

Hub Summary

Grand Canyon Hub

Overview of the Region

The Grand Canyon Hub includes Grand Canyon Village, Tusayan and Valle. With 151 children ages birth through five in the hub, it is home to 1% of the youngest children in the Coconino Region.¹ In 2010, 35% of children ages birth through five in the hub were Hispanic or Latino, 33% were White, and 17% were American Indian.²

The Neighborhood Economy

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. Approximately 24% of children under the age of five in Arizona are living in poverty.¹

- Approximately one in four (24%) of parents with children ages birth through five in the Grand Canyon Hub went without basic needs in the past 12 months in 2010. The most common basic needs that respondents lacked were: medical care (36%), child care (29%), food (21%), and housing (21%).³

Food Insecurity

When children suffer from lack of food, it can lead to poor health, difficulty learning, more school absences, and lower test scores. One way for children to get good nutrition is to receive free and reduced price meals at school.

- Slightly more than half (55%) of children in the Grand Canyon Unified School District were eligible for free and reduced priced meals in 2011.⁴



FIRST THINGS FIRST COCONINO REGION

To better understand the diversity within the region, the First Things First Coconino Regional Council has divided the region into regional hubs. They have defined six areas in the region: Havasupai, Hopi, Grand Canyon, Northern, Southern, and Winslow. These divisions are used throughout the report to better identify and target the needs and assets of children in the region.

Child Care

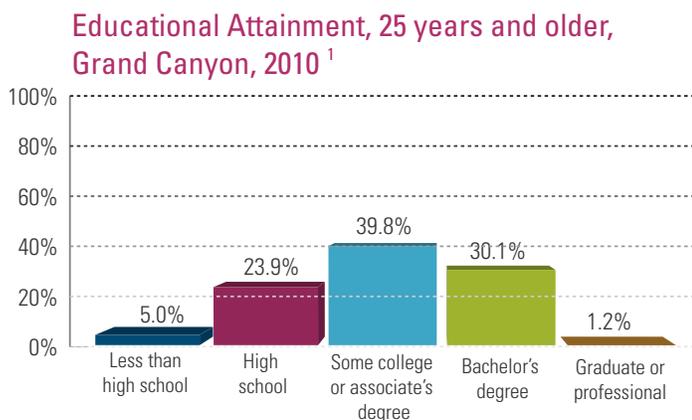
The first five years of a child's life are the most important years for a child's brain development. Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success. Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families provides critical support for parents while they are at work.

- » There was 1 licensed child care program in the Grand Canyon Hub which was also a Quality First program with a capacity to serve 159 children in 2011.⁵
- » The Grand Canyon Hub had 11 Head Start enrollment slots during the 2009/10 school year.⁶

School Readiness

Research shows that children who have the early learning skills that allow them to be prepared for kindergarten perform better on standardized tests in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The DIBELS Assessment is one method to measure children's readiness for kindergarten. There were 27 children enrolled in kindergarten in the Grand Canyon Unified School District during the 2010/11 school year.⁷

- » Only 9% of kindergartners in the Grand Canyon Unified School District tested at grade level when they entered kindergarten in 2009/10, while 91% tested below grade level and needed additional or substantial intervention, according to the DIBELS assessment.⁸



School Success

Third grade reading scores are an excellent predictor of later school success, including high school graduation rates and career success.

- » 44% of 3rd grade students in the Grand Canyon Unified School District met or exceeded the standards on the AIMS reading assessment in 2011.⁹

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success because those with at least a high school diploma have better employment opportunities.

- » 69% of students in Grand Canyon Unified School District graduated from high school in 2010.¹⁰
- » 31% of the population 25 years and older completed a Bachelor's degree or higher, the same percentage as Coconino County overall.¹



Special Needs

Developmental screenings including vision, cognitive, and hearing screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth. 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.

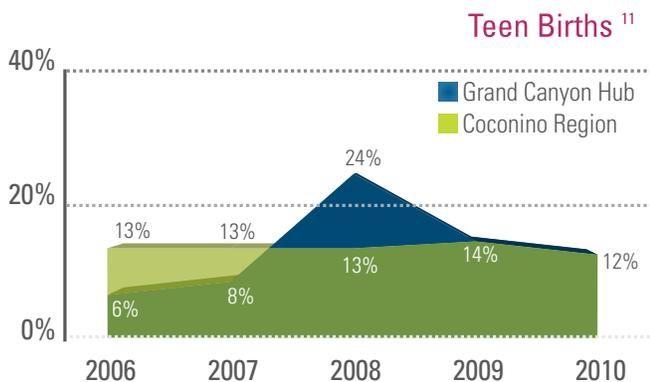
- 5% of parent survey respondents in the Grand Canyon Hub reported having a child with a special need in 2010.³

The Health of Mothers and Babies

In the Coconino Region overall and in the Grand Canyon Hub, the number of births has decreased steadily since a peak birth rate in 2007. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings impact both fertility and birth outcomes. There were 26 children born to mothers living in the Grand Canyon Hub in 2010.¹¹

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 have lower survival rates, than those whose mothers received prenatal care. Low birth weight is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.

- 81% of mothers in the Grand Canyon Hub received prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy in 2010, which was lower than the Coconino Region overall at 85%.¹¹ Most pregnant women in the Grand Canyon Hub must travel at least 75 miles to receive care.
- 8% of mothers had babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds in the Grand Canyon Hub in 2010.¹¹



Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school, and have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, and are less likely to complete high school.

- 12% of the 26 births in the Grand Canyon Hub were to teen mothers under the age of 20, the same percent as the Coconino Region (12%) in 2010.¹¹

Summary

In general, children in the Grand Canyon Hub are struggling a lot with their education. There was a very low percentage of children who were at grade level in kindergarten and these educational challenges remained all the way through high school. The Grand Canyon Hub had one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the entire region. There were, however, better results in the area of health and birth outcomes such as in the percentage of mothers obtaining prenatal care, and babies born at healthy birth weights.



SOURCES

- ¹ American Community Survey, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates.
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.
- ³ Applied Survey Research, 2010 *First Things First Coconino Region: Survey for Parents With Children Ages Birth Through Five*.
- ⁴ Arizona Department of Education, 2011 *National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program*.
- ⁵ Arizona Department of Health Services, 2011 *Child Care Centers and Small Group Homes by Zip Code*.
- ⁶ NACOG Head Start, 2011 *Correspondence with NACOG Council Representative*.
- ⁷ Arizona Department of Education, 2011 *Research and Evaluation Section*.
- ⁸ First Things First Coconino Region School Districts, 2011 *Correspondence with District Representatives*.
- ⁹ Arizona Department of Education, 2011 *School Report Cards*.
- ¹⁰ Arizona Department of Education, 2012 *Graduation Rates*.
- ¹¹ Arizona Department of Health Services, 2011 *Health Status and Vital Statistics*.

.....

For complete sources and hub data, please view the comprehensive First Things First Coconino Region 2012 Needs and Assets Report at <http://www.azftf.gov>.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

First Things First is committed to helping Arizona kids five and younger receive the quality education, healthcare and family support they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.



Report Produced by Applied Survey Research
55 Brennan Street | Watsonville, CA 95076 | 831.728.1356
Bay Area | 408.247.8319 • Southern California | 909.267.9332
WWW.APPLIEDSURVEYRESEARCH.ORG