



2012

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

Gila Regional Partnership Council



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

June 20, 2012

Message from the Chair:

The past four years have been rewarding for the First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families by expansion of a child care quality improvement initiative, child care scholarships, home visitation support, support for pregnant and parenting teens and young adults. The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities for families to provide quality child care and health care to their young children.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Gila Region in 2008 and the 2010 report. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future. The Gila Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets Vendor Applied Survey Research for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Gila region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families within the Gila region.

Going forward, the First Things First Pinal Regional Partnership Council is committed to meeting the needs of young children by providing essential services and advocating for social change.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest children throughout the State of Arizona.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Yale, Chair
Gila Regional Partnership Council



INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INTRODUCTION

A Child's most important developmental years are those leading up to kindergarten. 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. Children's success is fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Gila Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face in the Gila Region include, lack of quality affordable child care, high teen pregnancy rates, grandparents raising grandchildren, children entering school with undiagnosed developmental delays and lack of parenting education.

The First Things First Gila 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. A strong focus throughout the Gila Region, in the past year, is supporting pregnant and parenting teens and young adults, improving the quality and affordability of child care, home visiting support for families and improving access developmental screening and sensory screening. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations; while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

School Readiness Indicators

In August 2011, the First Things First Board approved a set of indicators that provide a composite measure for young children as they prepare to enter Kindergarten. The intent of the indicators is to provide an opportunity to achieve measureable and long-term results for children. Each region was asked to select three or four of the ten indicators to prioritize within their region. The indicators selected by the First Things First Gila Region are listed below.

- # and % of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the developmental domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, motor, and physical
- # and % of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars
- # and % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health, and well-being



The data for these indicators have not been collected systematically in Arizona. First Things First and its early childhood system partners will work over the next year to develop benchmarks for these indicators and systems for tracking them over time. Data that have been identified as a proxy measure of an indicator will be identified in a green note box.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

To the current and past members of the Gila 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. Our continued work will only aid in the direction of building a true comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire State.

We also want to thank Arizona Department of Economic Security and the 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 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. We would also like to thank Gila County Health Department, Globe WIC Program, Pine Strawberry Schools, Miami Head Start.

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Additional Offices in the Bay Area and Southern California



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First Things First Gila Region encompasses a vast, diverse geographic area (4,796 square miles) with elevations ranging from 2,000 to 7,000 feet. The vast, diverse and sparsely populated areas of the region continue to challenge the Regional Council in building a system for early childhood. One of the challenges is that the county is often separated into Northern and Southern Gila County. Roosevelt Lake and a wide sparsely populated area divide the two areas of the county and often provide a barrier to effectively provide services across the region. Globe, Miami and Claypool are the major population areas of Southern Gila while Payson is the major population area in Northern Gila. These metropolitan areas offer the most services to support families and their young children. These areas have Head Start centers, child care services and a limited number of public school based pre-kindergarten classrooms. Pine/Strawberry has a pre-kindergarten program for special needs that also serves a limited number of typically developing children whose families can afford to pay for the program. Tonto Basin has a pre-kindergarten program that serves most of the three and four year old children in the area. Hayden/Winkelman has a home-based Early Head Start and Head Start program as well as a pre-kindergarten program that serves many of the area children.

The population of the First Things First Gila Region was estimated to be 43,309 in 2010 with approximately 2,943 children ages birth through five. About one-quarter (24%) of families in the First Things First Gila Region are female-headed households, and 63% are married couples. Fifty-two percent (52%) of First Things First Gila Region children ages birth through five were identified as White, 33% as Hispanic/Latino, and 12% as American Indian alone. The majority of the population five and over in the First Things First Gila Region (86%) speak only English in the home, 11% reported speaking Spanish, and 2% speak an American Indian language.

The Face of Poverty

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.

Poverty, Income, and Unemployment

- Over 25% of children birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region were living below the poverty level, according to 2006-2010 Census estimates. This was higher than in the state (24%) and the nation (22%).
- Median family income in Gila County was \$39,630, according to 2006-2010 Census estimates.



- The unemployment rate was 10.1% in Gila County in March 2012, higher than the state of Arizona at 8.6%. Between January 2011 and April 2012 a total of 475 jobs were added in Gila County.

Economic Supports

- In 2010, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 60 months to 36 months. These limits were again lowered in 2011, from 36 months to 24 months, decreasing the number of families eligible to receive services.
- There were approximately 218 families with children ages birth through five receiving TANF assistance in Gila County in 2011, a drop from 299 in 2010.

Foreclosures

- Foreclosure rates appeared lower in Gila County than in Arizona as a whole, with 1 in 712 homes in foreclosure in Gila County in January 2012, compared with 1 in 325 in the state. Payson had the highest reported foreclosure rate (1 in 492) with a total of 222 foreclosures.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

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, also provides critical support for working families. However, there have been recent cuts to child care subsidies in the state and local child care centers are closing in the region because parents cannot afford to keep their child in child care programs.

- Only about 1 out of 10 every children with working parents in the First Things First Gila Region have child care spaces available to them.
- There were an estimated 547 child care spaces in the First Things First Gila Region in 2012. Many programs in the region have been closed or moved locations due to lack of enrollment, according to local representatives.
- In addition to the lack of child care availability in the First Things First Gila Region, the cost of child care can limit access and have an impact on families and their financial stability. After rent and paying for one preschooler in a child care center, a single mother would have about 20% (\$4,290) of their income left, approximately \$82 a week to cover food, medical, clothing, utilities, gas, and other basic necessities.



Early Care and Education

School Readiness and Success

Research shows that children who have early learning skills and are ready to enter kindergarten tend to perform much better on standardized tests in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades when compared to their peers who were not ready for kindergarten. Children's literacy and reading skills are assessed by one of two assessments in the First Things First Gila Region, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) or AIMSWeb, which provide a picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

- Over 50% of kindergarten students in Payson Unified, Pine Strawberry Elementary, and Globe Unified School Districts were at grade level at the beginning of the school year in 2010/11.

Reading and School Success

While kindergarten readiness is a good predictor of later school success, 3rd grade reading scores are another excellent predictor of high school graduation rates and career success. The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

- There was variation in the percentage of 3rd graders meeting or exceeding the AIMS 3rd grade reading standard in the region.
 - The percentage of children meeting or exceeding AIMS reading standards in the Hayden-Winkelman School District decreased from 58% in 2010 to 38% in 2011, lower than the other school districts (70% - 80%).
 - Globe and Payson Unified School Districts saw increased percentages of students meeting or exceeding 3rd grade standards in reading.
- Beginning in the year 2013/14, students whose scores are "falling far below" on their 3rd grade AIMS reading will not be promoted from 3rd grade. In 2010/11, parental notification requirements began for any student who seemed to be falling behind. All school districts in the First Things First Gila Region had 15% or less of students who were "falling far below" on their 3rd grade AIMS reading in 2011.



Children with Special Needs

It's 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. Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth. A major challenge to providing services to children with special needs in the First Things First Gila Region is the limited number of service providers. The Arizona Department of Health Services reports that there are seven speech language pathologists but no licensed audiologists in the First Things First Gila Region. Most of the speech and language pathologists are employed by the school districts.

- The number of children birth to 36 months old who have developmental delays or at risk for delays receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services increased from 13 in 2008/09 to 35 in 2009/10.

Health

Access to Health Care and Health Insurance

Children with a regular source of primary health care and health insurance have better health, receive more preventative care, and have lower rates of hospitalization because they get treated for conditions before they become too serious. The ratio of primary care providers to the population in Gila County was one provider to 755 individuals in 2010, a decrease from one provider for every 908 individuals in 2009. The local ratio was worse than the state's ratio of one provider for every 501 individuals.

- Approximately 14% of children and youth (ages 19 and younger) in Gila County were uninsured, similar to Arizona as a whole at 13% in 2009.
- A total of 79 children in Gila County were insured through KidsCare in January 2012, nearly half (52%) of the previous years' enrollment, a decline likely caused by reduced funding and continued changes in state legislation.

Healthy Births

Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have healthier babies. 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.

- Only 70% of women in the First Things First Gila Region received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 82% of women in Arizona in 2010.
- 8% of babies born in the First Things First Gila Region were born with low birth weights (less than 5.5 pounds) in 2010.



Teen Births

Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely, have babies born at low birth weights, 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, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers. Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.

- Along with La Paz County, Gila County has the second highest rate of teen pregnancies in Arizona in 2010.¹ Births to teen mothers represented nearly 17% of all births in Gila County in 2011.

Supporting Families

Child Abuse and Neglect

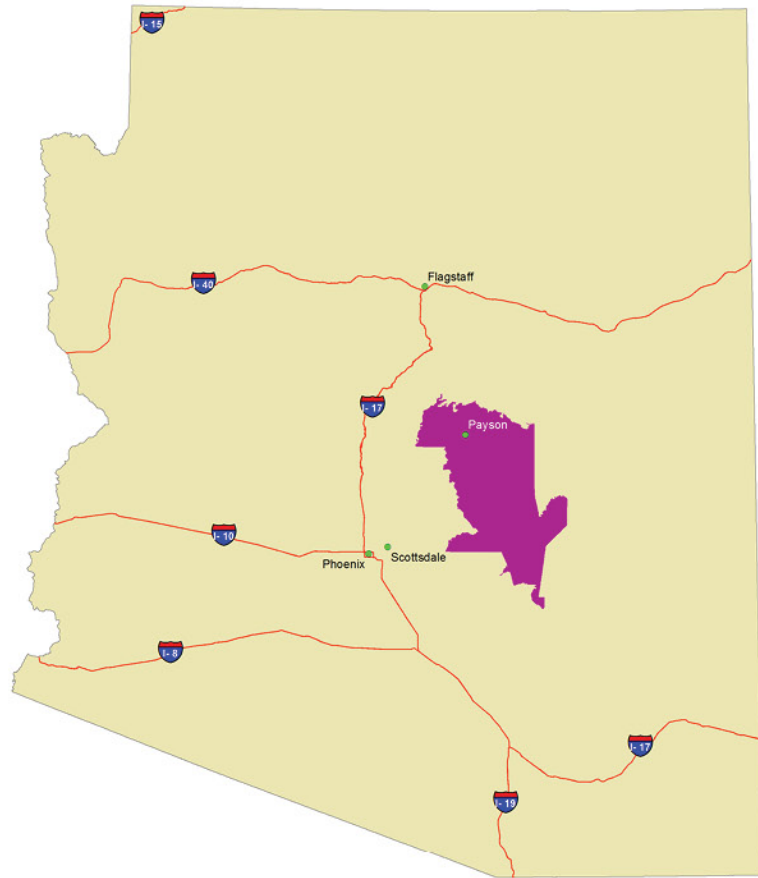
Child abuse and neglect are found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all factors that can lead to adults abusing children. Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children.

- The number of substantiated cases of child abuse in Gila County has dropped in recent years, but this may be due to budget cuts, staff decreases, and fewer investigations. In 2010, there were 4 substantiated cases of abuse, down from 35 in 2006. The most common form of abuse was child neglect.
- The number of children removed from the home by child protective services increased slightly between 2007 and 2010, from 57 to 68 in the First Things First Gila Region.

¹ Payson Roundup. (Aug. 13, 2010). County's teen birth rate 2nd in Arizona. Retrieved August 2010 from <http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2010/reg/13/>



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



ABOUT THE FIRST THINGS FIRST GILA REGION

The First Things First Gila Region encompasses a vast, diverse geographic area (4,796 square miles) with elevations ranging from 2,000 to 7,000 feet. Only 2% of the region's lands are owned by individuals and corporations, which impacts property tax rates as well as funding levels for many social and educational programs. The remaining land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, tribal governments, the state, or are publically owned. The vast, diverse and sparsely populated areas of the region continue to challenge the Regional Council in building a system for early childhood. One of the challenges is that the county is often separated into Northern and Southern Gila County. Roosevelt Lake and a wide sparsely populated area divide the two areas of the county and often provide a barrier to effectively provide services across the region. Globe, Miami and Claypool are the major population areas of southern Gila while Payson is the major population area in northern Gila. These metropolitan areas offer the most services to support families and their young children. These areas have Head Start centers, child care services and a limited number of public school based pre-kindergarten classrooms. In contrast, the communities of Hayden/Winkelman, Pine/Strawberry and Tonto Basin have limited pre-kindergarten services for children. Hayden/Winkelman has a home based Early Head Start and Head Start program. Young currently does not have any preschool, Head Start, or licensed child care services.



BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics describe the region's 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
- Language Characteristics



Population

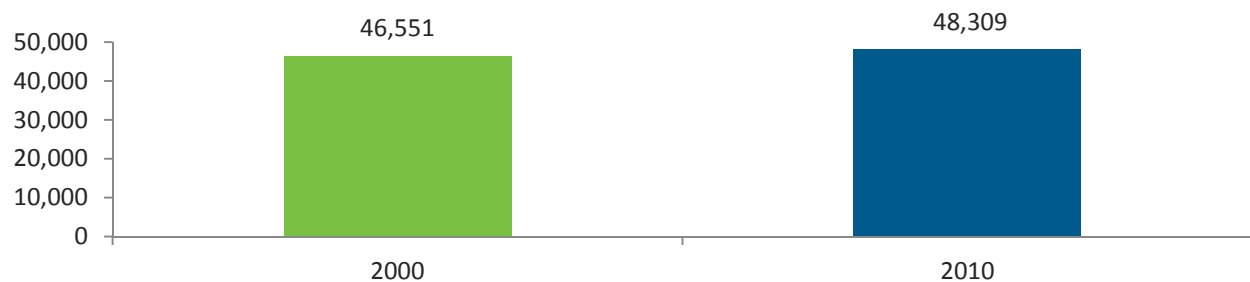
Why It Is Important

Since the 2010 First Things First Needs and Assets Report, the U.S. Census Bureau released a number of new data. Demographics of the region rely heavily on these data. While these data provide a general understanding of the region, it is important to recognize their limitations as they are self-reported and rely on the Bureau's ability to reach and build trust with local community members. These data are also limited in their representation of smaller regions or population areas.

What the Data Tell Us

Unlike many areas of the country, the population of the First Things First Gila Region has remained relatively stable. There has been an increase of just over 1,750 people in the region in the past ten years.

Estimated Total Population, First Things First Gila Region

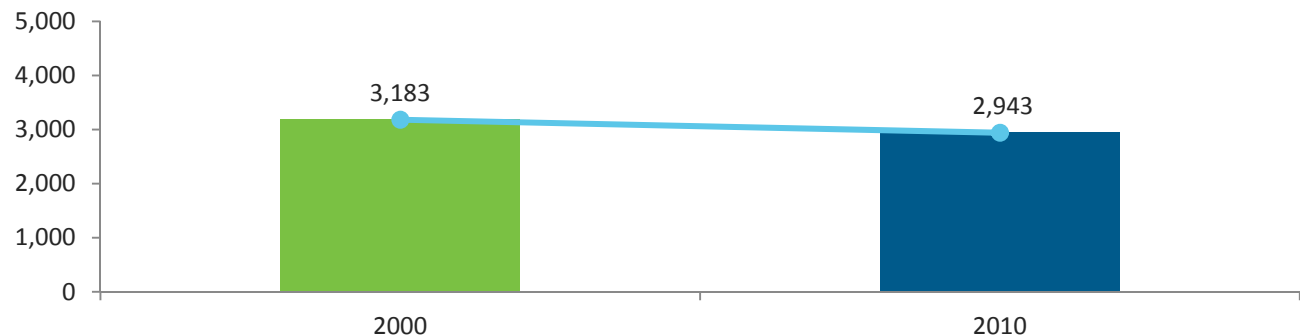


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table P012- Sex by Age. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

The number of children birth through five years in the First Things First Gila Region decreased slightly between 2000 and 2010. The Census reported fewer than 3,000 children in this age group in 2010.

Estimated Population Ages Birth Through Five, First Things First Gila Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table QT-P2- Single Years of Age Under 30 Years and Sex. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.



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 well-being.² A 2008 study by McLanahan and Percheski suggest that the links between family structure, income inequality and ethnicity, are not only compounded by one another but increase generationally. Income inequality has been linked to single motherhood; single motherhood decreases children's economic mobility, and these in turn are exacerbated by already existing racial inequalities.³

The effects of single parent households on the health and wellbeing of children have been long recognized. However, recent economic challenges have added new pressures 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.⁴

What the Data Tell Us

A diversity of family types in Gila County creates challenges to service providers trying to address the needs of the diverse communities. Throughout this Needs and Assets report, data are presented that demonstrates the economic and health disparities among infants and children of single mothers, teen parents, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Slightly more than 60% of families with children ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region were married couple families in 2010. Twenty-four percent were families of single female householders, a higher percentage than the state overall. There was a higher percentage of single parent households in the First Things First Gila Region (male or female householder) than in the state.

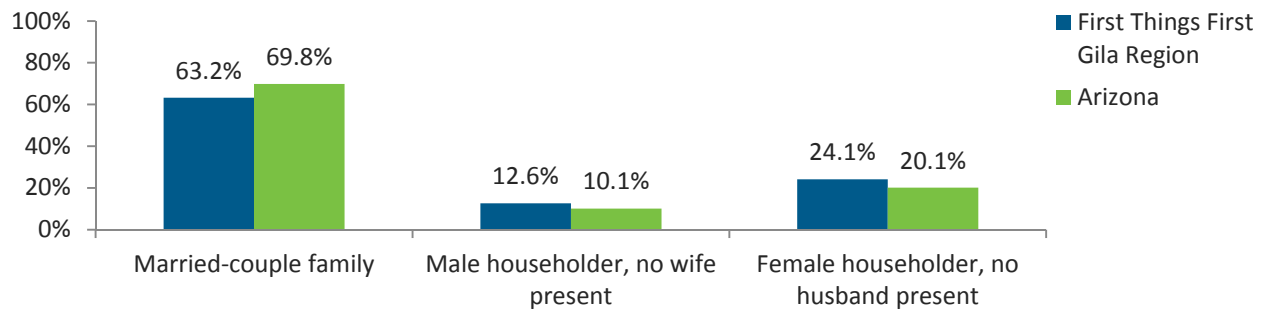
² Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). Poverty, family structure, and child well-being: Indicators from the SIPP. *U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>

³ McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008). Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 34: 257 -276.

⁴ Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E. (2009). A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. *School Psychology Quarterly*, Vol 24(3), Sep 2009, 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226



Type of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table P40 Family Type and Age for Own Children Under 18 Years. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

The First Things First Gila Region has seen a lot of young adults (many under 25 years old) returning back to live with their families. Younger parents and adults who have gone out into the community for school or work are coming back because they are unable to maintain financially self-sufficiency.

Twenty-two percent of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region lived in a household with a grandparent householder in 2010, almost double that of Arizona (14%).

The difficulty with grandparent families is that the grandparents are afraid to file for custody. They are worried that the parents will take the children and they know they are better off with them. But without legal custody, the grandparents face many problems, such as obtaining care of a child who gets hurt.

Miami Head Start Representative

According to multiple community representatives, the number of grandparents living with and responsible for their grandchildren is much higher than presented by the U.S. Census Bureau. In the Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District, there were 12 grandparents raising children and 12 great-grandparents raising children in 2011/12.

Grandchildren Ages Birth through Five Living with a Grandparent Householder

	2010
First Things First Gila Region	
Number of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	633
Percent of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	21.5%
Arizona	
Number of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	74,153
Percent of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	13.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P41- Age of Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent Householder. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P14- Sex by Age for the Population Under 20 Years. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.



Race/Ethnic Distribution

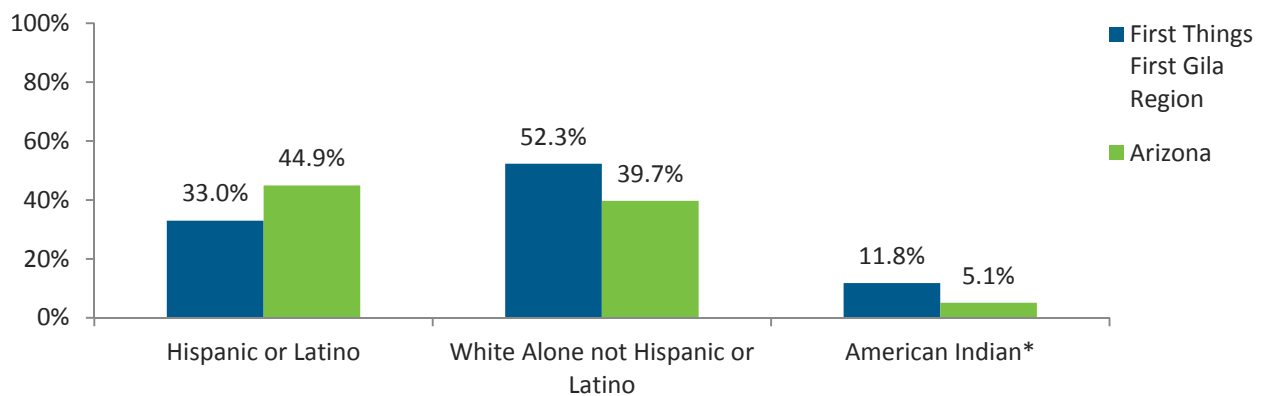
Why It Is Important

Arizona is an 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

Fifty-two percent of children age birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region were identified as White, 33% as Hispanic or Latino, and 12% as American Indian.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table PCT12- Sex by Age. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Based on federal mandates, the U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) as separate and distinct concepts. Therefore, a respondent may indicate that they are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and then identify their ethnicity. For the purposes of this report, all other ethnicities presented are those who reported the "not Hispanic or Latino."

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

* The U.S. Census combines American Indian and Alaska Native. The term Alaska Native has been omitted from this report for relevance.



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.⁵ Non-English speakers tend to be less likely to access health care, preventive care, and prenatal care unless services are in their own language and culturally sensitive.

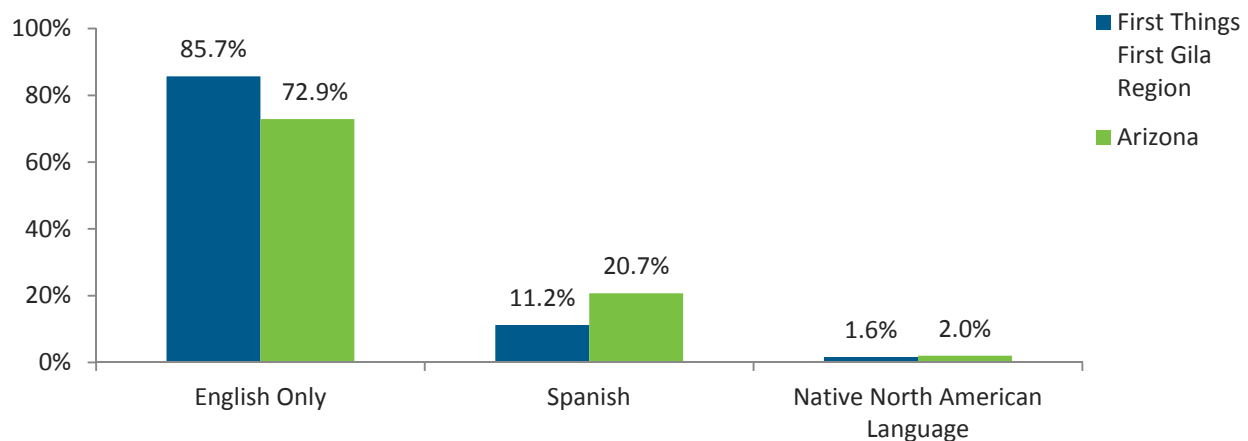
Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Adult Education Programs** are located in Globe and Payson. English language classes are available for immigrant families so they can better support their child's education.

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of the population five years old and over in the First Things First Gila Region (86%) spoke only English in the home. Just 11% reported speaking Spanish, compared with 21% in the state of Arizona. The percentage of households who reported speaking a Native North American Language (1.6%) was similar to the state at 2%.

Language Spoken at Home by Population Five Years and Over, 2006-2010 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *Table B16001- Language Spoke in the Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 years and over. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

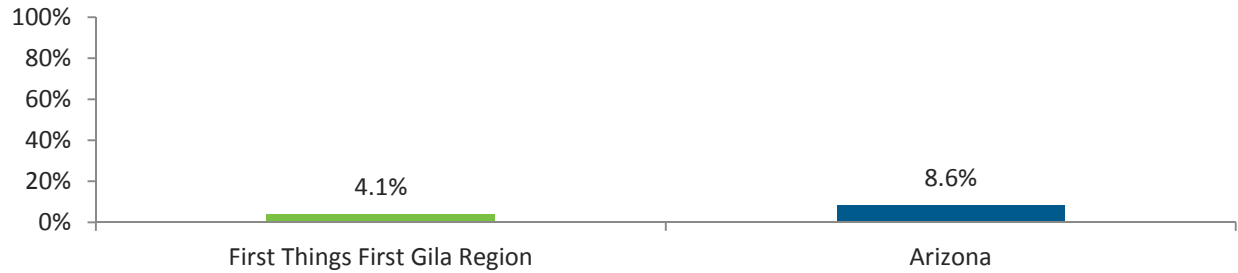
Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

⁵ The Center for Public Education. (2000). Top Five Languages by State. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>



The U.S. Census Bureau describes households where no one speaks English “very well” or where no one over the age of 14 speaks English as “linguistically isolated households” or non-English speaking homes. Overall, 4% of children ages 5 to 17 lived in non-English speaking homes in the First Things First Gila Region, compared to about 9% in Arizona.

Children Ages 5 to 17 Living in Non-English Speaking* Households, 2006-2010 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B16003- Age by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 and Over in Households in which No One 14 and Over Speaks English Only or Speaks A Language Other than English and Speaks English Less than “Very Well.” *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B09001-Population Under 18. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

* “A household is classified as linguistically isolated if no one 14 years old and over speaks only English or speaks a non-English language and speaks English ‘very well.’ In other words, all members of the household 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English.” (U.S. Census Bureau).

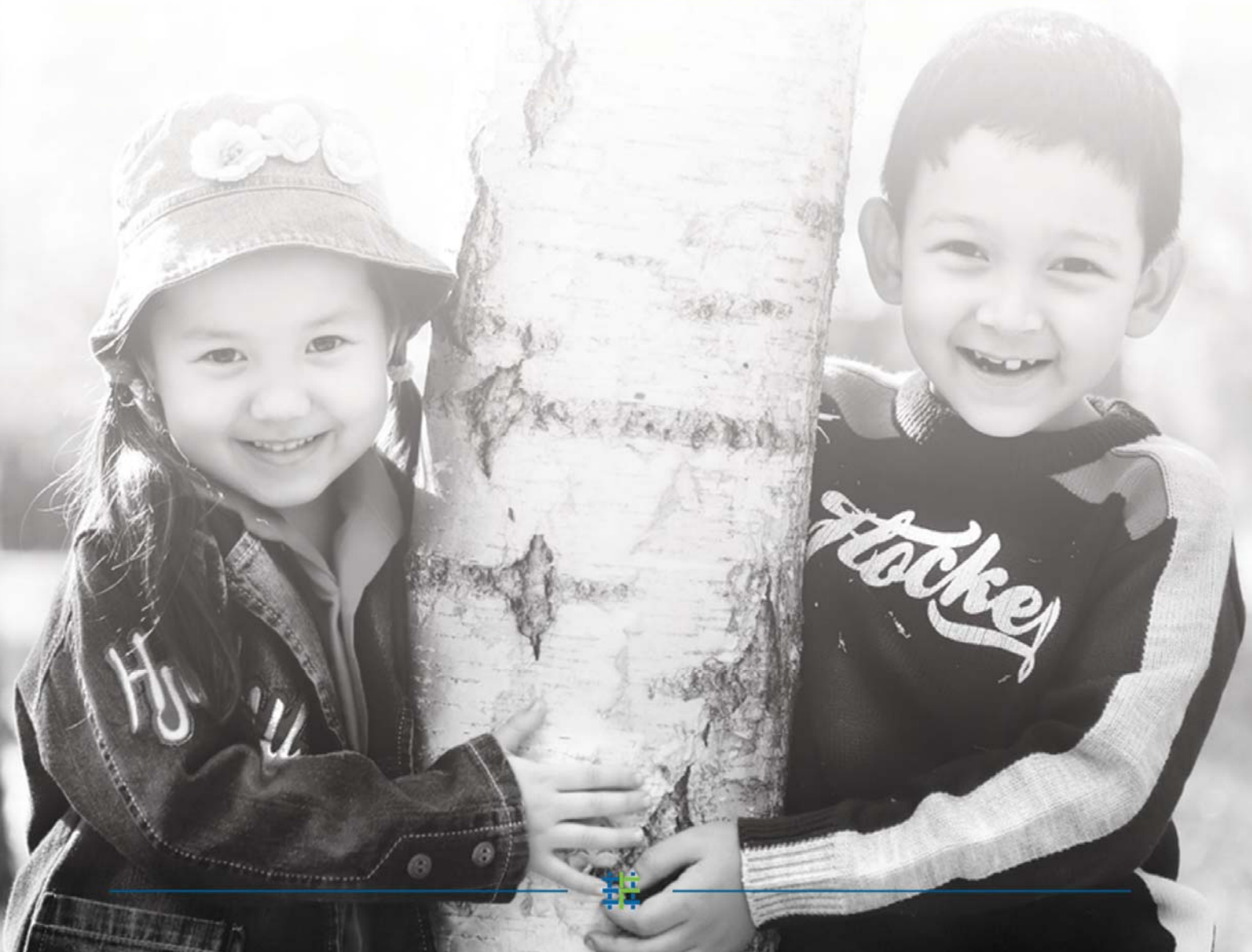


ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. The nation still faces economic challenges that greatly impact families and their children. Cuts in federal and state spending have major effects on health status, child care and the educational needs of young children.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Income
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Economic Supports
- Food Insecurity
- Homelessness
- Foreclosure



Income

Why It Is Important

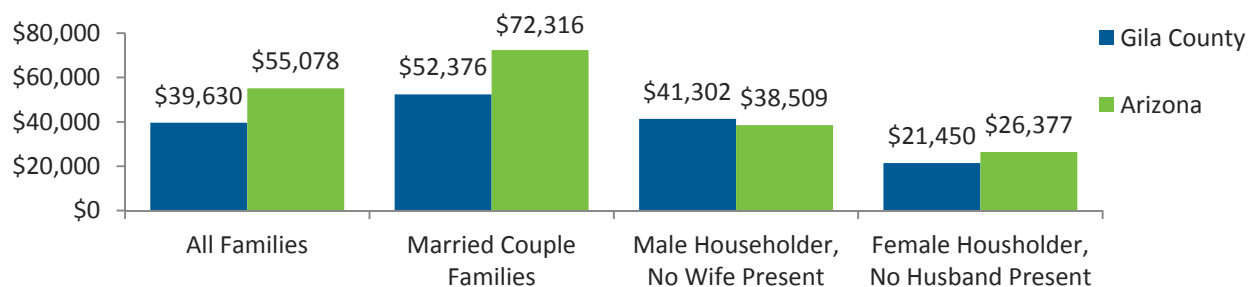
Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the well-being of its residents. The income of families is related to the health, well-being, educational attainment, and future economic success of children.

What the Data Tell Us

Median family income means that half of the households earn more than the median family income, and half earn less. Median family income includes only those households with at least one or more person related by birth, marriage or adoption.

The median family income of all families with children under 18 in Gila County was \$15,448 less at \$39,630 than the state (\$55,078). The median income of female-headed households in Gila County was much lower than that of other household types at \$21,450.

Estimated Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, 2006-2010 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates*. Retrieved November 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Note: Median family income for families with children under 18 years old includes both related and unrelated children in the household.

Median family incomes in Gila County varied by school district, according to Census 2006-2010 estimates. For example, families with children in Tonto Basin Elementary District area had a median income of \$36,313, while in Payson Unified District area the median family incomes were estimated at more than \$48,000.

Estimated Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, 2006-2010 Estimates

COMMUNITY	2006-2010
Tonto Basin Elementary District	\$36,313
Pine Strawberry Elementary District	\$42,188
Globe Unified District	\$52,031
Hayden-Winkelman Unified District	\$46,071
Miami Unified District	\$40,351
Payson Unified District	\$48,240
Gila County	\$46,292
Arizona	\$59,840

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19125- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates*. Retrieved November 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Note: The Census school district data includes anyone living within the school district boundaries.



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.

According to 2012 data, a household with one adult and one preschooler required \$40,417 to be self-sufficient and a household with two adults and one preschooler required \$48,021 per year.

In Gila County, the median family income of married couple families and male-headed households met these standards, according to 2008-2010 U.S. Census estimates. However, the median income of single-parent female head of households was \$21,450 in Gila County; much lower than the level needed to be self-sufficient.

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Gila County, 2012

MONTHLY EXPENSE	FAMILY TYPE			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School-age	2 Adults + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School-age
Housing	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
Child Care	\$893	\$1,283	\$893	\$1,283
Food	\$363	\$544	\$587	\$747
Transportation	\$279	\$279	\$529	\$529
Health Care	\$424	\$446	\$480	\$502
Miscellaneous	\$271	\$330	\$324	\$381
Taxes	\$528	\$633	\$574	\$669
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	- \$55	-\$100	- \$50	- \$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	- \$83	-\$167	- \$83	- \$167
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly ¹	\$19.14	\$22.71	\$11.37	\$13.05
Monthly	\$3,368	\$3,998	\$4,002	\$4,594
Annual	\$40,417	\$47,973	\$48,021	\$55,128

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

¹ Hourly wages for two-adult households are per adult (e.g., \$11.37 per adult for a family with two adults and one preschooler).



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.⁶ 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 well-being and Arizona has added jobs at a slower rate than the U.S. as a whole for the past three years (2010 to 2012).⁷

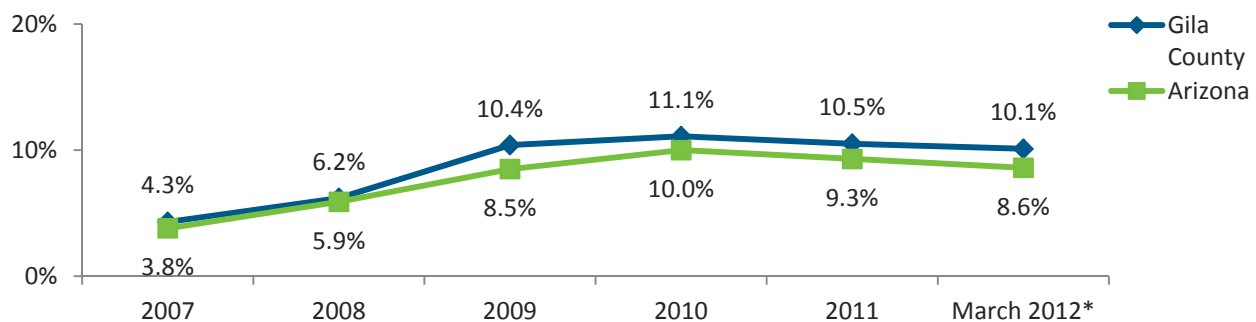
Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Payson Town Council's* work to bring in a four-year college has attracted support from many large technology companies, including IBM. The new school will focus on technology and the environment, and its presence could have a positive impact on Payson's economy.

What the Data Tell Us

The unemployment rate was just under 11% in Gila County in 2011. While the unemployment rate in Gila County has remained higher than Arizona as a whole, it has followed the same trend as the state since 2007, peaking in 2010 and recovering slightly in 2011 and March 2012.

Unemployment Rate



Source: Arizona Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2011). Special Unemployment Report. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

*Data from 2012 only represents the month of March. Data prior to March 2012 represents an average for the year.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



At the community level, unemployment rates in the First Things First Gila Region varied greatly in 2011. The highest levels of unemployment in March 2012 were Hayden Town (15%) and Miami Town (12%). Between 2007 and March 2012, unemployment more than doubled in Claypool, Globe, Miami, and Payson. The economy in Globe has seen an increase in unemployment, however, according to a Globe community representative, as a mining community, the economy has always been difficult and the population of the community increases and decreases dependent upon the amount of work in mines.

"Many of the people who work in the mines are not from the community, they come in from Phoenix, they have higher level of education and they are more employable than the community representatives. That said, people from the town do work in the mines." Globe Community Representative

Unemployment Rate by Community

COMMUNITY	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	MARCH 2012 ¹
Claypool CDP	3.9%	5.7%	9.7%	10.3%	9.8%	9.3%
Globe City	3.4%	5.0%	8.5%	9.1%	8.6%	8.2%
Hayden Town	6.6%	9.3%	15.2%	16.3%	15.6%	15.0%
Miami Town	5.3%	7.5%	12.8%	13.6%	12.9%	12.3%
Payson Town	3.1%	4.6%	7.8%	8.4%	7.9%	7.6%
Pine CDP	2.3%	3.3%	5.7%	6.1%	5.8%	5.5%
Strawberry CDP	2.0%	2.9%	5.0%	5.5%	5.0%	4.9%
Tonto Basin CDP	1.8%	2.8%	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.4%
Winkelman Town	2.9%	4.4%	7.0%	7.4%	7.0%	6.8%
Young CDP	2.6%	3.9%	6.2%	6.6%	6.3%	6.1%
Gila County²	4.3%	6.2%	10.4%	11.1%	10.5%	10.1%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	8.5%	10.0%	9.3%	8.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Employment and Population Statistics. (2011). Special unemployment Report. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=142>.

Note: CDP stands for Census Designated Place.

¹ Data from 2012 only represents the month of March. Data prior to March 2012 represents an average for the year.

² County unemployment data includes reservation lands, including San Carlos CDP which had 43.6% unemployment in 2011.

Between January 2011 and April 2012 a total of 475 jobs were added in Gila County. There was growth in service industries between 2011 and 2012, which accounted for 300 of the jobs added.

The reopening of the BHP mine in the Miami area in the Spring of 2012 has prospects of adding approximately 650 new jobs. Freeport also plans to hire approximately 150 new staff. According to a community representative, the impact on the community is unknown as many new employees may need to live in the valley and commute as there is not enough housing available in Globe and Miami.

"Greatest challenges faces children in our community – there are a lot. Root problems are poverty and lack of education of community members, not sure which comes first." Globe Community Representative



In many of the small communities in the First Things First Gila Region jobs are not readily available. In Globe there are primarily government jobs, mining jobs, or jobs at Wal-Mart. In Pine-Strawberry, the school district is the largest employer and everyone else has to find employment at small local businesses.

Non-Farm Employment, Gila County

INDUSTRY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Private	9,600	9,200	6,550	8,875	9,075
Total Non-farm	14,575	14,275	18,925	13,775	14,050
<i>Goods Producing</i>	2,650	2,525	625	2,700	2,675
<i>Service-Providing</i>	11,925	11,750	18,300	11,075	11,375
Private Service Providing	6,950	6,675	5,925	6,175	6,400
Government	4,975	5,075	12,375	4,900	4,975
Total Non-Farm Employment	24,175	23,475	25,475	22,650	23,125

Source: Arizona Department of Employment and Population Statistics. (2011). Current Employment Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from www.workforce.az.gov.

Note: Data reported for 2008-2011 are from January of each given year. Data for 2012 are April counts.

Poverty

Why It Is Important

Developed in the early 1960s, 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. The Federal Poverty Thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes – including estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. Each person or family is assigned to one of 48 possible poverty thresholds based on size of family and ages of the family members.⁸

With more than 1 in 4 children ages birth through five living in poverty, Arizona had the 5th highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010.⁹ Living in poverty puts children at risk for a wide variety of challenges with both immediate and lasting effects. 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.¹⁰

⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). Poverty Guidelines and Poverty Measurement. Retrieved January 5, 2011 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.

⁹ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org

¹⁰ 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.

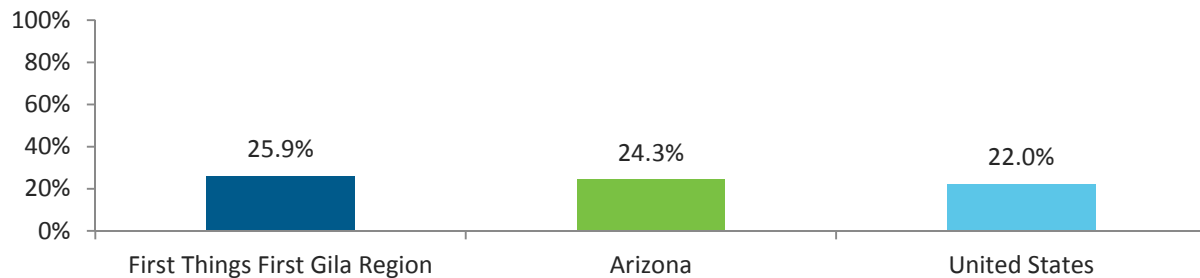


What the Data Tell Us

Over 25% of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region were living below the poverty level, according to 2006-2010 estimates. This was higher than in the state (24%) and the nation (22%).

"Miami has really high rates of poverty. Working in Miami has taken a toll on me emotionally, seeing all the needs of the families. They are in need of basics like food, clothing, etc." Miami Head Start Representative

Children Birth Through Five Living Below the Poverty Level, 2006-2010 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B17001- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The First Things First Gila Regional data are calculated by removing the parts of San Carlos Reservation falling within Gila County.

Thirty percent of children ages five to 17 in Gila County lived below the federal poverty level in 2010. The numbers varied within the region, with more than half (54%) of children in the Tonto Basin Elementary School District living in poverty.

Children 5-17 in Families in Poverty, 2010

REGION	2010
Globe Unified District	19.9%
Hayden-Winkelman Unified District	49.8%
Miami Unified District	34.7%
Payson Unified District	25.2%
Pine-Strawberry	19.8%
Tonto Basin Elementary District	53.6%
Young Elementary School District	24.5%
Gila County	30.3%
Arizona	23.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Ages 5-17 in Families in Poverty. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Retrieved February 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saie/saie.cgi>

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 for supplemental services like food banks and clothing for those families.



Snapshot of Community Assets

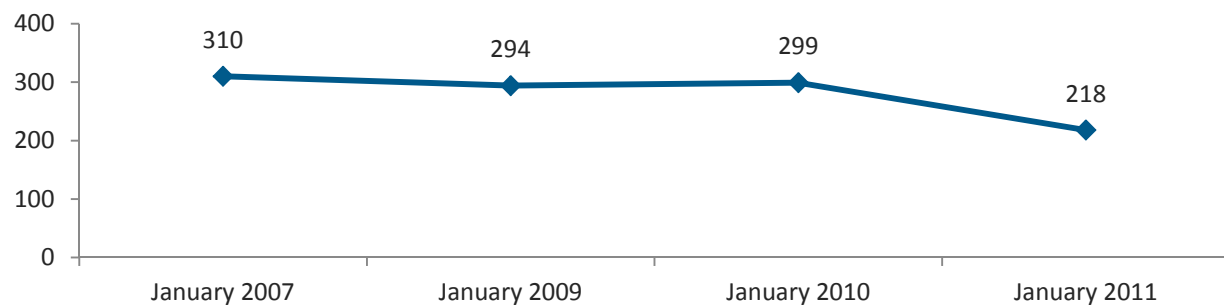
- *WIC's community services office, Community Action Program, St. Vincent DePaul, Gila House and local churches* provide some assistance with rent and other material needs. However, according to a community representative, resources are very limited.

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.¹¹ The federal TANF law allows states to offer a maximum of 60 months of assistance within one's lifetime. In 2012, Arizona reduced its TANF cash assistance time limit to 24 months, one of the shortest in the nation.

The number of families with children ages birth through five receiving TANF assistance in Gila County decreased between 2010 and 2011. Between 2007 and 2010, the number of families receiving TANF remained around 300. In 2011, the number dropped to just over 200, largely due to state changes in the TANF program.

Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received October 2011 from First Things First.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008, November 20). About TANF. 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. Arizona was among the top 5 states with the highest rate of food insecure children under 18.¹²

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.¹³ This makes children more likely to suffer from poverty when they become adults.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides nutrition training and reimbursement to child care providers who serve nutritious meals to children.

For families who earn above 185% of the poverty level (where WIC and SNAP end) but are still unable to afford food, charitable services and programs become their safety net.¹⁴

Snapshot of Community Assets

- In the First Things First Gila Region there are several food banks serving community members.
 - ***The Gila Community Food Bank*** has limited supplies for families. According to the Miami Head Start Representative, families can only visit once a month. Food Bank services are provided in Miami and Globe.
 - ***Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Food Bank of Payson*** provides food, as well as assistance with utilities, rent and other social services.
 - ***Community Presbyterian Church – Association of Food Banks of Payson*** provides food assistance and other social services.
 - ***Summer Lunch Program*** provides food in the Globe/Miami area. Lunches can be obtained at the Senior Center in Miami or the Boys and Girls Club in Globe.
 - ***Payson Community Presbyterian Food Bank***
 - ***Pine/Strawberry Food Bank***
 - ***Tonto Basin Kiwanis Food Bank***

¹² Feeding America. (2012). Child Hunger Facts. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.feedingamerica.org>.

¹³ Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management. (2002, June). The Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children, Evidence from Recent Scientific Studies. Massachusetts: Brandeis University.

¹⁴ Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. (2011). Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity. *Feeding America*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://feedingamerica.org/>.

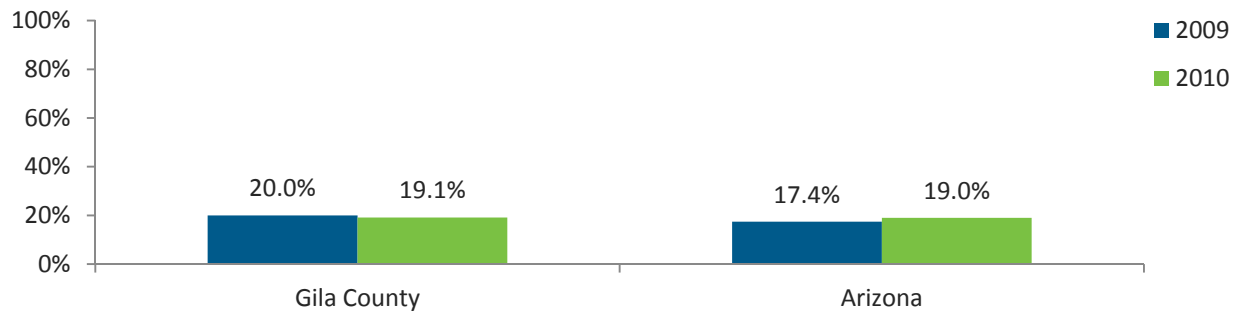


What the Data Tell Us

Households are classified as food insecure with hunger if one or more household members went hungry at least once during the year because the household could not afford enough food to eat. Nineteen percent of Gila County residents were food insecure in 2010, down slightly from 20% in 2009.

"Things are getting worse economically and it is affecting their ability to have basic needs met. The two meals we provide for most of our students are most likely the biggest meals they are getting." Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District Representative

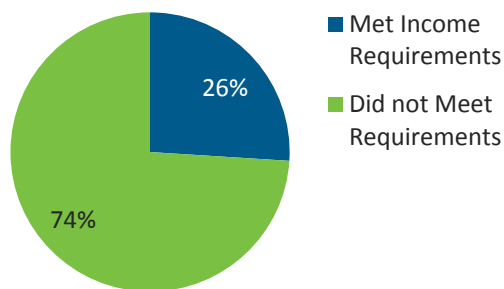
Food Insecure Populations



Source: Feeding America. (2012). Map the Meal Gap, Arizona, Gila County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://feedingamerica.org/>.

Of households with food insecurity in Gila County, 26% reported incomes that were too far above Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program requirements, and therefore were not receiving the program benefits in 2010.

Food Insecure Households Meeting SNAP Income Requirements, Gila County, 2010



Source: Feeding America. (2012). Map the Meal Gap, Arizona, Gila County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://feedingamerica.org/>.

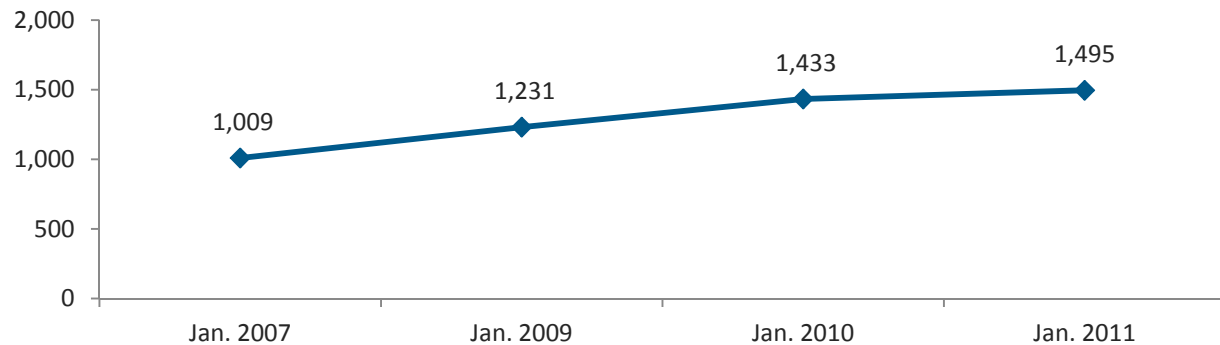
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) previously called Food Stamps provides benefits to individuals struggling to obtain food for their families. The program focuses on providing nutritional assistance that can be used on any foods that can be eaten in the home. In 2009, 48% of all SNAP participants were children in the U.S. The average SNAP (food stamp) benefit is \$29/week for a qualifying individual.¹⁵

¹⁵ Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. (2011). Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity. *Feeding America*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://feedingamerica.org/>.



The number of families with children ages birth through five in Gila County receiving SNAP benefits has increased steadily since 2007. Nearly 1,500 families were receiving benefits in 2011.

Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, Formerly Known as Food Stamps), Gila County

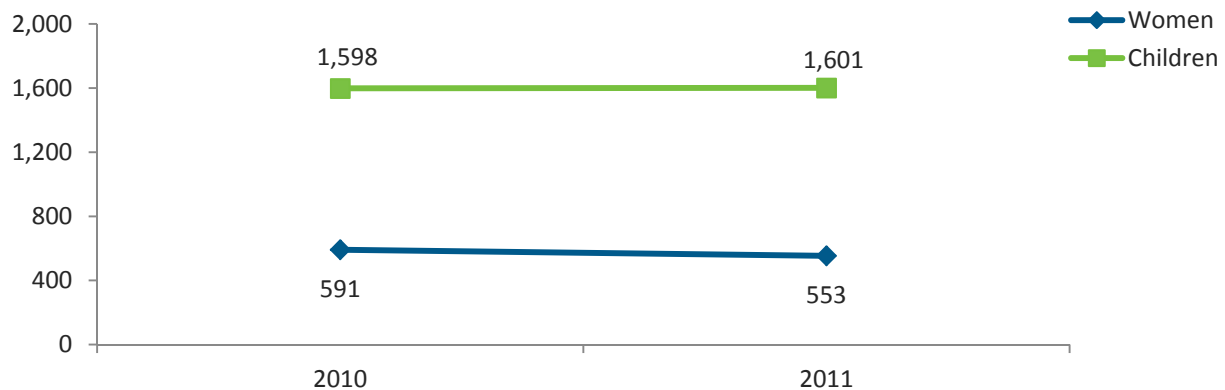


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

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

The number of women and children served by WIC had remained stable between 2010 and 2011 in the First Things First Gila Region, at about 2,100. Smaller communities in the region are not being served by WIC unless they go into town for services. For mothers who live far from town, WIC can give them benefits for multiple months so they do not have to come to town as often, according to a Globe community representative.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Recipients, First Things First Gila Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Retrieved 2012 from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Gila Region data are the combination of zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes). Data shown for First Things First Gila Region only includes ZIP codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them. The following zip codes were excluded: 85235, 85292, 85502, 85532, 85544, 85545, 85547, 85553, 85554.



The National School Lunch Program qualifies children living in low-income families between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced-cost meals and those at or below 130% of the poverty level for free meals.¹⁶ Between 41% (Payson Unified School District) and 84% (Tonto Basin Elementary District) of students in the First Things First Gila Region school districts were eligible for free or reduced-cost school meals in 2011.

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First Gila Regional School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	MARCH 2008	MARCH 2009	MARCH 2010	MARCH 2011
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	59.2%	62.8%	63.5%	72.2%
Globe Unified School District	50.0%	54.9%	57.3%	57.8%
Miami Unified School District	55.2%	58.5%	64.7%	63.4%
Payson Unified School District	46.7%	50.8%	56.6%	41.3%
Pine Strawberry Elementary School District	56.9%	55.7%	65.6%	67.6%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	72.0%	75.3%	83.1%	84.0%
Young Elementary School District	90.3%	88.9%	93.2%	80.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2011). National School Lunch program and School Breakfast Program. Retrieved February 2012 from <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/>.

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.¹⁷ 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.^{18, 19}

¹⁶United 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>

¹⁷ Zenger, 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>

¹⁸ McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

¹⁹ 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 reflects information collected prior to the definitional change.



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 campgrounds 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Gila County Continuum of Care*** social service providers in Payson and Globe are collaborating to assist the homeless population. However, the need for shelter and assistance are greater than the number of shelter beds and services provided, and help varies between communities.
- ***Gila County Community Action Program*** services are available in both Payson and Globe, with some resources for short-term motel vouchers, first month rent, and utility deposit assistance.
- ***The Vets Helping Vets*** transitional housing program is active in Payson.
- ***Time Out*** offers domestic violence shelter services in Payson.
- ***Globe Domestic Violence Shelter*** provides services in Globe/Miami.
- ***Gila House*** in Globe is faith-based short-term housing for families. Currently Gila House has only one housing unit. The Gila House Board is currently seeking funding to purchase a multi-unit property.

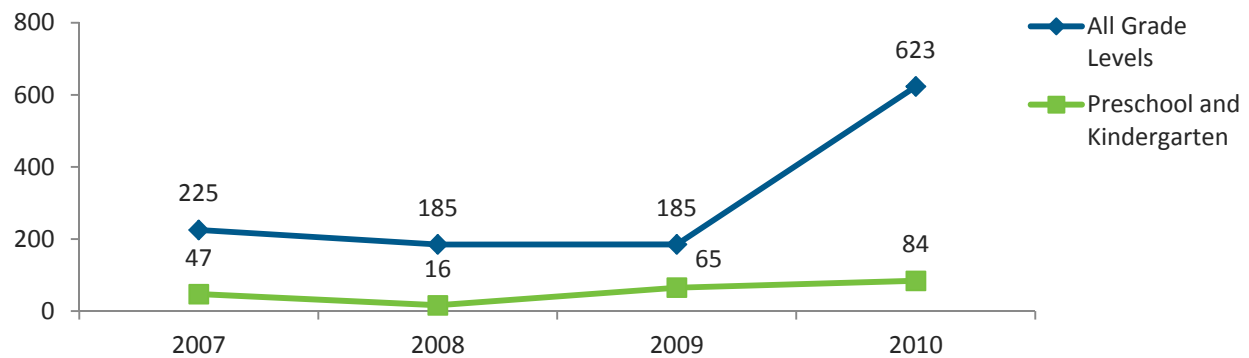
What the Data Tell Us

According to a community representative, affordable housing in the First Things First Gila Region is in short supply (especially decent housing). The additional mining jobs in the Globe/Miami area of the region will make the housing shortage worse.

There was a considerable increase in child and family homelessness in Gila County between 2009 and 2010. The number of McKinney Vento identified homeless students at all grade levels had remained around 200 between 2007 and 2009. In 2010, this number increased to more than 600. Eighty-four of these homeless students were in preschool and kindergarten.



Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento Eligible), Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona. Retrieved August 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>

There was new awareness by educators and community members regarding the increased presence of homeless families in the First Things First Gila Region. In 2012, school administrators reported discrepancies between the number of families receiving support from McKinney-Vento Assistance programs and the number of families understood to be in doubled-up or unstable housing situations. This increased awareness and understanding is essential to increasing support systems and addressing the emerging needs of families and children in the region.

The Payson Unified School District reported an increase of 54 homeless students between 2010 and 2011. A representative from Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District reported that they have 7 official McKinney-Vento Eligible students in 2012, but they believe that number should be closer to 20. Many of their students are doubled up and not seeking services as they are living with relatives. According to the Miami Head Start Representative, they are seeing the number of families that are doubled up or “cohabitating” increased to higher levels than they have seen in the past. They are seeing multiple families in homes rather than multiple generations.

Homeless Students (McKinney Vento Eligible), School District

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2010	2011
Globe Unified School District		
Preschool	0	0
Kindergarten	0	0
District Total	0	0
Payson Unified School District		
Preschool	<25	<25
Kindergarten	33	36
District Total	363	417

Source: First Things First Gila Region School Districts. (2012). Correspondence with District Representatives. Received 2012 from First Things First Gila Region School Districts.

Note: Data was not provided from Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District, Miami Unified School District, Tonto Basin Elementary School District, and Young Elementary School District.



Foreclosure

Why It Is Important

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. While not all children who experience a foreclosure will become homeless, they often experience the same increased mobility associated with homelessness. This increased mobility has been shown to be associated with lower performance in math and reading, and more delinquent behaviors in the classroom.

What the Data Tell Us

Foreclosure rates appeared lower in Gila County than in Arizona as a whole, with 1 in 712 homes in foreclosure in Gila County in January 2012, compared with 1 in 325 in the state. Payson had the highest reported foreclosure rate (1 in 492) with a total of 30 foreclosures in January 2012.

Foreclosures, January 2012

COMMUNITY (ZIP CODES)	NUMBER OF FORECLOSURES IN JANUARY 2012	NUMBER OF TOTAL FORECLOSURES	RATE OF FORECLOSURES
Pine (85544)	1	20	1 in 3,898
Payson (85541)	30	222	1 in 492
Globe (85501)	7	67	1 in 887
Miami (85539)	3	NA	1 in 780
Young (85554)	1	NA	1 in 851
Gila County	44	335	1 in 712
Arizona	8,749	61,374	1 in 325

Source: RealtyTrac. (July 2010). National Real Estate Trends. Retrieved March 2012 from <http://www.realtytrac.com/tendcenter/>.



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Over forty years of research has shown that children begin learning at birth and they need quality learning environments that support optimal growth and development.²⁰ For example, children exposed to high quality early childhood education are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade. They score higher on school-readiness tests and are more likely to advance to college and successful careers.²¹

Parents need options for their children to be cared for in quality early care and educational settings. Quality early care and education settings include: safe, healthy environments; highly educated teachers; classrooms and materials that stimulate children at different stages of learning; low staff turnover rates; and, small child to staff ratios so that kids get the attention and support they need. All of these can contribute to a child's development and have long term effects that extend into adolescence and adulthood.²²

SELECTED INDICATORS

Early Child Care & Education

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

Special Needs

- Children with Disabilities: Identification & Services

Education

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

²⁰ Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (2006). The importance of Early Care and Education. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.practitionerresources.org/cache/documents/639/63935.doc>

²¹ First Things First. (2010). Quality Early Learning. 2010 Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aztf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf

²² Ibid.



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.²³ Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, also 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 (kith and kin) are a likely option for parents who cannot afford licensed child care centers. In Arizona, as many as 50% of children ages birth through five are being cared for by relatives or neighbors in settings which are exempt from regulations aimed at serving to protect and enrich these children. 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.²⁴

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 ages birth through five. 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. Approximately 36,000 Arizona children had access to a higher standard of child care through Quality First in 2010. The ratings of nearly 1,000 providers will be publicly advertised to parents across the state in 2012.²⁵

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 receiving 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.

²³ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (n.d.). Link Between Child Care and Academic Achievement and Behavior Persists Into Adolescence. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>

²⁴ First Things First. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_2011.pdf

²⁵ First Things First. (2011). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf



Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council*** participates in the Early Childhood Network in Globe, Payson, and Haden-Winkelman to improve the lives of children in the area.
- ***The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council*** provides Quality First funding to early care and education centers and homes to improve the quality of programs and expands the number of children who have access to high quality care and education. In FY 2012 six child care centers and two homes participated in the Quality First program in the region.

What the Data Tell Us

There were an estimated 547 child care spaces in the First Things First Gila Region in 2012. Slightly more than 1 out of every 10 children with working parents in the First Things First Gila Region have child care spaces available to them.

Estimated Child Care Need and Availability, First Things First Gila Region

CHILD CARE INDICATOR	
Estimated Number of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force ¹ (2010)	4,805
Estimated Number of Child Care Spaces (2012)	547
Estimated Percent of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available	11.4%

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 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.
 U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council. (2012). Personal Correspondence with Regional Coordinator. Received 2012 from First Things First Gila Regional Coordinator.

¹Percentage of children under 6 and children 6 to 17 living with both parents or a single parent in the labor force applied to the total number of children under 6 and 6 to 11 respectively.

School Readiness Indicator

#/% of children enrolled in an early care and education programs with a Quality First rating of 3-5

In 2012, there were a total of 13 child care programs with capacity for 547 children in the First Things First Gila Region. The availability of child care has been a challenge in the region and these challenges increase as many programs in the region have been closed or consolidated locations due to lack of enrollment, according to local representatives.



Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First Gila Region, 2012

	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
Child Care Centers	4	302
ADHS Licensed Child Care Homes	2	20
Head Start Programs	4	142
Public School Programs	3	83
Total Programs	13	547
Quality First Programs	8 (5 Centers, 3 Homes)	-

Source: First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council. (2012). Personal Correspondence with Regional Coordinator. Received 2012 from First Things First Gila Regional Coordinator.

Note: Approved capacity includes slots for children ages birth through 12 years. Therefore, the capacity for children ages birth through five may be less than the values presented.

The Head Start Program is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. In Gila County, Head Start is run through Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc.

In 2011, 184 children were receiving Head Start services in the First Things First Gila Region an increase from 141 in 2010.

Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment, First Things First Gila Region

COMMUNITY	2010		2011	
	Preschool Head Start	Early Head Start	Preschool Head Start	Early Head Start
Globe	37	9	42	NA
Miami	36	12	45	29
Payson	20	9	25	15
Winkelman ¹	9	9	14	14
Total	102	39	126	58

Source: Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>

¹ Both programs in Winkelman are only home visit programs.

Note: The San Carlos Apache Tribe is served by San Carlos Head Start rather than Gila County, San Carlos data is not included in regional numbers.



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 2000.²⁶ However, many 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 Federal 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) administers 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. Implemented in April 2009, it allocated \$23 million, totaling more than 11,600 children who could benefit from the program.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Quality First Scholarships*** have provided over 30 First Things First Gila Region families with access to child care centers and homes and have helped stabilize the region's Quality First centers.

What the Data Tell Us

Between 2008 and 2010 the median cost of child care in Gila and Pinal counties increased. In 2010, the average daily cost of *full-time* child care ranged from \$25 to nearly \$43 in Gila and Pinal Counties. The average daily cost of *part-time* child care ranged from \$14 to \$28. Child care for children under the age of one year and child care provided by centers tended to be higher than child care for older children or approved homes.

²⁶ McSweeney, T. (January 29, 2010). Helping Middle Class Families with Soaring Child Care Costs. *White House*. Retrieved July 1, 2010 from www.thewhitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/29/helping-middle-class-families-with-soaring-child-care-costs.



Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Full-Time, Gila and Pinal Counties

AGE OF CHILD	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Children Under One					
Centers	\$20.00	\$26.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$42.50
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Certified Group Homes	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$27.00	\$29.00
Unregulated Homes	\$20.00	\$23.50	\$20.00	\$26.00	\$25.00
1 and 2 Year Olds					
Centers	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$37.50
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Certified Group Homes	\$19.00	\$24.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$26.50
Unregulated Homes	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds					
Centers	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$27.50
Approved Homes	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$25.00
Certified Group Homes	\$19.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Unregulated Homes	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Care Market Rate Surveys. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

Note: Full-time is 6 or more hours a day.

Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Part-Time, Gila and Pinal Counties

AGE OF CHILD	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Children Under One					
Centers	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$28.00
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$17.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$11.75	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$16.00
1 and 2 Year Olds					
Centers	\$19.20	\$19.20	\$19.38	\$21.00	\$28.00
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$16.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds					
Centers	\$13.00	\$17.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$19.40
Approved Homes	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$14.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$20.50	\$18.00

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Care Market Rate Surveys. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

Note: Part-time is fewer than 6 hours a day.

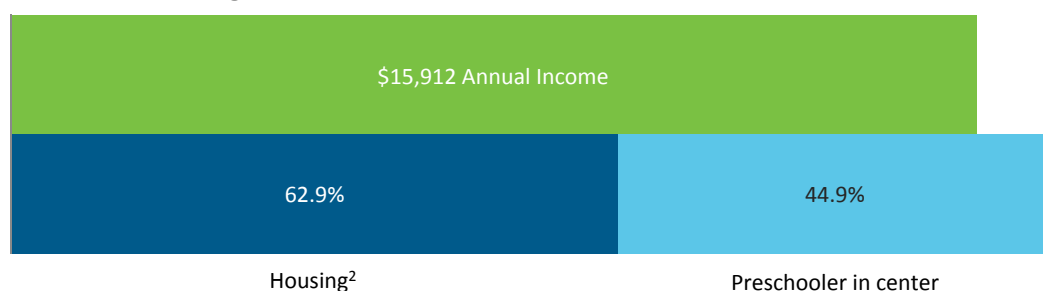


Based upon these costs, a single minimum wage earner in Gila County would be unable to afford the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment and putting a single preschooler in a child care center full-time. The cost of housing and child care would be more than they earn without any additional money for food, clothing and other basic essentials.

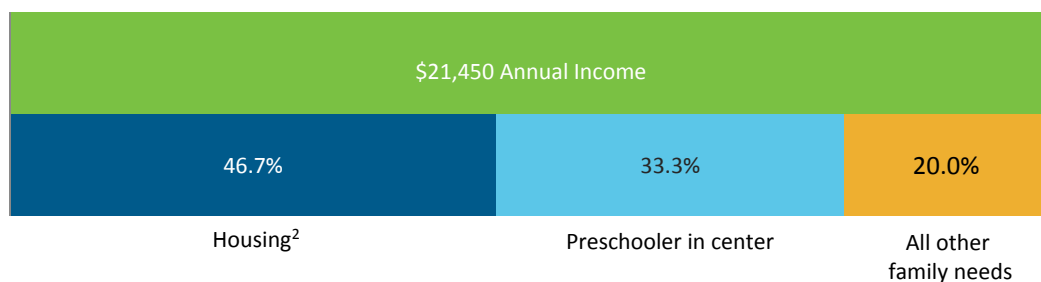
After rent and paying for one preschooler in a child care center, a single mother would have about 20% (\$4,290) of their income, approximately \$82 a week, to cover food, medical, clothing, utilities, gas, and other basic necessities.

Child Care and Family Budgets, Gila County

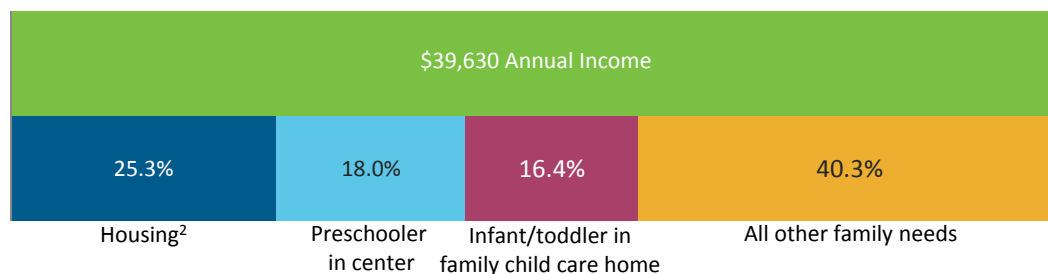
One Minimum Wage Earner¹



Single Mother Median Income



Median Family Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates*. Retrieved November 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov. Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Care Market Rate Surveys. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2011). 2003-2011 *HUD USER Data Sets*.

¹ Arizona Minimum Wage as of January 2012 is \$7.65. Annual totals assume 40 hours/week, 52 weeks/year work schedule.

² 50th Percentile Rents (2-bedroom apartment) 2012.



Some Gila County families were eligible and receiving subsidized child care, such as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies. In 2011, 89% of families eligible for child care subsidies were receiving funding. While the percentage seems to have increased from 2010, it is important to recognize the number of families eligible for benefits decreased from 125 to 97 during that same period.

Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

	JANUARY 2009	JANUARY 2010	JANUARY 2011
Number of Families			
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: Gila County	214	125	97
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	177	95	86
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	82.7%	76.0%	88.7%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	81.3%	82.2%	NA
Number of Children			
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: Gila County	326	191	145
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	250	133	134
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	76.7%	69.6%	92.4%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	76.4%	77.0%	NA

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Child Care Subsidy Report. DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

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.²⁷ 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.

It is often too costly for those who want to seek further education in the area of child development to obtain advanced degrees. To address this barrier, First Things First offers TEACH scholarships to help child care center teachers, directors and providers to obtain their Early Childhood Associate's Degree or Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate by providing recipients with support for tuition, books, travel, and paid release time. Professional REWARDS was designed to help retain qualified teachers to care for and educate young children. It was launched in FY 2010 to offer financial incentives (from \$300 to \$2,000) to early care and education professionals for education and commitment to continuous employment for at least a year.

²⁷ Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers. Washington DC: National Academy Press.



Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council*** supports 11 regionally funded TEACH scholarships. There has been great demand for these scholarships.
- ***Smart Support***, funded by the First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council, provides socio-emotional and mental health training, consultation, and support services for early child care providers and the families they serve.
- ***Child Care Health Consultants*** provide training and assistance to child care providers. In Gila County, these services are available to Quality First centers only and are delivered by the Gila County Health Department.

What the Data Tell Us

For those interested in pursuing an education in early childhood education, there are a limited number of local programs. Central Arizona College offers courses in Winkelman and Gila Community College offers courses in Globe, Payson, and San Carlos. For those living in other areas or who are interested in higher levels of education, a number of colleges offer online degree and certificate programs.

ECE Professional Development Programs, First Things First Gila Region

COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION	DEGREE	DEGREE NAME	LOCATION
Arizona State University	M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education	Online
Childcare Education Institute	C.D.A. Certificate	Child Development Associate	Online
Central Arizona College	Certificate A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Education	Winkelman; Online
Gila Community College	Certificate A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Education	Globe; Payson
Grand Canyon University	B.S. M.A.	Elementary Education: Early Childhood Education Elementary Education	Online
Northern Arizona University	B.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
Prescott College	B.A.	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Special Education	Online
Rio Salado College	Certificate A.A.S. A.A.S. A.A.S. A.T.P.	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Education Early Learning and Development Early Childhood Administration and Management Early Childhood Teacher Education	Online
University of Phoenix	M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online

Source: College or Institution website searches. (2012).

Note: Central Arizona College offers courses towards certificate and AA as programs through Gila Community College.



Of the 110 Head Start classroom and child development staff in Gila and Pinal counties, 67% had completed an AA or higher. Of the remaining 36 staff members, all were enrolled in a child development program.

Level of Education of Head Start Professionals, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2010

	ENROLLED IN A CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM*	AA DEGREE	BA DEGREE	ADVANCED DEGREE	CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA)	TOTAL STAFF
Classroom/Child Development Staff						
Center Based Teachers	0	15	8	2	19	44
Center Based Assistant Teachers	23	5	0	0	12	40
Home Based Teacher Assistants	13	5	6	0	2	26
Education Coordinators						
Education Coordinators	0	0	1	1	0	2

Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report 2010. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>.

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Note: Associate's, Bachelor's, and Advanced Degrees were in Early Childhood Education or related fields.

* Enrolled = staff without Child Development Associate Certificate or AA degree.

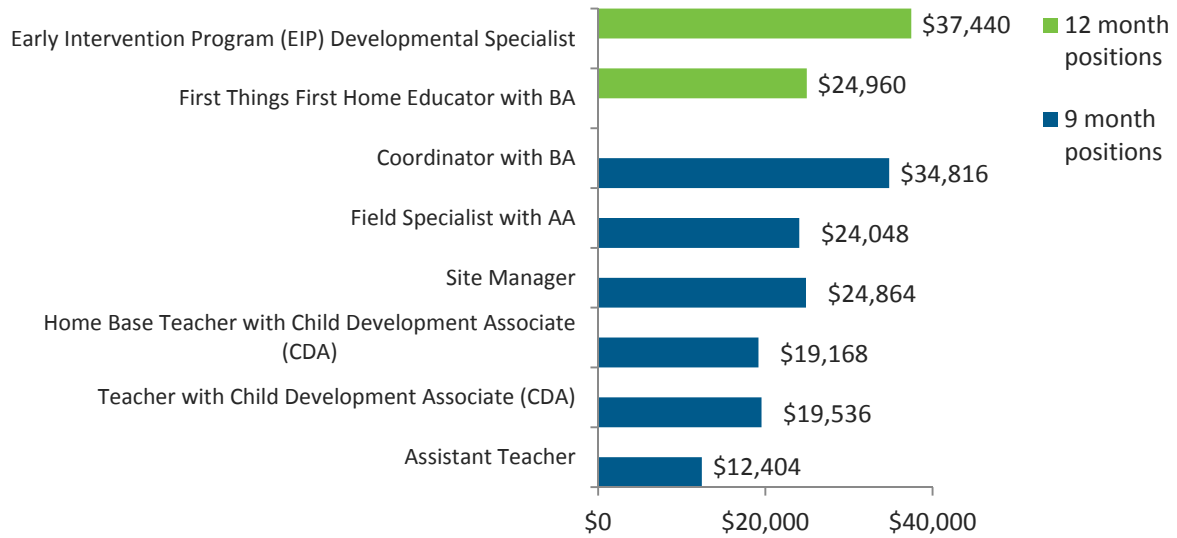
Research has shown that teachers' wages play a significant role in program quality. Higher wages enable centers to hire better-qualified teachers, which can contribute to both lower turnover rates and more secure attachments between children and teachers.²⁸

Head Start Home Base Teachers and Teachers with a Child Development Associate (CDA) made less than \$20,000 in 2010; this was less than the self-sufficiency wage of a single parent in the region.

²⁸ Phillips, D., Mekos, D., Scarr, S., McCartney, K., & Abbott-Shim, M. (2000). Within and beyond the classroom door: Assessing quality in child care centers. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(4), 475-496.



Average Annual Salaries of Head Start, Home Vistation and Early Intervention Personnel, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2010



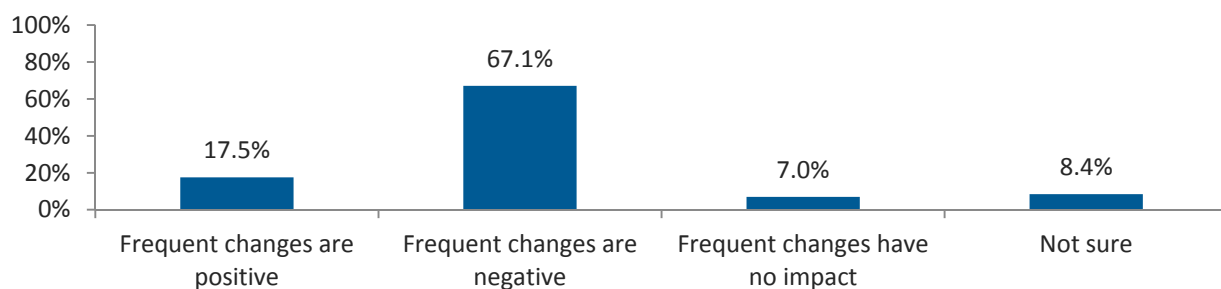
Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report 2010. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>.
 Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Children's ability to connect and learn from their child care provider is hindered by high rates of staff turnover in child care settings.

Gila Pinal Community Child Services, Inc. reported that nearly half of their staff members (43%) had been with the organization for 5 years or more. However, 36 staff members (17%) left the organization in 2010.²⁹

According to the 2008 First Things First Family and Community Survey, 67% of parents in the First Things First Gila Region believed frequent changes in child care providers affected their children negatively. Eight percent were not sure of the affects and 7% believed that there was no impact from such inconsistency.

Parent Perception of the Impact of Frequent Changes in Child Care Providers on Infant Development, First Things First Gila Region, 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

²⁹ Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report 2010. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>.



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.³⁰ 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.

What the Data Tell Us

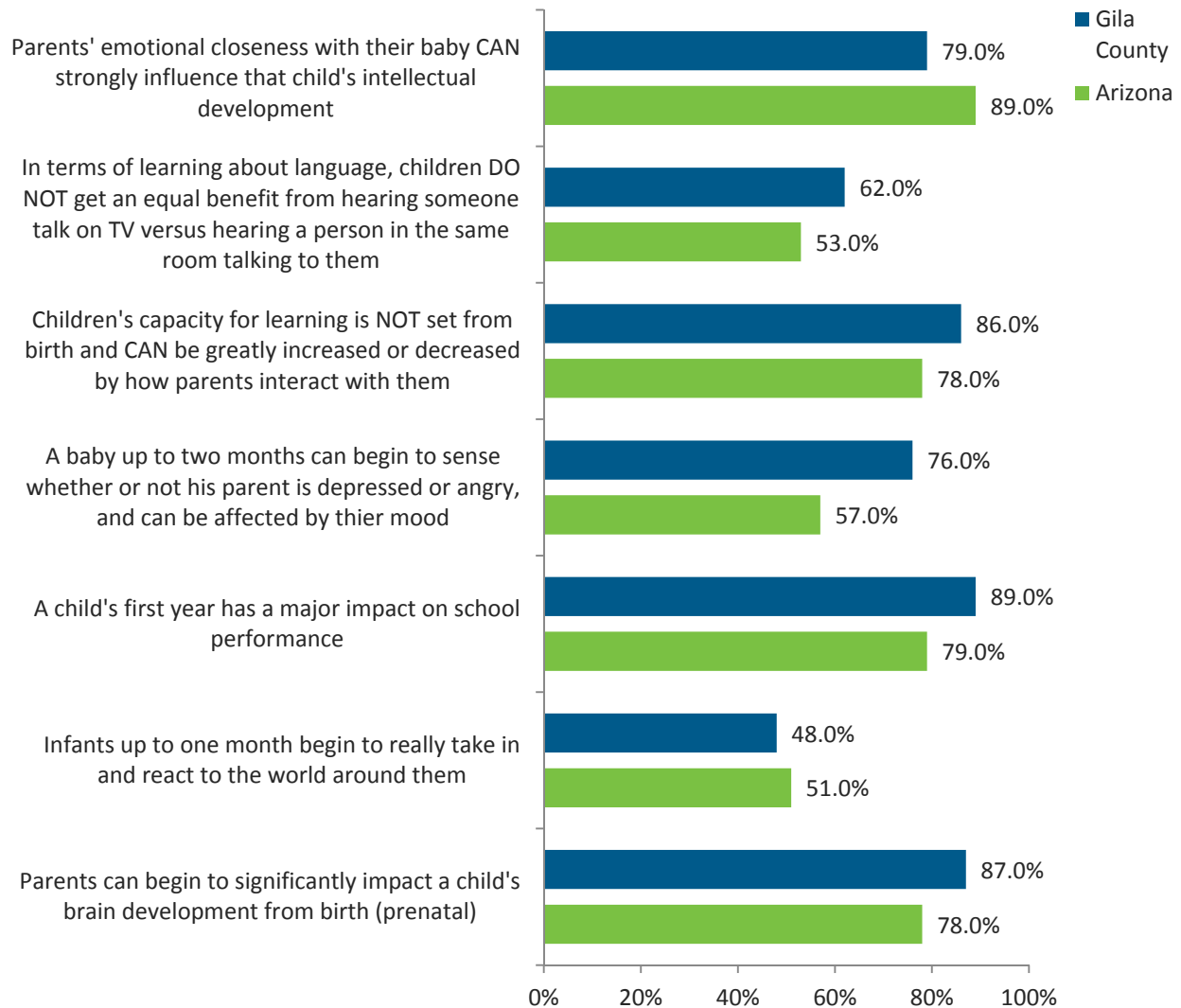
First Things First Gila Region's Family and Community Survey respondents had a strong understanding of their children's cognitive development. However, the survey sample of 84 Gila County parents and 20 members of the general population may not be representative of the region as a whole, especially those families living in poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk.

Survey participants responded correctly on many developmental questions, particularly when it came to understanding their ability to impact their child's development.

A large majority (89%) of First Things First Gila Region respondents knew that the first year of a child's development could affect their future school success, in comparison to only 79% of all Arizona parents in 2008.

³⁰The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. In Child Development Institute. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>.



Parents Who Accurately Responded to Questions Regarding Their Child's Cognitive Development, 2008

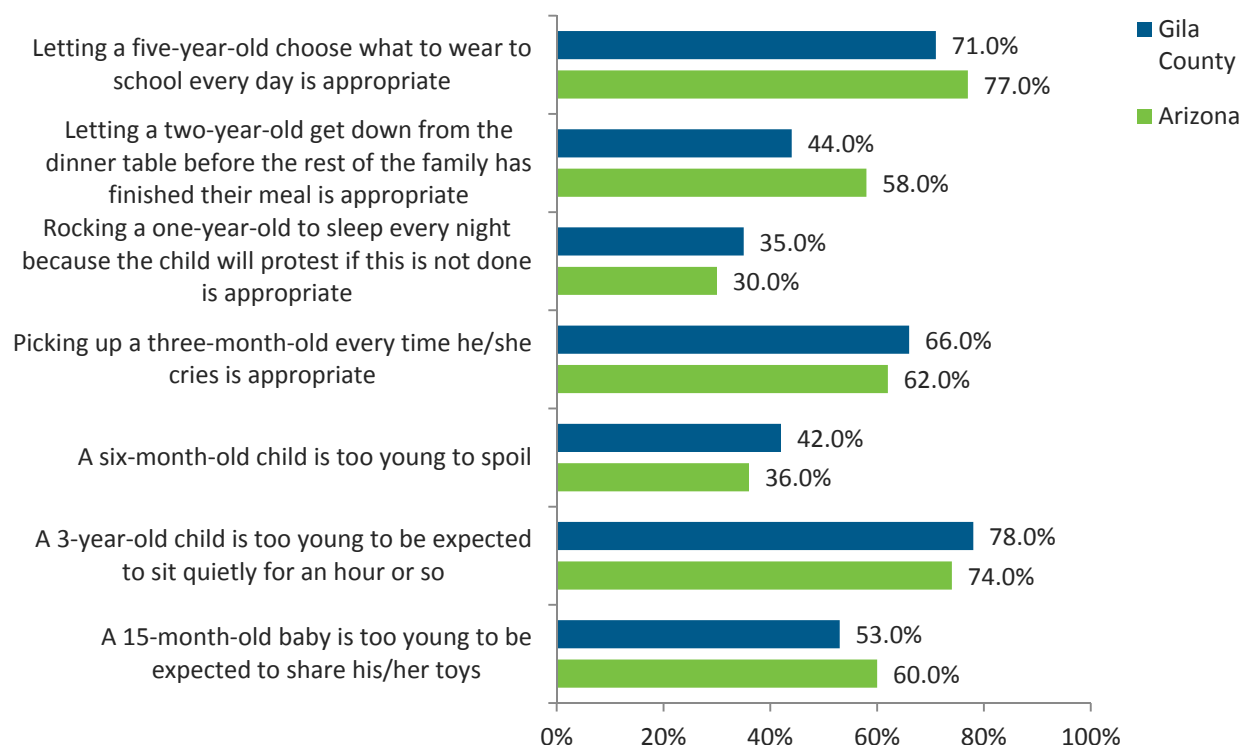
Source: First Things First. (2008). Regional Profile. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.



Parents in the First Things First Gila Region did not have as clear of an understanding of emotional development as they did of cognitive development, though 78% of parents agreed that a 3-year old child is too young to be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so.

Parents Who Accurately Responded to Questions Regarding Their Child's Social and Emotional Development, 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Regional Profile. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

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 & 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.³¹ Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth, setting them up for success by identifying early on when services are needed.

³¹ 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.



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

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.

The Parent Information Network Specialists serves every county in Arizona to provide 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 Children's Rehabilitation Services program lost medical services and therapies in 2009 that may result in long-term health impairment.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Gila County Health Department*** provides developmental, hearing, and vision screenings funded by First Things First.

What the Data Tell Us

Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which serves both Gila and Pinal Counties reported that 17% of their 141 students enrolled in 2010 had a disability. While there are a limited number of service providers in Gila County, all of the identified preschool students were receiving specialized services.

Miami Head Start recognizes that special needs are an issue for their students, according to a Miami Head Start Representative. In order to address the large number of children with special needs they built a 3rd person into their classroom dynamic, a Special Services Assistant. Miami Head Start also includes activities that address development every day. The activities are "very inclusive" so that all children can participate.

Head Start Reported Disabilities, Gila and Pinal Counties

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Percent of Children with a Disability Receiving Services	14%	17%	17%	15%	17%
Percent of Children Receiving Specialized Services	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008). Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc.

Pinal Gila Community Child Services. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.pgccs.org>.

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.



There were 46 preschoolers with disabilities enrolled in Payson Unified School District and 31 preschoolers with disabilities enrolled in Globe Unified School District during the 2011/12 school year. Miami Unified School Districts had 47 preschool children enrolled in pre-kindergarten services. The largest numbers of children with disabilities displayed a Developmental Mental Delay (DD) or Speech Language Impaired (SLI).

In Miami Unified School District, 33%-38% of children they currently serve have developmental delays, according to a district representative. In kindergarten, about 56% of their 123 enrolled kindergarteners have developmental delays. In the Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District about 22% of their students have special needs, according to a representative. They are doing great socially but falling behind academically.

According to a Globe Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Representative, they are seeing a lot of children with special needs and believe there are even more that are not diagnosed.

Globe WIC attempts to get everyone screened but it is difficult as parents have a hard time acknowledging there may be a problem and often do not follow through on referrals for screenings or other services.

"First Things First has really stepped up their work getting the developmental screening done. But the biggest thing they are seeing is that parents don't want their child screened until/unless they have an issue." Miami Unified School District Representative

Preschool Enrollment by Disability, 2011/2012

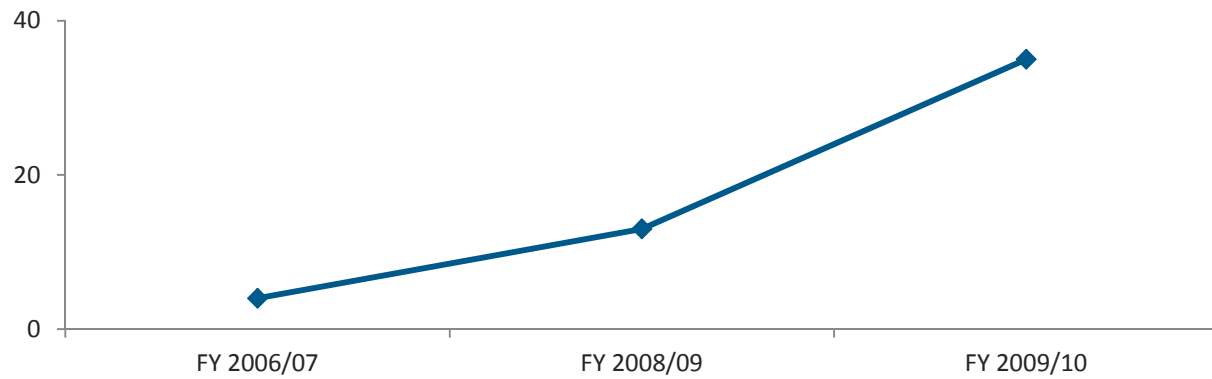
SCHOOL DISTRICT	HEARING IMPAIRED (HI)	VISUALLY IMPAIRED (VI)	SPEECH LANGUAGE IMPAIRED (SLI)	PRESCHOOL SEVERE DELAY (PSD)	DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY (DD)	PRESCHOOL TOTAL
Payson	0	0	<25	<25	<25	46
Globe	0	0	<25	<25	<25	31
Miami	0	0	<25	<25	43	47

Source: First Things First Gila Region School Districts. (2012). Personal Correspondence with District Representative. Received 2012 from First Things First Gila Region School Districts.

The number of children receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services in Gila County increased from 13 in 2008/09 to 35 in 2009/10. According to a Miami Community Representative, AzEIP services in the region are limited. If children are referred for a screening it takes about six weeks to have it done because there are not enough staff. They need multiple children in order to warrant the trip. Previously, Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) did community outreach but they no longer have funding to maintain the previous levels of outreach and services in the region. Head Start, First Things First, and other community programs are doing some initial screenings, but the gap remains between the referral and follow-up services.



Children Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, Gila County



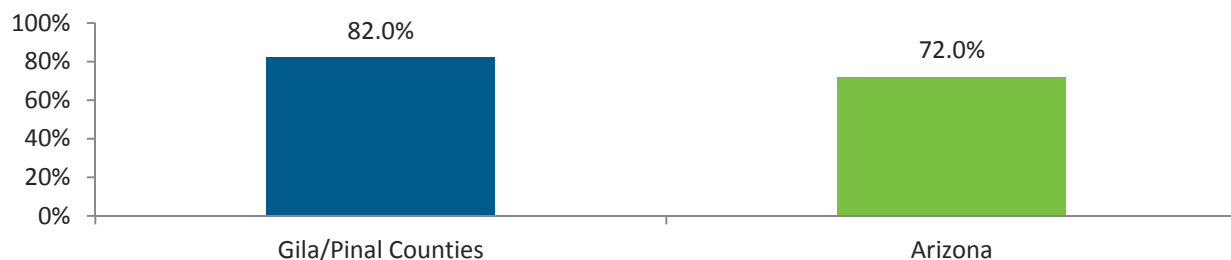
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Arizona Early Intervention Program. *DES Multidata Database*. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. reported that the greatest barriers to timely referrals included Public Education Agency (PEA) or Arizona Department of Education staff shortages, the length of time between scheduled screenings, failed screenings, and missed or rescheduled appointments by PEA or parents.

One 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. However, state funding for early intervention services was eliminated effective November 1, 2010 and federal stimulus was used to backfill state funding cuts. As a result, families must share some of the cost in order to receive services, a practice which may deter some from obtaining services. When children turn three years old, the local school districts assume responsibility for services for children with disabilities.

Eighty-two percent of infants and toddlers with Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) in Gila/Pinal counties received an evaluation assessment and IFSP within 45 days of referral, higher than in Arizona at 72% from April 1, 2009-June 30, 2009.

Infants and Toddlers with Individual Family Service Plans Who Received an Evaluation Assessment and Individual Family Service Plan Within 45 Days of Referral, April 1, 2009-June 30, 2009

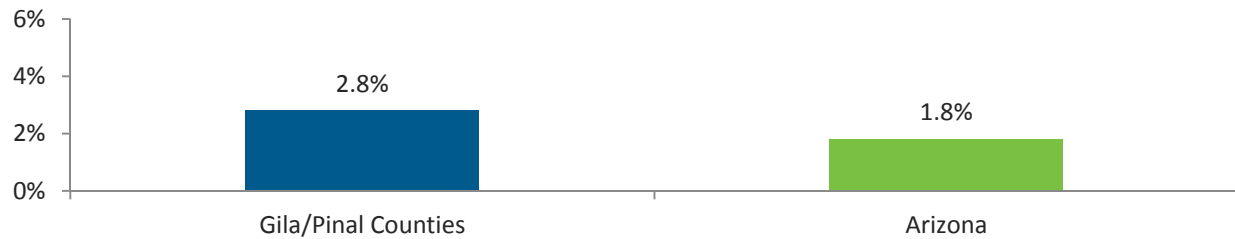


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Report. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.



The percentage of children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in Gila and Pinal counties (2.8%) was slightly higher than in the state as a whole (1.8%).

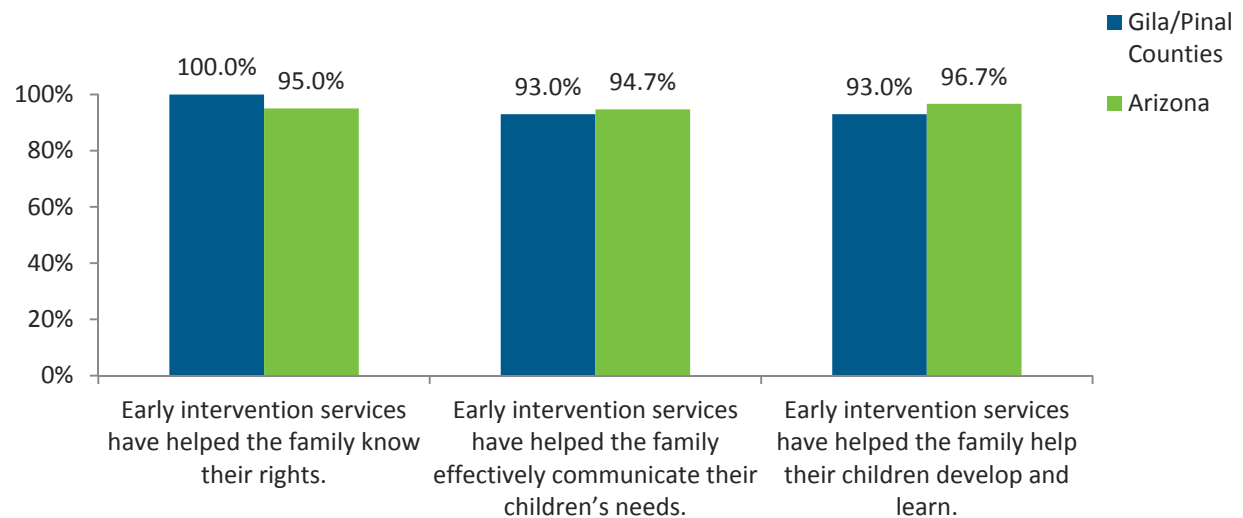
Infants Ages Birth through 3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), 2008/09



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Parents receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services reported high levels of satisfaction with the services they were receiving in terms of understanding their rights (100%), communicating their children's needs (93%), and helping them better serve their child's educational needs (93%).

Perceptions of Families Participating in Early Intervention Services, 2008/09

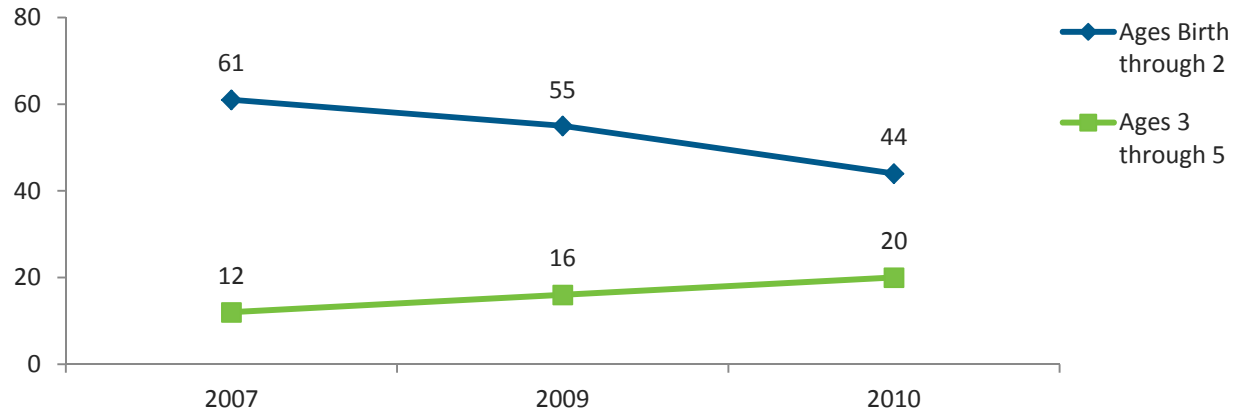


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.



Sixty-four children in Gila County were receiving benefits from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), down from 73 children in 2007. Only children who are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism qualify for DDD services (in addition to AzEIP services).

Children Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Division of Developmental Disabilities. DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 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.

A major challenge to providing services to children with special needs in Gila County is the limited number of service providers. The Arizona Department of Health Services reported that there were no licensed audiologists in the First Things First Gila Region. However, two audiologists have recently moved to the Globe/Miami area from Show Low.

Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First Gila Region

TYPE OF PROVIDER	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
Audiologists	0
Speech Language Pathology	7

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Division of Licensing Services. *Provider Databases*. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 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).³²

School Enrollment

Why It Is Important

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

What the Data Tell Us

The First Things First Gila Region is composed of seven public school districts: Hayden-Winkelman, Payson Unified, Young Public School, Globe Unified, Miami Unified, Pine-Strawberry and Tonto Basin. There are an additional five charter schools and two accommodation schools in the area. Gila County also includes the San Carlos School District, although the district resides in the San Carlos Apache Region.

Total public school enrollment for the region was more than 7,900 students in the school year 2011/12. A total of 738 students were enrolled in preschool or kindergarten—slightly less than 10% of the total student population.

School Enrollment, First Things First Gila Region School Districts, 2011/2012 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Globe Unified School District	24	106	1,623
Miami Unified School District	53	87	1,235
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	23	17	339
Payson Unified School District	45	149	2,410
Pine Strawberry Elementary School District	*	17	182
Young Elementary School District	*	*	59
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	*	*	94
Gila County	186	552	7,903

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research and Evaluation. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/AZEnroll/>.

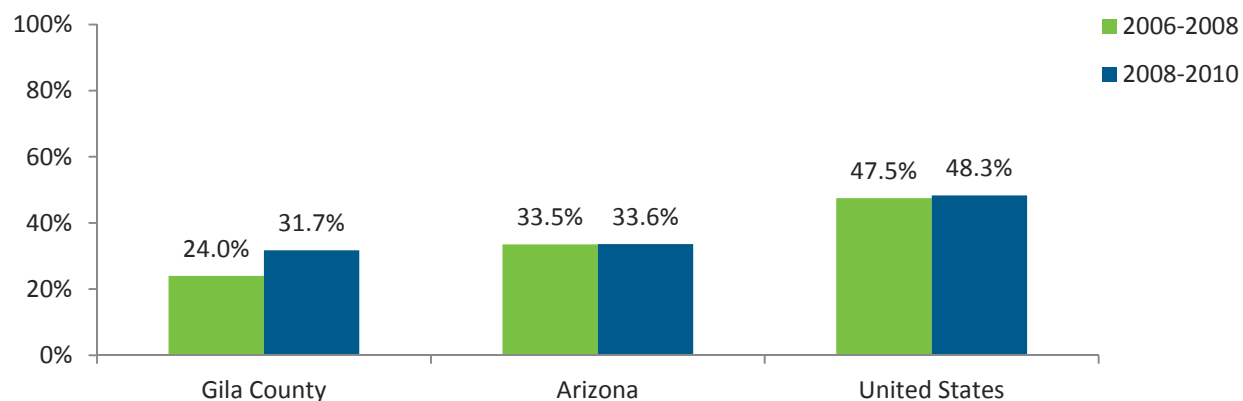
* Indicates that there were less than 10 students.

³² Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from arizonaindicators.org



Enrollment for three and four year old children in the county increased from 24% in 2006-2008 to 32% in 2008-2010. However, the county rate of 32% was slightly lower than the state of Arizona (34%) and the nation (48%).

Percentage of Three and Four Year Olds Enrolled in School



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table S1401- School Enrollment. *American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

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, are more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crime and drugs.³³ A recent study in 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 weren't 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.³⁴

In Arizona, children's literacy and reading skills, between kindergarten and 6th grade, are 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 when beginning school.

In addition to the DIBELS assessments, some schools in Arizona are measuring children's literacy and reading skills using the AIMSweb Test of Early Literacy in kindergarten. The assessment focuses on letter naming, letter sound, phoneme segmentation, and nonsense word fluency. While the AIMSweb only focuses on one aspect of kindergarten readiness, the results provide some picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

³³ Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. *Big Ideas for Children*. First Focus, Washington, DC.

³⁴ Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.



What the Data Tell Us

Over 50% of kindergarten students in Payson Unified and Pine Strawberry Elementary School Districts were at grade level at the beginning of the school year in 2010/11. In Payson Unified School District 61% of kindergarteners were at grade level, but 23% required substantial intervention. Fifty-one percent of kindergarten students at Globe Unified School District were at grade level by mid-year.

In the Pine Strawberry Elementary School District, 80% of students entered kindergarten at grade level and 10% of children needed substantial intervention in 2010/11.

According to a district representative, only those children attending preschool are prepared for kindergarten as kindergarten preparation at home is almost non-existent.

The school district prepares for kids that are behind by having a paraprofessional child aid in place. The district representative believes the community needs to increase early childhood services and increase the number of preschool opportunities.

School Readiness Indicator

and % of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the developmental domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, motor, and physical

According to a Miami Head Start representative, kindergarten teachers report that Head Start kids seem better prepared and have the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten.

Kindergarten DIBELS Scores, Beginning of the Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Payson Unified School District					
Benchmark – At Grade Level	24%	27%	34%	35%	61%
Strategic – Needs Additional Intervention	37%	42%	38%	38%	16%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	38%	30%	28%	28%	23%
Pine Strawberry Elementary School District					
Benchmark – At Grade Level	35%	34%	80%	36%	80%
Strategic – Needs Additional Intervention	53%	55%	20%	64%	10%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	12%	11%	0%	0%	10%
Globe Unified School District*					
Benchmark – At Grade Level	24%	15%	24%	17%	51%
Strategic – Needs Additional Intervention	42%	33%	46%	47%	36%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	34%	52%	30%	36%	13%

Source: First Things First Gila Region School Districts. (2012). Personal Communication with District Representatives. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First Gila Region School Districts.

*2011 Globe data reflects midyear testing

Note: DIBELS data was not received from Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District, Tonto Basin Elementary School District, and Young Elementary School District.



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 third grade. In third 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 fourth grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."³⁵ The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the assessment tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

What the Data Tell Us

Beginning in the year 2013/14, students whose scores are "falling far below" on their 3rd grade AIMS reading will not be promoted from 3rd grade. In 2010/11, parental notification requirements began for any student who seemed to be falling behind. All school districts in the First Things First Gila Region had less than 15% of students who were "falling far below" on their 3rd grade AIMS reading in 2011.

Percentage of Students "Falling Far Below" on 3rd Grade AIMS Reading by District, 2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PERCENT FALLING FAR BELOW
Globe Unified School District	6%
Miami Unified School District	9%
Payson Unified School District	3%
Pine-Strawberry School District	10%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	13%
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School district	14%
Young Elementary School district	0%

Source: Arizona School Boards Association. (2012). Personal Correspondence with Representative. Received 2012 from Arizona School Boards Association.

³⁵ 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/>



Overall, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding 3rd grade standards in the region was higher in reading than math. However, the percent of children meeting or exceeding AIMS reading standards in the Hayden-Winkelman School District decreased to 38% in 2011, down from 58% in 2010 and lower than the other school districts, which showed between 70% and 80% of students meeting the standard. Globe and Payson Unified School Districts saw increased percentages of students meeting or exceeding 3rd grade standards in both math and reading.

AIMS Math: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2008	2009	2010	2011
Globe Unified School District	61%	64%	51%	62%
Miami Unified School District	52%	48%	58%	42%
Payson Unified School District	84%	78%	74%	75%
Pine-Strawberry School District	63%	90%	86%	70%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	*	*	*	*
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	52%	41%	64%	38%
Young Elementary School district	*	*	*	*

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2010). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>.

Note: * indicates the number of students was too low to calculate properly.

AIMS Reading: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2008	2009	2010	2011
Globe Elementary School District	67%	64%	62%	74%
Miami Unified School District	57%	63%	73%	70%
Payson Unified School District	81%	78%	80%	82%
Pine Strawberry School District	67%	91%	92%	80%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	*	*	*	*
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	58%	50%	58%	38%
Young Elementary School District	*	*	*	*

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2010). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>.

Note: * indicates the number of students was too low to calculate properly.

In November 2001, Arizona voters approved Proposition 301 which, among other things, provided funds to the Arizona Department of Education to develop a system to measure school performance based on student achievement. The accountability system created to satisfy the statute is referred to as the Arizona LEARNS. It specifies that the profiles of schools serving grades K-8 shall be based on a formula that includes the percent of students who pass the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS), Arizona Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), and performance on the English language proficiency test. The law specifies that the profiles of high schools shall be based on a formula that includes the percent of students who pass the AIMS, as well as dropout rate, graduation rate, and performance on the English language proficiency test.



AZ Learns Achievement Profile, First Things First Gila Region School Districts, 2010/2011 School Year

SCHOOL	AZ LEARNS
Globe Unified School District	
Copper Rim Elementary School	Performing
Globe High School	Performing
High Desert Middle School	Performing
Miami Unified School District	
Dr. Charles A. Bejarano Elementary School	Performing
Las Lomas Elementary School	Highly Performing
Miami High School	Performing
Miami Junior High	Performing Plus
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	
Hayden High School	Performing
Leonor Hambly Middle School	Underperforming
Winkelman Elementary School	Performing
Payson Unified School District	
Frontier Elementary School	Highly Performing
Julia Randall Elementary School	Highly Performing
Payson Center for Success High School	Performing
Payson Elementary School	Performing Plus
Payson High School	Highly Performing
Rim Country Middle School	Performing Plus
Pine Strawberry Elementary School District	
Pine Strawberry Elementary School	Performing Plus
Young Elementary School District	
Young Elementary School	Performing
Young High School	Performing
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	
Tonto Basin Elementary	Performing Plus

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research and Evaluation. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/az-learns/>.



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.³⁶ 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.³⁷

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 to ensure greater success for all children.³⁸

What the Data Tell Us

The graduation rates in the First Things First Gila Region varied from district to district. In 2010, 86% of students in Miami Unified School District graduated. Payson Unified School District had the lowest graduation rate in the region with 77% of students graduating in 2010.

Graduation Rate, First Things First Gila Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Globe Unified District	72%	70%	77%	78%	84%	82%
Payson Unified District*	84%	70%	73%	69%	73%	77%
Miami Unified District	79%	73%	92%	93%	99%	86%
Hayden-Winkelman Unified District	89%	73%	71%	74%	69%	85%
Arizona	85%	71%	70%	71%	76%	75%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research Evaluation Section. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad//>.

*05/06 data for Payson Unified District only includes data from Payson High School; it does not include Payson Center for Success.

³⁶ 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/>

³⁷ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

³⁸ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from [Arizonaindicators.org](http://arizonaindicators.org)



Educational Attainment

Why It Is Important

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success because those with at least a high school diploma have better employment opportunities. Limited education and employment can also impact other quality of life areas including access to health care and life expectancy. Low educational attainment is often associated with lower income or poverty, less access to high quality child care, and poorer health.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Payson Town Council** is working toward having a four-year college in the town. The school will serve 6,000 new students and focus on technology and environmental issues.
- **The Gila Community College** has campuses in Globe and Payson and offers programs in early childhood education, cosmetics, electrical and instrumental technology, fire science, nursing, and plant maintenance.
- **Adult Education Programs** are located in Globe and Payson. Each location has a registered GED testing center for those interested in completing their high school education.

What the Data Tell Us

In Gila County, 85% of the population 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma or a GED, according to 2008-2010 estimates. This was similar to Arizona as a whole (85%). About 54% of Gila County residents had gone on to pursue education beyond high school, while 60% of individuals in Arizona had at least some college education.

Educational Attainment, Population 25 Years and Older

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL	2006-2008		2008-2010	
	Gila County	Arizona	Gila County	Arizona
Less than High School Graduate	16.9%	16.3%	15.1%	14.9%
High School Graduate	35.3%	26.1%	31.2%	24.6%
Some College, Associate's Degree	34.8%	32.2%	37.2%	34.4%
Bachelor's Degree	7.6%	16.1%	9.9%	16.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.4%	9.2%	6.6%	9.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). TableS1501- Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over. *American Communities Survey 3-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>.



Education attainment varies with the communities in the First Things First Gila Region. The area served by Pine Strawberry Elementary School District (92%) and Payson Unified School District (91%) had the largest percentage of population over 25 that had at least a high school diploma. The area served by Miami Unified School District had over 25% of their population without a high school diploma.

Educational Attainment, Population 25 Years and Older, 2006-2010 5-Year Census Estimates

COMMUNITY	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
Tonto Basin Elementary District	13.8%	52.0%	28.8%	0.9%	4.5%
Pine Strawberry Elementary District	8.4%	44.0%	28.2%	8.2%	11.1%
Globe Unified District	16.7%	31.4%	35.3%	9.4%	7.2%
Hayden-Winkelman Unified District	22.9%	38.8%	34.3%	3.3%	0.7%
Miami Unified District	25.5%	29.7%	33.2%	6.5%	5.1%
Payson Unified District	9.5%	31.8%	39.8%	11.8%	7.2%
Young Elementary School District	25.3%	24.8%	32.6%	13.1%	4.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table S1501- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Note: The Census school district data includes anyone living within the school district boundaries.



Research suggests that a mother's education impacts her child's health,³⁹ school readiness,⁴⁰ and school achievement.⁴¹ Mothers who have attained higher levels of education tend to have healthier children who are more ready for school and who perform better in school when compared to their counterparts. In 2010, 27% of mothers in Gila County had completed some college, obtained an Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree, while 31% had not obtained a high school diploma or completed their GED.

"Although people are accessing the Head Start library, they are not really using the public libraries. This is something we are working on." Miami Head Start Representative

Educational Attainment for Women Who Gave Birth in the Past 12 Months, All Ages, Gila County

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Less than High School Graduate	31.6%	30.0%	33.6%	27.1%	30.9%
High School Graduate	39.7%	42.4%	36.9%	44.2%	39.1%
Some College, Associate's Degree, or Bachelor's Degree	26.1%	24.9%	26.7%	26.4%	26.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1.8%	2.0%	2.6%	2.1%	2.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). Table 5B-13-Women 15 to 50 Year who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Educational Attainment. Retrieved February 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>

Note: Educational attainment for mother who gave birth in the past year includes all births including births to teen mothers. Although this might influence the data slightly the total number of births to teen mothers is relatively small.

³⁹ Basu, A. M., & Stephenson, R. (2005). Low levels of maternal education and the proximate determinants of childhood mortality: A little learning is not a dangerous thing. *Social Science & Medicine*, 60(9), 2011-2023.

⁴⁰ Augustine, J.M., Cavanagh, S. E., & Crosnoe, R. (2009). Maternal education, early child care and the reproduction of advantage. *Social Forces*, 88(1), 1-29.

⁴¹ Boxer, P., Dubow, E.F., Huesmann, L.R. (2009). Long-term effects of parents' education on children's educational and occupational success: Mediation by family interactions, child aggression, and teenage aspirations. *Merill Palmer Q (Wayne State University Press)*, 55(3).



Family Literacy

Why It Is Important

One important component of parenting knowledge is understanding the importance of reading to and with children from an early age. 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.⁴² Other key activities such as playing games and exercising also help children learn and develop.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Gila Regional Council*** has approved a new strategy to provide parent education and community-based training through a partnership with local schools located in the Pine/Strawberry and Young communities.
- ***Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*** mails a book to children's homes each month at no cost to parents. This partnership between First Things First, Gila County Libraries, and the Dolly Parton Foundation is currently reaching over 60% of the children ages birth through five in the region. First Things First Gila Partnership Council would like to enroll every child ages birth through five in the region.
- ***Library Program***- There are eight public libraries in the First Things First Gila Region and the county website offers a number of resources to parents to help encourage their child's reading and comprehension skills. Children can enroll in the Dolly Parton Program at all eight libraries in the region. All of the libraries offer story time to parents of children birth to five.
- ***Miami Head Start*** collaborates with their local library and has three "Reading is Fundamental" events each year as well as having a lending library that parents can access. Other Head Start programs in the region have similar collaborations. The First Things First Gila Region has provided quality children's books for several of these readiness activities to all of the Head Start programs in the region.

"The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is great. There has been a change in the number of kids reading in the waiting room. Parents talk about how excited the kids are to get the new book every month in the mail." Globe Community Representative

⁴² 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.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

All families need support of one kind or another. Families experiencing the strain of substance abuse or family violence may need extra resources. At the same time, every family has strengths. We need to recognize and build on the capacity and resiliency of our families, while helping to provide them with the supports needed to best care for their children. The identified indicators within this section help us understand how well we are doing to keep our families strong.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Community Supports

- Family and Community Supports

Social Services

- Child Abuse
- Foster Care
- 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Globe community* and the *Pine-Strawberry School District community* are close-knit and generous, according to two community representatives; families and neighbors often help each other out when people are in need.
- *Pinal Gila Community Child Services* provides home visitation to support child development in Payson, Globe, and Miami.
- *The Boys and Girls Club* in Globe has programs for children five years old and up, and is open until 7:30 pm in the evening so kids have a place to go.⁴³
- *Pine-Strawberry School District students* are representing their community through successful engagement in sports programs and science/engineering competitions, according to a community representative. One student in the Pine-Strawberry School District was the state champion in archery for the school year 2011/12, and 11 students placed at the regional Science/Engineering fair.

What the Data Tells Us

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources. Parents in the First Things First Gila Region reported frequently relying on their spouse (77%) and their own mother (67%) for support in 2008. Parents seemed to have a sense of community; 79% reported relying on friends or neighbors frequently or occasionally.

Parents Who Report That They Rely on Family and Community Members for Support, 2008

PERSONAL SUPPORTS	FREQUENTLY	OCCASIONALLY	NEVER
Spouse	77.4%	13.8%	8.9%
Your Mother	67.0%	13.9%	19.1%
Your Spouse's Mother	42.4%	25.4%	31.1%
Your Father	34.4%	25.1%	39.3%
Your Spouse's Father	6.6%	32.9%	59.4%
Friends and Neighbors	16.6%	62.6%	20.9%

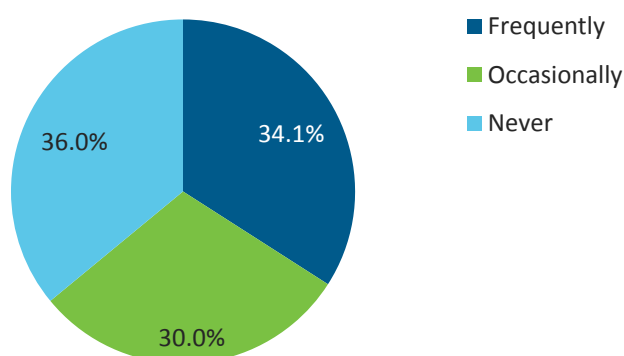
Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

⁴³ Miami Head Start. (2012). Personal Correspondence with Representative. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from Miami Head Start.



One in three parents (34%) reported frequently relying on a child care provider for support. Parents enrolled in Miami Head Start are very involved, according to a program representative. They have a parent policy council that represents people from different sites. The parents have a role in decision-making including hiring decisions. Each year they have four parent teacher conferences, three advocate meetings, and four fatherhood events. Head Start programs across the region have similar parent involvement activities.

Support from Child Care Providers, 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Parents in the region seemed to have access to medical providers. Half of parents reported that they frequently relied on the support of the child's doctor or pediatrician.

Parents Who Report That They Receive Support from Medical Service Providers, 2008

MEDICAL SUPPORTS	FREQUENTLY	OCCASIONALLY	NEVER
Your Child's Doctor/Pediatrician	50.5%	48.4%	1.1%
A nurse that can be reached by phone	22.1%	45.6%	30.1%

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Parents in the First Things First Gila Region reported relying on books and magazines more than news reports. Forty-two percent of parents reported never relying on news reports for parenting support.

Parents Who Report That They Receive Support from Print or Media Outlets, 2008

INFORMATION	FREQUENTLY	OCCASIONALLY	NEVER
Books	36.8%	49.6%	13.6%
News reports (TV, Radio, newspapers)	15.3%	42.8%	41.9%
Magazines	26.2%	42.9%	30.8%

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.



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.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵ 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 together to prevent child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.

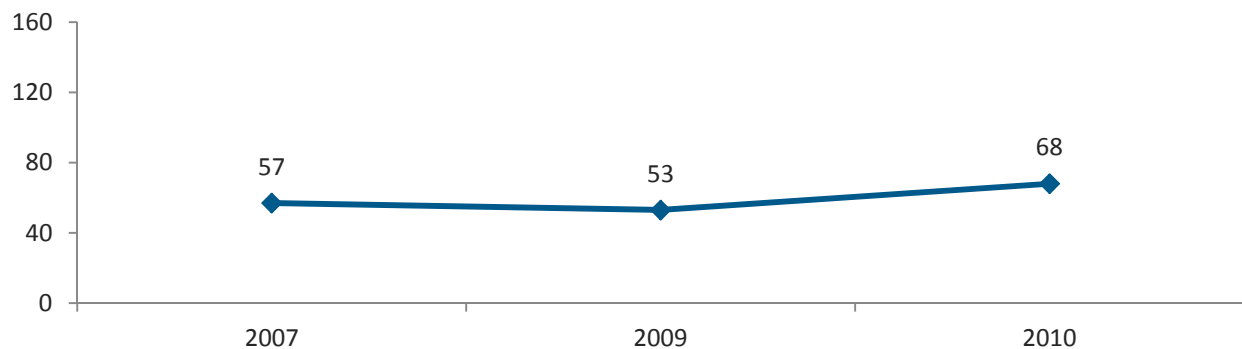
Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** volunteers are appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court. In the First Things First Gila Region, CASA has offices in Payson and Globe.

What the Data Tell Us

The number of children removed from the home by child protective services increased slightly between 2007 and 2010, from 57 to 68 in the First Things First Gila Region.

Number of Children Removed from the Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), First Things First Gila Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services. (2010). Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Gila County. DES Multipart Database. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

⁴⁴ 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>

⁴⁵ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims*, 11, 113-128; and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. (2008, May). Child abuse: The hidden bruises. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruires



The number of substantiated cases of child abuse in Gila County has dropped in recent years. In FY 2010, there were 4 substantiated cases of abuse; this was down from 35 in 2006. The most prevalent form of abuse is child neglect. It is important to recognize that there were widespread layoffs of Child Protective Services (CPS) workers across the state in 2009 which may have influenced the detection and identification of child abuse in local communities.

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Gila County

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Emotional Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect	19	12	8	3	4
Physical Abuse	15	3	2	1	0
Sexual Abuse	1	2	0	1	0
Total	35	17	10	5	4

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Welfare Reporting Requirement. *Semi-Annual Report*. Retrieved August 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/.../Reports/>

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.⁴⁶

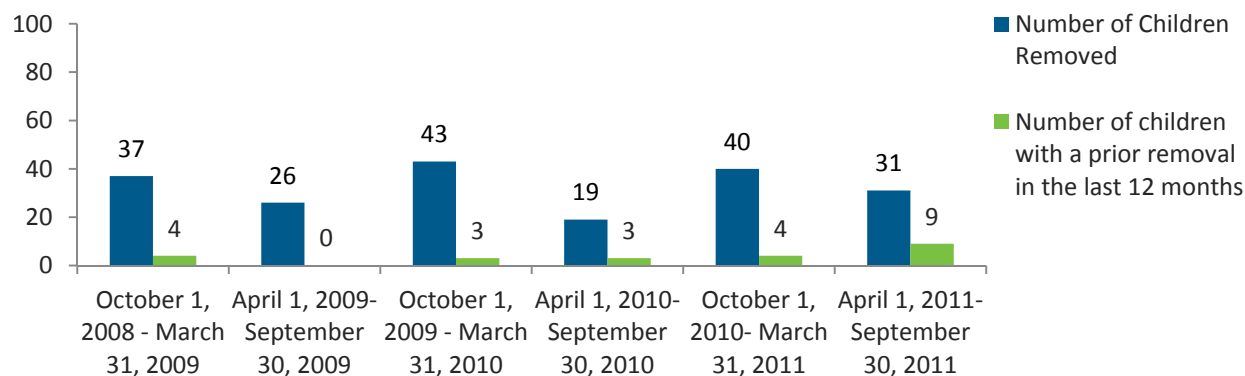
What the Data Tell Us

The number of children entering out-of-home care is reported in 6 month increments. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, there were 31 children removed from their homes in Gila County. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, 29% of those children had a prior removal in the previous 12 months.

⁴⁶ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family Preservation Services. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>



Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Child Welfare Reporting Requirement. *Semi-Annual Report*. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/.../Reports/>

Note: Fiscal year goes from October to September.

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.⁴⁷ Arizona had the highest rate of incarceration nationally. There were an estimated 95,669 minor children in Arizona affected by parental incarceration in 2007 and an additional 80,398 children had at least one parent on probation. Overall, it was estimated that on any given day, 176,067 children have a parent involved in the Arizona criminal justice system.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers. *New York: 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

⁴⁸ Prima Prevention Partnership. (2007, December). Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2010 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf



What the Data Tell Us

It is estimated that over 900 children in Gila County were children of incarcerated parents and over 1,200 children were affected by parental incarceration in 2011.

Estimated Number of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2011

	GILA COUNTY	ARIZONA
Percent of State Prison Population	0.9%	100.0%
Number Incarcerated in State Prisons	363	40,777
Number Incarcerated in County Jails	188	15,972
Number on Probation	726	47,293
Total Population of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Jail and Prison)	937	93,245
Total Population of Children Affected by Parental Incarceration (Jail, Prison, and Probation)	1,279	171,662

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



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. However, Arizona's general fund budget has been reduced by more than 20%, from \$10.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2008 to \$8.5 billion in FY 2011. Cuts to health and human services have been especially profound.⁴⁹

According to the 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey, more than 1/3 of parents were dissatisfied with the health information and resources available, and 70% of parents of children with health issues expressed dissatisfaction with available information and resources. The cuts that have occurred to date are beginning to take their toll on children and their families, especially the most vulnerable populations, such as children with behavioral health conditions and special health needs.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Maternal and Child Health

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

Special Needs

- Health Insurance
- Health Providers
- Oral Health Care

Education

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

⁴⁹ Arizona Health Futures. (2011). After the Dust Settles. Retrieved 2012 from <http://sihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/ib-2011-April.pdf>



Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Care

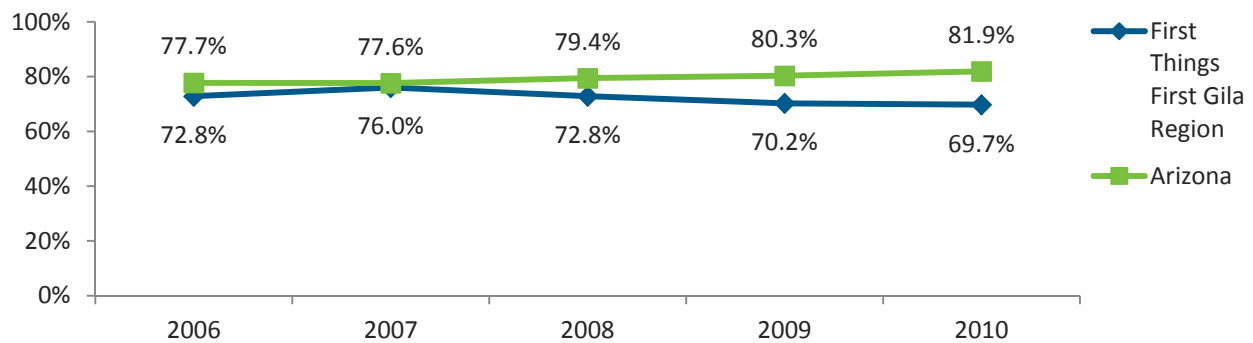
Why It Is Important

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.⁵⁰ 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.⁵¹ 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.

What the Data Tell Us

The percentage of women in the First Things First Gila Region receiving prenatal care in the first trimester was lower than the percentage statewide. Only 70% of women in the First Things First Gila Region received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 82% of women in Arizona in 2010.

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

⁵⁰ 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>

⁵¹ 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



The percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy varied by community with 63% of pregnant women in Payson receiving care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 79% in Claypool.

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy by Community

COMMUNITY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Claypool ¹	76.9%	75.0%	78.9%	73.9%	78.6%
Globe	72.8%	80.5%	72.6%	71.6%	76.0%
Miami ¹	65.9%	73.9%	64.7%	74.3%	74.4%
Payson	77.4%	77.0%	77.4%	69.2%	63.4%
First Things First Gila Region	72.8%	76.0%	72.8%	70.2%	69.7%

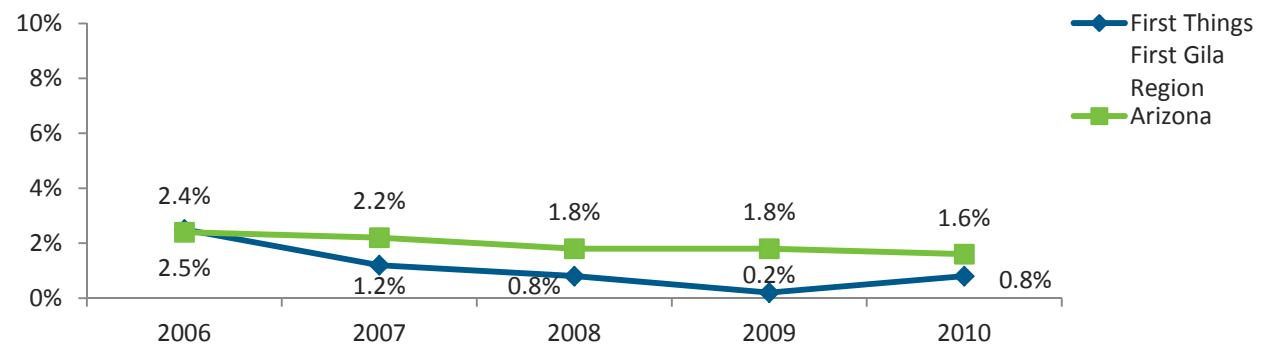
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics, Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Based on all births per community.

¹ The total number of births was small; interpret results with caution.

The percentage of women who did not receive any prenatal care in the First Things First Gila Region was just under 1%, less than the state of Arizona (2%).

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

In Claypool and Miami, no women went without prenatal care during their pregnancy in 2009 and 2010 while in Payson, the percentage of pregnant women who went without care has remained relatively stable at 1% over the last five years.

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy by Community

COMMUNITY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Claypool ¹	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Globe	2.4%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Miami ¹	2.3%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Payson	1.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%	1.0%
First Things First Gila Region	2.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics, Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Based on all births per community.

¹ The total number of births was small; interpret results with caution.



Birth Characteristics

Why It Is Important

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.⁵² Low birth weights are commonly associated with pre-term births which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.⁵³

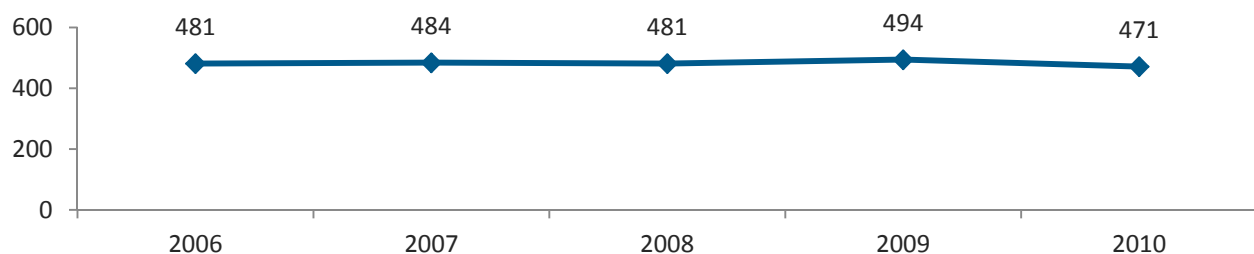
Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Gila County Health Department's Health Start Program*** in Globe offers new families home visitations, immunizations, and information on family planning, nutrition, child development, and health and safety.
- ***New Beginnings*** is an independent faith-based organization in Payson that provides information and classes to new parents. This program sub-contracts with the Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services (TOPS), a First Things First funded program that provides support to pregnant teens.
- ***The Mommy Program and Pregnancy Center*** is available in Hayden-Winkelman for pregnant women and new mothers.

What the Data Tell Us

The total number of births in the First Things First Gila Region decreased from 494 in 2009 to 471 births in 2010. This was the lowest number of births since 2006.

Total Births, First Things First Gila Region



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Community Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/cvs/index.htm>.

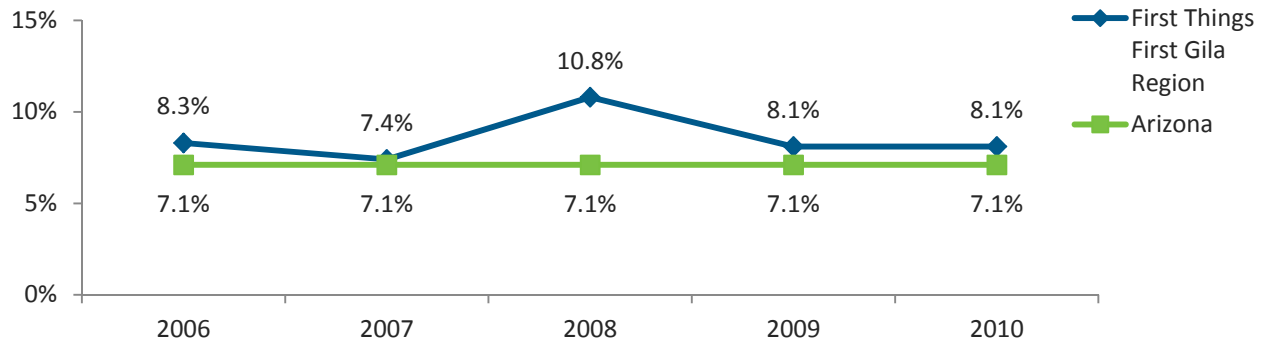
⁵² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). Child health USA 2008-2009. Retrieved from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

⁵³ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm Births. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4



Eight percent of births in the First Things First Gila Region experienced low birth weights in comparison to 7% of the state.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

The percentage of low birth weight births was below 10% in all communities in 2010. The highest percentage of low birth weight babies in 2010 was in Payson (8.9%), followed by Globe (8.2%) and Miami (7.7%). Claypool did not have any low birth weight babies born in 2010.

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

COMMUNITY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Claypool ¹	15.4%	0.0%	26.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Globe	10.7%	9.4%	8.2%	8.4%	8.2%
Miami ¹	2.3%	8.7%	17.6%	8.6%	7.7%
Payson	4.5%	7.5%	9.7%	9.3%	8.9%
First Things First Gila Region	8.3%	7.4%	10.8%	8.1%	8.1%

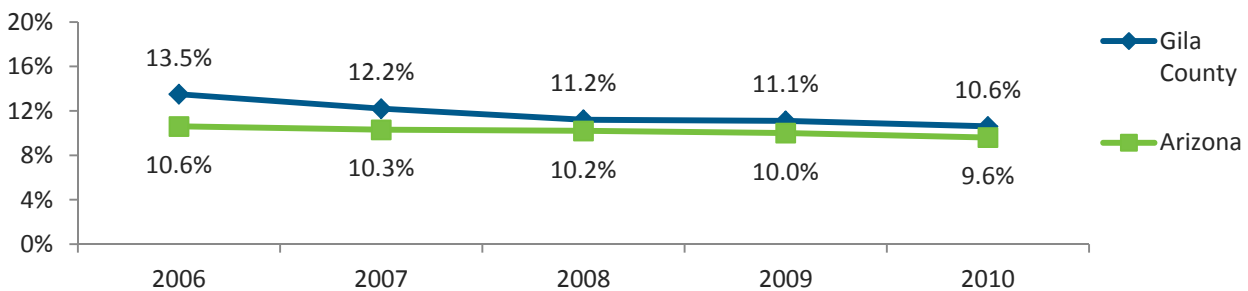
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics, Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Based on all births per community.

¹ The total number of births was small; interpret results with caution.

Almost 11% of births in Gila County were preterm in 2010, similar to previous years and comparable to the state.

Preterm Births (Gestational Age of Less Than 37 Weeks)

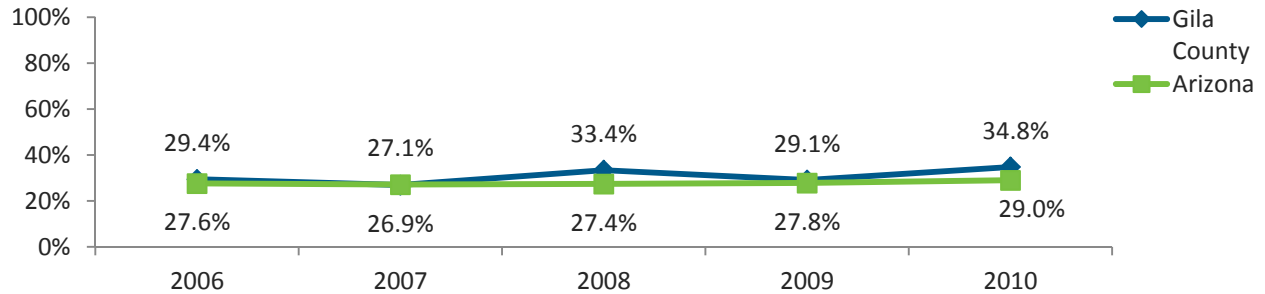


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.



Births with medical complications of labor and delivery include such things as long delivery, uncoordinated contractions, and overstretching of the uterus. Thirty-five percent of births had complications of labor and delivery in Gila County in 2010. This was higher than the state average of 29%.

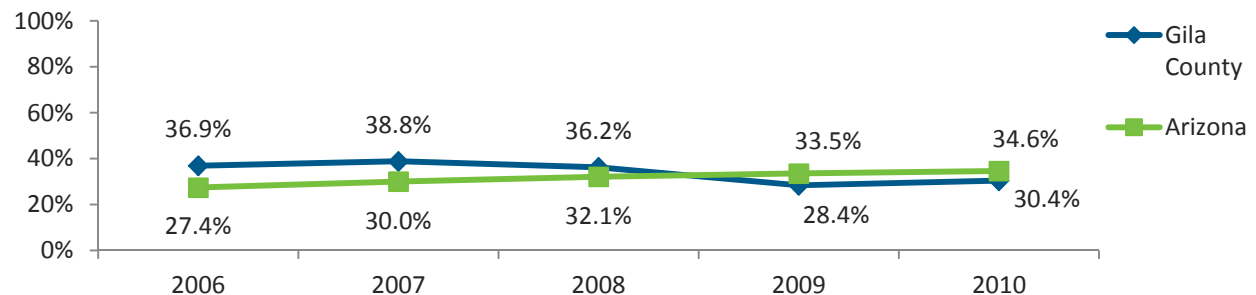
Births with Complications of Labor and Delivery



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Births with medical risk factors apply to the mother and include such things as anemia, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease. The percentage of births with medical risk factors increased from 28% in 2009 to 30% in 2010, below the state (35%).

Births with Medical Risk Factors



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

In 2010, the majority of births (57%) in Gila County were paid for through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), similar to Arizona as a whole (53%).

Source of Payment for Labor and Delivery

PAYEE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
AHCCCS					
Gila County	58.3%	53.6%	53.2%	53.7%	56.6%
Arizona	52.1%	52.2%	52.5%	53.5%	53.3%
Indian Health Service					
Gila County	20.4%	22.5%	22.5%	23.9%	23.3%
Arizona	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	2.0%
Private Insurance					
Gila County	18.1%	21.0%	20.8%	20.6%	18.5%
Arizona	42.3%	42.0%	42.0%	41.0%	41.0%
Self					
Gila County	3.0%	2.2%	3.2%	1.7%	1.3%
Arizona	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	3.0%
Unknown					
Gila County	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
Arizona	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

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.⁵⁴ Furthermore, smoking tobacco during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among mothers and infants. Babies born to smokers are more likely to be born prematurely, with a low birth weight, and reduced life expectancy.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

⁵⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Tobacco Use and Pregnancy. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.



What the Data Tell Us

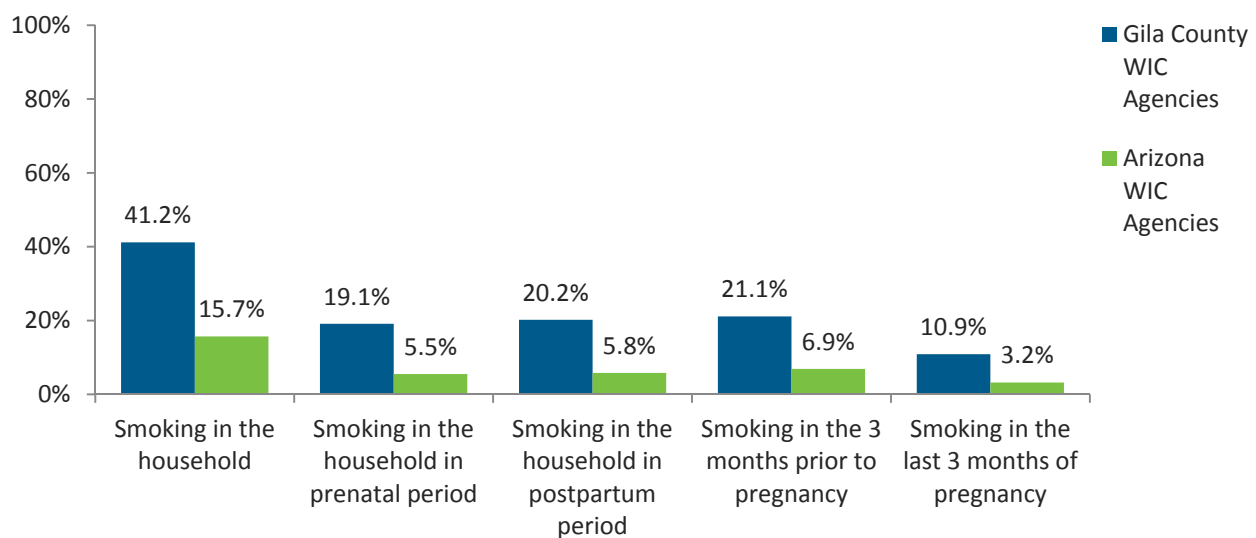
Two national surveillance systems gather data on health and well-being of low income children and mothers. All data for this system are provided by Arizona Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Arizona. The data that is available regionally is provided by WIC for the population they serve and may not be reflective of all children in the region.

Data from 2008-2010 showed women receiving WIC services through the Gila County WIC agencies showed much higher percentages of smoking both prior, during, and post pregnancy when compared to the state. Twenty percent of Gila County WIC mothers reported smoking in the household during the prenatal period, compared to just 6% of WIC mothers in Arizona as a whole. Similar differences were seen in post-partum.

Data showed that the percentage of Gila WIC mothers who smoked in the 3 months prior to pregnancy compared to those who smoked in the last 3 months of pregnancy decreased by about 50%. While this was similar to state data, the percentage of women who reported smoking in Gila started and ended much higher than in the state overall, with 11% of Gila mothers smoking in the last 3 months of their pregnancy.

According to a Globe WIC representative, they see many children with special needs, which the representative attributes to drug use, specifically methamphetamines. While there is no data to back this statement, it speaks to the representatives concern for children born to mothers who use substances during pregnancy and in the children's presence after birth.

WIC Mothers Who Smoked or were Exposed to Smoke in Their Households During Pregnancy, 2008-2010



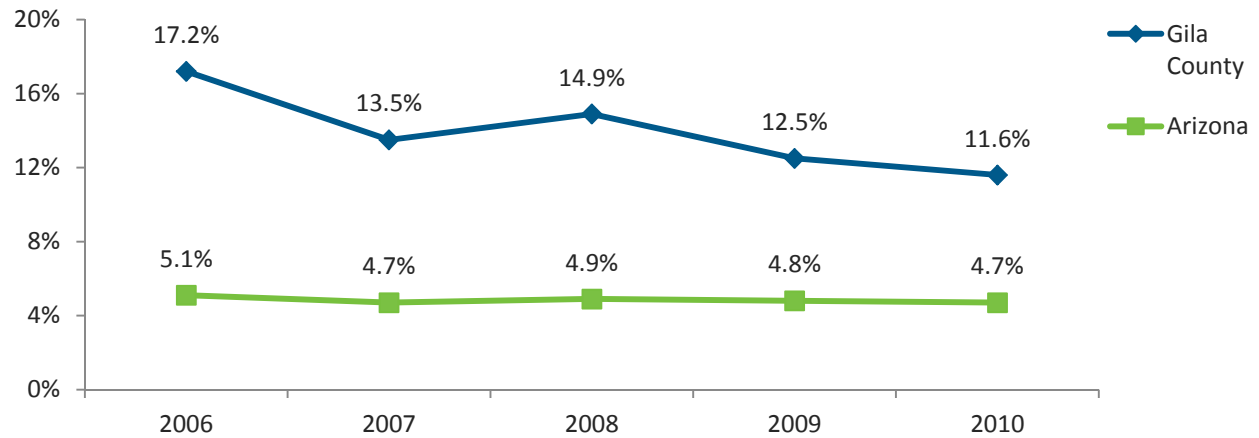
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Nutrition and Physical Activity. (2011). Nutrition & Health Indicators. *Arizona WIC local Agencies 2008-2010*. Received 2012 from First Things First.



Data from the Arizona Department of Health Service (ADHS) records information on mothers giving birth in both private and public hospitals. While ADHS data provides information on the general population of mothers, ADHS data on substance abuse during pregnancy is limited to county level data.

A higher percentage of all mothers in Gila County (12%) reported using tobacco during their pregnancy compared to mothers in the state of Arizona (5%). While the percentage in Gila County remained higher than the state, the percentage has continued to drop from 17% in 2006.

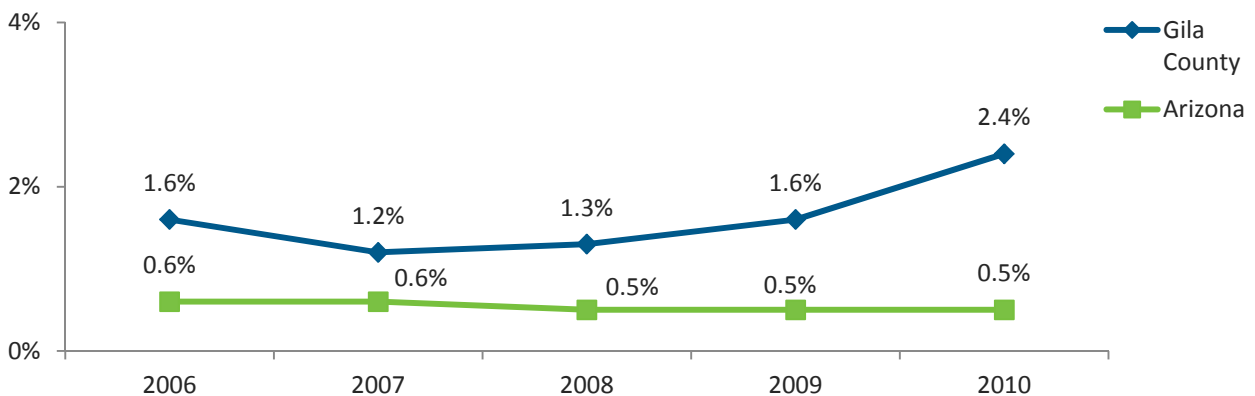
Births To Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

More than two percent of all mothers reported consuming alcohol during their pregnancy in 2010 in Gila County. This was higher than the state overall where less than 1% of mothers reported alcohol use during pregnancy.

Births To Mothers Who Used Alcohol During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.



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 with low birth weights. 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.⁵⁶ Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.⁵⁷

"Many parents don't see teen parenthood as such a bad thing because many of them were teen parents as well."
Globe WIC Representative

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Gila County's Teen Outreach Program** in Globe and Miami works with youth throughout the county to inform teens about puberty and pregnancy prevention.
- **Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services (TOPS)**, funded by the First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council, provides prenatal and parenting education, mentoring, peer support, and father and family involvement to support pregnant and parenting teens and young adults. These services are available in the Globe/Miami and Payson areas.

What the Data Tell Us

Along with La Paz County, Gila County has the second highest rate of teen pregnancy in Arizona in 2010.⁵⁸ Births to teen mothers represented nearly 17% of all births in the county in 2011.

Births to Teen Mothers (19 Years or Younger) by Selected Community

COMMUNITY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Claypool ²	7.7%	25.0%	31.6%	17.4%	14.3%	NA
Globe	14.8%	19.5%	24.7%	18.4%	14.0%	NA
Miami ²	15.9%	32.6%	20.6%	14.3%	12.8%	NA
Payson	16.1%	15.5%	24.0%	20.3%	19.4%	NA
Gila County¹	19.3%	20.9%	24.2%	21.3%	18.4%	16.9%
Total Number of Teen Births – Gila County	129	145	169	150	123	105
Arizona	12.7%	12.6%	12.3%	11.8%	10.8%	9.9%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics, Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Based on all births per community.

¹ Gila County data includes Peridot and San Carlos.

² The total number of births was small; interpret results with caution.

⁵⁶ 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>.

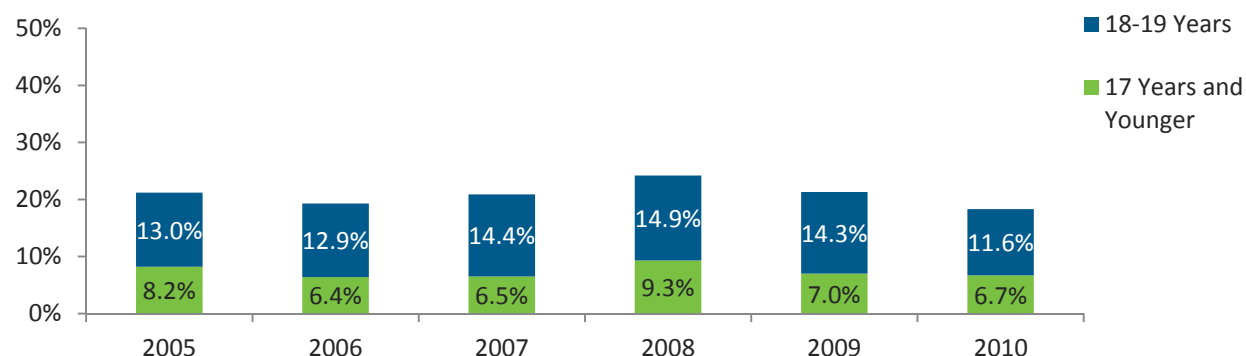
⁵⁷ Arizona Department of Health Services and National Center for Health Statistics.

⁵⁸ Payson Roundup. (Aug. 13, 2010). County's teen birth rate 2nd in Arizona. Retrieved August 2010 from <http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2010/reg/13/>



In 2010, nearly 7% of births in Gila County were to teen mothers under the age of 18.

Births to Teen Mothers by Age, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Breastfeeding

Why It Is Important

Breastfeeding offers multiple health advantages to both infants and their mothers. Breast milk contains properties that increase immunity, lower the risk of infection, and decrease susceptibility to chronic illness. Mothers who breastfeed have fewer postpartum problems and a reduced risk of osteoporosis, ovarian cancer, and breast cancer.⁵⁹

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** offers the Mothers-to-Mother Breastfeeding Support Group one day per week for expectant mothers and mothers and their children. The group meets at the Payson Public Library.

What the Data Tell Us

Data on breastfeeding in the First Things First Gila Region are limited. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) gathers data on mother's breastfeeding practices at both the county and state level.

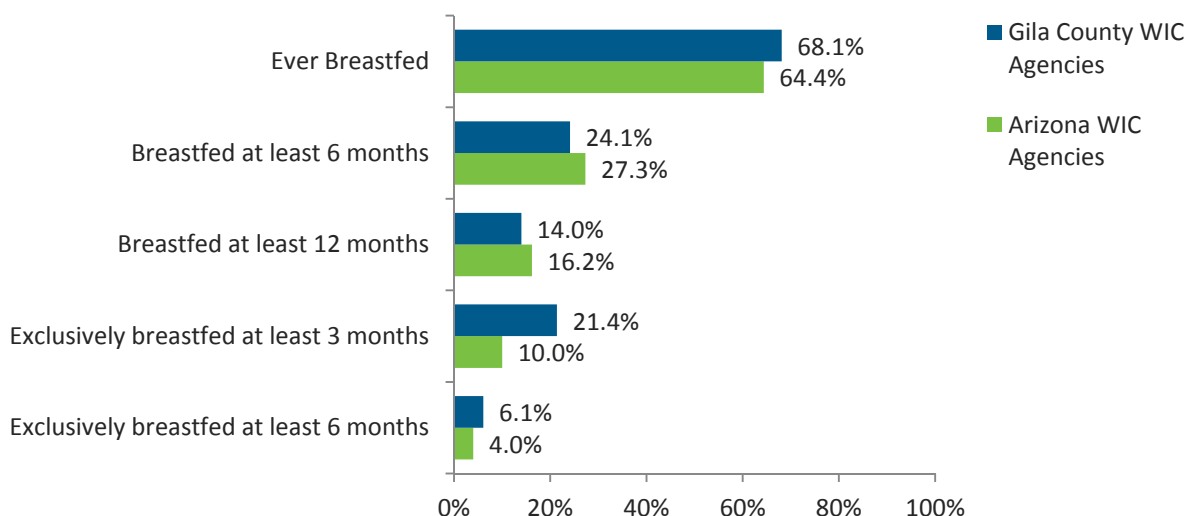
The Gila County WIC offices reported higher percentages of mothers who had ever breastfed their child than the state overall, 68% compared to 64%. The percentage of WIC mothers who reported exclusively breastfeeding for at least 3 months was nearly double that of the state overall.

⁵⁹ Schack-Nielsen, L, Larnkjær, A & Michaelsen, K. F. (2005). Long Term Effects of Breastfeeding on the Infant and Mother. *Early Nutrition and its Later Consequences: New Opportunities*. (pp16-23). Springer Netherlands doi: 10.1007/1-4020-3535-7_3



The percentage of WIC mothers in Gila County who reported some breastfeeding for at least six months dropped below that of the state, with 24% of Gila mothers compared to 27% of all Arizona WIC mothers.

Breastfeeding Among WIC Mothers, 2008-2010



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Nutrition and Physical Activity. (2011). Nutrition & Health Indicators. *Arizona WIC local Agencies 2008-2010*. Received 2012 from First Things First.

Immunizations

Why It Is Important

Immunization requirements help to prevent 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.⁶⁰

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Gila County Health Department** in both Globe and Payson offers free immunization clinics for all children under the age of 18 at the Payson and Globe offices and through the Hayden/Winkelman Unified and Young Elementary School Districts.

⁶⁰ 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>.

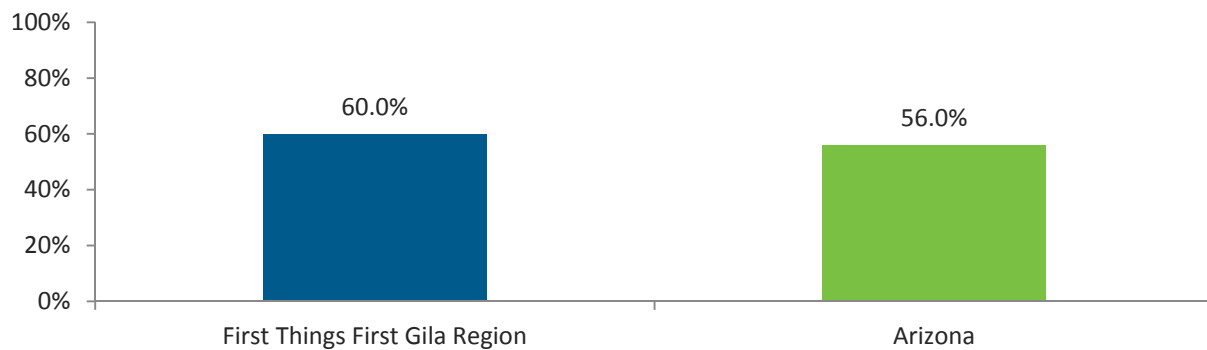


- ***The Child Care Health Consultation Program***, delivered locally through the Gila County Health Department, works with center and home-based child care providers to identify children who are behind in their immunizations, and direct parents to free or low-cost vaccination programs.

What the Data Tell Us

Sixty percent of children ages 19 to 35 months in First Things First Gila Region had completed the immunization schedule, in comparison to just 56% in Arizona as a whole.

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule, First Things First Gila Region, 2010



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIIIS). (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

US National Immunization Survey. (2011). Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by State and Local Area. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/nis-2010-released.htm>

Note: First Things First Gila Region based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within region.
Note: Children with 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.

Note: Due to changes in the way data were processed and pulled, trend data was not available to First Things First in 2012 from ADHS.



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.⁶¹ 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.⁶² 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.

What the Data Tell Us

In 2009, 14% of children and youth (under 19 years of age) in Gila County were uninsured, similar to the state of Arizona (13%).

Health Insurance Coverage Under 19 Years Old

	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009
Gila County					
Number Uninsured	2,230	1,439	1,231	2,152	1,773
Percent Uninsured	17.2%	11.6%	9.8%	17.1%	14.2%
Arizona					
Number Uninsured	226,220	279,363	266,130	277,285	230,196
Percent Uninsured	15.8%	16.1%	15.0%	15.6%	12.8%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2010). Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/>.

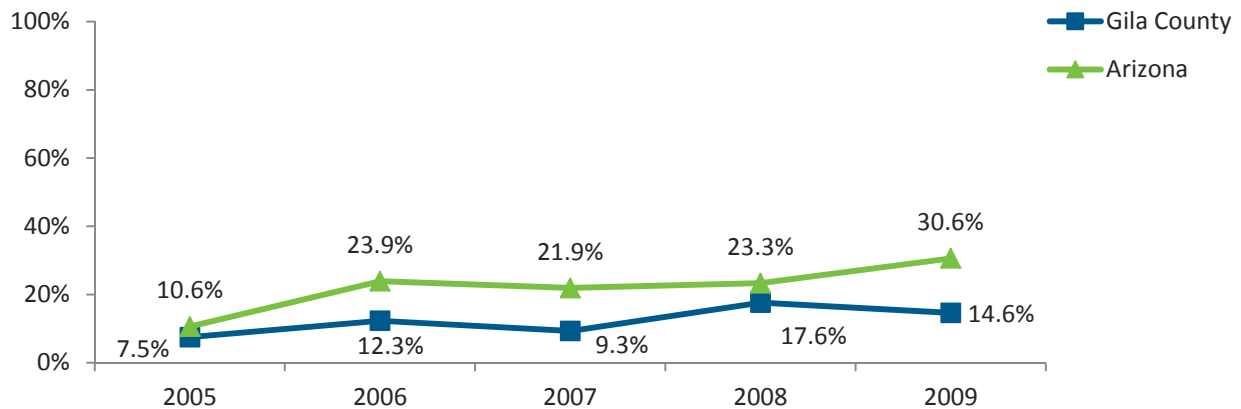
⁶¹ Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHImproves.pdf>

⁶² American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). MediKids Fact Sheet. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>,



Fifteen percent of children living under 200% of the poverty line were uninsured in Gila County in 2009 in comparison to 31% in Arizona as a whole.

Percent of Uninsured Children Under 19 Years of Age Below 200% Poverty Line, Gila County

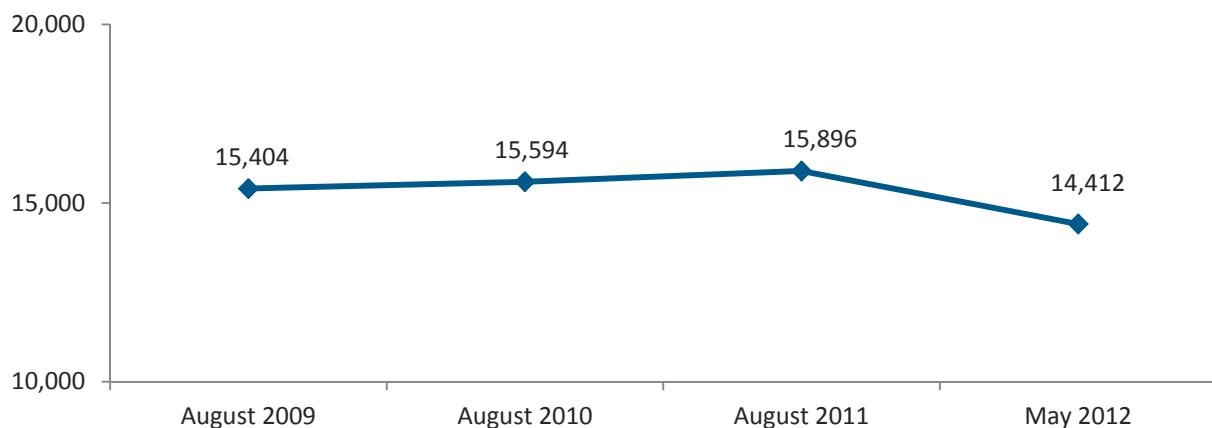


Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2010). Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

In May of 2012, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) provided health insurance coverage to 14,412 people in Gila County, a decrease from 15,896 people in August of 2011.

Nearly all families in Globe have health care through AHCCCS, according to a community representative. However they often see families that make too much for AHCCCS but too little to pay for their own insurance.

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



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



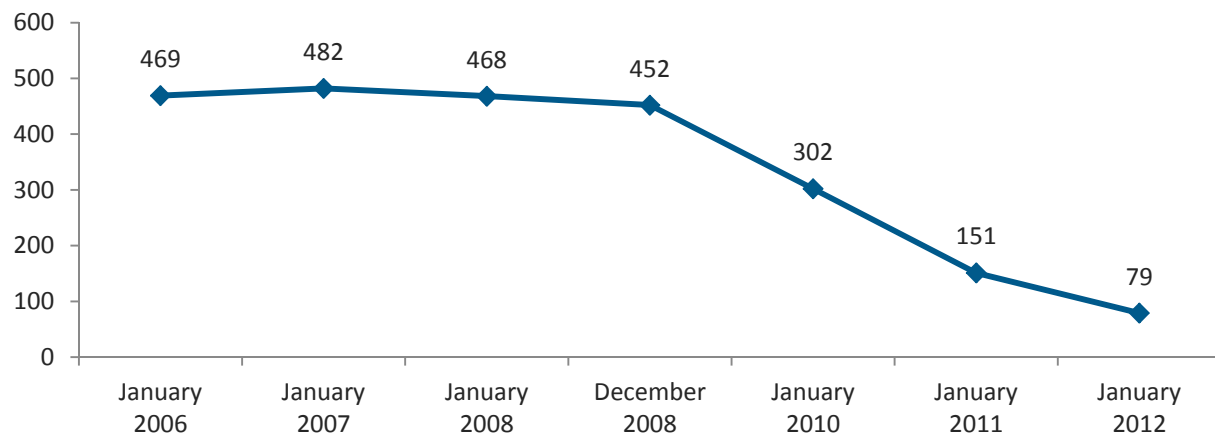
Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program is known as KidsCare. KidsCare operates as part of the AHCCCS program and is for children in households with incomes between 100%-200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Due to state budget cuts, there was a freeze on enrollment into the KidsCare program on January 1, 2010. Since then, all KidsCare applicants have been placed on a waiting list in the event that enrollment could be re-opened.

Recently, AHCCCS has been working with its federal partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a program called the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP), which is a program to provide hospitals with funding to cover their costs for providing uncompensated care. CMS approval of SNCP was contingent on using a portion of the funding to provide coverage to children in the KidsCare program. University of Arizona Health Network, Phoenix Children's Hospital, and Maricopa Integrated Health Systems agreed to participate and will fund coverage for about 20,000 children under what is being called KidsCare II. KidsCare II will only cover eligible children in households with income from 100-175% of the Federal Poverty Level. Benefits and premium requirements for KidsCare II are the same as the regular KidsCare program. Notices have been sent to households currently on the KidsCare waiting list, starting with children who have been on the wait list the longest. In May of 2012, the program had begun to take a limited number of new enrollments for children not previously on the waiting list.

KidsCare II is temporary and is scheduled to end December 31, 2013. AHCCCS will assist children enrolled in KidsCare II to transition to the Health Insurance Exchange, which will be open for enrollment and coverage by that date.⁶³

A total of 79 children in Gila County were insured through KidsCare in January 2012, nearly half (52%) of the previous years' enrollment and 17% of the January 2006 levels. This decline was likely caused by reduced funding and continued changes undertaken by the state legislature.

KidsCare Enrollment, Gila County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2012). KidsCare Enrollment. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

⁶³ Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2012). Apply for AHCCCS Health Insurance/KidsCare. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/applicants/application/AcuteCare.aspx>



Health Providers

Why It Is Important

Communities across the nation are facing shortages of healthcare professionals. As the population continues to increase in number, concern over provider shortfalls are increasing. The Arizona Healthcare Workforce is working to track and find ways of addressing these shortfalls across the state.

"There is a serious shortage of doctors in both Globe and Payson. They have one pediatrician in Globe and two in Payson."
Community Representative

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Canyonlands Community Healthcare** will open a federally qualified clinic in the Globe area on August 1st, 2012. The clinic will operate in rented space in the Cobre Valley Hospital. Recruitment is underway for staff which includes bringing a Pediatric Internist into the area.
- **The Christian Clinic** in Payson operates four nights a week to provide medical services to low-income uninsured families.
- **Well Baby Clinic** in Payson provides free development assessments and checks that immunizations are up to date.

The ratio of primary care providers to the population in Gila County was 1:755 in 2010 a decrease from 1:908 in 2009; while still remaining higher than the state ratio of 1:501.

Provider to Population Ratio

AREA	2009	2010
Gila County	1:908	1:755
Arizona	1:639	1:501

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

From 2009 to 2010, Gila County lost many health care providers including 8 primary care physicians, 27 registered nurses, and 5 dentists. In 2010, there were a total of 71 primary care physicians in the region and 368 registered nurses.

"Doctors are overwhelmed and there are not enough."
Community Representative

Pine Strawberry has limited medical resources, according to a school district representative. There is one medical clinic open one day a week. Otherwise, medical services are performed by the fire department. Mental health services are available in Payson, not locally.



Type of Health Care Providers (Non-Tribal Areas), Gila County

TYPE OF PROVIDER	2009	2010	NET CHANGE
Personnel			
Primary Care Physicians (MDs and DOs)	63	71	-8
Physician Assistants	7	10	-3
Nurse Practitioners	13	16	3
Registered Nurses	395	368	-27
Dentists	24	19	-5
Midwives	1	1	0
Emergency Medical	280	263	-17
Clinics and Hospitals			
General Hospitals	2	2	0

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/data/docu.pdf>.

Oral Health Care

Why It Is Important

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem. Arizona has substantial disparities in oral health services where low income children, Hispanic children and children of color have more dental needs.⁶⁴ Dental diseases can be serious in adults as well as children 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.⁶⁵ Experts recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for tooth decay.⁶⁶

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Dental Outreach for Rural Arizona (DORA)** started about 4 to 5 years ago. They were awarded a grant from a donor and used the grant to purchase the equipment for a mobile clinic. DORA services are scattered throughout Gila County. DORA partners with Head Starts in the First Things First Gila Region to provide visual teeth screenings to students and their families.

⁶⁴ The Oral Health of Arizona's Children. (2005). Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health.

⁶⁵ Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Women and Children's Health, Office of Oral Health. (2011). The State of American Indian Children's Oral Health in Arizona. Retrieved May 2011 from First Things First.

⁶⁶ 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

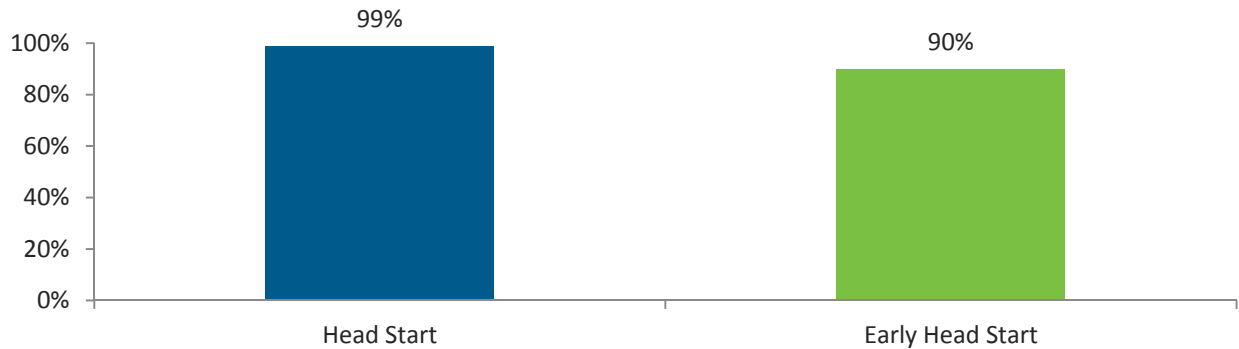


What the Data Tell Us

The Arizona Department of Health Services reported there were 17 dentists in Gila County in 2011.⁶⁷ The dental provider to population ratio being 1:3,153, compared to the state with a ratio of about 1:1,763.⁶⁸ The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council has identified oral health as a major priority in the region. However, there has been some continued difficulty in providing services in the region.

Nearly all (99%) Head Start children had a dental home in 2010.

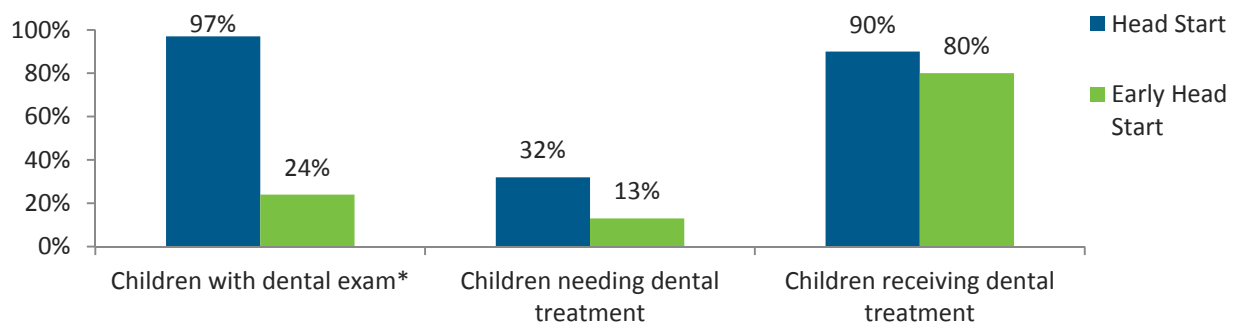
Head Start and Early Head Start Children with a Dental Home, Gila/Pinal Counties, 2010



Source: Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>

Though dental exams for infants and toddlers are suggested but not required, 97% of Head Start children and 24% of Early Head Start children received dental exams in 2010. Of those, 32% of Head Start and 13% of Early Head Start children needed dental treatment.

Head Start Children Needing and Receiving Dental Care, Gila/Pinal Counties, 2010



Source: Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.pgccs.org/>

* Dental exams for infants and toddlers are encouraged but not required.

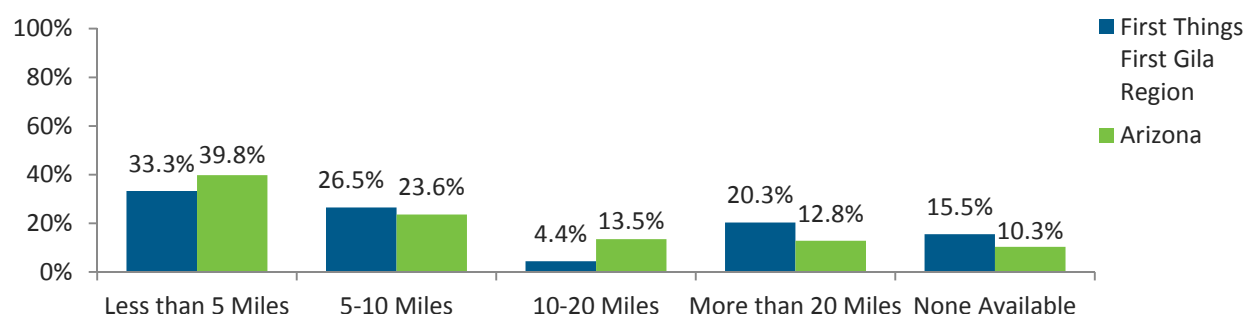
⁶⁷ Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Calculations based off numbers reported in Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.



Most parents (64%) reported that they traveled 20 miles or less for their children's dental care in 2008.

Distance Parents Travel to Get Dental Care for Children Ages Birth Through Five, First Things First Gila Region, 2008



First Things First Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

Chronic Disease and Mortality

There is limited data on common chronic diseases among children in the First Things First Gila Region. According to a community representative the focus had been on the treatment of chronic disease, rather than addressing the causes of obesity and diabetes, and preventing their occurrence. While there are some programs addressing these issues the region, the community representative felt that health care providers were themselves focused on treating the symptoms once they were already an issue.

Asthma

Why It Is Important

In the United States, nearly 9 million children have asthma. 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.⁶⁹ Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.⁷⁰ 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.⁷¹

⁶⁹ 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/asthma/children.html>.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

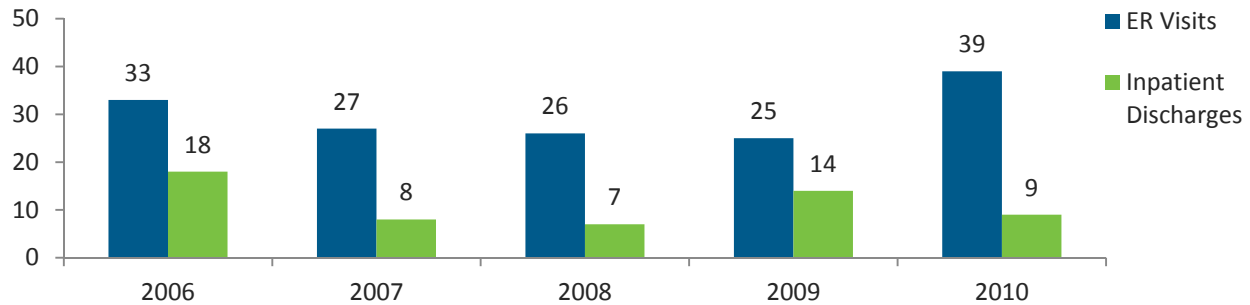
⁷¹ The Mayo Clinic. (2010). Asthma. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2>.



What the Data Tell Us

In 2010, there were 39 emergency room (ER) visits and 9 inpatient discharges for children birth through 5 with asthma; this was the highest number of ER visits in the last 5 years.

Emergency Room Visits and Discharges of Inpatients with Asthma* for Children Birth through 5, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics Report, Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

* First listed diagnosis, does not include all mentions of asthma.

Overweight and Obesity

Why It Is Important

Children and adolescents with a body mass index (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 of the population 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.

Arizona ranks 15th worst among states for childhood obesity. The rate of childhood obesity is so serious that today's youth are expected to be the first generation of Americans to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.

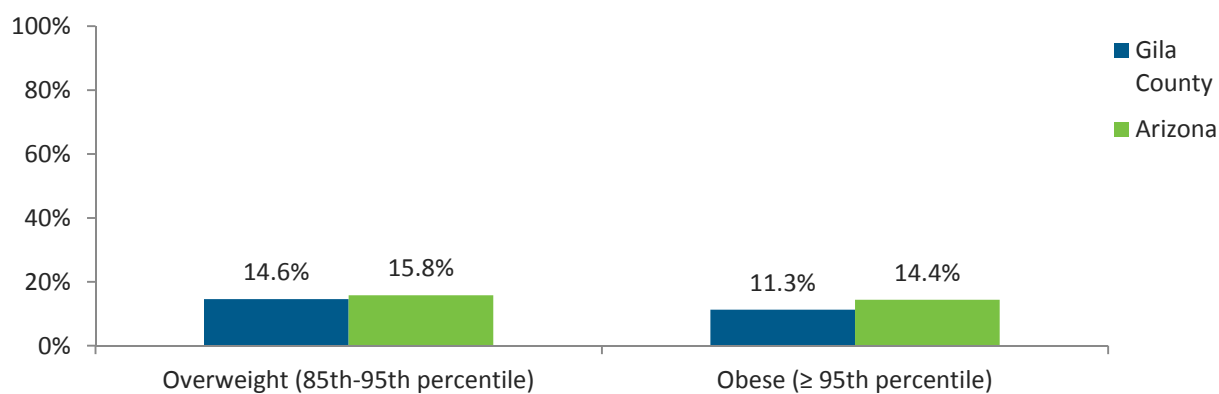
Due to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 signed by President Barack Obama, school districts are revising their menu's to offer healthier choices. There are certain school districts in Arizona that have conducted taste tests of new menu items with their families this past spring.



What the Data Tell Us

Over one quarter (26%) of children ages two to five participating in WIC in Gila County were identified as overweight or obese in 2008-2010. Eleven percent of children ages two to five were identified as obese ($\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ percentile).

Overweight and Obese Children Ages 2-5 Participating in WIC, 2008-2010



Source: 2008-2010 CDC Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS).

Note: Data on overweight and obesity are collected for children who participate in the WIC program in Gila County.

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

The majority of notifiable diseases in Gila County were Enteritides (a type of Salmonella). The number of vaccine preventable diseases ranged from 1 to 4 per year.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Gila County

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Vaccine Preventable	2	1	4	2	2
Enteritides (Salmonella)	43	47	25	21	36
Hepatitides (Hepatitis)	4	5	1	3	2
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	1	5

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2011). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Notes: Vaccine Preventable includes 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 includes cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.



Leading Causes of Death

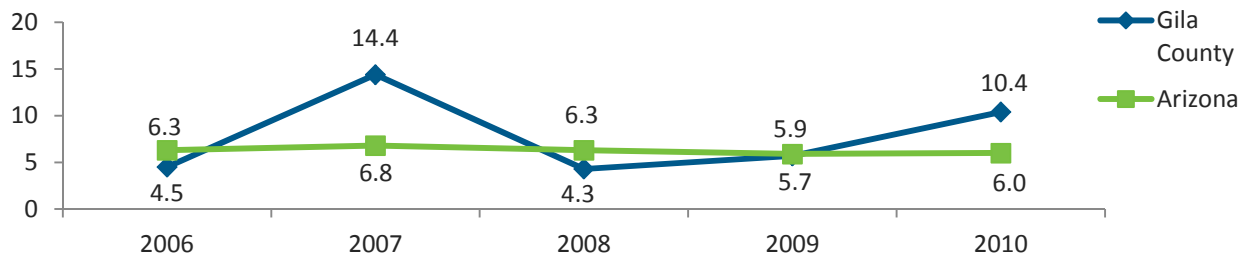
Why It Is Important

The infant mortality rate in the United States has decreased dramatically over the last 30 years from 20 deaths per 1,000 babies born to 6.9 per 1,000 deaths in 2003.⁷² 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

The infant mortality rate in Gila County rose from 5.7 in 2009 to 10.4 per 1,000 births in 2010. The 2010 rate in Gila County was higher than in Arizona overall (6.0). However, the small number of births in Gila County increases the fluctuations in this rate over time.

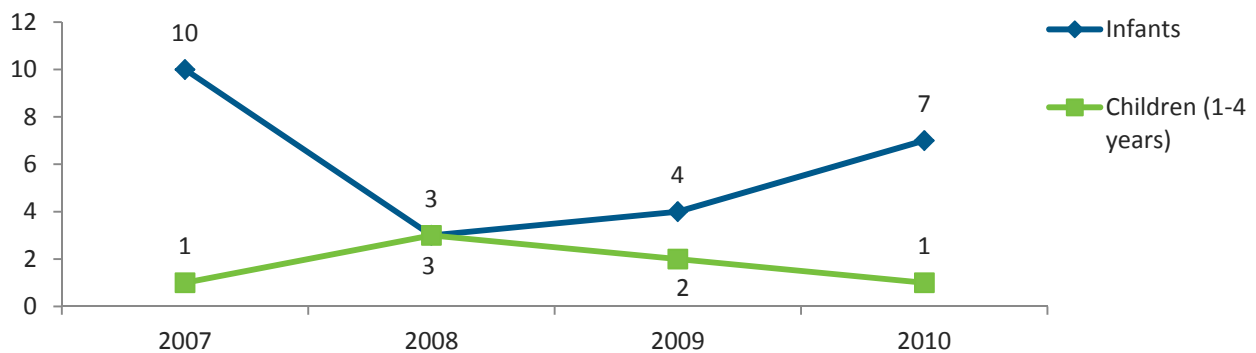
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics Report. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

There were 8 deaths among children ages birth through four in Gila County in 2010. This was higher than in the two years prior.

Number of Deaths for Children Ages Birth Through Four, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics Report. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

⁷² United States Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). Preventing Infant Mortality Fact Sheet. Received 2006 from <http://www.hhs.gov/news/factsheet/infant.html>



The leading cause of infant death for children in Gila County was congenital malformations in 2010. This continues to be the leading cause of infant death in Gila County.

Leading Causes of Infant Death, Gila County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2007	2008	2009	2010
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	7	1	2	0
Congenital Malformations	1	1	1	3
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	1	0	0	1
Diseases of the Nervous System	1	0	1	0
Other Causes	0	1	0	3
Total (all causes)	10	3	4	7

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics Report. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

There were three deaths among children ages 1 through 14 in Gila County in 2010. No deaths in 2010 were due to accidental injuries.

Leading Causes of Death for Children Ages 1 Through 14, Gila County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2007	2008	2009	2010
Accident (unintentional injury)	3	1	1	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0	1	0
Malignant Neoplasms	1	1	0	1
Diseases of the Heart	0	1	0	0
Other Causes	1	4	2	2
Total (all causes)	5	7	4	3

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics Report. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.



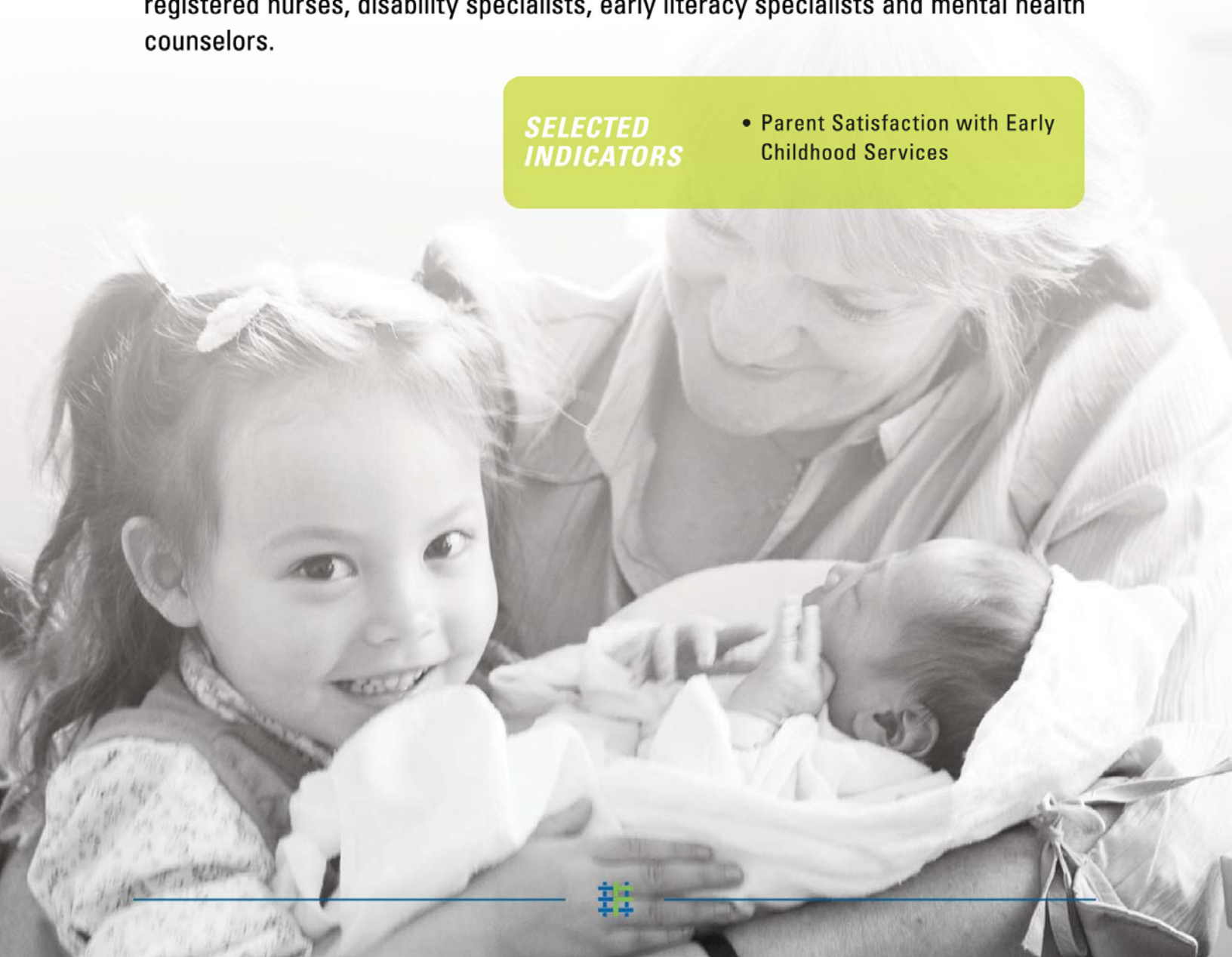
PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COLLABORATION

Parents are their children's first teachers and all parents can benefit from networking with other parents, sharing ideas with them, and hearing from experts about a range of topics such as child development, nutrition, positive discipline, managing a crying baby and building a child's self-esteem. Family support includes collaboration between families, programs and services with the goal of helping families reach their full potential.

The Birth to Five Helpline (1-877-705-KIDS) is a free resource open to all families with young children and professionals looking for information about their child's development. The helpline is staffed by early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disability specialists, early literacy specialists and mental health counselors.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Parent Satisfaction with Early Childhood Services



Parent Satisfaction with Early Childhood Services

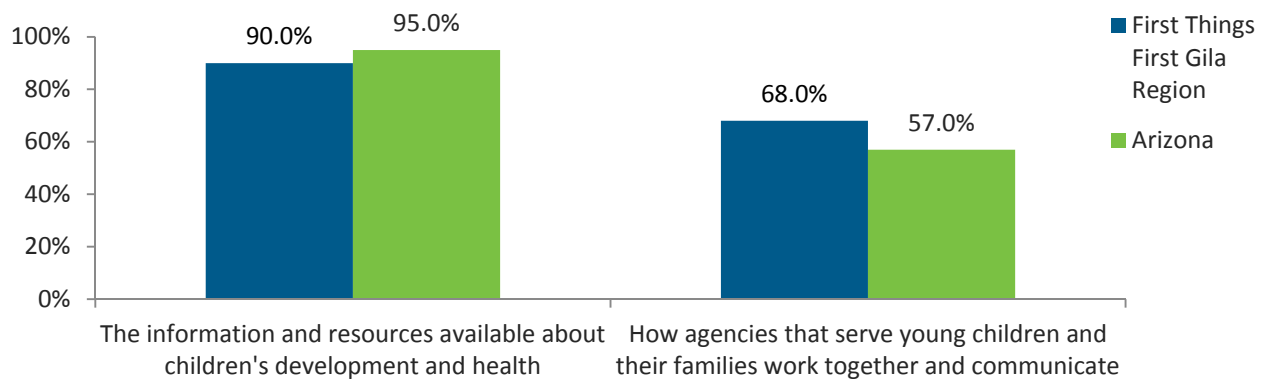
Why It Is Important

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. However, there is limited data regarding the satisfaction of parents with early childhood services in the First Things First Gila Region. In 2008, First Things First conducted a survey of community members and parents of children ages birth through five. While the survey represents a limited number of parents in the First Things First Gila Region, it provides some insight into their perception of early childhood services. (For a full description of the First Things First Families and Community Survey, please see the appendices).

What the Data Tells Us

Nearly all 104 parents surveyed in the First Things First Gila Region (90%) were satisfied with the information and resources available to them regarding children's development and health, but only 68% of parents were satisfied with the collaboration between agencies serving children and families.

Parents Who Responded "Somewhat" or "Very Satisfied" to the Following Statements, 2008



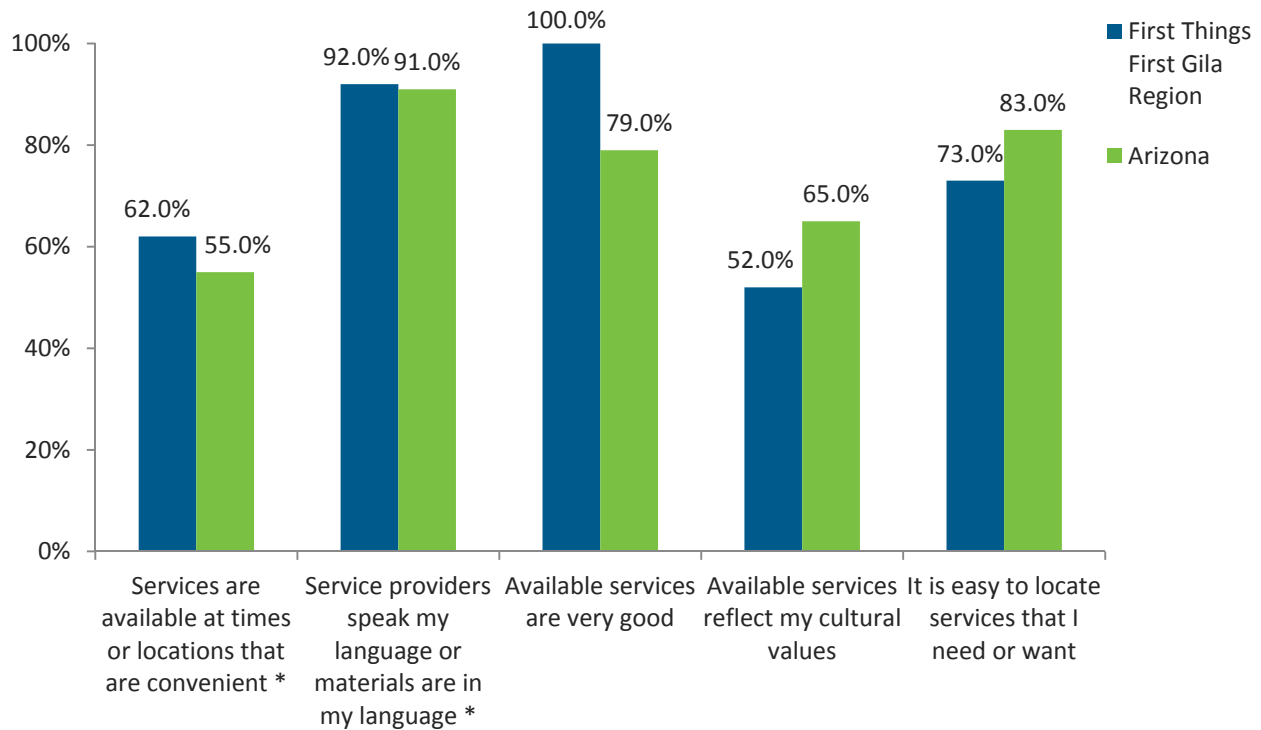
First Things First Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.



In general, First Things First Gila Region parent respondents agreed that services were very good (100%); providers spoke their language (92%); services in their community were easy to locate (73%); and services were available at convenient times and locations (62%). In most cases, parents in the First Things First Gila Region rated the services available more favorably than parents in Arizona as a whole.

Early Childhood Services: Parents that “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



First Things First Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

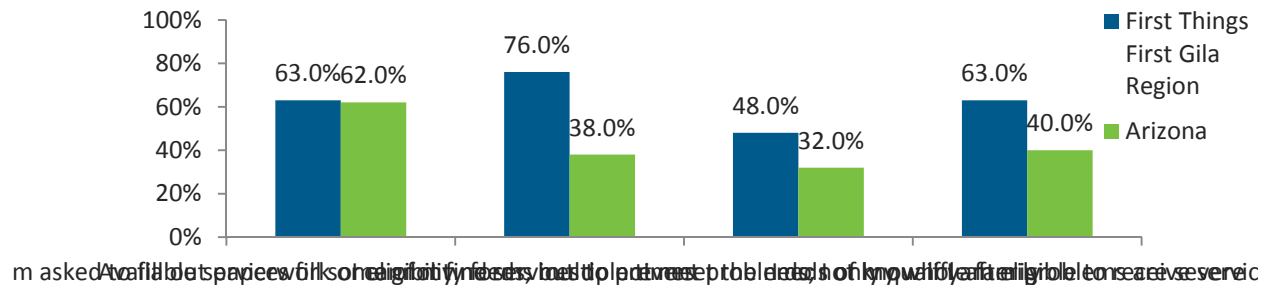
Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

* These questions were asked of respondents in the reverse: “I do not know if I am eligible to receive services,” “Service providers do not speak my language or materials are not in my language,” and “Services are not available at times or locations that are convenient.” The questions were reversed in this report for consistency.



While most parents in the First Things First Gila Region, who responded to the survey, were able to access services, many still encountered difficulties. Over three-fourths (76%) of parents felt that the available services met some of their needs but not all; almost two-thirds (63%) did not know if they were eligible to receive services; and a little less than half (48%) of parents felt that the services did not reflect their cultural values.

Early Childhood Services: Parents that “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



Source: First Things First Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.



CONCLUSION



Conclusion

The families and children living within the First Things First Gila Region

The First Things First Gila Region encompasses a vast, diverse geographic area (4,796 square miles) with elevations ranging from 2,000 to 7,000 feet. The vast, diverse, and sparsely populated areas of the region continue to challenge the Regional Council in building a system for early childhood. One of the challenges is that the county is often separated into Northern and Southern Gila County. Roosevelt Lake and a wide sparsely populated area divide the two areas of the county and often provide a geographic barrier to effectively provide services across the region. Globe, Miami, and Claypool are the major population areas of Southern Gila while Payson is the major population area in Northern Gila. These cities offer the most services to support families and their young children. These areas have Head Start centers, child care services, and a limited number of public school based pre-kindergarten classrooms. In contrast, the communities of Hayden/Winkelman, Pine/Strawberry, and Tonto Basin have limited pre-kindergarten services for children. Hayden/Winkelman has a home-based Early Head Start and Head Start program.

The population of the First Things First Gila Region was estimated to be 43,309 in 2010 with approximately 2,943 children ages birth through five. Twenty-four percent of families in the First Things First Gila Region are female headed households, and 63% are married couples. Fifty-two percent (52%) of First Things First Gila Region children ages birth through five were identified as White, 33% as Hispanic/Latino, and 12% as American Indian. The majority of the population five years and over in the First Things First Gila Region (86%) speak only English in the home, 11% reported speaking Spanish, and 2% speak an American Indian Language.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the First Things First Gila Region dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children ages birth through five and their families, and they are working hard to have a positive effect. The First Things First Gila Regional Council is committed to increasing opportunities for children in the region and each council member brings their own experience and perspective to their work.

Head Start children have access to a dental home and are receiving dental exams

Nearly all (99%) Head Start children had a dental home in 2010. Though dental exams for infants and toddlers are suggested but not required, 97% of Head Start children received dental exams in 2010. Most parents in the region (64%) reported that they traveled 20 miles or less for their children's dental care in 2008. Dental Outreach for Rural Arizona (DORA) started about 4 to 5 years ago. They provide limited services in Gila County through a partnership with Head Starts in the First Things First Gila Region to provide visual teeth screenings.



Children are raised in communities that support and help one another

Community representatives from a number of different areas including Globe, Payson, and Pine/Strawberry noted the close knit nature of families in the community. The First Things First Family and Community Survey showed that 79% of parent survey respondents reported relying on friends and neighbors for support. Community representatives also emphasized the number of young families living with grandparents or other non-family members, while these households have their challenges it speaks to the community's ties.

School readiness is increasing

More students who entered kindergarten in the 2010/11 school year were at grade level at the beginning of the school year than in 2009/10. In the Pine Strawberry Elementary School District in 2010/11, 80% of students entered kindergarten at grade level, an increase from 36% in 2009/10. Only 10% of children in Pine Strawberry Elementary School District needed substantial intervention in 2010/11. In 2011, efforts continued to increase literacy and expand educational opportunities within the Gila Region. There are currently eight public libraries in the First Things First Gila Region, and the county website offers a number of resources to parents to help encourage their children's reading and comprehension skills. Children can enroll in the Dolly Parton Program at all eight libraries in the region and they all offer story time to parents of children ages birth through five. The First Things First Early Literacy program that is a partnership between the Gila County Library, First Things First, and the Dolly Parton Foundation is currently reaching over 60% of the children birth to five in the region with the goal to enroll all children ages birth through five. This commitment to literacy and education in general, is reflected in the increase in the number of kindergarten students beginning the year at grade level.

More children ages 19 to 35 months in the First Things First Gila Region are receiving scheduled immunizations than the state as a whole

In Gila County in 2010, 60% of children ages 19 to 35 months had completed the immunization schedule. In comparison, fifty-six percent of children in Arizona had completed this schedule. The higher percentage of completed immunizations in Gila County may be due to collaborative efforts between community stakeholders to educate parents and refer parents to local resources. The County Health Department in Globe and Payson offers free immunizations clinics to all children under 18.

There are a number of child care providers dedicated to improving the quality of child care in the region

The First Things First Gila Region is home to eight Quality First child care programs. The Quality First star rating system is still in progress, however, as of July 2012, the First Things First Gila Region has one 1-star rated program and six 2-star rated programs. The Quality First Rating Scale, which measures quality on a 5-star scale, incorporates evidence-based predictors that lead to positive child outcomes. The scale ranges from a 1-star rating –where the provider demonstrates a commitment to examine practices and improve the quality of care beyond



regulatory requirements – to a maximum rating of 5-stars, where providers offer lower ratios/group size, higher staff qualifications that support significant positive outcomes for young children, curriculum that aligns with state standards and child assessment, and nurturing relationships between adults and children that promote emotional, social, and academic development. The eight Quality First programs in the First Things First Gila Region are committed to improving the overall quality of child care and early education provided in their programs.

There are a number of potential sources for new educational and health care opportunities

The First Things First Gila Region may soon have a new 4-year university coming to the Payson area, as well as funding to expand the Home Visitation program through Arizona Department of Health, and a comprehensive coordinated care program helping families navigate the health care system. While these programs are not yet available to the community, their potential represents a number of individuals who are dedicated to working to increase education and provide comprehensive health care for families and children in the region.

Community Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Despite the concerted efforts of First Things First, community organizations, and individuals, there are areas affecting the health and well-being of children and families in the First Things First Gila Region that need additional improvement. One struggle that the First Things First Gila Region deals with is the differences between the needs of the different communities. Services need to be customized and service providers throughout the county are aware of the need and are working to create solutions.

The region is severely impacted by poverty and unemployment

Over 25% of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region were living below the poverty level, according to 2006-2010 estimates. This was higher than in the state (24%) and the nation (22%). Thirty percent of children ages five to seventeen in Gila County lived below the federal poverty level in 2010. The unemployment in Gila County was just over 10% in 2011. While the unemployment rate in Gila County has remained higher than Arizona as a whole, it has followed the same trend as the state since 2007, peaking in 2010 and recovering slightly in 2011. Between 2007 and March 2012, unemployment more than doubled in Claypool, Globe, Miami and Payson. According to a recent news article, the Miami area will be adding 650 jobs this year as the mine near Miami and Globe will reopen.⁷³ Lack of employment remains a critical issues especially in the Payson area, where school census reflects many young families moving out of the area due to lack of employment opportunities.

⁷³ Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2012/03/07/20120307miami-mine-to-restart-hiring-650-workers.html>



Many families do not have access to child care

Families are limited by both the capacity of child care providers and the cost of child care in the First Things First Gila Region. There were an estimated 547 child care spaces in the First Things First Gila Region in 2012, enough for just 1 out of every 10 children with working parents to have a space. A single minimum wage earner in Gila County would be unable to afford the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment and putting a single preschooler in a child care center full-time. The number of families eligible for child care scholarships from the state of Arizona has decreased, yet there continues to be a high need for affordable quality child care in the region. The First Things First Gila Regional Council has helped by providing 20 Quality First Child Care Scholarships in FY 2012 to parents struggling to pay for quality care for their children.

Many children are being raised by kith and kin

Many children in the region are being cared for by someone other than their parents. One out of every 10 children ages birth through five (22%) in the First Things First Gila Region lived in a household with a grandparent householder in 2010, almost double that of Arizona (14%).

According to multiple community representatives, the number of grandparents living with and responsible for their grandchildren is much higher than presented by the U.S. Census Bureau. Local representatives have spoken to both the personal and economic needs many young parents have that required them to leave their children for other areas with greater economic prospects. Many children have also been affected by the incarceration of their parents. It is estimated that over 900 children in Gila County were children of incarcerated parents and over 1,200 children were affected by parental incarceration in 2011. While these alternative family types create many challenges for children, caregivers, and service providers in the region, there are services and organizations and individuals at many service agencies prepared to address their specific needs.

Fewer woman are receiving adequate prenatal care and teen birth rates remain high

Fewer women in the First Things First Gila Region are receiving adequate prenatal care and more women are engaging in risky behaviors such as smoking and drinking during pregnancy when compared to Arizona as a whole. Only 70% of women received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy in the First Things First Gila Region. Gila County was ranked second highest in Arizona for the percentage of births to teen mothers in 2010. Births to teen mothers represented nearly 17% of all births in Gila County in 2011. There are a few programs addressing teen pregnancy in the First Things First Gila Region. Teen Outreach Program is a prevention program and Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services (TOPS) provides pregnancy and parenting education for pregnant and parenting teens and young adults up to age 24 in the Globe/Miami area, and limited services to pregnant teens in Payson. Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services is a First Things First funded program.



Many children do not have health insurance or access to mental health services

While the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) covers many children in the First Things First Gila Region, approximately 14% of children did not have health insurance coverage in 2009. This is similar to Arizona as a whole at 13%. A total of 79 children in Gila County were insured through KidsCare in January 2012, nearly half (52%) of the previous years' enrollment, a decline likely caused by reduced funding and continued changes in the state legislature. KidsCare II has recently found funding to enroll a limited number of children from the waiting lists for services. Recently it was announced that they would also accept new application for services. While this will provide services to some children the funding available will only meet a fraction of the overall needs.

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 Children's Rehabilitation Services program lost medical services and therapies in 2009 that may result in long-term health impairment.

More health care providers are needed

From 2009 to 2010, Gila County lost many health care providers, including 8 primary care physicians, 27 registered nurses, and 5 dentists. In 2010, there were a total of 71 primary care physicians in the region and 368 registered nurses. In response to the shortage, Canyonlands Community Healthcare has taken a step to open a federally qualified clinic in the Globe area (scheduled to open on August 1st, 2012). Recruitment is underway for staff which includes bringing a Pediatric Internist into the area. Hope Clinic in Globe a local area medical practice has recently recruited a new physician and physician assistant. This practice has expanded to a second location within the last year and continues to recruit new partners. Currently they are looking for land to build a new medical practice building which will accommodate an expanded practice with additional physicians and other medical specialties.

There are insufficient shelter services to address the needs of those without homes

There was a considerable increase in the number of homeless children and families in Gila County between 2009 and 2010. The number of McKinney Vento identified homeless students increased to more than 600. There are four primary homeless service providers in the county, however there are even fewer services dedicated to serving families and children. There is a need to increase programming and shelter services due to the increasing number of homeless children seen through the schools and families struggling to meet their basic needs.



Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. Communities appear to be struggling to meet many of the health, economic, and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to health insurance, prenatal care, and unemployment. In light of these challenges in the First Things First Gila Region, targeted efforts, such as those highlighted above, and continued collaboration are needed to help improve the situation of children and families. First Things First is committed to working with the community in the Gila Region 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; 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 Gila County, which is generally representative of the First Things First Gila Region. Whether county-level data include data for the San Carlos Apache and Tonto Apache Tribes was often unknown. Whenever possible, San Carlos Apache data were removed. While all efforts were made to identify data for the population ages birth through five in the First Things First Gila 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.

Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First conducted a survey of community members and parents (or related, non-paid caregivers) of children ages birth through five in 2008. The survey assessed respondents' views of coordination among service providers, the quality and accessibility of family support programs, and their understanding of early childhood development and parenting. A randomly-selected, geographically-balanced sample of 5,193 Arizona adults (18 and older) was surveyed. The sample included 3,690 parents/caregivers of children ages birth through five and 1,503 members of the general population who did not have children under six. This randomized sample was drawn to ensure the generalizability of results to the adult Arizona population. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATIs) were conducted during August and September 2008. The respondents were selected randomly from sample lists, and random predictive dialing was also used to supplement the purchased lists. This strategy helped to ensure that residents who were not yet listed in a directory (or who chose not to be listed) were still eligible for selection. To include "cell phone only" households, the contractor manually dialed randomly-generated cell phone numbers (based on known cell phone exchanges). Cell phone contacts were given the option of completing their interview using their calling plan minutes or scheduling a call-back (on a land line or such a time when cell phone calling plan minutes were "free"). The average length of a parent interview was 21 minutes and the average general population interview lasted 7 minutes. Interviewers and respondents did not know the survey's sponsor. For the First Things



First Gila Region, there were 104 surveys completed from 84 parents and 20 members of the general population. The survey sample may not be representative of the region as a whole, especially those families living in poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk.



APPENDIX B: DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Data collection for the First Things First Gila Region can be difficult due to the First Things First regional boundaries. Many sources publish data at the county level, which in the case of Gila may not represent the true population of the First Things First Gila Region. Despite these challenges, region-specific data were collected when available, about issues related to children ages birth through five and their families. Additional support and collaboration with community members, schools, and organizations in the area resulted in current and relevant data regarding Head Start enrollment, WIC enrollment, kindergarten readiness scores, community assets, and more.

Still, vital information about children ages birth through five in the region is missing. More comprehensive, current, and representative data will help to make more informed conclusions about the state of children in the First Things First Gila Region and can better guide initiatives within the communities. Future efforts should be made to improve the data available for the following areas of interest:

- **Kindergarten Readiness** – There is no current source of comprehensive kindergarten readiness data in the state of Arizona. Arizona school districts use a variety of methods, including DIBELS and AIMSWeb, to assess literacy skills; however, these measures do not assess many of the other skills needed for children to succeed in school. First Things First is currently working to build a common, cohesive system for measuring school readiness.
- **Quality First Child Care Centers Capacity** – Data on the capacity of Quality First Child Care spaces are not currently available. Through the efforts of First Things First, a comprehensive database of Quality First Child Care centers and homes is being created. It will provide regional data on capacity and accessibility of Quality First Child Care for children.
- **Cost of Child Care** – These data are collected through the Department of Economic Security’s Market Rate Survey. While the survey is conducted within all regions, the data are presented at only the district level, which for Gila includes Gila and Pinal Counties.
- **Children with Disabilities** – The data available regarding the number of Head Start children receiving developmental screenings and the number of children referred to and receiving AzEIP and DDD services do not give a comprehensive picture of the children with disabilities in the First Things First Gila Region. More comprehensive data regarding the number of children by disability type would help to identify the level of need and which services are needed.
- **Child Abuse, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice** – The majority of these indicators are available only at the county level. While child abuse data are collected at the zip code level, the Department of Economic Security was unable to release these data for many areas due to the small number of reports per zip code and concern for confidentiality.



- **Oral Health Care Data**— There is limited oral health data available at the First Things First Gila Regional level. Service providers have provided information on the services they offer the community and their understating of the issue. However, there is not comprehensive data on the scope and scale of oral health care needs for children in the region.
- **Obesity** – Obesity data are only available at the county level for children enrolled in WIC. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are considered to be overweight or obese in the First Things First Gila Region.
- **Diabetes** –Diabetes data are only available for adults at the county level. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Injuries** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on childhood injuries, but only at the county level. In addition, the most recent data available is from 2008.
- **Asthma** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on hospital use for children with asthma. There are no specific data regarding the number of children actually diagnosed with asthma.

