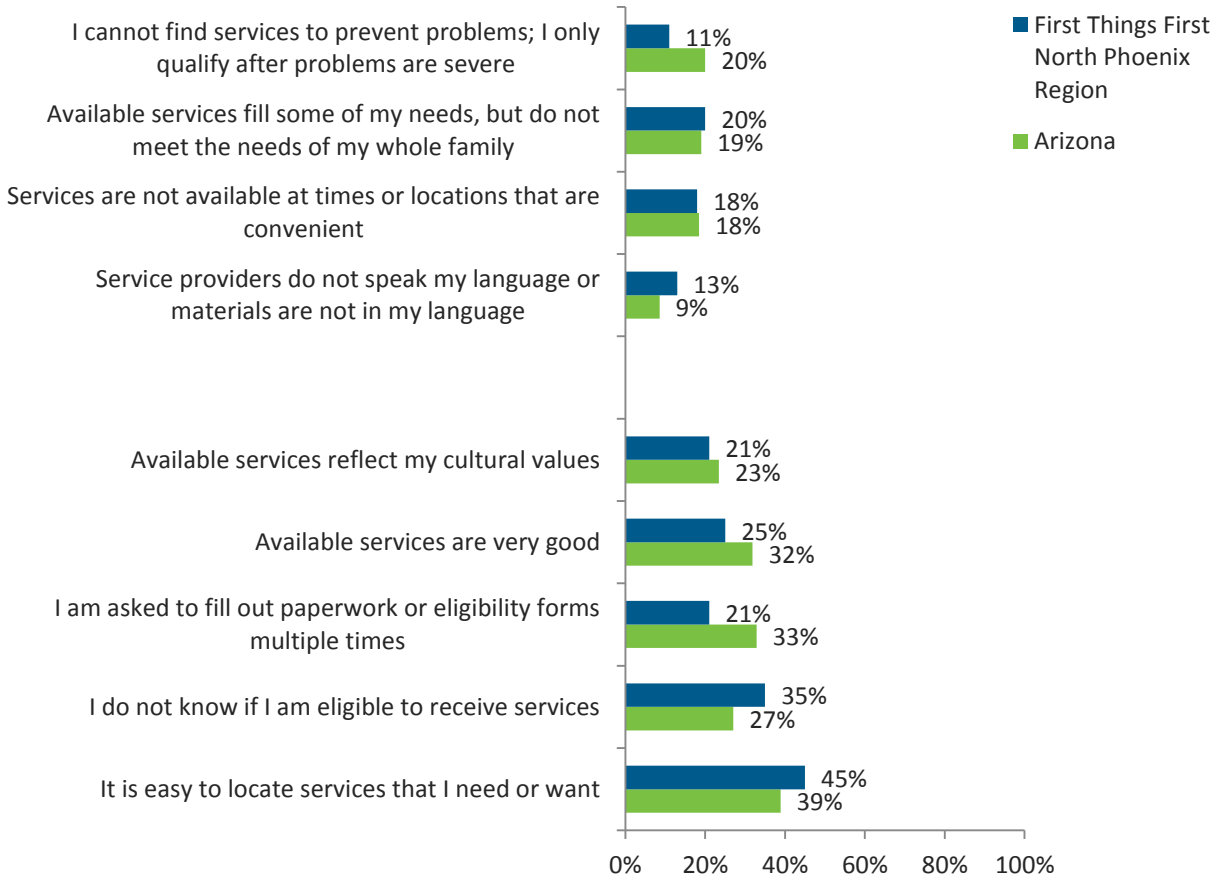
Parent Responses to the Question "How Satisfied Are You with the Community Information and Resources Available to You About Children's Development and Health?" 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

In 2012, one in ten parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported they strongly agreed that they could not find services to prevent problems and those services were only available after problems were severe. However, 45% reported they strongly agreed with the statement that services they needed or wanted were easy to locate.

Reasons for Parent Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction with Early Childhood Services (Respondents Reported "Strongly Agree") 2012



n=200
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Addressing Child Wellbeing

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a report ranking childhood wellbeing in the world's richest 29 countries in 2013. UNICEF measured children's wellbeing by looking at child poverty, health, education, behaviors, and housing. The U.S. ranked 26th out of 29 when compared to other countries with advanced economies. This First Things First North Phoenix Regional report uses some of the exact same indicators as UNICEF: child poverty, educational test scores, infant mortality, low birth weight, immunizations, obesity, and nutrition. Unfortunately, this North Phoenix Region report reflects some of the same poor outcomes as the United States as a whole and points to areas where children and families need more support; material wellbeing, health, education, housing, and behaviors such as eating, nutrition, alcohol, and tobacco use.

The First Things First North Phoenix Region is composed of small communities in close proximity to the Phoenix Metro area. The region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Sunnyslope, the North Central Corridor, Deer Valley, Anthem, Moon Valley, and New River. There were more than half a million people (532,275) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2010, with approximately 45,008 children birth through 5. Twenty-two percent of families in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were female-headed households, and 67% were married couples in 2010. More than half (51%) of children birth through 5 in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were identified as White, 35% Hispanic or Latino, 4% Black or African American, 4% Asian, and less than 2% American Indian.

Economic Wellbeing

Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food and health care. Nearly one in three children (32%) ages birth through 5 living within the boundaries of the Washington Elementary School District area was living below the poverty level, according to 5-year census estimates. One in four children in Maricopa County did not have enough food in 2011. Regional food banks not only provide children with the food needed to thrive and succeed in school they are an essential component of the social safety net, connecting with families and children that may not otherwise seek social services.

Foreclosures are going down in the region, suggesting that fewer children are forced to move out of their homes. Yet, 40% of residents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported spending more than 30% of their income on housing, according to 2007-2011 estimates. The high costs of housing places pressure on families and forces them to make difficult decisions about rent, food, utilities, health care, and child care costs. Research has shown that being behind on rent or mortgage correlates strongly with negative health outcomes for both mothers and children. Children in families that have been behind on rent within the last year are more likely to

be in poor health and have an increased risk of developmental delays than children whose families are stably housed.[91] While affordable housing is needed in the region, providing struggling families with basic assistance and support for other household needs may alleviate the strain of high housing costs.

Unemployment is also going down, from 11% in 2010 to 7% in 2013 in Phoenix City, suggesting that there may be a more hopeful economic outlook. Community agencies are providing support to those looking for work. Yet, there is a continued need to focus on educational attainment in the region. Eighteen percent of the population 25 years and older in the area served by Washington Elementary District obtained less than a high school diploma. Increased focus on education attainment will assist individuals and families in obtaining greater employment and economic opportunity and help to ensure long-term economic growth in communities. [92]

Limited English Speaking Households

The U.S. Census Bureau describes limited English speaking households as households where no one over age 14 speaks English, or speaks English less than "very well." Residents of non-English speaking households tend to be less likely to access health care, preventive care, and prenatal care unless services are in their own language and culturally appropriate. The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (77%) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, followed by Spanish (15%), and other languages (8%) in 2007-2011. When looking at children ages 5 through 17, approximately 7% lived in limited English speaking households in 2011.

Births and Prenatal Care

There were a total of 7,480 births in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2012. Some research has shown that babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers receive prenatal care. A slightly higher percentage of women in the First Things First North Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy as compared to women in Arizona as a whole. In 2012, 86% of women in the region began prenatal care in the first trimester, compared to 83% of all women in the state. The number of births with low birth weight was 7% in the region in 2012 and has fluctuated between that level and 8% over the prior five years.

Approximately 5% of births were to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy in the First Things First North Phoenix region in 2012. While these numbers are low, they are higher than in the state overall. Secondhand smoke not only affects mothers but young children in the home. It

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[91] Health Watch. (2011). Behind Closed Doors: The hidden health impacts of being behind on rent. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/upload/resource/behindcloseddoors_report_jan11.pdf

[92] Delong, J. B., Lawrence Katz, and Claudia Goldin. (2003). "Sustaining U.S. Economic Growth," in H. Aaron, J. Lindsay, and P. Nivola, eds., Agenda for the Nation, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press

is one of the most common toxic environmental exposures for children, and maternal health problems caused by smoking and second hand smoke have substantial negative effects on children.[93] However, effects on children can be greatly reduced through parent education and counseling.[94] Additional outreach and counselling in medical and social services might protect both children and mothers from environmental tobacco smoke in their homes.

Teen Births

Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school while children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are also less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.[95] The good news is that there has been a local and national decrease in teen births. There were 494 births to mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2012, down from 692 births in 2009. Continued education, support and programing to assist in pregnancy prevention are essential to maintaining this trend as well as continued support for young parents and their children.

Vaccinations

The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.[96] Based on data available, an estimated 60% of children 19 through 35 months had not completed their recommended vaccinations. Less than half (48%) had completed pertussis vaccinations in 2012, during a statewide whooping cough outbreak. Whopping cough can lead to infant deaths since infants are too young to be vaccinated, but they can catch it from older children and parents who are not vaccinated or have not received the booster.

Child Care and Early Education

There is not enough child care for all the parents who are working in the region. Only 40% or 23,932 children with working parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region had child care spaces available to them. Further, child care costs tend to be high, especially for single parent

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[93] Sobotova L1, Liu YH, Burakoff A, Sevcikova L, Weitzman M. (2011) Household exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with decreased physical and mental health of mothers in the USA. Maternal and Child Health. Jan; 15(1):128-37. doi: 10.1007/s10995-009-0549-z.

[94] Melbourne F Hovell, et al. (2000). Effect of counseling mothers on their children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke: randomized controlled trial. BMJ. Aug 5, 2000; 321(7257): 337–342.\

[95] National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues. Retrieved 2004 from http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf.

[96] Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.

families and lower income families. The median daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from $20.00 for an approved child care home to $42.50 for center based care in 2012. Considering the need for additional quality child care, the North Phoenix Region has taken steps to increase child care capacity and help parents to access quality early learning opportunities for their children. There are a number of programs offering educational opportunities for individuals interested in early child education as well as support programs for those providing informal care. Yet, there continues to be a need for child care subsidies and support programs in order for struggling families to meet their child care needs and provide young children with quality early education.

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child's reading level at the end of third grade. In two local school districts, there were high percentages of 3rd grade students meeting or exceeding the AIMS standard for reading in 2013 (87% in Deer Valley and 82% in the Paradise Valley Unified School District). However, these scores were higher than student's scores at Washington Elementary School District where nearly one-third of students were below the standards in reading. Increased supports for early education will help to ensure children are ready for school and prepared for later success. Continued support for early learning and social supports for both children and families is essential to improving the long term educational outcomes of North Phoenix residents.

Juvenile Crime

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety, as it is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.[97] The good news is that arrests of youth ages 8 through 17 have decreased over the past five years. In 2007, roughly 25,000 youth were arrested, compared to roughly 20,000 in 2011, a decrease of about 5,000. While the arrests of children ages 8-17 may seem far removed from the lives of children birth through 5, a recent study showed that children who participated in the preschool intervention for 1 or 2 years had a higher rate of high school completion, more years of completed education, and lower rates of juvenile arrest, violent arrests, and school dropout than those without.[98]

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[97] Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs, *Harvard Education Review*

[98] Arthur J. Reynolds, PhD; Judy A. Temple, PhD; Dylan L. Robertson; Emily A. Mann, MSSW. (2001). Long-term Effects of an Early Childhood Intervention on Educational Achievement and Juvenile Arrest A 15-Year Follow-up of Low-Income Children in Public Schools. JAMA. 2001;285(18):2339-2346. doi:10.1001/jama.285.18.2339.

In Summary

The 2014 North Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report looks at the indicators of child wellbeing in the regional context. The region benefits from many local service providers and the infrastructure of an urban area. However, the pressures of living in a city and the cost of living also create challenges for families. Of greatest concern is the overall number of children living in poverty and the number of children who do not have enough food to eat, as poverty and hunger affects every other aspect of a child's wellbeing. Many of the state and national programs designed to assist families and children living in poverty have been affected by budgetary cuts, resulting in fewer families receiving needed assistance. Many community programs have stepped in to fill the gap in services and as the economy recovers from the economic crisis, some indicators are improving such as unemployment levels and foreclosures.

The majority of women in the region got prenatal care early in their pregnancies and gave birth to healthy weight babies. However, birth weights in the region, the state of Arizona, and the United States are still much worse than most of the richest nations of the world. Teen births have decreased in the region and in the nation, which offers many other benefits such as more healthy weight babies, less infant mortality, and better school success for mothers and their children. Juvenile crime is also going down in the region, promising better outcomes for youth and families.

Some health indicators are improving, such as infant mortality, but diabetes, obesity, and the proliferation of fast food are still of concern. There is a challenge with getting children immunized which has contributed to an epidemic of whooping cough in Arizona.

Finally, good quality child care continues to be a pressing need. Quality child care and early education not only provide the base for educational achievement, they help connect families and children to local social and health care services in the region. And, while a majority of children are scoring well in third grade readings tests, which promise continued school success, nearly one-third of children in one school district scored below the desired standard indicating regional disparities based upon income and demographics.

First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the North Phoenix area to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary (pre-existing) data were collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; the U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 and 2010; the Arizona Department of Health Services; the Arizona Department of Economic Security; the Arizona Department of Education; and other local, state, and federal agencies. Additional data were provided by First Things First for inclusion in the Needs and Assets Report.

Most data were collected for the First Things First North Phoenix Region or Maricopa County when regional data were not available. While all efforts were made to identify data for the population ages birth through 5 in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, data were not always available at this level. In these cases, data were collected for other age ranges (such as ages birth through four or under 18 years). Data were also collected for multiple years when available to present trends. Data in the report reflect the most recent data available.

Data in the report underwent extensive proofing to ensure accuracy. The data proofing protocol is a nine-step process that thoroughly checks text, numbers, and formatting in narrative, tables, charts, and graphs no fewer than three times.

Regional Population and Poverty Estimates

Arizona First Things First provided regional population and poverty estimates for each of the First Things First Regional Councils. These data are based on 2010 Census data. First Things First developed these regional estimates based upon individual census tracts, aligning census tracts to regional zip codes.

Census and American Community Survey Data

The 2014 First Things First North Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report uses U.S. Census data as the primary source of data on population and basic demographics. These data are prioritized due to the small margin of error. The sampling error associated with the decennial census is much lower (in general) than that of the American Community Survey (ACS). The actual number of households from which the Bureau gets completed ACS is about 1 in 11 over any 5-year period (or about 1 in 55 for any single year). However, the U.S. Census no longer uses the “long form” and therefore data on indicators such as family type and grandparent led households are only available through ACS.

Census and ACS data are often presented at the regional level. These data are calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau's ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs). U.S. Census data are available by ZCTA for both Census 2000 and 2010. In 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began to provide all ACS data by ZCTA. The ZCTAs used in this report correspond to the First Things First North Phoenix Region ZIP codes.

Census and ACS data are also presented by School District Boundaries. Data by school district areas include all people living within the geographic region, not only those children and families enrolled in the district. The U.S. Census Bureau's Geography Division updates school district boundaries every other year as part of the School District Review Program. This initiative provides boundaries for the production of school district demographic estimates. School districts are identified as Elementary (primarily serving children in the elementary grades), Secondary (primarily serving children in secondary grades 9th-12th), and Unified (serving children of all grade levels). The School District Boundaries used in this report correspond to the First Things First North Phoenix Region school districts.

This report uses Census 2000 and 2010 and ACS 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates in an effort to align with the data provided by the First Things First state evaluation team. New 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates are available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) definition of those insured:

The definition for those uninsured is the same as the definition by the American Community Survey (ACS). ACS asks if the person is currently "covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans:

- Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
- Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities (Note: SAHIE does not report insurance rates for people over 65 since over 98% of people over the age of 65 are insured)
- Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability
- TRICARE or other military health care
- Indian Health Services (however, people whose only health coverage is Indian Health Service are uninsured as IHS is not considered comprehensive coverage).

- VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)
- Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan (user specified)

First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First Family and Community Survey data is collected every two - three years. The Family and Community Survey is designed to measure many critical areas of parent knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to their young children. The survey contains over sixty questions, some of which were drawn from the national survey, What Grown-Ups Understand about Child Development. Survey items explore multiple facets of parenting. There are questions on overall knowledge of the importance of early childhood. These questions gauge parent knowledge of specific ages and stages, parent behaviors with their children, as well as parent practices related to utilization of services for their families.

Statewide a total of 5,209 adults (ages 18 and older) responded to the 2012 survey with 3,708 of the respondents indicating they had one or more children under six living in their household. For the purposes of the Regional Needs and Assets reports, the sub-sample of 3,708 parents and caregivers with children under six (FTFs target population) was included for the analyses presented in this report. In North Phoenix, a total of 200 surveys were conducted with parents and caregivers of children under six.

The sample data were weighted so that the sample would match the population of the state on four characteristics: Family income, Educational attainment, Sex, and Race-ethnicity. Data was weighted at both the statewide level to arrive at the Arizona results and at the regional level to arrive at the Regional results. Please note that regional estimates are necessarily less precise than the state estimates; i.e. small differences observed might easily be due to sampling variability.

First Things First North Phoenix Region Zip Codes

- 85020
- 85021
- 85022
- 85023
- 85024
- 85027
- 85028
- 85029
- 85032
- 85050
- 85051
- 85053
- 85054
- 85083
- 85085
- 85086
- 85087

First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

Deer Valley Unified School District - www.dvusd.org/our_schools.htm

Paradise Valley Unified School District - http://www.pvschools.net/

Washington Elementary School District - http://wesdschools.org/

Secondary Data Analysis

Child Care Programs and Capacity

Child care programs and capacity data were determined using Department of Economic Security (DES) data provided to us by First Things First and then cross-referenced with data pulled from the DES website. Child care programs were categorized by those that were licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), certified by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (AZDES), and registered with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). ADHS licensed programs include child care centers, child care public schools, and child care small group homes; ADES certified programs include child care homes; and CCR&R programs include unregulated child care homes. Quality First Program data were received from First Things First.

Child Care Need and Availability

Child care need and availability was displayed by presenting the estimated percent of children ages 0 to 11 with parents in the labor force with child care available to them. The numerator in this equation was established by using child care program and capacity data collected through the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to establish an unduplicated estimate of the number of child care slots in the region. The denominator in this equation was the estimate of the number of children with parents in the labor force. This is calculated by using the five year estimate of the American Community Survey (ACS), Table B23008, to establish the percentage of parents in the workforce with children ages 0-17 and multiplying that by the population age 0-11 (ACS Table B09001). Parents in the workforce are defined as married households were both parents work and single parent households where one parent works.