



2012

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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 well-being of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the North Phoenix Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, program 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 North Phoenix Region include:

- Limited access to affordable, quality early care and education opportunities for young children in the North Phoenix Region
- Limited access to training and professional development opportunities for early childhood care providers in the North Phoenix Region
- Limited access to parent education, information and support
- Limited access to and utilization of preventative health care
- Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health, and limited support by the community around early childhood development and health efforts

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

The 2012 Needs and Assets Report provides First Things First with the research necessary to make decisions regarding the programs and services needed for children birth through 5 and their families. Factors at the individual, family, school, community, state, and even national level can affect childhood outcomes.¹ The following report has identified many of those factors to consider when identifying the needs and assets of a region. The hope is that this Needs and Assets Report will contribute to improving the lives of children across the First Things First North

¹ From The Healthy Development of Arizona's Youngest Children: Dec 2010



Phoenix Region. The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in these young children, and supporting their parents, grandparents, or caregivers in preparing children for success in life.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders who participated in numerous work sessions and community forums throughout the past 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 North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. 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 the 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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE REGION AND THE PEOPLE

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

The population of the region was 519,974 in 2010 with approximately 44,303 children ages birth through five. Twenty-two percent of families in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were female headed households, and 67% are married couples in 2010. More than half (53%) of children birth through five in the First Things First North Phoenix Region identified as White, 37% Hispanic/Latino, 4% Black or African American, 4% Asian and 2% American Indian. The majority of the population five and over in the First Things First North Phoenix Region (77%) speak only English in the home.

The Face of Poverty

Income

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.

What does the economy look like for local children and their families?

- Arizona had the fifth highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010, with 1 out of 4 children living in poverty. Roughly 1 in 3 children ages birth through five in the areas served by Washington Elementary School District were living below the poverty level, according to 5-year Census estimates. The areas served by Paradise Valley Unified had nearly 1 in 5.
- Median household incomes in the First Things First North Phoenix Region varied. The median income for a married couple family in the area served by Paradise Valley Unified was \$100,115. This was compared to \$40,880 for a female householder in the same area and just \$24,292 for single female householder in the area served by Washington Elementary area.



- The Self-Sufficiency Standard is an indicator of how much income is needed for a family to meet its minimal basic needs without public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Maricopa County was \$51,115 annually for a single parent with two children and \$58,798 for a family of four in 2012.

Basic Needs

Going without basic needs such as food, housing, child care, health care, or clothing can have short and long-term consequences to residents' health and well-being. When children suffer from lack of food, it can lead to poor physical and mental health, difficulty learning, increased school absences, and lower test scores. This makes children more likely to suffer from poverty when they become adults.

Can families meet their basic needs?

- 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. Over a quarter (27%) of children in Maricopa County lived in households without enough food in 2009. This was higher than the state of Arizona overall, where 17% of residents were food insecure.

Early Care and Education

The Early Childhood System

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

Do parents have enough high quality child care available to them?

- Only 28% of children with working parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region have child care spaces available to them.
- In 2010, the average daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from \$20.00 to \$40.80. For part-time child care, the average daily cost ranged from \$12.50 to \$33.00. Having a child under one in child care was more costly on a daily basis than having children one through five in child care.

School Readiness and Success

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



Are children learning to read?

- Eighty-five percent of 3rd grade students in the Deer Valley Unified School District and 84% of 3rd graders in the Paradise Valley Unified School District were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading in 2011. Sixty-seven percent of students at Washington Elementary School District were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading in 2011, indicating that nearly one-third of their students were below standards for reading.

Are youth graduating?

- Ninety-percent of Paradise Valley Unified School District students graduated in 2010. This was similar to Deer Valley Unified with 89% of their high school students graduating in 4 years.

Children with Mental Health Issues and Special Needs

It is crucial to have early identification of children's special needs so that children can get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.² Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth.

How many children receive AzEIP services for children birth to 36 months old with developmental delays or at risk for delays?

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

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.

Do children have health insurance in the region?

- About 13% of children in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were without medical insurance.

² 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.



- KidsCare operates as part of the AHCCCS program and is for children in households with incomes between 100%-200% FPL. Due to state budget shortfalls there was a freeze placed 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. KidsCare enrollment in Maricopa County decreased by 71% from 2010 to 2012.

Healthy Births

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

Are babies born healthy?

- The number of births with low birth weight has stayed fairly consistent over the last five years in both Arizona and in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

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.

How many children are born to teen mothers?

- There were 2,268 births to mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2009. In 2009, 10% of births were to teen mothers in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. This was lower than the state of Arizona, with nearly 12% of births to teen mothers.

Supporting Families

Family and Community Supports

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources to help raise their children.



Do families feel they have someone to turn to when they need support?

- The majority of parents interviewed in both the First Things First North Phoenix Region relied on their spouse for support (88%). Respondents also reported they relied on their own mother for support (56%).

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

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.

How do parents feel about early childhood services in the First Things First North Phoenix Region?

- The majority of parents (94%) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were satisfied with the information available about their children's development and health. However, less than two-thirds (60%) were satisfied with how agencies were working together and communicating.
- Parents were asked how strongly they agreed with statements regarding services:
 - Forty-one percent of parents reported they did not know if they were eligible for services, and one-third (33%) reported they could not find services to prevent problems and that they only qualified after the problems had become more severe.
 - Ninety-five percent of parents reported services were available in a language they understood, yet 31% reported services did not reflect their cultural beliefs.



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



About the First Things First North Phoenix Region

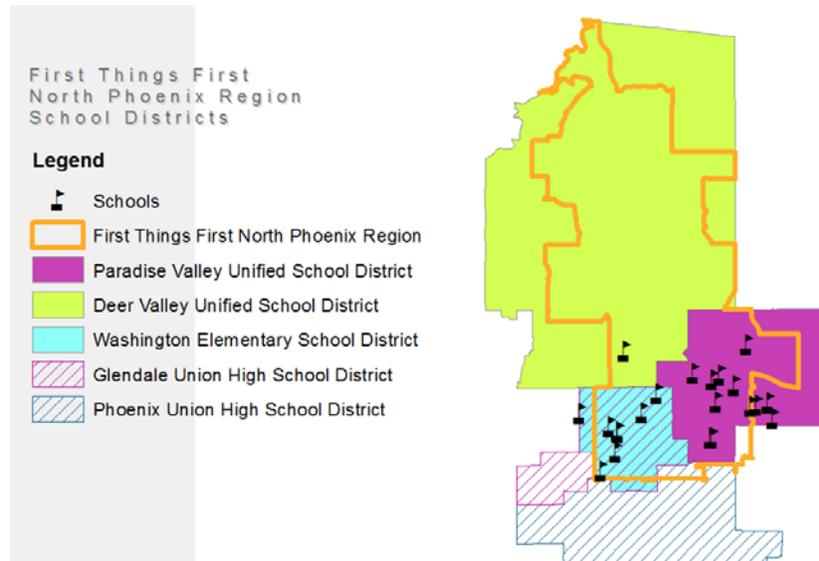
The City of Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, covers more than 517 square miles and has a population of over 1.5 million, ranking it the fifth largest city in the country and the largest capital city in terms of population. The First Things First Board established three regions in the city of Phoenix: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

Sunnyslope has a strong sense of place, with its own historical society, and houses the John C. Lincoln Health Network which is the largest employer in the community.³ North Central Corridor is one of the pricier areas of Central Phoenix and has a largely rural feel despite its proximity to downtown. Moon Valley also has a strong sense of community which can be seen in the regional newspaper, the Moon Valley Tattler.

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

³ Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum. (2012). A Brief History of Sunnyslope. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org/sunnyslopehistory.html>



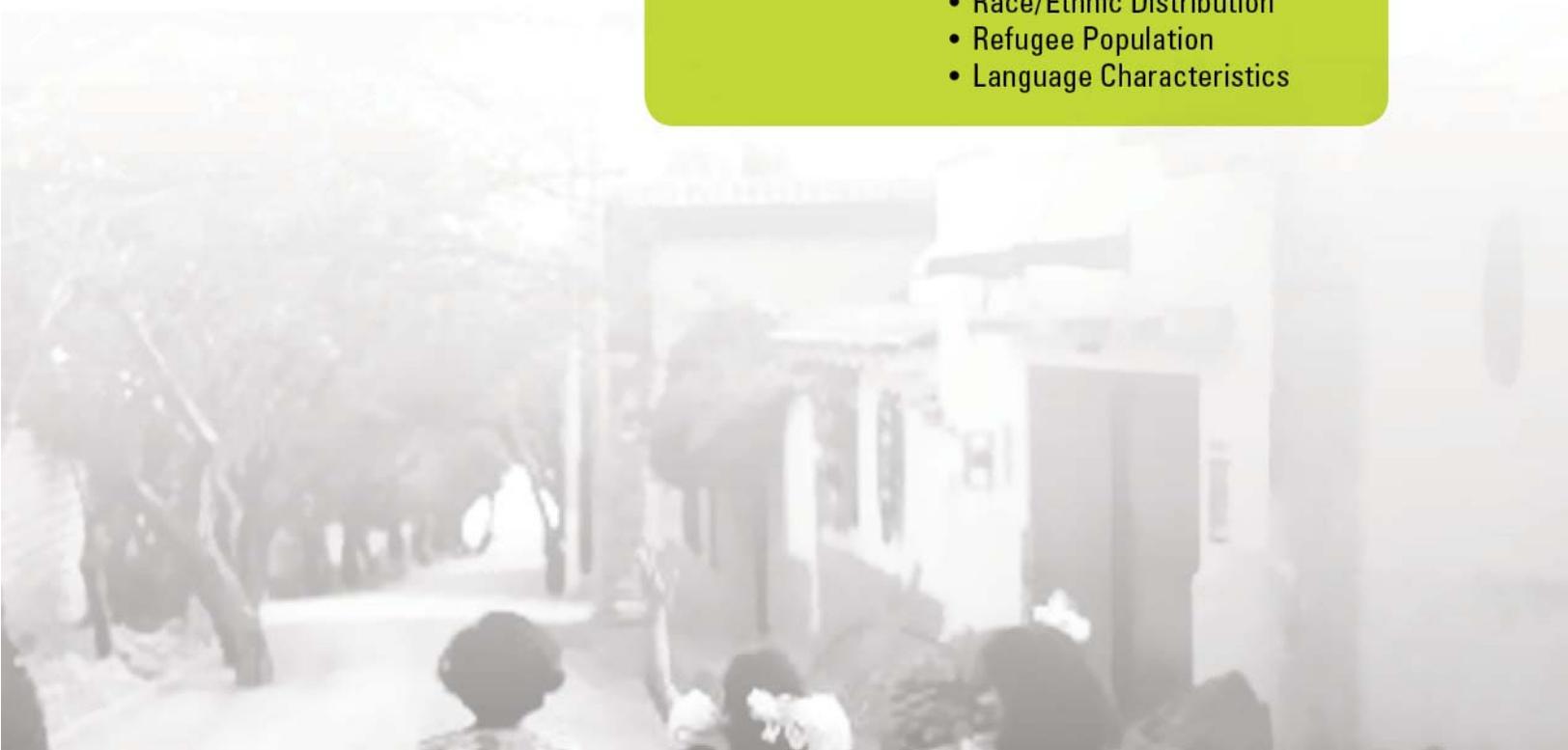


BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics describe the 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
- Refugee Population
- Language Characteristics



Population

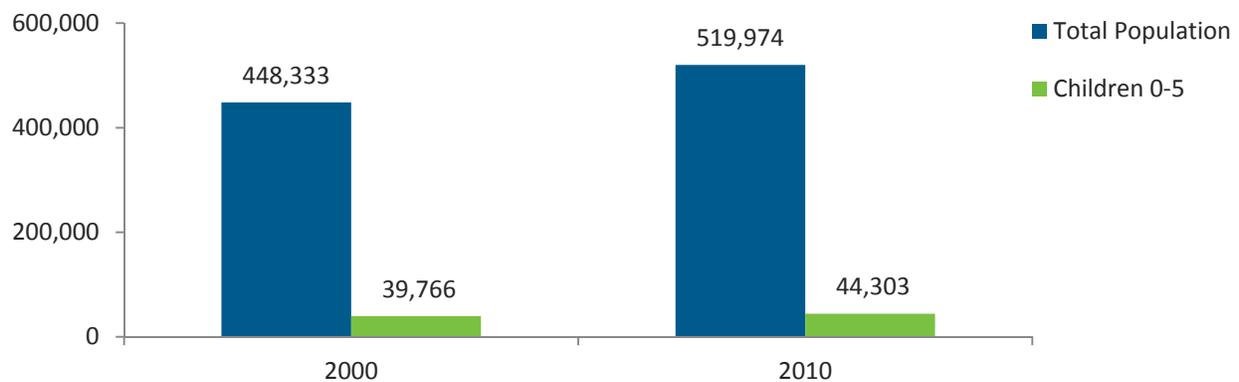
Why It Is Important

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.

What the Data Tell Us

There were more than half a million people (519,974) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2010. The region had grown by more than 70,000 people since 2000. During the same time period, the population estimate of children ages 0-5 rose by about 4,500; from 39,766 in 2000 to 44,303 in 2010. Despite substantial population growth, children 0-5 have remained about 9% of the overall population.

Total Population Estimates, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1, Matrix PCT12. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>. U. S. Census Bureau. (2000). QT-P2: Single Years of Age Under 30 Years and Sex: 2000. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.



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.⁴ A 2008 study by McLanahan and Percheski suggests that the links between family structure, income inequality and ethnicity are not only compounded by one another but increase generationally. Income inequality may lead to increases in single motherhood; single motherhood decreases children's economic mobility, and these in turn are exacerbated by already existing racial inequalities.⁵

The effects of single parent households on the health and well-being 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. In Arizona, 6% of children were living in grandparent households in 2009. These grandfamilies require unique programs and services targeted at bridging the generation gap.⁶

What the Community is Doing

- ***The Duet Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program*** offers information, referrals, support groups, workshops, legal guidance, and financial assistance for children to attend extracurricular programs, summer programs and group activities, to grandparents raising grandchildren.

⁴ 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*. Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>.

⁵ McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008). Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 34: 257 -276.

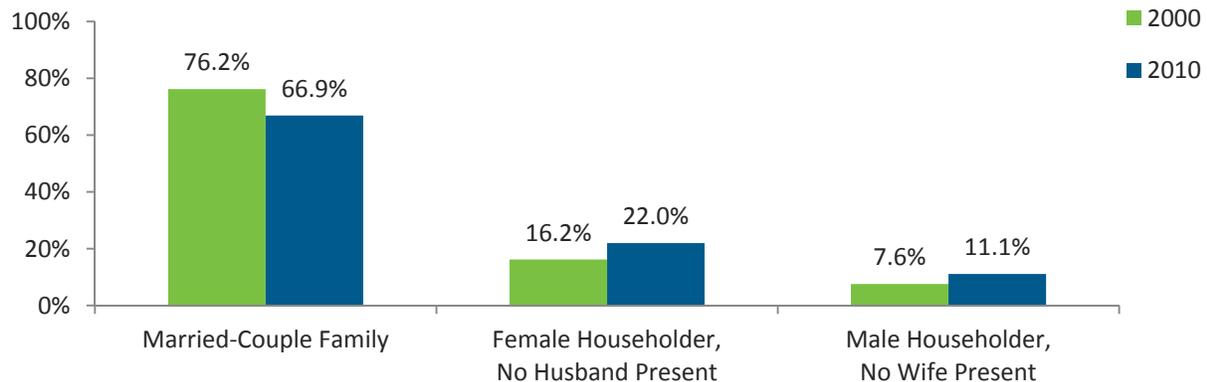
⁶ Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E.. (Sep 2009). A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. *School Psychology Quarterly*, Vol 24(3), 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226



What the Data Tell Us

The percentage of single parent families increased between 2000 and 2010 in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. Between 2000 and 2010 the percentage of single female-headed households (no husband present) rose from 16% to 22%. The number of single father-headed households also increased; from 8% in 2000 to 11% in 2010.

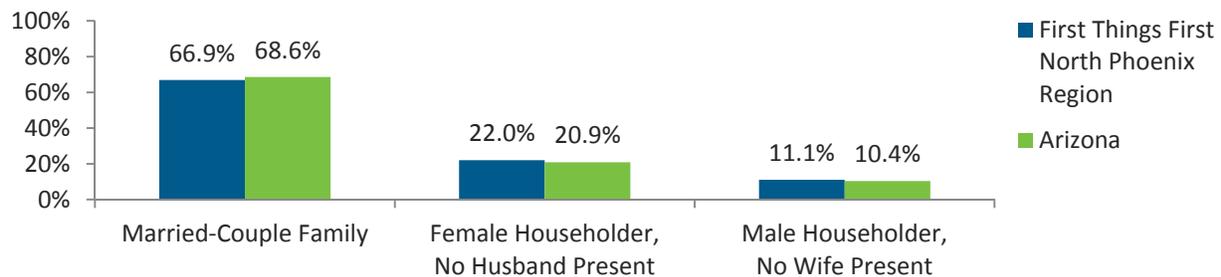
Types of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). Summary File 3 Table P015- Households. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1 Table P38. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.

Though the percentage of single parent families in the First Things First North Phoenix Region has risen in recent years, it was similar to the state of Arizona. In 2010, 21% of families with children birth through five in Arizona were living in single female-headed households and 10% in single male-headed households, as compared to 22% and 11%, respectively, in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

Types of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1, Table P38: Family Type by Presence and Age of Own Children. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder2.gov/>.



Race/Ethnic Distribution

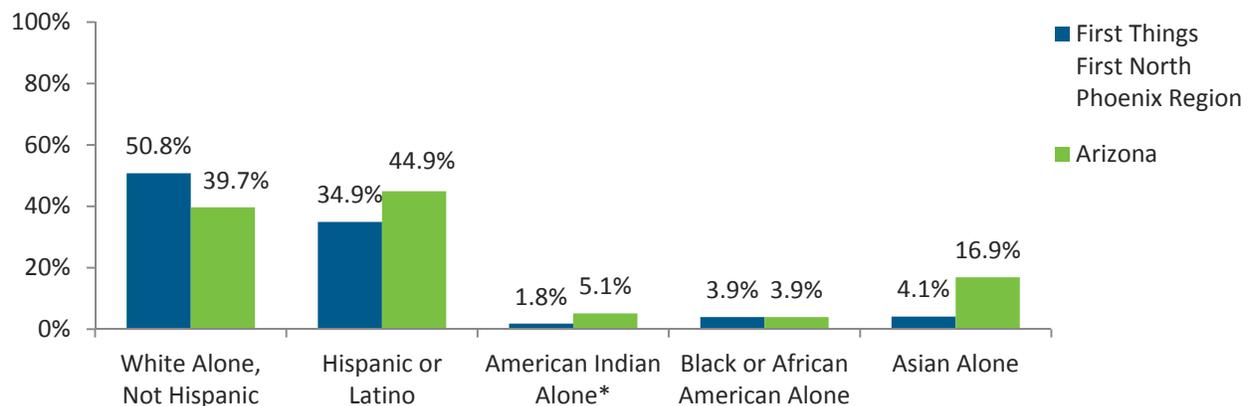
Why It Is Important

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

What the Data Tell Us

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

Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages Birth Through Five, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1, Table PCT12H, PCT12I, PCT 12L, PCT 12J. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: The U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts. Respondents are asked whether or not they are of Hispanic ethnicity in addition to their racial classification. Due to respondents answering both questions, the percentages will not add up to 100%.

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



Refugee Population

Why It Is Important

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

In 2006, Arizona ranked 7th in the nation for the number of refugee arrivals.⁷ A refugee is defined as:

“any person who is outside any county of such person’s nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any county in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and it unable or unwilling to avail himself of herself of the protection of, that county because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership with a particular social group, or political opinion.”⁸

What the Community is Doing

- ***The International Rescue Committee*** in Phoenix provides a wide variety of services to refugees, including assistance with initial needs such as housing, food, clothing, employment and small business assistance, English language classes and ongoing culturally appropriate food security support.
- ***Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest Refugee and Immigration Services Division*** provides comprehensive resettlement and adjustment services including employment support, and legal assistance that can help with immigration, citizenship, residency, and reunification petitions.
- ***Maricopa County Department of Public Health*** provides scheduled health screening and medical services to refugees in Maricopa County.
- ***Catholic Charities Community Services*** provides support from the moment individuals arrive at the airport, teaching them about their new community and preparing homes with furnishings.

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003-2006). Retrieved 2012 from www.gcir.org

⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1980). RRP Refugee Act.



- **Area Agency on Aging** provides services specific to elderly refugee populations, providing outreach, case management and referral services as well as English language classes, translation, housing management and assistance, counseling and transportation services.

What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County received refugees from Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. It was estimated that more than 2,400 refugees would arrive to Maricopa County in 2011.

Refugee Arrivals, Maricopa County

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Iraq	198
Burma	132
Somalia	50
Cuba	35
Bhutan	33
Total 2010 4th Quarter	552
Estimated 2011 Arrivals	2,473

Source: Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program. (2010). FFY 2120-4th Quarter Arrivals, Top Five Countries. Retrieved 2012 from www.azdes.gov/refugee_resettlement

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.⁹ 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.” 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.

What the Community is Doing

- **Rio Salado College** offers free, non-credit classes for legal residents who want to improve their English skills. The program has six different levels, and students can learn at their own pace.

⁹ The Center for Public Education. (2000). Top Five Languages by State. <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>

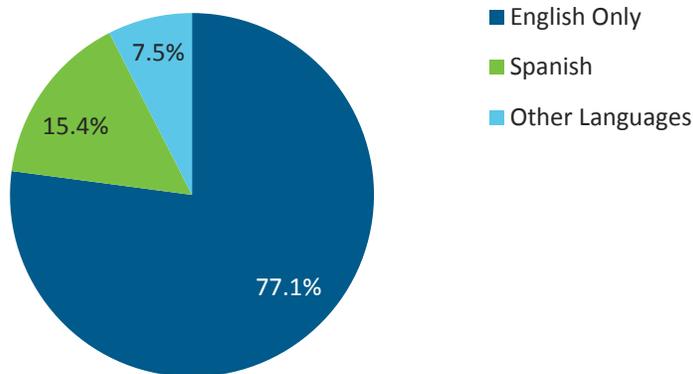


- **The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County (LVMC)** offers free self-paced English Language learning online and at their LEARN Reed Center in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (77%) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

Language Spoken at Home, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Summary File 3, Table QT-P16*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.
Note: Data presented are for the population 5 years and over.



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 household income means that half of the households earn more than the median household income and half earn less.

There are income disparities across school districts geographies, marital status, gender, and type of household. The median income for a married couple family in the area served by Paradise Valley Unified was \$100,115, compared with \$40,880 for a single female householder in the same area. A single female householder in the area served by Washington Elementary was just \$24,292.

Median Family Income of Families with Own Children Under 18 Years, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2010

SCHOOL DISTRICT	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY	MALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO WIFE PRESENT	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO HUSBAND PRESENT
Deer Valley Unified School District	\$90,846	\$40,723	\$42,388
Paradise Valley Unified School District	\$100,115	\$47,762	\$40,880
Washington Elementary School District	\$53,953	\$29,679	\$24,292
Maricopa County	\$70,394	\$38,855	\$26,298
Arizona	\$65,989	\$36,616	\$25,015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. All other data from First Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2011.



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

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Maricopa County, 2012

MONTHLY EXPENSE	FAMILY TYPE			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler School-age	2 Adults + Infant Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler School-age
Housing	\$871	\$871	\$871	\$871
Child Care	\$861	\$1,319	\$1,419	\$1,319
Food	\$388	582	\$731	\$799
Transportation	\$295	\$295	\$561	\$561
Health Care	\$394	\$417	\$464	\$472
Miscellaneous	\$281	\$348	\$405	\$402
Taxes	\$563	\$695	\$748	\$742
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$53	-\$100	-\$100	-\$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167	-\$167
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly	\$19.99	\$24.20	\$14.01 per adult	\$13.95 per adult
Monthly	\$3,518	\$4,260	\$4,931	\$4,900
Annual	\$42,214	\$51,115	\$59,179	\$58,798

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



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.¹⁰ 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).¹¹

What the Community is Doing

- *The Arizona Workforce Connection* offers employment opportunities, career advising, job readiness workshops, transportation allowances and daycare assistance (for eligible participants) to job seekers.
- *The Arizona DES Employment Services Program (Seventh Street Office)* matches employers with qualified applicants.

What the Data Tell Us

The unemployment rate in Phoenix City was nearly 9% in 2011, while this was lower than the 11% seen in 2010; it was much higher than those seen prior to the economic downturn. The trend was similar to Maricopa County and the state, which also saw decreases between 2010 and 2011.

Unemployment Rate

PLACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Phoenix City	3.8%	6.1%	10.4%	11.2%	8.9%
Maricopa County	3.2%	5.1%	9.1%	9.6%	8.4%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.5%	9.5%

Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2010). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent annual data available.

Note: Data for Maricopa County is less reservation areas.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



Poverty

Why It Is Important

With more than 1 in 4 children living in poverty, Arizona had the 5th highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010.¹² 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.¹³

What the Data Tell Us

Developed in the early 1960's, the Federal Poverty Thresholds (more commonly known as Federal Poverty Levels) were based on three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate food plan, as determined by the Department of Agriculture. This figure presupposes that the average family spends one-third of their income on food. Annual adjustments for inflation occur, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, but the Federal Poverty Thresholds do not consider other factors besides food, such as child care, and housing costs. 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 the family and ages of the family members.¹⁴

Federal Poverty Guidelines by Family Size

FAMILY SIZE	2001	2003	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	\$8,590	\$8,980	\$9,570	\$10,210	\$10,400	\$10,830	\$10,830	\$10,890
2	\$11,610	\$12,120	\$12,830	\$13,690	\$14,000	\$14,570	\$14,570	\$14,710
3	\$14,630	\$15,260	\$16,090	\$17,170	\$17,600	\$18,310	\$18,310	\$18,530
4	\$17,650	\$18,400	\$19,350	\$20,650	\$21,200	\$22,050	\$22,050	\$22,350
5	\$20,670	\$21,540	\$22,610	\$24,130	\$24,800	\$25,790	\$25,790	\$26,170
6	\$23,690	\$24,680	\$25,870	\$27,610	\$28,400	\$29,530	\$29,530	\$29,990
7	\$26,710	\$27,820	\$29,130	\$31,090	\$32,000	\$33,270	\$33,270	\$33,810
8	\$29,730	\$30,960	\$32,390	\$34,570	\$35,600	\$37,010	\$37,010	\$37,630

Source: Department of Health and Human Services (2011). 2001-2011 *Federal Register*. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

¹² Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from arizonaindicators.org

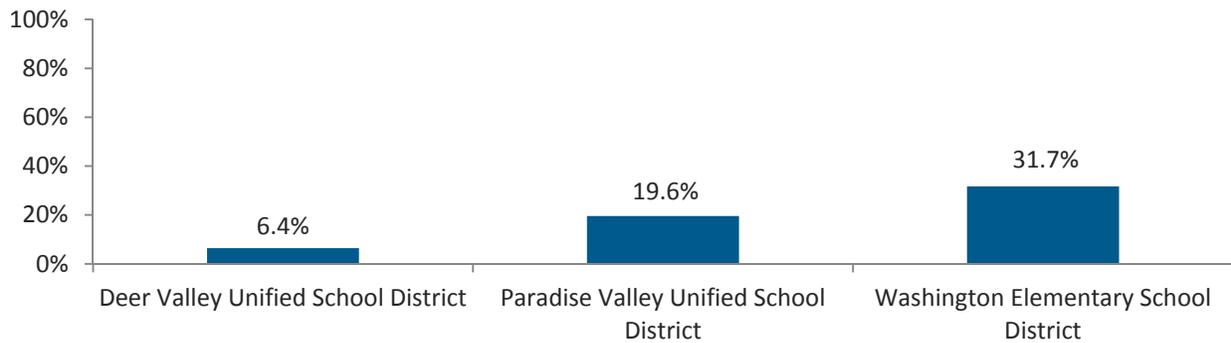
¹³ Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.

¹⁴ 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>.



Roughly 1 in 3 children ages birth through five in the areas served by Washington Elementary School District are living below the poverty level, according to 5-year census estimates. Though the percentages were lower in the areas served by the two other regional school districts, roughly 1 in 5 children ages birth through five in the areas served by Paradise Valley Unified were living in poverty.

Children Ages Birth Through Five in Families Earning Less than the Federal Poverty Level, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B17006- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Related Children Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Nearly 30% of children ages 5-17 in the area served by Washington Elementary School District were living in families in poverty. The percentage of children 5-17 in families living in poverty increased from 2005 to 2010, across all districts in the region.

Children Ages 5 Through 17 in Families Living in Poverty, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Deer Valley Unified School District	9.1%	8.5%	9.3%	9.8%	11.6%	11.7%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	10.1%	9.4%	10.4%	11.5%	13.8%	15.7%
Washington Elementary School District	16.2%	16.0%	17.6%	18.3%	21.2%	28.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Small Area Income and Poverty Assessments. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saipa/saipa.cgi>

Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.



Economic Supports

Why It Is Important

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

What the Community is Doing

- *The Sunnyslope Family Services Center* is a multi-purpose agency offering emergency financial assistance to individuals and families living in Phoenix.
- *The John F. Long Family Services Center* provides emergency rental and utility assistance in crisis situations.
- *The Society of St. Vincent de Paul* offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. Personalized assistance may include direct financial or in-kind service, intervention, or consultation.

What the Data Tell Us

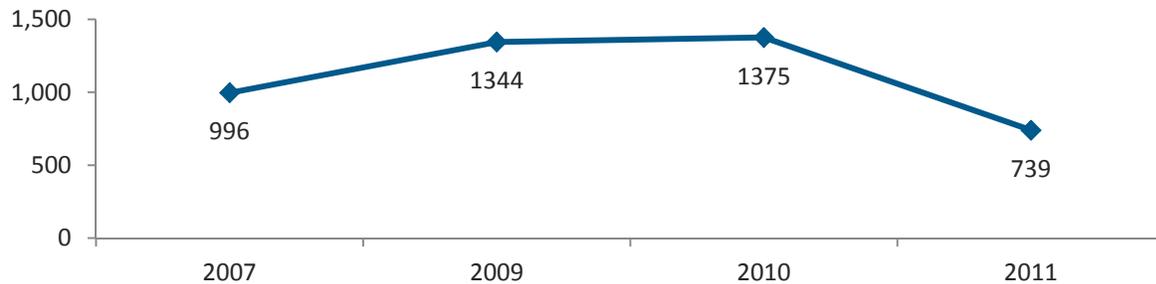
The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides some temporary cash assistance for struggling families with children, while the parent/parents are trying to return to work.¹⁵ The federal TANF law allows states to offer a maximum of 60 months of assistance within one's lifetime. In 2012, Arizona reduced its TANF cash assistance time limit to 24 months, one of the shortest in the nation.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008, November 20). About TANF. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html>



The number of families with children birth through five receiving TANF funds had decreased from January 2007 to 2011, with 739 families with at least on child ages birth to five receiving services in 2011.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First. Note: All data presented are from January of each year.

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 18.¹⁶

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.

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.¹⁷ This makes children more likely to suffer from poverty when they become adults.

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.¹⁸

¹⁶ Feeding America. (2012). *Child Hunger Facts*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.feedingamerica.org>.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ *Map the Meal Gap*. (2011). Child Food Insecurity. Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Feeding America.



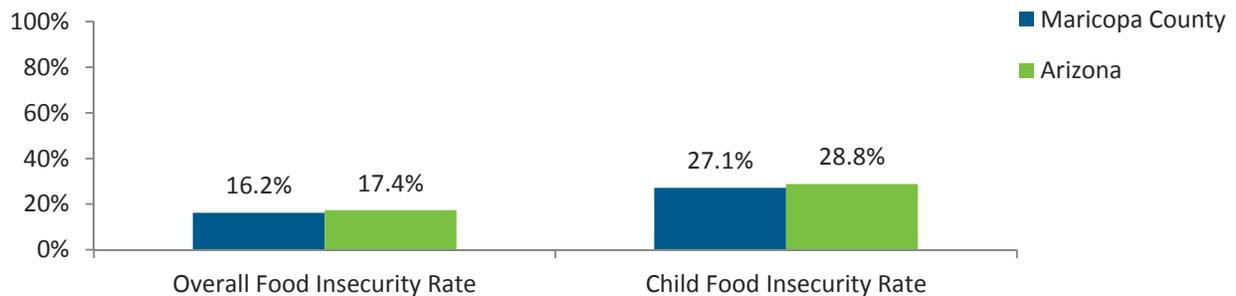
What the Community is Doing

- **The LifeBridge Community Alliance** provides community members with food boxes, some emergency financial assistance, and information about additional resources and services.
- **The Desert Mission Food Bank** provides emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.
- **The Roadrunner Park Farmers Market** is located in Northeast Phoenix near Paradise Valley, is open all year round, and offers a range of local produce.
 - The Roadrunner Park Farmers Market accepts Quest/EBT cards (electronic food stamps) and Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers (coupons worth up to \$30 per year for women and children who participate in WIC's Supplemental Nutrition Program)
- **Community Food Connections** works to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas, including bringing wireless food stamp terminals to open air markets.

What the Data Tell Us

Over a quarter (27%) of children in Maricopa County lived in households without enough food in 2009.

Food Insecurity Rate, 2009

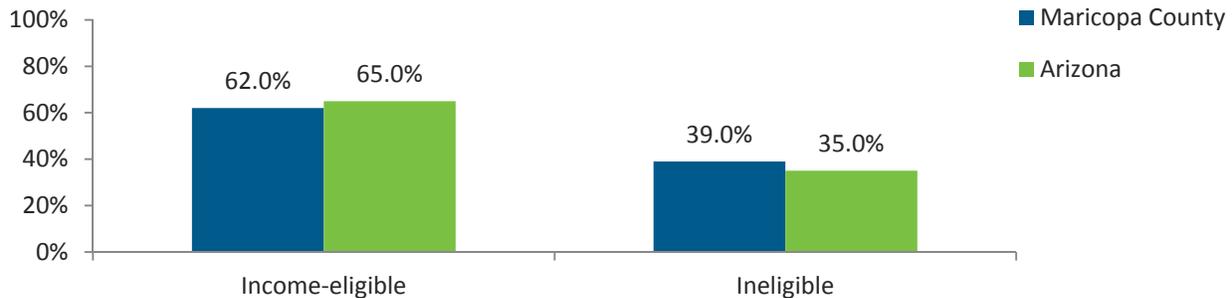


Source: Feeding America (2012). Map the Gap. Retrieved 2012 from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.
 Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.



Over a third (39%) of Maricopa County's food-insecure households had incomes that were not eligible for supplemental food services like WIC and SNAP in 2009.

Supplemental Food Program Eligibility, 2009



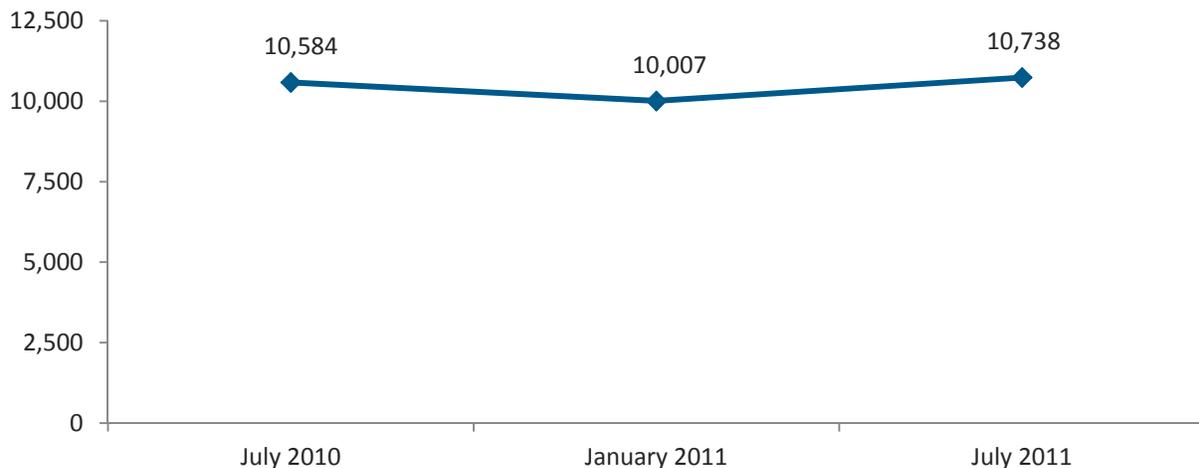
Source: Feeding America. (2012). Map the Gap. Retrieved 2012 from www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap.

Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.

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 benefit is \$29/week for a qualifying individual.¹⁹

In the First Things First North Phoenix Region, 10,738 families with at least one child ages birth through five were receiving SNAP benefits in July of 2011.

Families with at Least One Child Birth Through Five Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps), First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was formerly the Food Stamp Program.

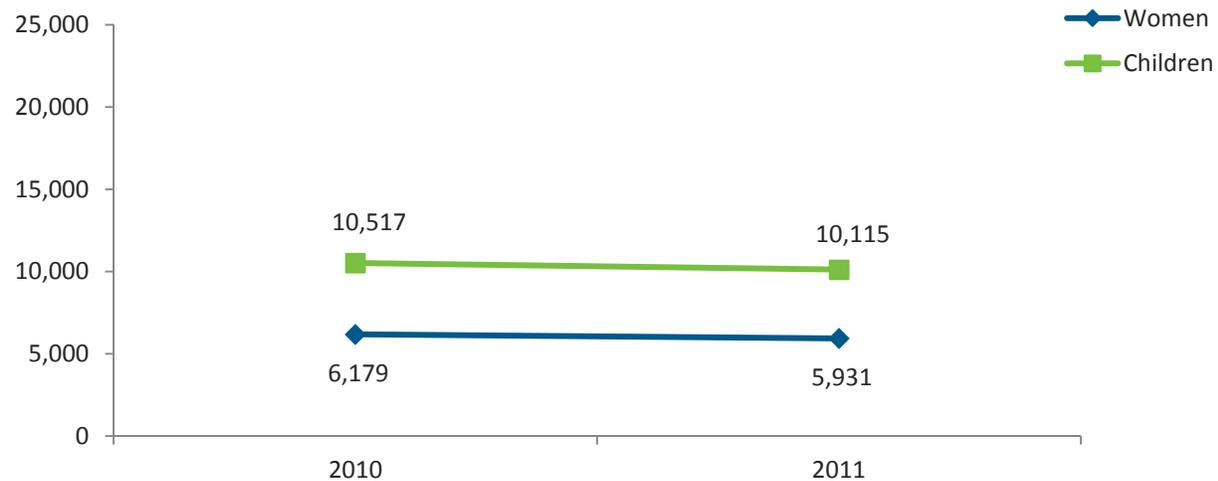
¹⁹ Ibid.



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

The number of WIC recipients decreased slightly in the First Things First North Phoenix Region between 2010 and 2011. Yet, more than 10,000 children and 5,900 women were receiving benefits in 2011.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First. Note: First Things First North Phoenix Region data are the combination of zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes). Data shown for First Things First North Phoenix Region only includes ZIP codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them. The following zip codes were excluded: 85054, 85083, and 85087.

The National School Lunch Program qualifies low-income children living in 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.²⁰ In 2011, Washington Elementary School District had the highest number of children eligible for free and reduced price meals. Three-quarters of the children in the school (75%) were low-income status.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	OCTOBER 2007	OCTOBER 2008	OCTOBER 2009	OCTOBER 2010	OCTOBER 2011
Deer Valley Unified School District	21.0%	23.3%	26.5%	26.7%	28.5%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	27.9%	29.9%	32.6%	32.8%	34.9%
Washington Elementary School District	63.1%	65.3%	71.7%	73.6%	74.8%

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

²⁰United 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>



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.²¹ 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."^{22, 23}

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

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

What the Community is Doing

- ***The Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter*** offers temporary housing and some other resources to homeless families for up to 90 days. The apartment-style complex includes 18 two bedroom units specifically for adults with children under 18.

²¹ 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>

²² McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

²³ Though the definition of homeless was expanded in 2012 to include those who are unstably housed, or in imminent danger of losing their nighttime residence, the data presented reflect information collected prior to the definitional change.



What the Data Tell Us

In total, more than 100 students in preschool and kindergarten, in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, were identified as homeless in 2011.

In 2011, Deer Valley Unified School District reported a total of 135 children identified as receiving homeless assistance services. Washington Elementary School District reported a total of 622 homeless students in February of 2012.

Homeless Children, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Deer Valley Unified School District	3	11	135
Washington Elementary School District	9	78	622*

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

Note: Preschool homeless children include only students attending preschools associated with public school districts.

* Indicates that this number is the data available as of February 2012.

Note: Data from Paradise School district was not provided.

Foreclosure

Why Is It 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

The foreclosure rate in Maricopa County was higher than the state overall, 1 in 242 compared to 1 in 300. In many areas of the First Things First North Phoenix Region, foreclosures were happening at an even higher rate with 1 in 184 homes foreclosing in the 85024 zip code in March of 2012.

Foreclosure Rate by Community, First Things First North Phoenix Region, March 2012

ZIP CODES	NUMBER OF FORECLOSURES	RATE OF FORECLOSURES
85020	60	1 in 295
85021	45	1 in 392
85023	50	1 in 274
85024	55	1 in 184
85027	91	1 in 187
85028	27	1 in 322
85029	81	1 in 228
85032	102	1 in 290
85050	47	1 in 241
85051	61	1 in 271
85053	41	1 in 290
85054	5	1 in 760
Maricopa County	6,781	1 in 242
Arizona	9,497	1 in 300

Source: RealtyTrac. (2012). Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter/az-trend.html>

Note: The foreclosure rate is calculated by dividing the total housing units (based on the most recent estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau) by the total number of properties that received foreclosure filings during the month.

Note: Data is not included for all regional zip codes



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 Is It Important

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.²⁷ 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 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.²⁸

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 AZ 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 2012.²⁹

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.

²⁷ 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/>

²⁸ First Things First. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_2011.pdf

²⁹ First Things First. (2011). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf



What the Community is Doing

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
 - Funds training and financial resources for family, friends, and neighbors providing child care in order to improve the quality of their care.
 - Provides qualified health professionals to assist child care providers in achieving high health and safety standards for the children in their care.
 - Provides Quality First funding to early care and education centers and homes to improve program quality. Support includes on-site coaching, program assessment, teacher education scholarships, financial resources, and expert consulting on health and safety practices.

What the Data Tell Us

Only 28% or 23,129 children with working parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region have child care spaces available to them.

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

CHILD CARE INDICATOR	2010
Estimated Number of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force ¹	81,400
Estimated Number of Child Care Spaces	23,129
Estimated Percent of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available	28.4%

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>.

¹ Percentage 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.



There were a total of 264 child care programs in the region. The programs with the largest capacity were the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) child care centers in which 14,619 children could enroll.

Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2011

	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	121	14,619
Child Care Public Schools	63	8,353
Child Care Small Group Homes	16	157
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	25	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	39	NA
Total Programs	264	23,129*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	56	NA

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services, Child Care Centers and Small Groups Homes by Zip Code. Retrieved April, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/databases/index.htm>.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (2011). North Phoenix Region CCR&R. Received 2011 from First Things First.

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2010). Accredited Program Search. Retrieved July 15, 2010 from <http://www.naeyc.org>.

National Association for Child Care Professionals. (2010). National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs. Retrieved April 16, 2010 from <http://www.naccp.org/>.

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. *Total programs approved capacity may be less than the values presented as the total does not include approved capacity from certified and unregulated child care homes.

¹Providers registered with Child Care Resource and Referral are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receiving CPR and First Aid training.



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 2009-10 Head Start served more than 3,000 children in Maricopa County. Five percent of children served by Head Start were homeless, 2% were in foster care and 81% were income eligible for services.

Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Maricopa County, 2009-10

	NUMBER	PERCENT
Enrollment		
Funded Enrollment	2,614	-
Actual Enrollment	3,095	-
Age		
3 years old	743	24.0%
4 years old	1953	63.1%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	2,441	78.9%
Eligibility		
Income Eligible	2,513	81.2%
Receipt of Public Assistance	233	7.5%
Foster Children	49	1.6%
Homeless	139	4.5%
Over Income	40	1.3%
Primary Language		
English	1,287	41.6%
Spanish	1,698	54.9%
Other Languages	110	3.5%

Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2009/2010). Head Start Program Information Reports. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from Maricopa County Head Start.

Note: Data presented are for Maricopa county and not specific to the First Things First North Phoenix Region.



Cost of Child Care

Why Is It 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 2000.³⁰ However, some families are benefiting from local child care programs and subsidies that significantly lessen these costs. For those who qualify, Head Start child care is provided at no cost to parents. Low-income parents who are working, in job training, or in school can receive child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

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.

What the Community Is Doing

- *The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council* funds Quality First Child Care Scholarships that enable children from low-income families to attend quality early care and education programs.

What the Data Tell Us

In 2010, the average daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from \$20.00 to \$40.80. For part-time child care, the average daily cost ranged from \$12.50 to \$33.00. Having a child under one in child care was more costly on a daily basis than having children one through five in child care.

Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Full-Time, Maricopa County, 2010

AGE OF CHILD	CENTERS	APPROVED HOMES	CERTIFIED GROUP HOMES	UNREGULATED HOMES
Children Under One	\$40.80	\$20.00	\$28.00	\$30.00
1 and 2 Year Olds	\$36.74	\$20.00	\$26.00	\$29.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds	\$32.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$28.00

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2010). Market Rate Survey. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>.

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

Note: Data presented are for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's District 1, Maricopa County.

³⁰ McSweeney, T. (January 29, 2010). Helping Middle Class Families with Soaring Child Care Costs. In the White House. Retrieved July 1, 2010 from www.thewhitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/29/helping-middle-class-families-with-soaring-child-care-costs.



Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Part-Time, Maricopa County, 2010

AGE OF CHILD	CENTERS	APPROVED HOMES	CERTIFIED GROUP HOMES	UNREGULATED HOMES
Children Under One Year Old	\$33.00	\$13.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
1 and 2 Year Olds	\$29.30	\$12.50	\$20.00	\$20.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds	\$22.40	\$12.50	\$19.00	\$20.00

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2010). Market Rate Survey. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

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

Note: Data presented are for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's District 1, Maricopa County.

From January 2009 to January 2010, the number of families and children eligible for subsidies decreased in the First Things First North Phoenix Region but the overall percentage receiving subsidies increased.

Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies, First Things First North Phoenix Region

	JANUARY 2009	JANUARY 2010
Number of Families		
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	2,166	1,277
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	1,739	1,031
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	80.3%	80.7%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	81.4%	82.2%
Number of Children		
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	3,098	1,837
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	2,328	1,412
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: First Things First North Phoenix Region	75.1%	76.9%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	76.3%	77.0%

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Care Subsidies. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Child Care Providers

Why Is It Important

The preparation and ongoing professional development of early child care professionals is closely linked to increased student learning and development.³¹ According to the National

³¹ Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers. Washington DC: National Academy Press.



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 \$2000) to early care and education professionals for education and commitment to continuous employment for at least a year.

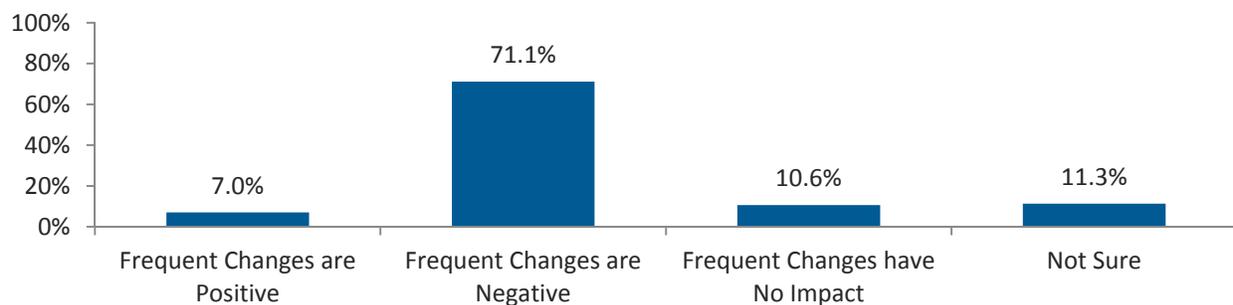
What the Community Is Doing

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
 - Provides TEACH scholarships for higher education and credentialing early care and education teachers.
 - Offers professional REWARDS\$ financial incentives to encourage longevity and continuous skill improvement.
 - Works with Paradise Valley Community College to provide education and training in community settings for early care and education professionals.
 - Funds mental health consultation for teachers and caregivers and tuition reimbursement to support professional development.

What the Data Tell Us

Parents were asked how they perceived changes in child care providers on infant development. Most parents (71%) believed that when there were frequent changes in child care providers, it negatively impacted infant development.

Parent Perception of the Impact of Frequent Changes in Child Care Providers on Infant Development



2008: N=183.

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

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

ECE Professional Development Programs, First Things First North Phoenix Region

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

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



Parent Knowledge of Child Development

Why Is It 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.³² 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 Community Is Doing

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** funds in-home visitation support and parenting education to help parents of children birth through five reduce stress, enhance family functioning, promote healthy child development, and engage in positive parent-child interactions.
- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** works with the Deer Valley Unified School District, Washington Elementary School District, Paradise Valley Unified School District, as well as two Family Resource Centers located in community organizations in the region, to provide local resource centers that offer information, referral, training, and education to families of children birth through five.
- ***The North Central Parenting Group*** is a non-profit organization that provides fee-based parenting skills classes. Topics include nutrition and child development.

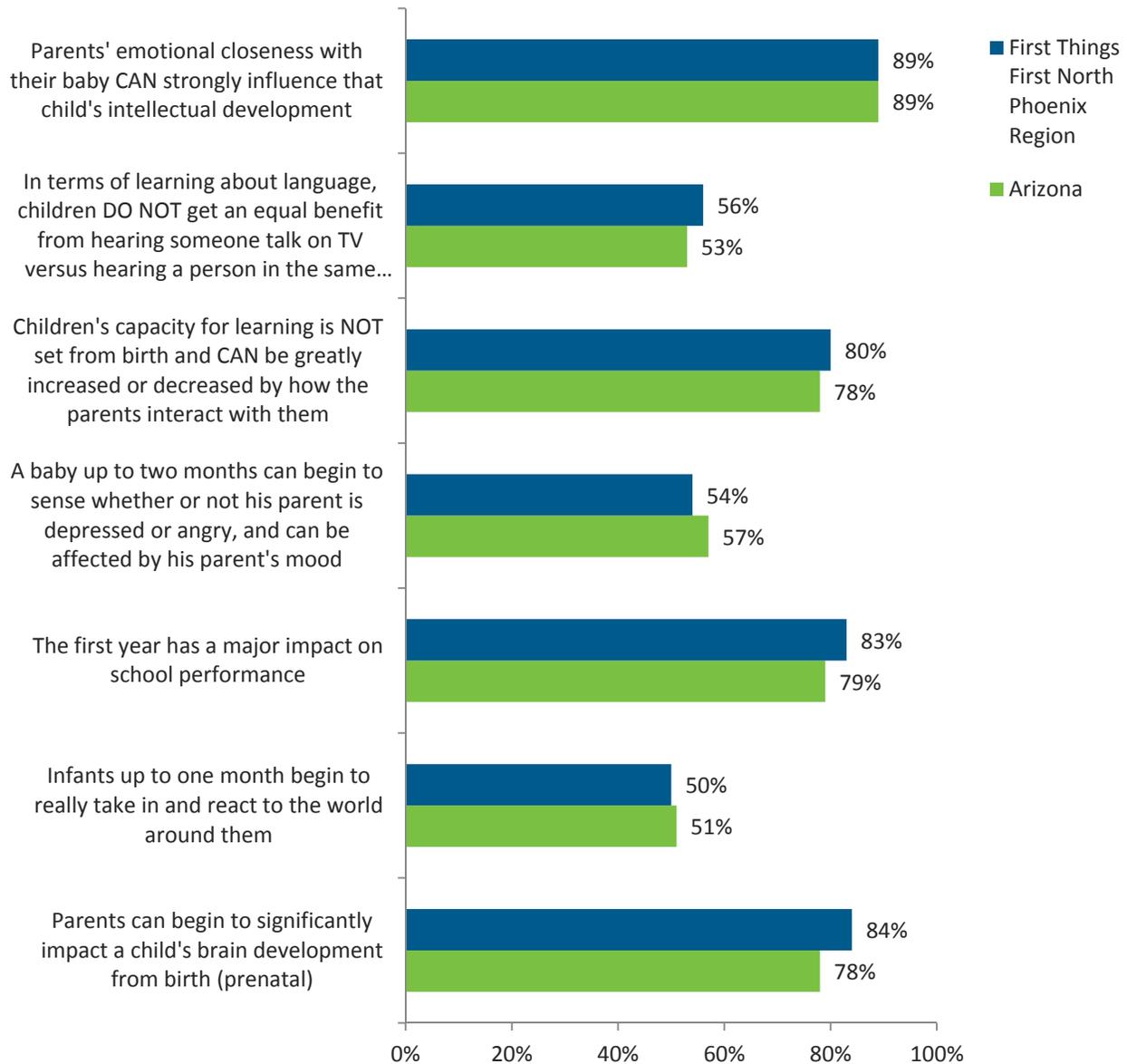
³²The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *In Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>



What the Data Tell Us

In 2008, parents were surveyed and asked questions regarding their child's cognitive development. In general, First Things First North Phoenix Region respondents answered more questions accurately than Arizona parent respondents.

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



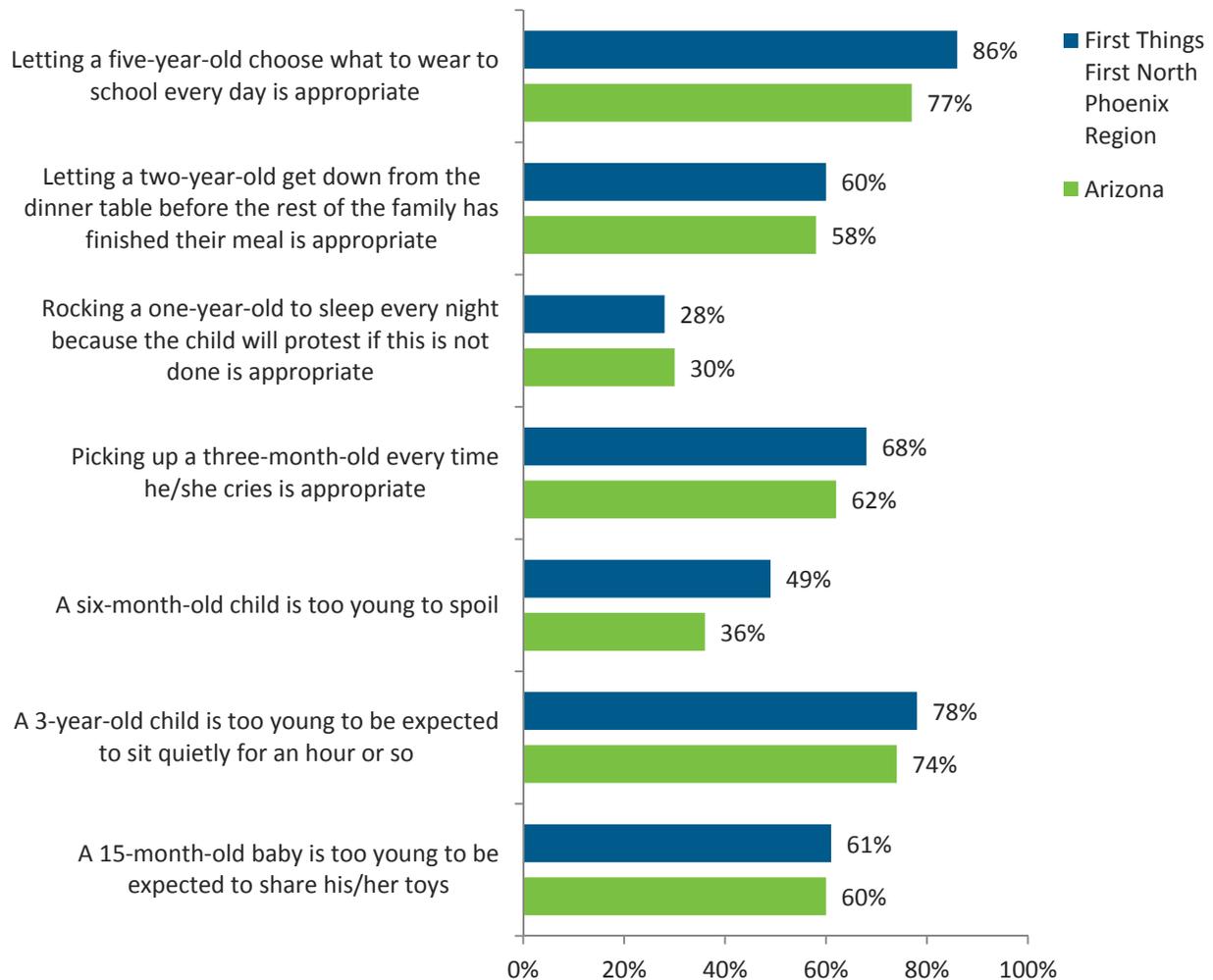
2008: N=183 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 5,193 for Arizona.

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



Parents were also asked questions regarding their child's social and emotional development. First Things First North Phoenix Region parents again responded more accurately than Arizona parents as a whole except when asked about rocking a one-year-old to sleep. Twenty-eight percent of First Things First North Phoenix Region parents believed that rocking a one-year-old to sleep every night because the child will protest if this is not done is appropriate, while 30% of Arizona parents believed this to be true.

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



2008: N=183 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 5,193 for Arizona.

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



Special Needs

Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services

Why Is It 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.³³ 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.

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 serve 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.

What the Community Is Doing

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** works with the Maricopa Department of Public Health to provide children with developmental, oral, vision and/or hearing screenings and referrals for follow-up services.
- ***The Foundation for Blind Children*** offers a wide range of support to visually impaired children and their families. The Foundation's services include information, education and support for infants birth through three, recreational activities, family support groups,

³³ 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.



shared activities for parents and children, advocacy in schools and with social service providers, and more.

What the Data Tell Us

While there were a limited number of Audiologists in the First Things First North Phoenix Region (4), there were a number of Speech Language Assistants (46) and Speech Language Pathologists (183) in the area.

Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2009

TYPE OF PROVIDER	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
Audiologists	4
Speech Language Assistant	46
Speech Language Pathology	183

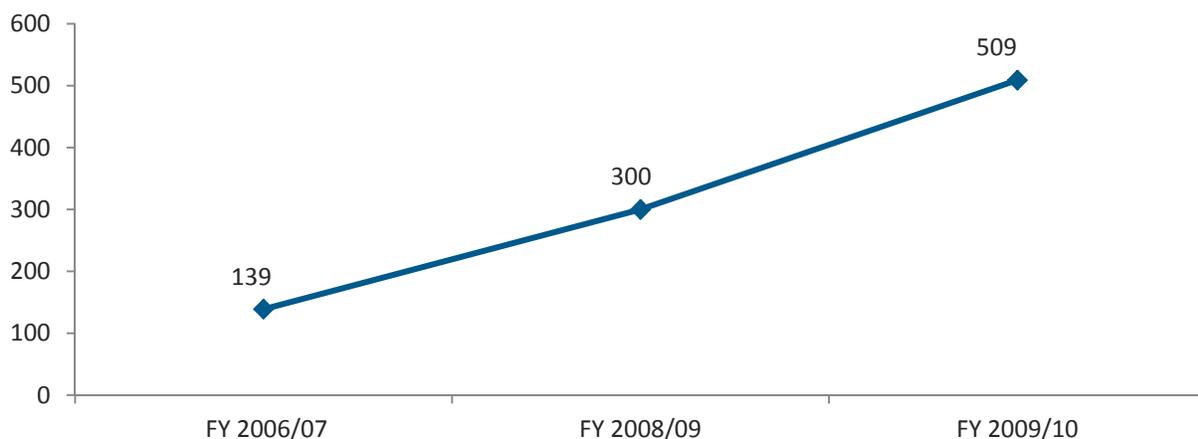
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). Division of Licensing Services. *Provider Databases*, (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

What the Data Tell Us

The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) provides services for children with special needs. 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 cost in order to receive services, a practice which may deter many from obtaining services until children turn three years old, when the local school districts assume responsibility for services for children with disabilities.

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

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

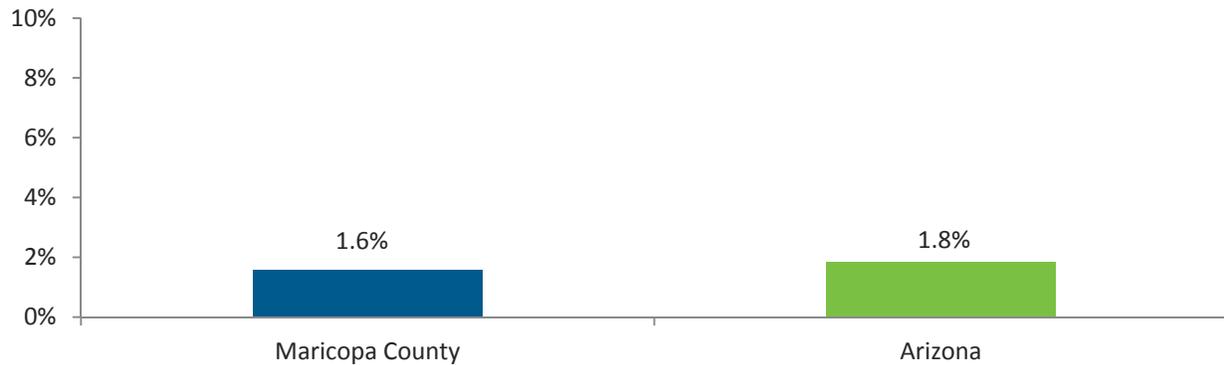


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.



A small percentage (2%) of infants ages birth through three in both Maricopa County and Arizona had an Individualized Family Service Plan in 2008/09.

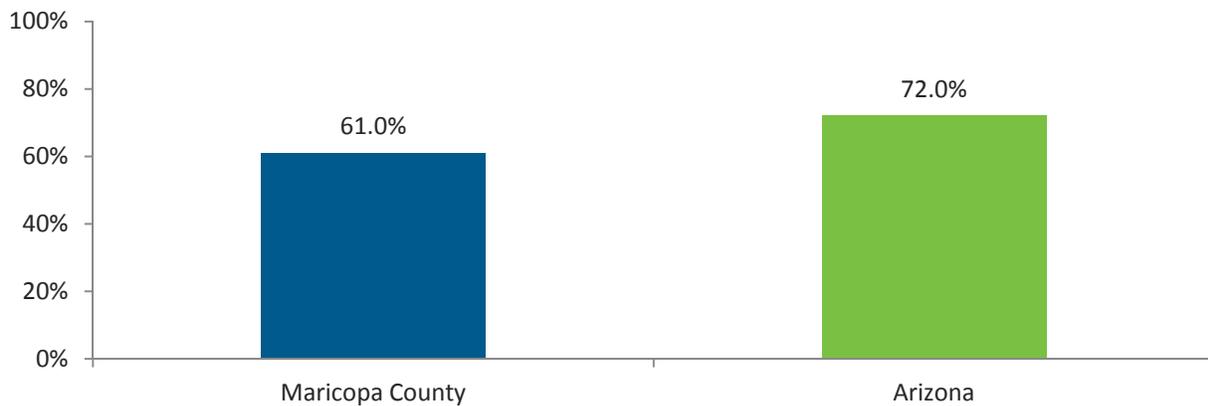
Infants Ages Birth to Three with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), 2008/2009



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

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

Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs who Received an Evaluation Assessment and IFSP Within 45 Days of Referral, 2009/2010

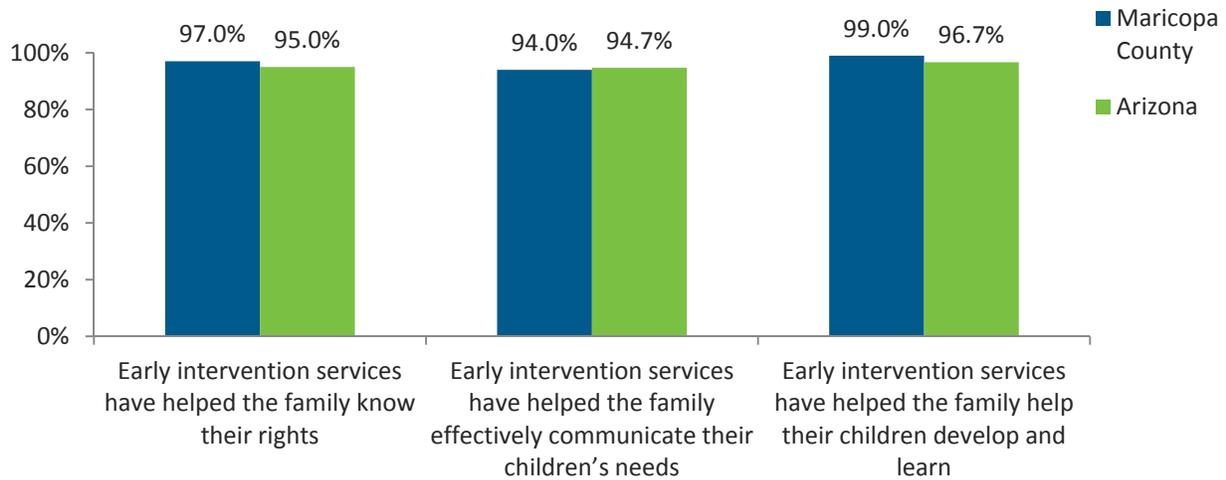


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>
 Note: *2009 data are cases serviced between 04/01/2009 and 06/30/2010.
 Note: Most recent year available.



The majority of parents participating in early intervention services believed the services were helpful as they helped the families know their rights, effectively communicate their child’s needs, and develop their child and helped them learn.

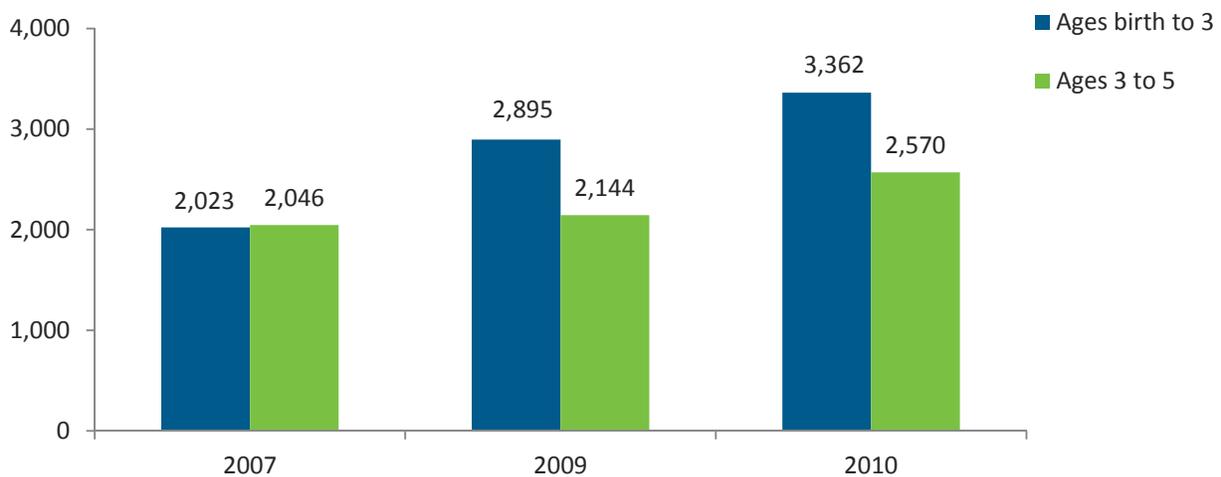
Perceptions of Families Participating in Early Intervention Services, 2008/2009



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>
 Note: Most recent year available.

In 2010, there were more children under three years of age receiving services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities than there were children over three through five. Compared to 2007, 1,339 more children were receiving DDD services than the two years prior.

Children Age Birth Through Three Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). 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.



School Enrollment by Disability, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts, 2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	DEVELOP- MENTALLY DELAYED	HEARING IMPAIRED	PRE- SCHOOL SEVERE DELAY	SPEECH LANG- UAGE IMPAIRED	VISUALLY IMPAIRED	PRE- SCHOOL DISABILITY TOTAL	DISTRICT DISABILITY TOTAL
Deer Valley Unified School District	106	2	67	147	4	321	NA
Washington Elementary School District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3,329

Source: First Things First North Phoenix School Districts. (2012). Personal Communication with District Representative. Received 2012 from First Things First North Phoenix School Districts.

Note: Data not provided by the school districts are marked as "not available" (NA).

Note: Numbers presented may not add to total as children may exhibit multiple disabilities.

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).³⁴

School Enrollment

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

³⁴ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



Just over 1,600 preschool children were served by the three districts and more than 7,000 kindergarteners.

School Enrollment, First Things First North Phoenix School Districts, 2010/2011 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Deer Valley Unified School District	596	2,058	35,510
Paradise Valley Unified School District	668	2,451	33,354
Washington Elementary School District	371	2,527	22,221

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

School Readiness

Why Is It 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.³⁵ 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.³⁶

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.

What the Data Tell Us

Both Deer Valley Unified School District and Washington Elementary School District have seen an increase in students both beginning and ending at grade level between the 2006/07 and 2010/11 school years. For example, in 2010/11, 40% of students at Deer Valley Unified School District began the year at grade level and 85% ended the year at grade level. The need for substantial intervention fell dramatically in 2010/11 from 21% at the start of that year to 7% by year's end.

³⁵ Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. *Big Ideas for Children*. First Focus, Washington, DC.

³⁶ Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.





Kindergarten DIBELS Scores, Beginning of School Year, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Deer Valley Unified School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	33%	36%	38%	41%	40%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	41%	39%	41%	38%	38%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	26%	25%	21%	20%	21%
Washington Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	18%	24%	20%	22%	24%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	34%	38%	39%	38%	38%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	48%	38%	41%	40%	38%

Source: First Things First North Phoenix Region School District. (2012). Correspondence with District Representative.

Note: School districts that did not provide data included Paradise Valley Unified School District.

Kindergarten DIBELS Scores, End of School Year, First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Deer Valley Unified School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	72%	84%	85%	90%	85%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	14%	10%	8%	6%	7%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	14%	6%	7%	4%	7%
Washington Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	64%	76%	75%	75%	76%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	17%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	19%	11%	12%	12%	11%

Source: First Things First North Phoenix Region School District. (2012). Correspondence with District Representative.

Note: School districts that did not provide data included Paradise Valley Unified School District.

3rd Grade Test Scores

Why Is It 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."³⁷ The Arizona Instrument to

³⁷ 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/>



Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

What the Data Tell Us

Eighty-five percent of 3rd grade students in the Deer Valley Unified School District and 84% of 3rd graders in the Paradise Valley Unified School District were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading in 2011. These scores were higher than student's scores at Washington Elementary School District where nearly one-third of students were below standards in reading.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Deer Valley Unified School District	81%	79%	82%	83%	85%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	78%	78%	79%	81%	84%
Washington Elementary School District	60%	60%	65%	67%	67%
Arizona	69%	69%	72%	73%	76%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.ade.state.az.us/srcs/find_school.asp/.

* Data are not presented if fewer than 10 students are represented.

Similar to the AIMS 3rd grade reading scores, students at Deer Valley Unified School District and Paradise Valley Unified School Districts scored higher on AIMS math than students at Washington Elementary School District. Between 2007 and 2011, the AIMS math scores have declined in each of the school districts in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Deer Valley Unified School District	83%	81%	82%	76%	77%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	80%	80%	81%	73%	78%
Washington Elementary School District	63%	66%	67%	60%	58%
Arizona	72%	71%	73%	65%	68%

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

* Data are not presented if fewer than 10 students are represented.



Graduation Rate

Why Is It 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.³⁸ 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.³⁹

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.⁴⁰

What the Data Tell Us

Ninety percent of Paradise Valley Unified School District students graduated in 2010. This was similar to Deer Valley Unified with 89% of their high school students graduating.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2009	2010
Deer Valley Unified School District	85.6%	88.8%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	88.8%	89.9%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). Research Evaluation Section. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad/>.

Note: Washington Elementary School District does not have a high school.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Educational Attainment

Why Is It 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 good quality child care and poorer health.

³⁸ 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/>

³⁹ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth, 2000. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

⁴⁰ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



What the Community Is Doing

- *The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County* (LVMC) offers free self-paced GED preparation online and at their LEARN Reed Center in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

What the Data Tell Us

According to 2006-2010 estimates, 70% of the population in Deer Valley Unified School District that was 25 years and over had pursued an education beyond high school, while 55% of individuals in Washington Elementary School District had at least some college education.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, 5-Year Estimates

	2006-2010
Less than High School Graduate	
Deer Valley Unified School District	7.5%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	8.1%
Washington Elementary School District	17.1%
High School Graduate	
Deer Valley Unified School District	22.3%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	20.0%
Washington Elementary School District	27.7%
Some College or Associate's Degree	
Deer Valley Unified School District	37.3%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	33.6%
Washington Elementary School District	34.2%
Bachelor's Degree	
Deer Valley Unified School District	22.4%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	25.2%
Washington Elementary School District	13.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	
Deer Valley Unified School District	10.5%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	13.1%
Washington Elementary School District	7.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1501- Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Zip code or community level data was unreliable due to a margin of error greater than 90%.



Family Literacy

Why Is It Important

An important component of parenting knowledge is knowing 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.⁴¹ Other key activities such as playing games and exercising also help children learn and develop.

The national Reach Out and Read program promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children and educating parents about the importance of reading to children. The program partners with doctors in 185 locations (as of 2011) as the primary point of contact with children and families. In a 2010 parent survey of the program, 99% of respondents reported receiving a book from their doctor or nurse during their first well child visit and 87% said their child's doctor provided advice about early literacy that inspired parents and children to read together.⁴²

What the Community Is Doing

- ***The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** partnered with the City of Phoenix Libraries, Arizona Public Broadcasting Service and others to provide community-based literacy programs that help parents encourage their children's love of books. Families could participate in these programs in a variety of settings including apartment complexes, pediatricians' offices, and libraries.
- ***The Phoenix Public Library*** system has two branches that serve the First Things First North Phoenix Region (Juniper and Cholla). The libraries are partnering with the region to offer early literacy activities such as Preschool Storytime, Family Storytime, and Toddler Time.
- ***The North Valley Regional Library*** serves the communities of New River, Anthem and Desert Hills. Programs include Babytime, Stories for Ones, Time for Twos, and Preschool Storytime.

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² Ready for School. (2012). Reach out and Read Arizona. Personal correspondence. Received February 2012.



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
- Juvenile Justice
- Children of Incarcerated Parents



Community Supports

Family and Community Supports

Why It Is Important

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

What the Community Is Doing

- *John C. Lincoln Desert Mission* provides behavioral health and related services through the Marley House Behavioral Health Center helping to stabilize families in crisis and assists them in becoming self-sufficient.

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region frequently relied on their spouse for support (88%). Parents also relied on their mothers for support (56%) followed by the support of their spouses mother (27%).

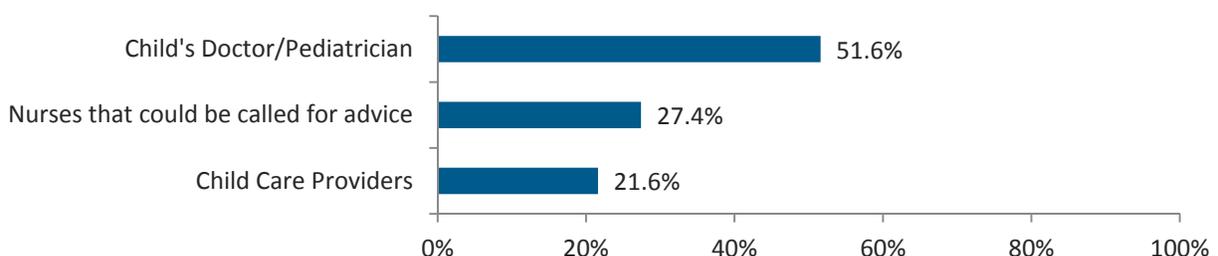
Parents Who Reported They “Frequently” Rely on Family and Community Members for Support, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2008

PERSONAL SUPPORTS	PERCENT
Spouse	87.6%
Your Mother	55.5%
Your Spouse’s Mother	27.3%
Your Father	13.2%
Your Spouse’s Father	8.8%
Friends and Neighbors	30.4%

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

Twenty-two percent of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported frequently relying on a child care provider for support. More than half (52%) of parents in the region reported they relied on their child’s doctor or pediatrician.

Parents Who Reported They “Frequently” Rely on Health and Child Care Providers for Support, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2008



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



Parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported relying on books (37%) and magazines (21%) more than news or radio reports. Only 12% of parents reported relying on news reports frequently for parenting support.

Parents Who Reported They Receive Support from Print or Media Outlets, First Things First North Phoenix Region, 2008

INFORMATION	PERCENT
Books	35.1%
Magazines	21.1%
News reports (TV, Radio, magazines)	11.9%

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.⁴³ 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.⁴⁴ The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012 in 2010 dollars, including \$32,648 in childhood health care costs. It is therefore essential that communities work to prevent child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.

⁴³ 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>

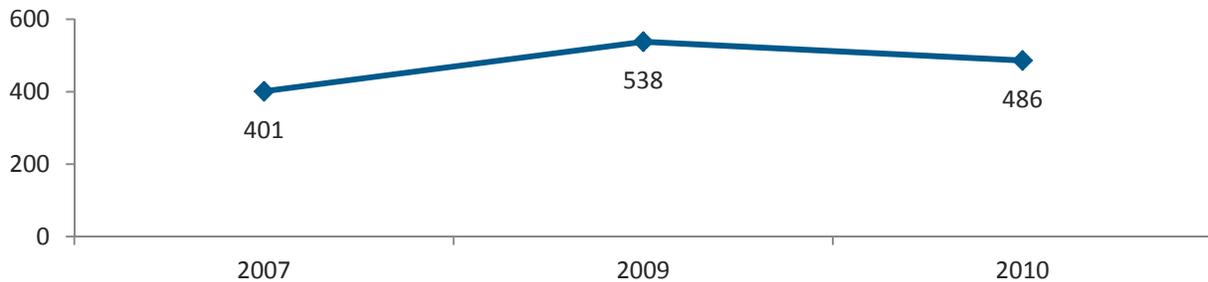
⁴⁴ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims, 11*, 113-128; and Child abuse: The hidden bruises. (2008, May). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruires



What the Data Tell Us

Child Protective Services removed 486 children in the First Things First North Phoenix Region from the homes in 2010. This was a smaller number than in 2009 (538) but higher than 2007 (401).

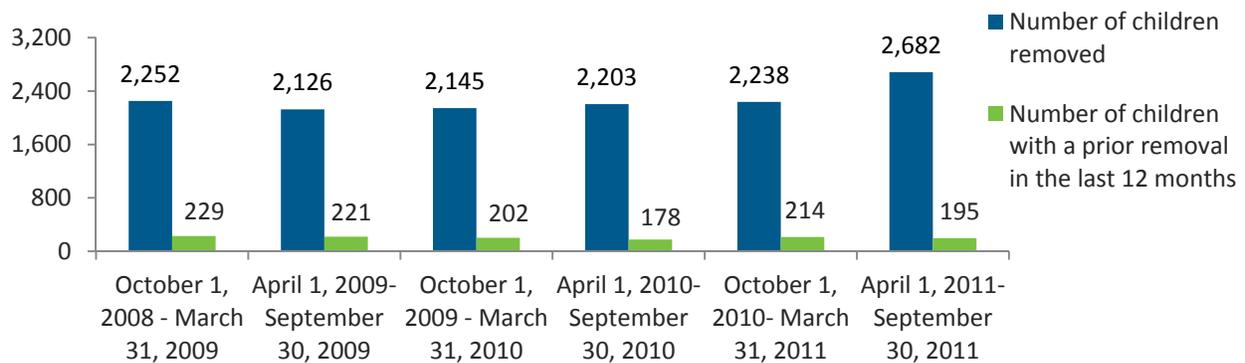
Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), First Things First North Phoenix Region



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2010). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

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 2,682 children removed from homes in Maricopa County. Seven percent of those children had a prior removal in the 12 preceding months.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Children, youth, and families: Child welfare report. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?Category=57&subcategory=20&menu=154>

There was a 17% increase in cases of child abuse and neglect across the county over the past five years with 1,768 cases in 2006 and 2,070 cases in 2010. The majority of cases in 2010 were neglect (1,629), followed by physical abuse (372), and sexual abuse (67).

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Maricopa County

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Emotional Abuse	34	4	2	2	2
Neglect	974	385	420	842	1,629
Physical Abuse	590	426	369	371	372
Sexual Abuse	170	113	80	99	67
Total	1,768	928	871	1,314	2,070

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.



Note: Fiscal year goes from October to September.

Foster Care

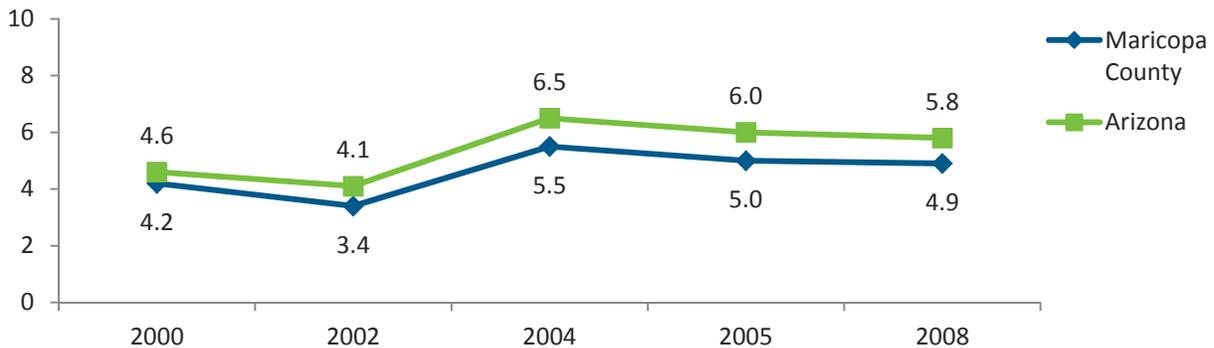
Why It Is Important

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.⁴⁵ Some children are placed into foster care because their parents were deported due to immigration laws. Immigrant victims of domestic violence are at particular risk of losing their children.⁴⁶

What the Data Tell Us

The rate of children in out-of-home care increased from 4.2 per 1,000 children in 2000 to 4.9 per 1,000 in 2008 in Maricopa County. The foster care rates were consistently lower than in Arizona overall.

Children in Out-of-Home Care (Rate per 1,000 Children)



Source: Kids Count Data Center. (2011). State Profile. Retrieved 2011 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 children. Data represent the number of children in substitute care arrangements on June 30 of the specified year. Substitute care arrangements can include shelters, homes with foster parents or relatives, group homes, residential treatment centers, and other locations.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

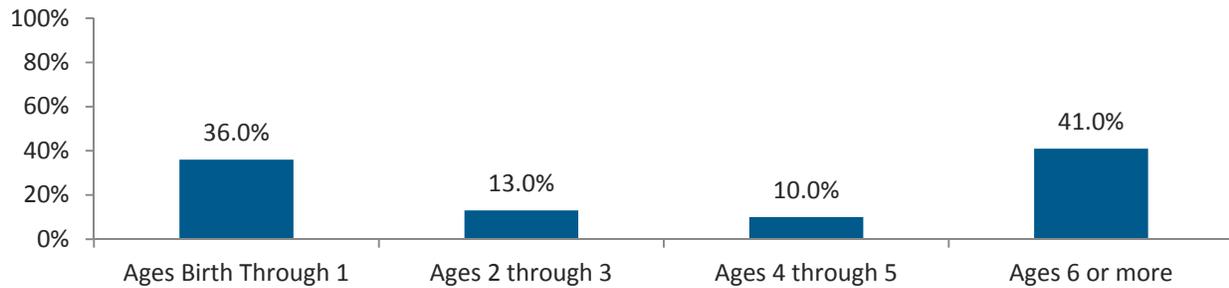
⁴⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family Preservation Services. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>

⁴⁶ Applied Research Center. *Shattered Families* November 10, 2011. Retrieved from www.arc.org/shatteredfamilies.



Over one-third of children who entered out-of-home care in 2009 were under 2 years old, and 41% were 6 years old or older.

Percentage by Age at Entry, Out-of-Home Care, Maricopa County, 2009

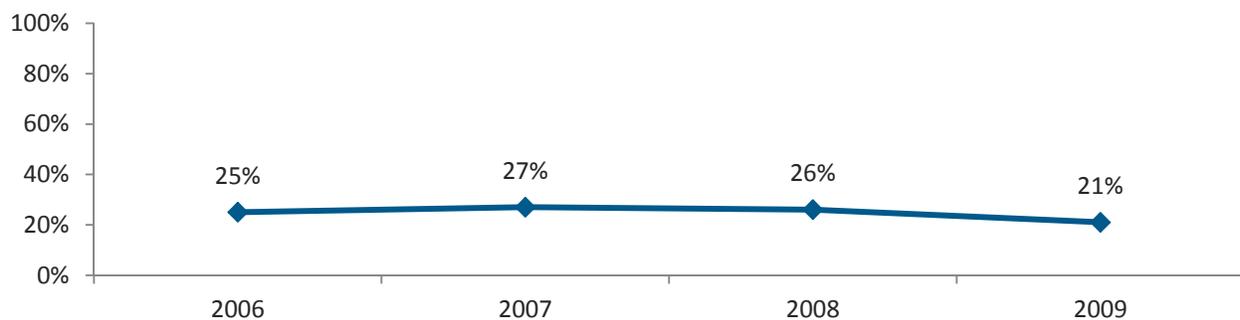


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). Data obtained from the Chapin Hall State Foster Care Data Archive. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/>

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

The percent of children who have had to re-enter foster care after reunification decreased from 25% in 2006 to 21% in 2009.

Reentry in 12 Months from Exits to Reunification or Live with Relatives, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). Data obtained from the Chapin Hall State Foster Care Data Archive. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/>

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Juvenile Justice

Why It Is Important

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety, as it is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.⁴⁷ To reduce juvenile crime, it is important that the community promote youth assets and positive attitudes by providing opportunities for education, mentoring, employment, and leadership.

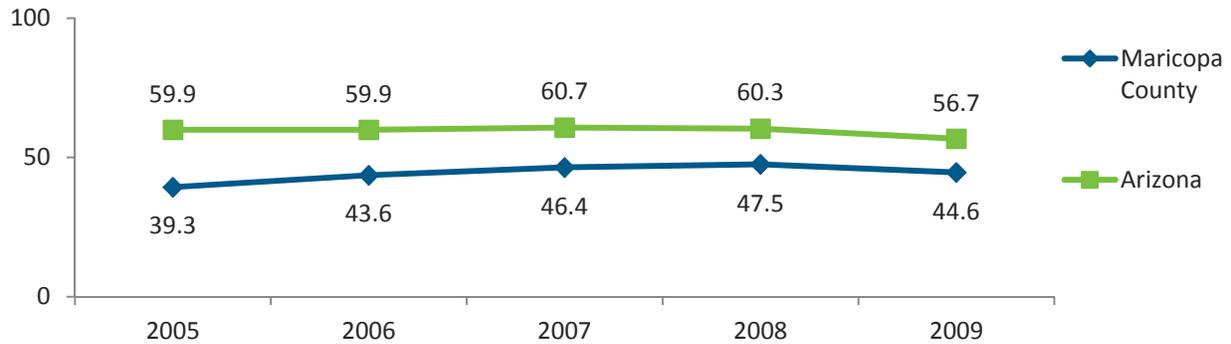
⁴⁷ Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs, *Harvard Education Review*



What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County's arrest rates for youth ages 8 through 17 were lower than statewide juvenile arrest rates between 2005 and 2009. There were 44.6 juvenile arrests per 1,000 youth ages 8 through 17 in Maricopa County in 2009, compared to 56.7 per 1,000 at the state level.

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



Source: National KidsCount Program or Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors.(2011). Children in Out-of-Home Care. Retrieved 2011 from <http://kidscount.org/stateprofile.asp>.

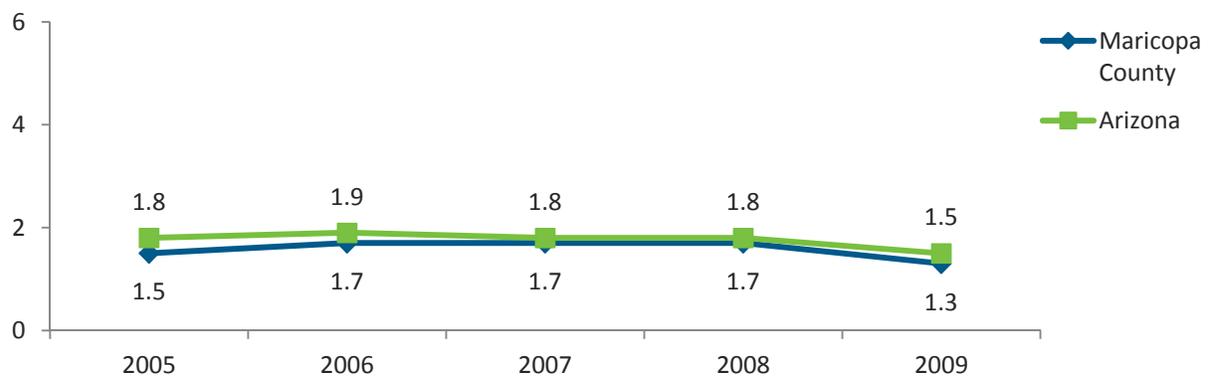
Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Juvenile arrest rate is based on total juvenile arrests per 1,000; data does not specify severity or type of crime.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Maricopa County saw a decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests for violent crime between 2008 and 2009 from 1.7 to 1.3 per 1,000. Previously, the rate had been steady for several years. Maricopa County's rates were consistently lower than the statewide juvenile arrest rate between 2005 and 2009.

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



Source: Kids Count Data Center. (2011). State Profile. Retrieved 2011 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

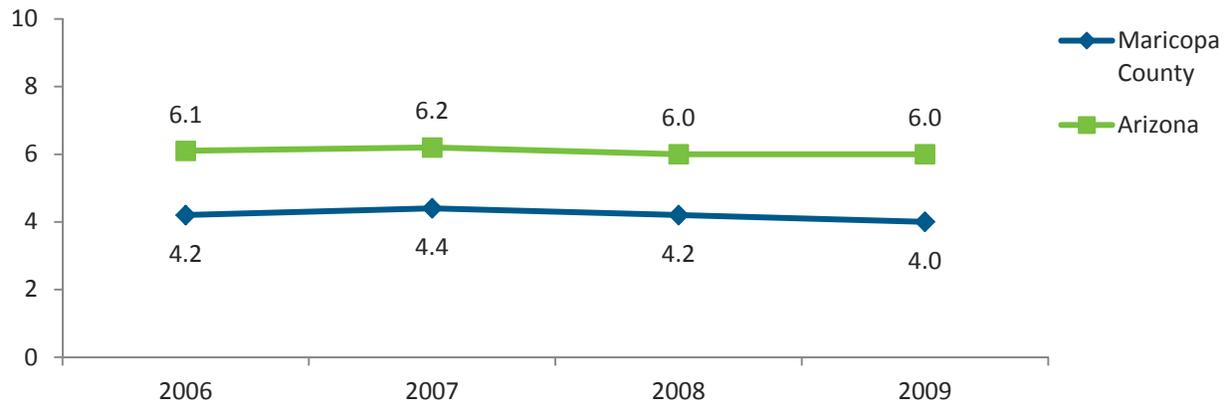
Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.



Maricopa County's juvenile arrest rate for drug crimes decreased slightly from 4.4 per 1,000 in 2007 to 4.0 in 2009, and was consistently below the statewide rate during that time.

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



Source: National KidsCount Program or Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2011). Children in Out-of-Home Care. Retrieved 2011 from <http://kidscount.org/stateprofile.asp>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Why It Is Important

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability, especially due to the increased likelihood of single parent households or grandfamilies. These children are more likely to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested. They are also more likely to later be incarcerated themselves if preventive steps are not taken.⁴⁸ Arizona had the highest rate of incarceration nationally. There were an estimated 95,699 minor children in Arizona affected by parental incarceration 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.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers. *Council of State Governments Justice Center*. Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf

⁴⁹ 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

Maricopa County hosts the majority of the entire state's prison population. Sixty-six percent of children affected by parental incarceration live in Maricopa County.

Estimated Number of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2007

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

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

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

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

ARRESTS BY FACILITY	NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN*	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4
Correctional System		
Federal Prison System in Arizona	5,681	1,250
Arizona State Prison	68,731	15,121
Arizona Correctional System Total	95,699	21,047
Probation Department		
Federal Probation	8,500	1,870
Arizona State Probation Total	80,398**	17,688

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

* On average, every inmate in Arizona has 1.7 minor children less than 18 years.

** It is assumed that similar percentages of men and women in jail and on parole and probation are parents.



HEALTH

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development so that children can become successful, healthy and thriving adults. It is critical that children have access to health care to ensure that they have a chance at obtaining optimum health. 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://slhi.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.⁵¹ 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.⁵² 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 Community Is Doing

- ***Adelante Healthcare*** offers a variety of services to expecting mothers, including prenatal care, referrals, and classes on topics such as nutrition and gestational diabetes.
- ***The International Rescue Committee's*** services include group prenatal and postnatal care for refugee women, as well as oral health care for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee mothers.
- ***Native Health*** provides comprehensive prenatal care, including office visits, ultrasounds and blood/lab work. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.

⁵¹ 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>

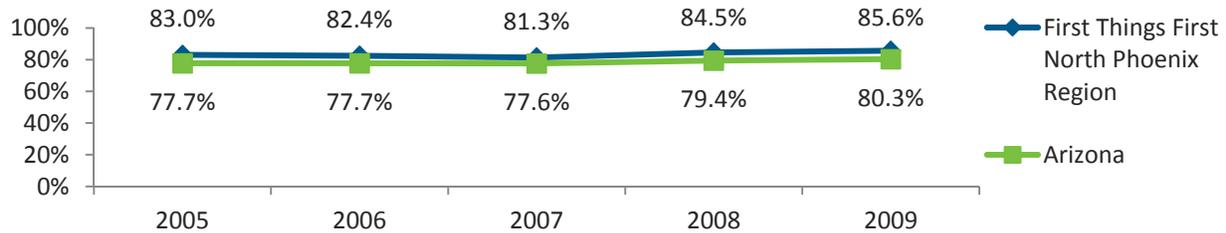
⁵² American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Universal maternity care. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893



What the Data Tell Us

A higher percentage of women in the First Things First North Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancy as compared to women in Arizona as a whole. In 2009, 86% of women in the region began prenatal care, compared to just 80% of all women in the state.

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



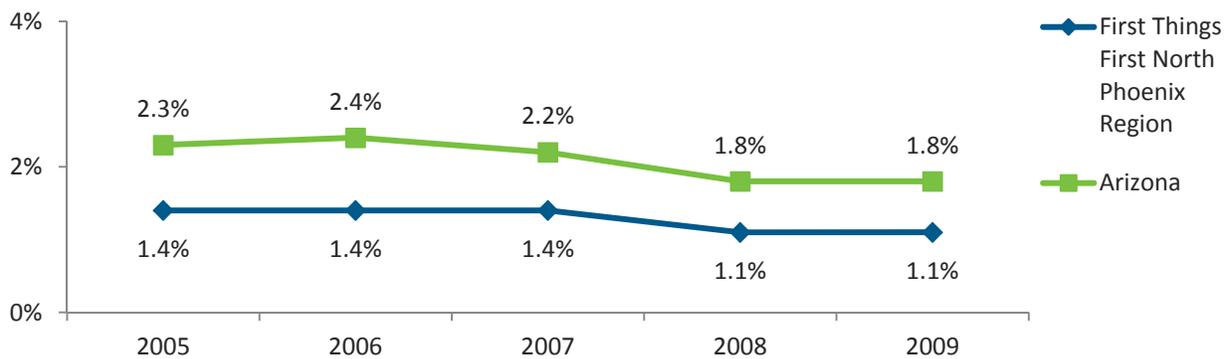
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

A small percentage of women did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy, 1% in the First Things First North Phoenix Region and 2% statewide.

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



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

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.



Birth Characteristics

Why It Is Important

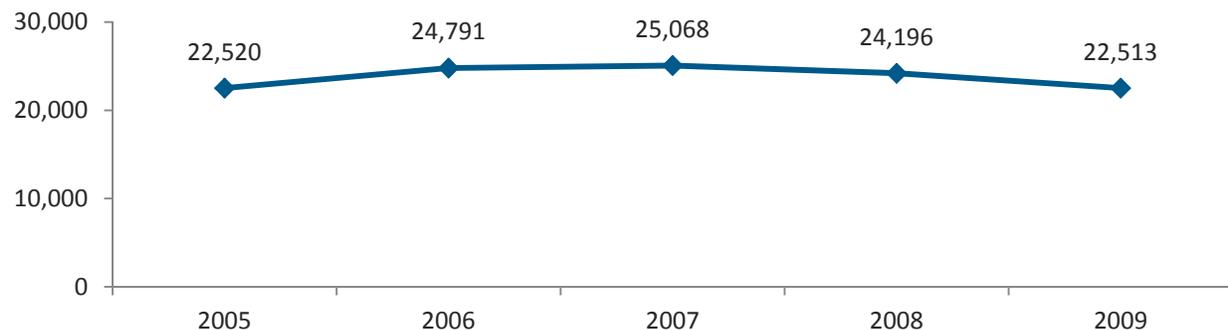
The total number of births in a community is important for service planning and provides an idea of what is happening for families in the region. While the population continues to grow there have been fewer births at the national level since the economic downturn. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings, have been correlated with both fertility and birth outcomes.⁵³

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.⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵ Births with medical complications of labor and delivery include such things as long delivery, uncoordinated contractions, and overstretching of the uterus. Births with medical risk factors apply to the mother and include such things as anemia, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease.

What the Data Tell Us

There were a total of 22,513 births in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2009. This number had decreased from a high of 25,068 in 2007.

Total Births, First Things First North Phoenix Region



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

⁵³ Livingston, G., and the Pew Research Center. (2012). In a Down Economy, Fewer Births. Pew Social and Demographic Trends. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/10/12/in-a-down-economy-fewer-births/>

⁵⁴ 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/>

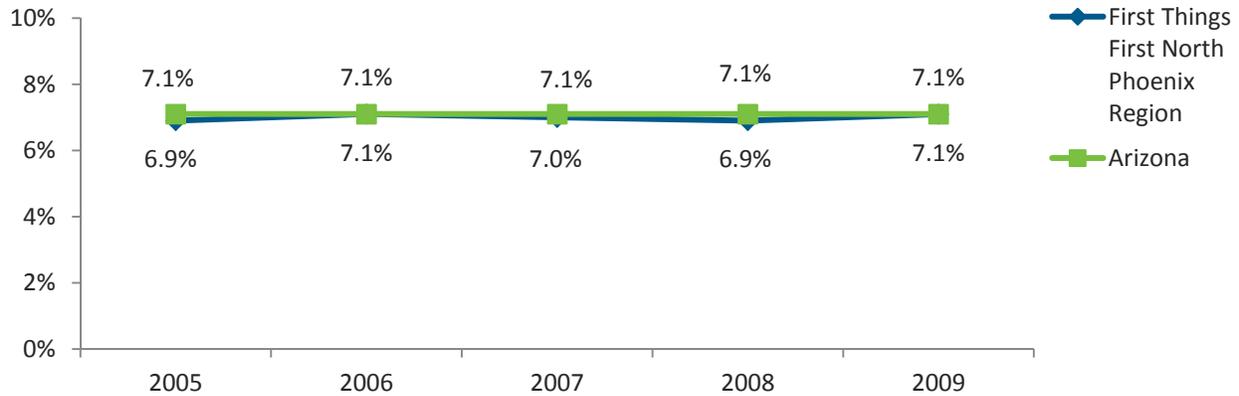
⁵⁵ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm Births. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4



Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

The number of births with low birth weight has stayed fairly consistent over the last five years in both Arizona and in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

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



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

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Substance Abuse During Pregnancy

Why It Is Important

Tobacco and alcohol use by pregnant women has a number of serious consequences. Infants prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop a range of disorders known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders such as developmental delays in thinking, speech, movement or social skills, poor coordination, and heart defects.⁵⁶ 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.⁵⁷

What the Community Is Doing

- ***Nicotine Anonymous*** offers group support to anyone who wants to stop smoking or using any other products that have nicotine in them. Sunnyside Presbyterian Church is one of the meeting sites.
- ***Alcoholics Anonymous Salt River Intergroup*** offers 12-step support groups that help adults get sober and stay sober by sharing their experiences, strengths and hopes.

⁵⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

⁵⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Tobacco Use and Pregnancy. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.



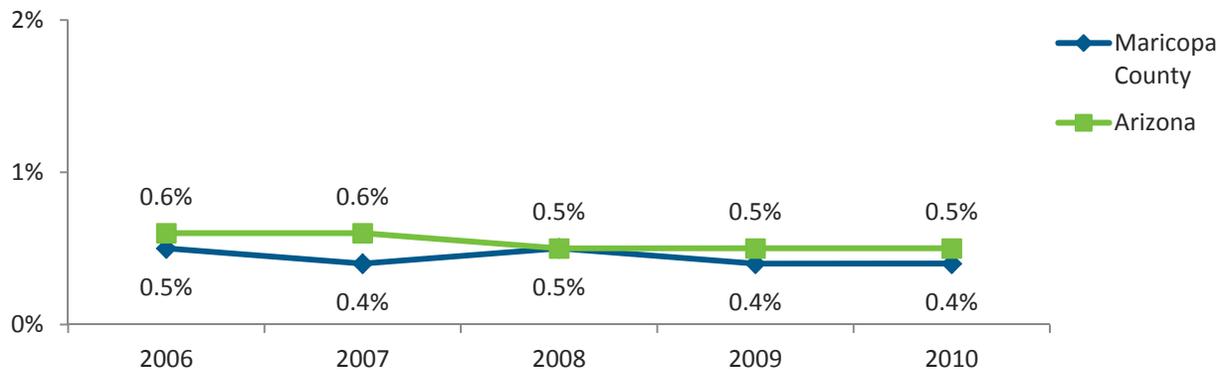
- **Southwest Behavioral Health Metro Outpatient Clinic** offers sliding fee scale drug and alcohol counseling for adults, and counseling for adults and children.
- **The Family Service Agency's** Phoenix Northwest site offers mental health and substance abuse counseling services, with a sliding scale fee scale for those without insurance.

What the Data Tell Us

Unfortunately, statistics on mothers' drug and alcohol use is not available at the regional level. However, data is available at the county level which provides some insight to drug and alcohol use by mothers in the region.

In 2010, 0.4% of births were to mothers who used alcohol during pregnancy in Maricopa County.

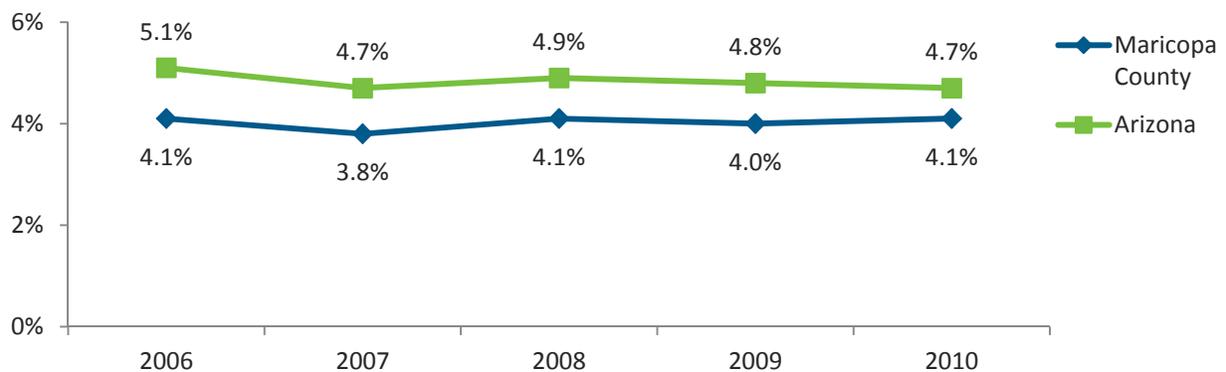
Births to Mothers Who Used Alcohol During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.
 Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Approximately 4% of births were to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy in Maricopa County in 2010. Tobacco use among mothers in Maricopa County has remained lower than the state, which was nearly 5% in 2010.

Births to Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.
 Note: Data presented in the most recent available.



One hundred seventeen infants experienced drug withdrawal in Maricopa County in 2009.

Drug Withdrawal Syndrome in Infants of Drug Dependent Mothers, Maricopa County

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Infants Experiencing Drug Withdrawal Syndromes	96	96	86	96	117

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

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Teen Births

Why It Is Important

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay childbirth. Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and therefore have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.⁵⁸ Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.⁵⁹

What the Community Is Doing

- *The Teen Parent Support Program* supports young mothers and fathers ages 19 and under in completing their educations, learning positive parenting techniques and finding quality child care.

What the Data Tell Us

There were 2,268 births to mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First North Phoenix Region in 2009.

Births to Teen Mothers, First Things First North Phoenix Region

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Teen Births	2,390	2,696	2,694	2,556	2,268
Total Births	22,520	24,791	25,068	24,196	22,513

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

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

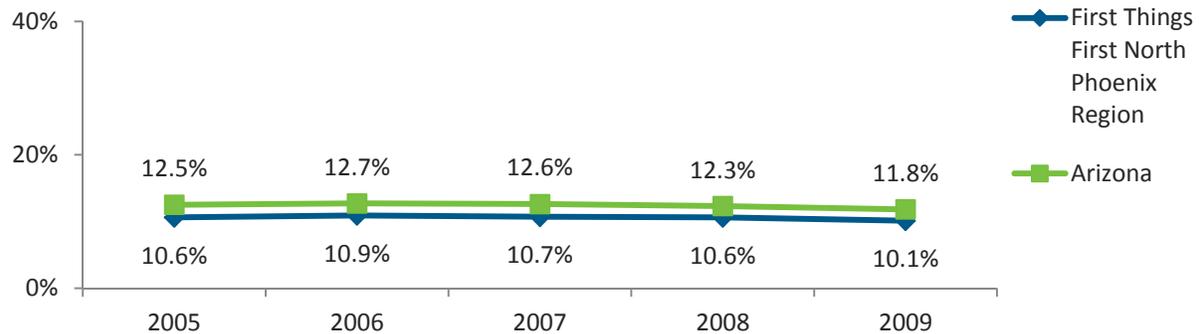
⁵⁸ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues. Retrieved 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>.

⁵⁹ Arizona Department of Health Services and National Center for Health Statistics. (2009). Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/>



In 2009, 10% of births were to teen mothers in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. This was lower than the state of Arizona, with nearly 12% of births to teen mothers.

Births to Teen Mothers



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

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Immunizations

Why It Is Important

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

A standard measure of vaccinations, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received the appropriate number of vaccines across a wide range of diseases; it is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.⁶⁰

What the Community Is Doing

- *The Phoenix Fire Department's Baby Shots Program* offers free immunizations to children birth through 18 at clinics throughout the city, including the Deer Valley Community Center.

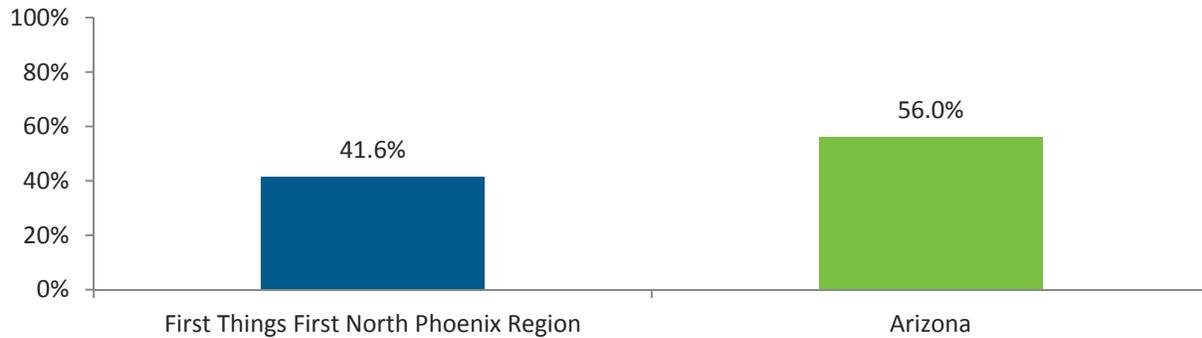
⁶⁰ U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (May 2010). National Immunization Survey. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>.



What the Data Tell Us

Forty-two percent of children, ages 19 through 35 months, in the First Things First North Phoenix Region had completed their vaccination schedule in 2010. This was lower than the state of Arizona overall.

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule, 2010



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIS). (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 North Phoenix 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.

Immunizations for kindergarteners in Maricopa County were closer to those of the state overall. Approximately 95%-96% of kindergarteners in the region and the state had the 4+DTap immunizations. About three percent of children did not have immunizations due to parent's requesting exemptions for personal reasons.

Kindergarteners with Required Immunizations, 2010/11

	MARICOPA COUNTY	ARIZONA
4+ DTap	95.2%	95.6%
3+ Polio	95.6%	95.6%
2+ MMR	95.3%	95.3%
3+ Hep B	96.5%	96.6%
2 Varicella	81.4%	81.2%
1 Varicella or Hx	15.6%	16.1%
Personal Exempt	3.4%	3.2%
Medical Exempt	0.2%	0.3%

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



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.

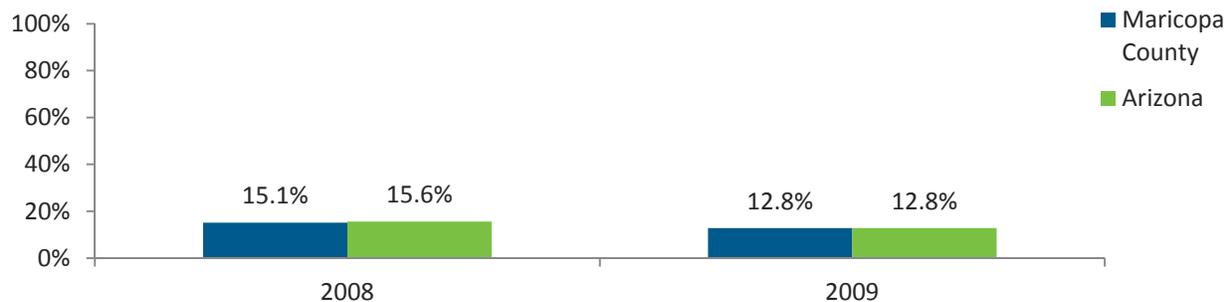
What the Community Is Doing

- **Children's Action Alliance** assists families in applying for or renewing their publicly-funded health insurance.

What the Data Tell Us

About 13% of children in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were without medical insurance.

Children Without Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 19 and Younger)



Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2010). Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

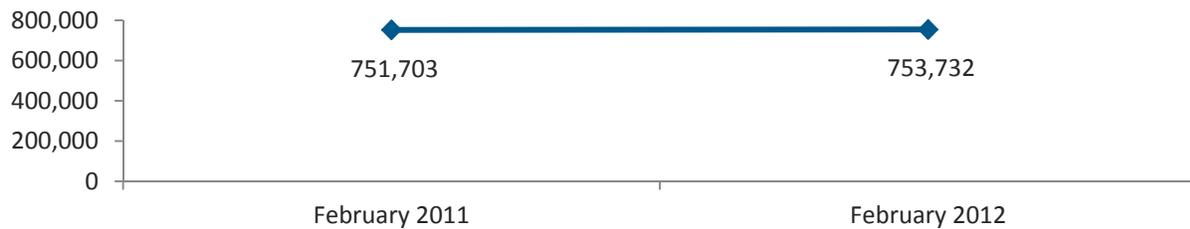
⁶¹ Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHIimproves.pdf>

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



Within a year, the enrollment in AHCCCS rose by about 2,000 people from 751,703 to 753,732 in Maricopa County.

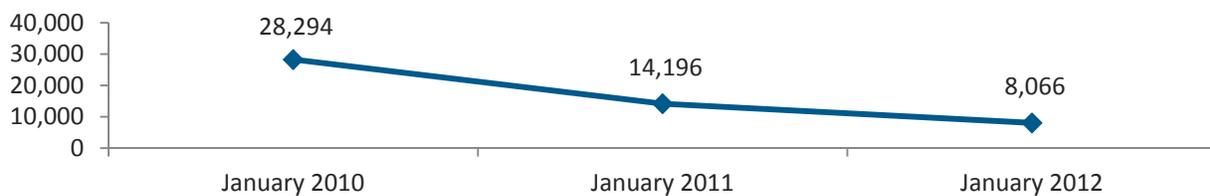
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Enrollment, Maricopa County



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

KidsCare enrollment decreased 71% from 2010 to 2012 in Maricopa County.

KidsCare Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2011). Kids Care Enrollment. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

Primary Care

Why It Is Important

Access to primary care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation, language, and education.⁶³ Children's access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more serious health problems. However, there are not enough doctors or therapists in the state to serve many communities, especially children with special health care or socio-emotional needs. The Arizona Department of Health Services defines Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including the ratio of providers to the population, the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight babies, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates.⁶⁴

⁶³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). National Healthcare Disparities Report 2003. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>

⁶⁴ Arizona Department of Health Services. Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health. (2010). Arizona Medically Underserved Areas. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm>.



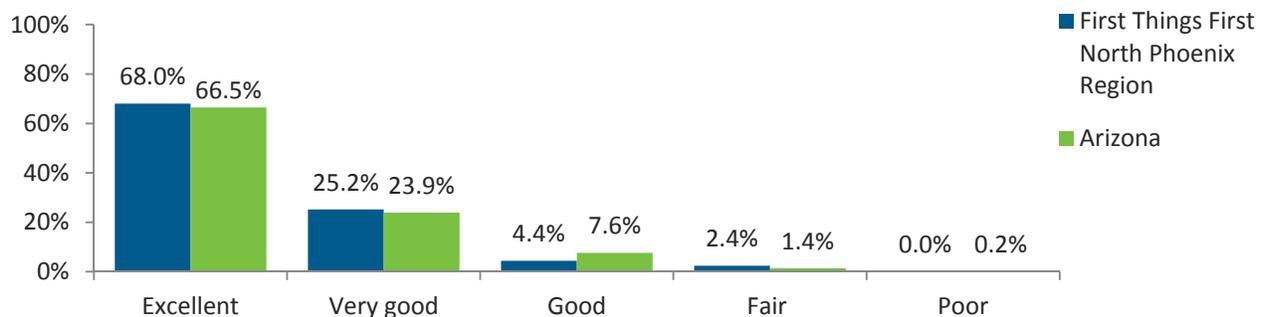
What the Community Is Doing

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

What the Data Tell Us

Two-thirds of Family and Community Survey respondents perceived their child's health as excellent in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

Parent Perceptions of the Statement "Compared with Other Children Ages Birth through Five, Would You Say that You Say that Your Child's Health Is..." 2008



2008 N=203 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 3,345 for Arizona.

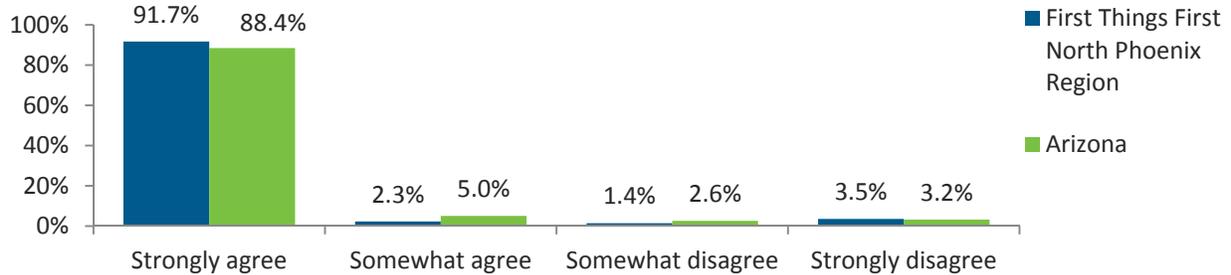
Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering "don't know" or refusing to answer.



Ninety-two percent of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported their child had regular visits to the same doctor’s office; this was slightly higher than the State of Arizona as a whole (88%).

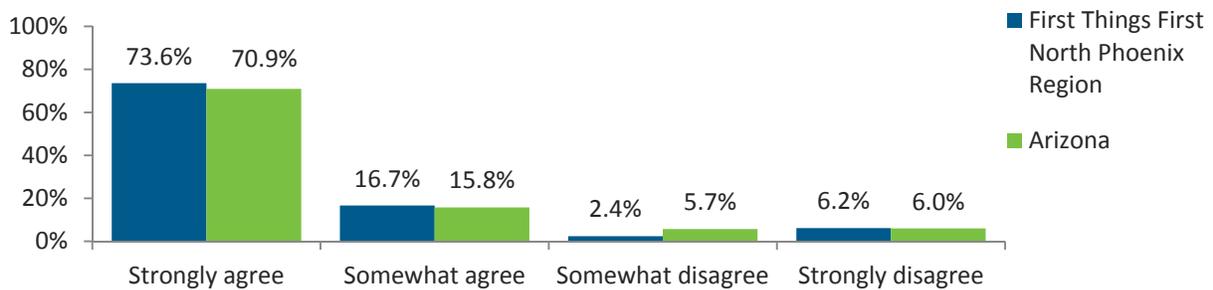
Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits at the Same Doctor’s Office,” 2008



2008 N=203 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 3,345 for Arizona.
 Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.

Almost 90% of parent respondents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region agreed or strongly agreed that their medical provider knew the family well and helped the family make healthy decisions.

Parent Responses to the Statement “My Regular Medical Provider Knows my Family Well and Helps Us Make Healthy Decisions,” 2008



2008 N=203 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 3,345 for Arizona..
 Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.



There are five general hospitals in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, including the world renowned Mayo Clinic. There are additional ambulatory care and medical health centers in the region providing care.

Medical Facilities, 2011

	NUMBER
General Hospitals	5
Ambulatory Surgical Center	11
Outpatient Treatment Center	64
Community Mental Health Centers	1
Federally Qualified Health Center	2
Outpatient Physical Therapy/Speech Pathology Service Center	6

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services. *Provider and Facility Databases*. Received 2012 from First Things First.

The provider to patient ratio in Maricopa County is much lower than in Arizona as a whole and even lower in the Phoenix Sunnyslope Primary Care Area.

Provider to Population Ratio, 2009

AREA	RATIO
Phoenix Sunnyslope	1:333
Maricopa County	1:594
Arizona	1:639

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Health Care Providers, 2009

TYPE OF PROVIDER	PHOENIX SUNNYSLOPE	MARICOPA COUNTY
Primary Care Physicians (M.D. and D.O.)	86	6,774
Physician Assistants	10	1,081
Nurse Practitioners	6	1,700
Registered Nurses	111	36,061
Dentists	9	2,487
Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives	1	99
Emergency Medical	19	8,789

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Primary Care Area Statistical Profile. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.



Oral Health Care

Why It Is Important

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem. Arizona has substantial disparities in oral health where low income children, Hispanic children and children of color have more dental needs.⁶⁵ Dental diseases can be serious and are linked to premature birth, low birth weight infants, failure to thrive, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and stroke. Dental care is the most common unmet health need in children, and is the cause of impaired speech development, inability to concentrate in school, poor social relationships, and reduced self esteem.⁶⁶ Experts recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for tooth decay.⁶⁷

As part of efforts to reduce dental decay in underserved communities, three year teledentistry grants were given to train dental hygiene students at the Hopi Health Care Dental Clinic, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (Head Start), and Northern Arizona University.

What the Community Is Doing

- ***Desert Mission Children's Dental Clinic*** provides dental care to children ages four through 20 from families with limited financial resources. The clinic is staffed by volunteer dentists and hygienists, takes AHCCCS, and uses a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic*** offers basic health care services to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Doctors, nurses, physician assistants and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.

⁶⁵ The Oral Health of Arizona's Children. (2005). Arizona Department of Health Services. Office of Oral Health. Retrieved November 2005 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>

⁶⁶ Arizona department of Health Services, Bureau of Women and Children's Health, Office of Oral Health. *The State of American Indian Children's Oral Health in Arizona*. Retrieved May 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>

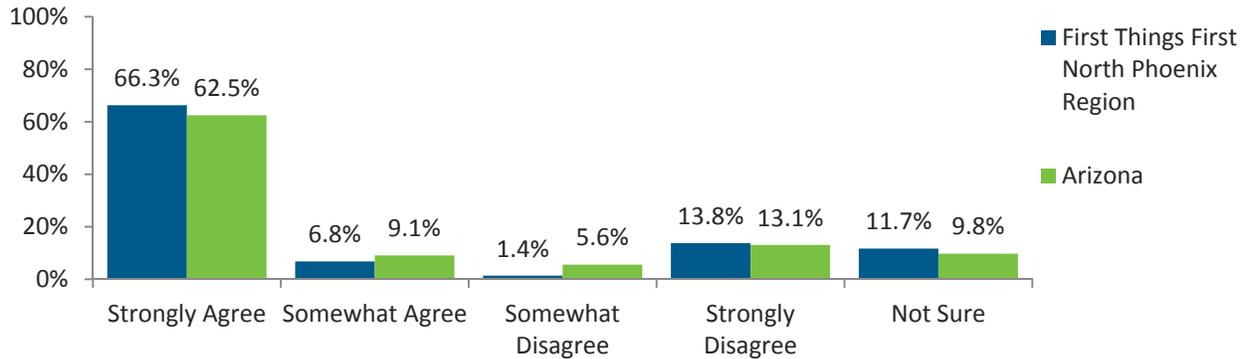
⁶⁷ American Association for Pediatric Dentistry. (2004). *Policy on the Dental Home*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf



What the Data Tell Us

Two-thirds of parents of children under five in the First Things First North Phoenix Region said that their child/children had regular visits with the same dental provider, as compared to other Arizona parents.

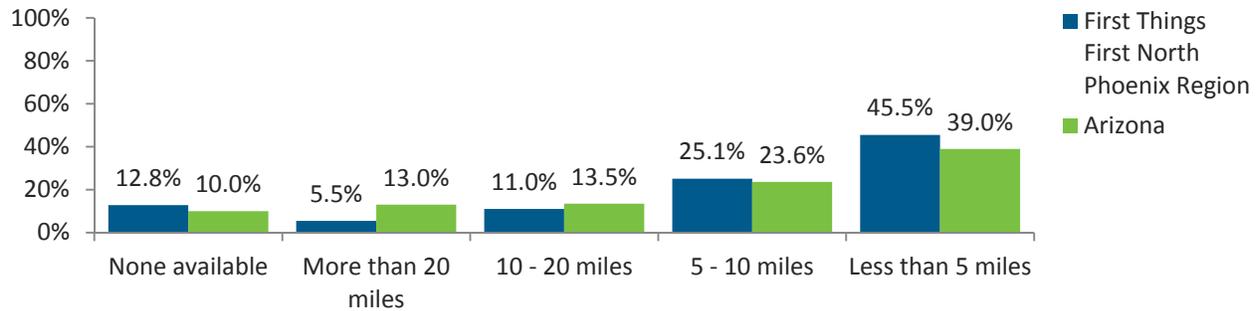
Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits with the Same Dental Provider.”



2008 N=203 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 3,345 for Arizona.
 Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Most parents in the region (46%) reported having to travel less than 5 miles to their child’s dentist.

Distance Parents Travel to Get Dental Care for Children Ages Birth Through Five



2008 N=203 for First Things First North Phoenix Region; N= 3,345 for Arizona.
 Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.

Chronic Disease and Mortality

Illness

Why It Is Important

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



What the Data Tell Us

Vaccine preventable diseases, hepatitis, and tuberculosis have been on the decline since 2005 in Maricopa County.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Maricopa County

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Vaccine Preventable	244	48	21	23	70
Enteritides	1,319	1,430	1,596	1,842	1,825
Hepatitides (Hepatitis)	309	356	197	185	175
Tuberculosis	318	300	304	188	247

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

Notes: Vaccine Preventable includes verified cases of measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, and *H. influenzae*.

Enteritides includes cases of amebiasis, campylobacteriosis, cholera, cryptosporidiosis, *E. coli*, Salmonellosis, *Salmonella*, shigellosis, and typhoid fever. Hepatitides includes cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

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.⁶⁸ Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.⁶⁹ 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.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. (2010). Asthma. *Medline Plus*. Retrieved June 23 2010 from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmainchildren.html>.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

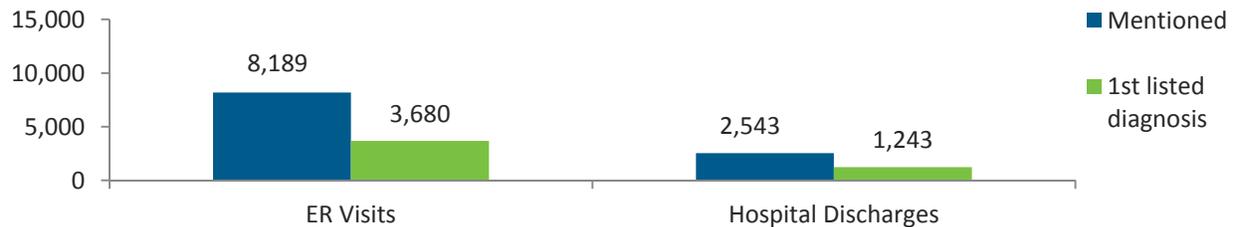
⁷⁰The Mayo Clinic. (2010). Asthma. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2>.



What the Data Tell Us

In 2010 there were 8,189 ER visits that mentioned Asthma in Maricopa County, of those 3,680 listed Asthma as the primary diagnosis. In Maricopa County, there were 2,543 inpatient discharges for children birth through five with asthma in 2010.

Emergency Room Visits and Hospital Discharges by Children Ages Birth Through Five with Asthma, 2010



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, (2012). Emergency Room Visits and Discharges of Patients with Asthma, Table 7. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>

Note: Includes all mentioned asthma cases, not just first listed diagnosis.

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

Obesity and Overweight

Why It Is Important

Children and adolescents with a BMI between the 85th and 94th percentiles are generally considered overweight, and those with a BMI at or above the gender- and age-specific 95th percentile of the population on this growth chart are typically considered obese. Overweight and obese conditions in children can lead to severe physical and emotional health effects, including a greater risk of hospitalization, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, and depression. Furthermore, overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight adults, and this increases to 80% if one or both parents are overweight.⁷¹

According to the 2007 to 2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 10% of infants and toddlers in the U.S. were obese, 49% of children and adolescents aged 2 through 19 years were considered overweight or obese, and 60% of adults were obese or overweight.^{72 73 74}

⁷¹ Goran, M. (2001). Metabolic precursors and effects of obesity in children: A decade of progress, 1990–1999. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 73(2), 158-171.

⁷² Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in US children and adolescents 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.

⁷³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2010, March). Health behaviors of adults: United States, 2005–2007. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(245), 1-143. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_245.pdf

⁷⁴ Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in US children and adolescents 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.



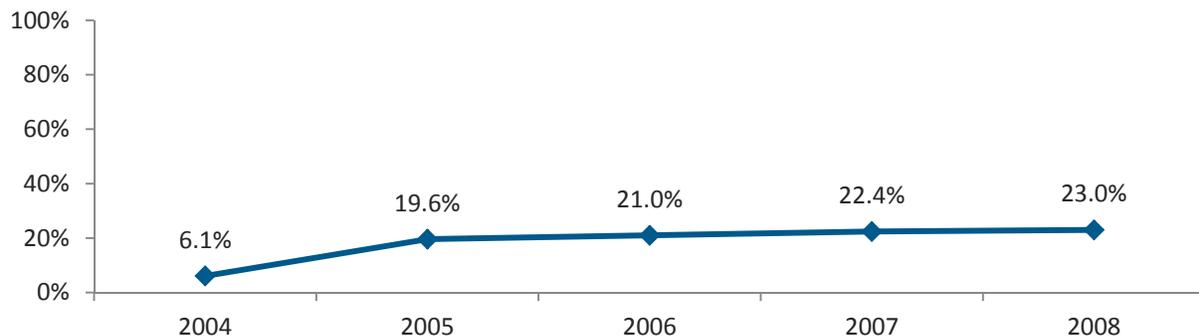
What the Community Is Doing

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

What the Data Tell Us

Data on childhood obesity is not available for the First Things First North Phoenix Region. However, obesity is an issue for adults in the region. The prevalence of adult obesity increased from 6% in 2004 to 23% in 2008 in Maricopa County.

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



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.cdc.gov/>

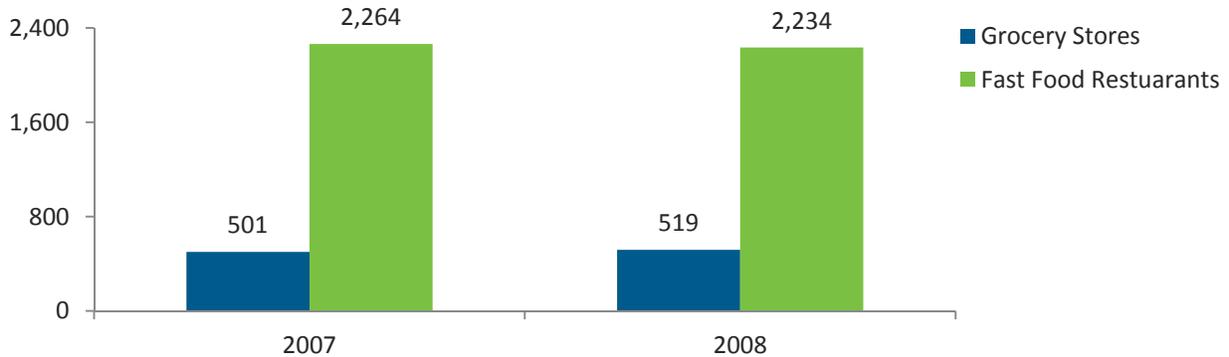
Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older

Note: Data presented in the most recent available.



In Maricopa County, there were over four times as many fast food restaurants as grocery stores in 2008. However, there was a 1.3% decrease in the number of fast food restaurants throughout the county, from 2,264 in 2007 to 2,234 in 2008.

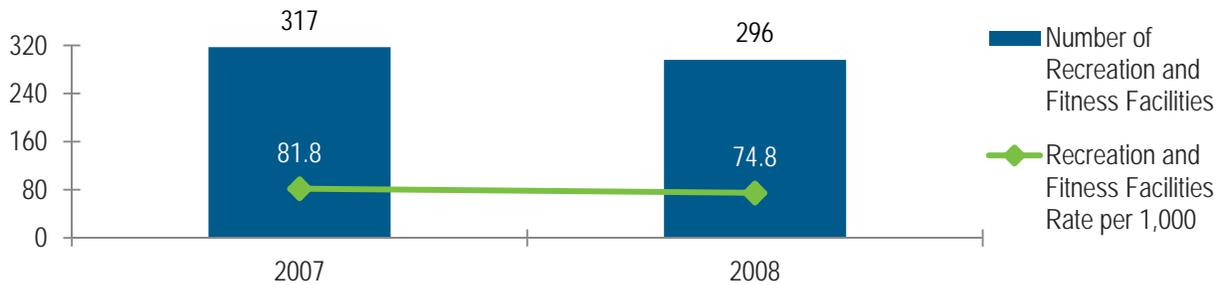
Number of Grocery Stores and Fast Food Restaurants, Maricopa County



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (Various Years). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx>
 Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

There was one local farm to school program and nearly 300 recreation and fitness facilities in 2009, in Maricopa County.⁷⁵ However, there was a decline in the number of recreation facilities from 317 in 2007 to 296 in 2008. The rate of recreation and fitness facilities per 1,000 people in the county declined from 81.8 per 1,000 adults in 2007 to 74.8 per 1,000 adults in 2008.

Number of Recreation and Fitness Facilities and Rate of Facilities per 1,000, Maricopa County



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (Various Years). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx>
 Note: Data presented in the most recent available.

⁷⁵ Food Environment Atlas for Maricopa County.



Diabetes

Why It Is Important

While type II diabetes is primarily associated with overweight adults over age 40, inactivity and increased obesity rates have led to greater incidence in children. Children with type II diabetes are at greater risk for the long-term complications of diabetes, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Early diagnosis and treatment of type II diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes complications. The cornerstones of diabetes management for children with type II diabetes are weight management and increased physical activity.⁷⁶

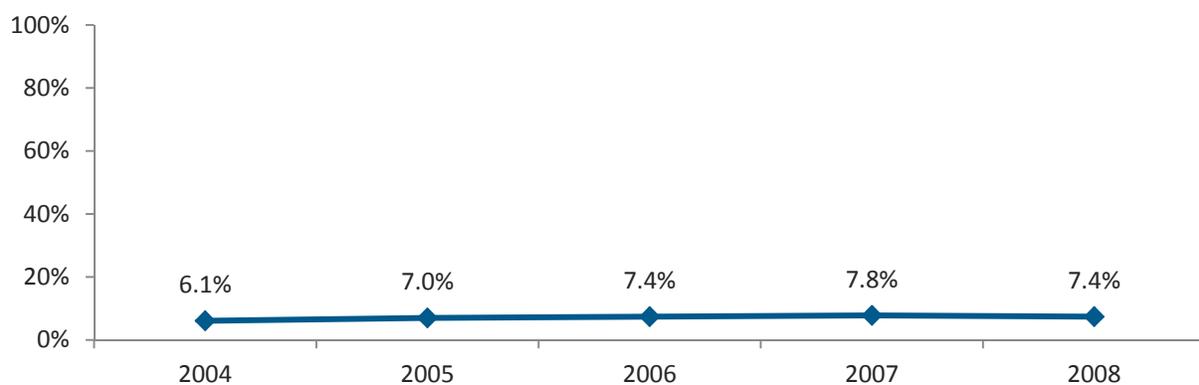
What the Community Is Doing

- **The Sunnyslope Family Health Center** offers individual instruction to community members with diabetes. Topics include healthy eating, exercise, prevention of long-term problems, stress management and blood sugar checks.
- **Adelante Healthcare** provides sliding fee diabetes screenings.
- **Native Health** offers diabetes management services, including blood sugar control assistance, glucose machine education, insulin management and diabetic nutrition. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.

What the Data Tell Us

Over 7% of adults in Maricopa County are estimated to have diabetes. While these estimates are from 2008, the data had been consistent since 2004.

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



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older

Note: Most recent data available.

⁷⁶ National Diabetes Education Program. (2008). Overview of diabetes in children and adolescents. Retrieved 2012 from www.yourdiabetesinfo.org



Leading Causes of Death

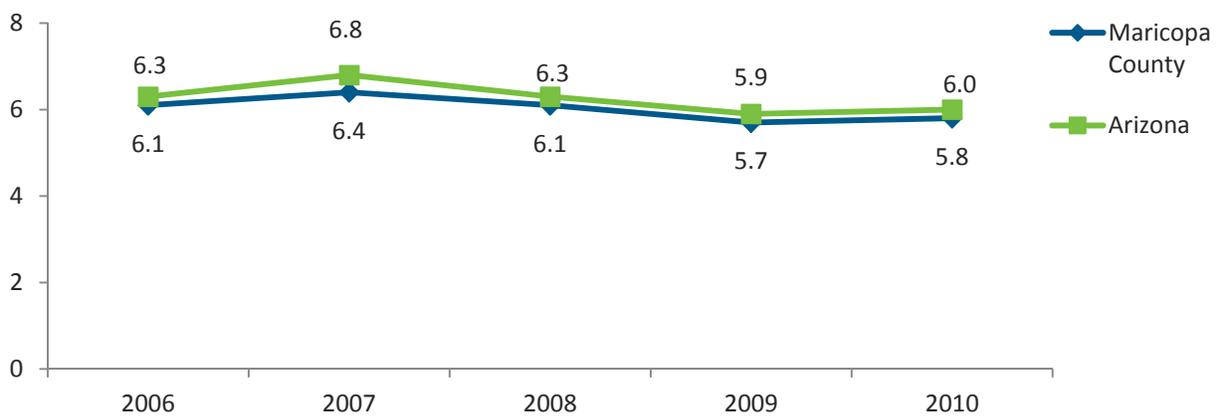
Why It Is Important

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 deaths in 2003.⁷⁷ The leading causes of death are birth defects, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and complications with the mother.

What the Data Tell Us

Infant mortality in Maricopa County decreased from 6.1 per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 5.8 deaths in 2010. The infant mortality rate in Maricopa County has been similar to that of the state of Arizona since 2006.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births



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

Note: Most recent data available.

Note: Under-five mortality rates and infant mortality rates are not actually rates but a probability of death expressed as rate per 1,000 live births.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ United States Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). Preventing Infant Mortality Fact Sheet. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.hhs.gov/news/factsheet/infant.html>

⁷⁸ World Health Organization. (2010). Probability of dying aged < 5 years per 1000 live births (under-five mortality rate). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from <http://www.who.int/whosis/indicators/2007MortChild/en/>



Total deaths over the past 5 years have been decreasing for children under 18 in Maricopa County. The most frequent cause of death for children under 18 years old was medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS) with 195 deaths in Maricopa County in 2010. Deaths due to prematurity dropped from 158 in 2009 to 118 in 2010.

Cause of Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS)	255	252	226	196	195
Prematurity	184	187	159	158	118
Motor Vehicle Crash	67	43	30	43	32
SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	19	12	2	4	1
Undetermined	13	25	52	50	44
Total Maricopa County	664	648	577	542	486

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Child Fatality Review Report, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.
Note: Most recent data available.



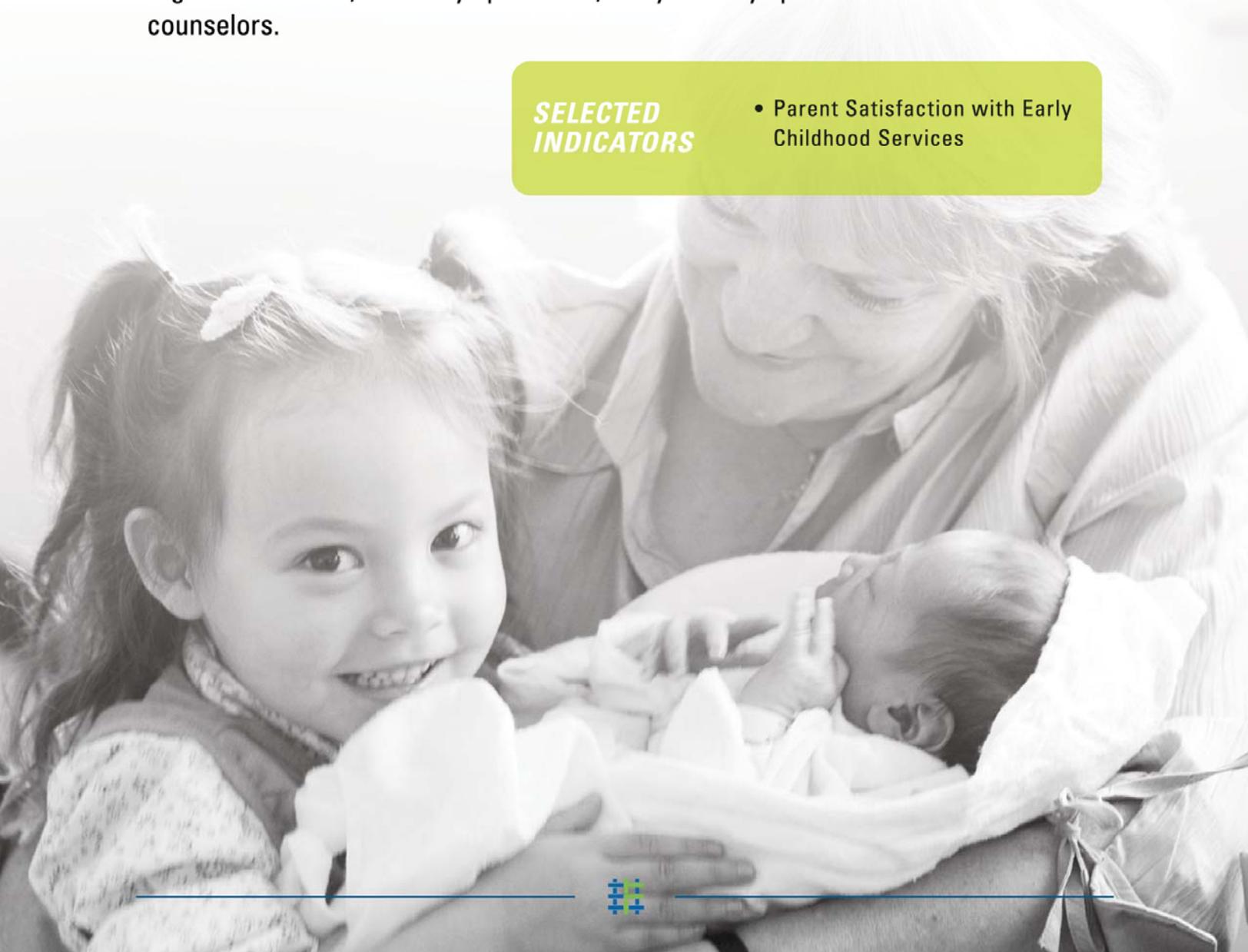
PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COLLABORATION

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 Perceptions of Early Childhood Services

Why It Is Important

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

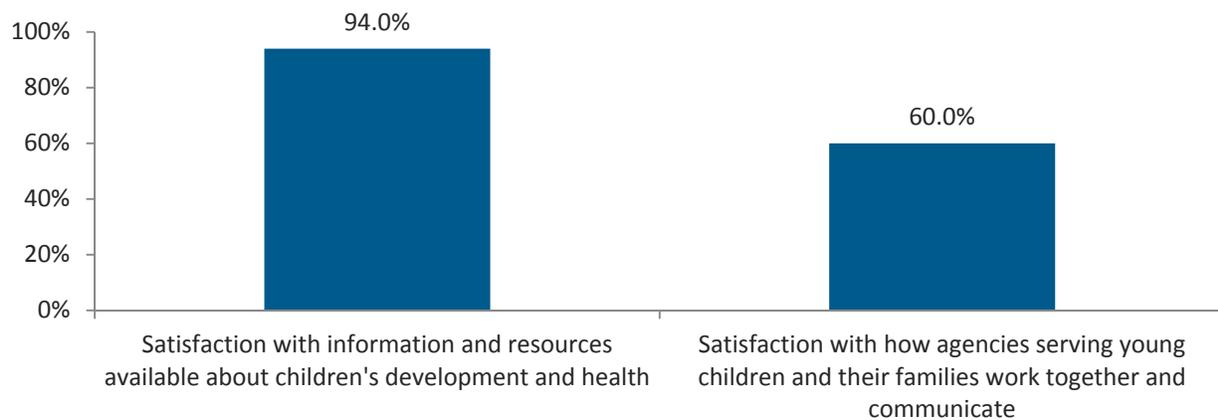
What the Community Is Doing

- *The First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council* funds media-based public awareness campaigns, community outreach and other strategies to increase community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

What the Data Tell Us

The majority of parents (94%) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were satisfied with the information available about their children's development and health. However less than two-thirds (60%) were satisfied with how agencies were working together and communicating.

Parents Who Responded "Somewhat" or "Very Satisfied" to the Following Statements, First Things First North Phoenix Region



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

Note: These are the responses of parents/caregivers of children ages 0 through 5 years-old on the 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey. All items about parents' understanding of early childhood were developed and licensed by Zero to Three®.

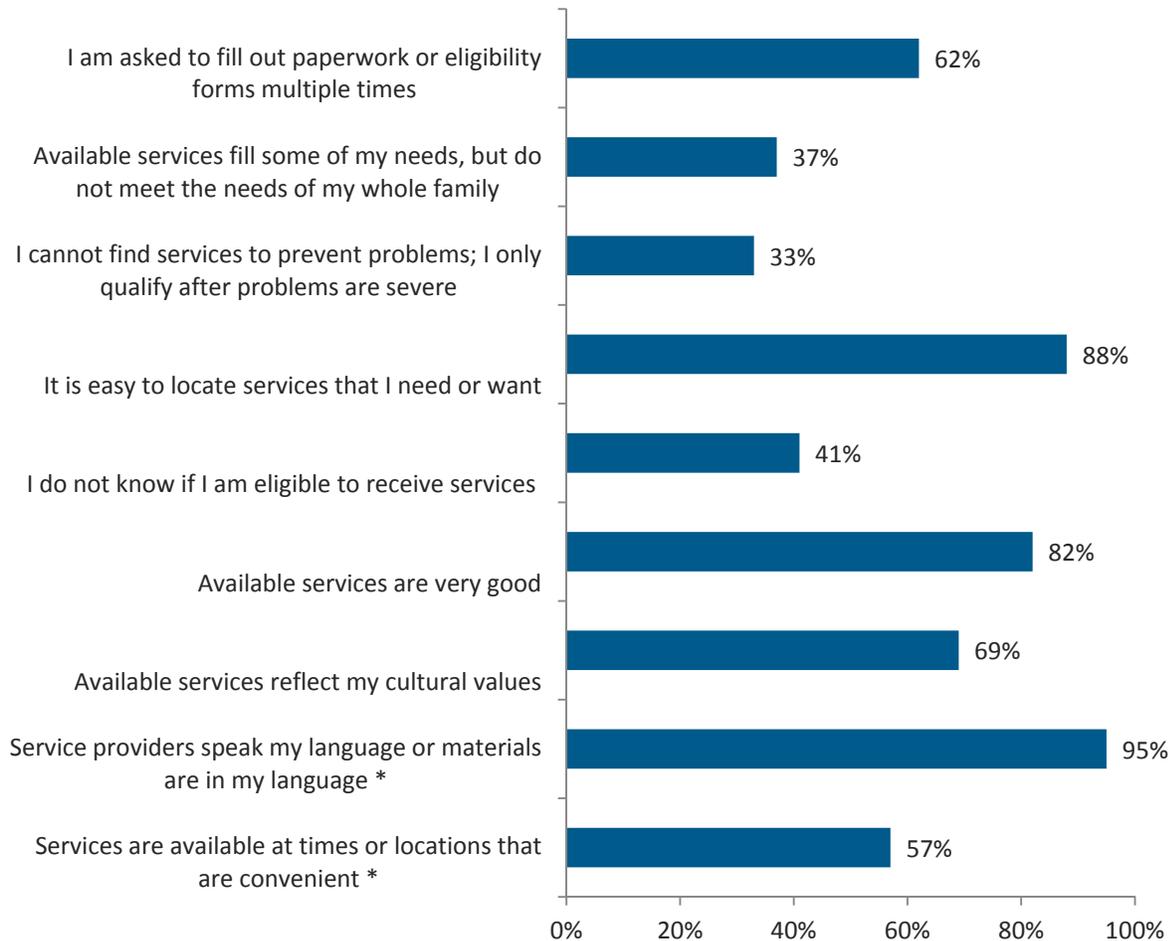
Note: Early Childhood Services: Parents Who "Somewhat" or "Strongly Agree" with the statements above.



Parent survey respondents were asked how strongly they agreed with statements regarding the services available to them and their children. Forty-one percent of parents reported they did not know if they were eligible for services, and one-third (33%) reported they could not find services to prevent problems and that they only qualified after the problems had become more severe.

Ninety-five percent of parents reported services were available in a language they understood, yet 31% reported services did not reflect their cultural beliefs.

Parents That “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, First Things First North Phoenix Region.



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

Note: These are the responses of parents/caregivers of children ages 0 through 5 years-old on the 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey. All items about parents' understanding of early childhood were developed and licensed by Zero to Three®.

* These questions were asked of respondents in the reverse: "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.



CONCLUSION



Conclusion

Families and Children in the First Things First North Phoenix Region

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

The population of the region was 519,974 in 2010 with approximately 44,303 children ages birth through five. Twenty-two percent of families in the First Things First North Phoenix Region were female headed households, and 67% are married couples in 2010. More than half (53%) of children birth through five in the First Things First North Phoenix Region identified as White, 37% Hispanic/Latino, 4% Black or African American, 4% Asian and 2% American Indian. The majority (77%) of the population five and over in the First Things First North Phoenix Region speak only English in the home.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the First Things First North Phoenix Region dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children ages birth through five and their families, and they appear to be having a positive effect.

Children have access to primary care

Ninety-two percent of parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region reported their child had regular visits to the same doctor's office. An almost equal percentage (90%) of parent respondents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that their medical provider knew the family well and helped the family make healthy decisions. The region benefits from a large number of primary care providers and basic medical facilities. There are five general hospitals in the First Things First North Phoenix Region, including the world renowned Mayo Clinic. There are additional ambulatory care and medical health centers in the region providing care.

Parents are accessing social services

While changes to eligibility requirements and funding for social programs has changed in recent years, many families in the First Things First North Phoenix Region are still receiving the help of economic and social support services. Almost 10,000 children and more than 6,000 women were receiving WIC (Women, Infants and Children) benefits in 2011. In July 2011, there were 10,738



families with children ages birth through five who received benefits from SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) in the First Things First North Phoenix Region.

Parents are accessing community supports

Most parents in the First Things First North Phoenix Region have the support of their family. The majority of parents reported that they frequently relied on their spouse for support (88%). Parents also relied on their own mothers for support (56%) and the support of their spouse's mother (27%). Many parents also have access to a doctor they can rely on for parenting support; 52% of parents in the region reported they relied on their child's doctor or pediatrician.

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 North Phoenix Region that need improvement.

Many children in the region are affected by poverty and insufficient incomes

The unemployment rate in Phoenix City remains relatively high, at about 9%. Roughly 1 in 3 children ages birth through five in the areas served by Washington Elementary School District are living below the poverty level and 1 in 5 in the areas served by Paradise Valley Unified.

More than one quarter (27%) of children in Maricopa County lived in households without enough nutritious food in 2009, and more than one third of those families (39%) had incomes that exceeded eligibility requirements for supplemental food services like WIC and SNAP. Services that address the gap between income and eligibility requirements or which alleviate some of the day to day costs to parents would greatly enhance the First Thing First North Phoenix Region.

Need for additional quality child care services

Roughly 72% of children with parents in the work force do not have formal child care places available to them in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. Considering the need for additional quality child care, the North Phoenix Region has taken steps to increase child care capacity and help parents to access quality early learning opportunities for their child. The region provided 261 Quality First Child Care Scholarships, to children in 2012, allowing them to attend quality early care and education programs and help low-income families afford a better educational beginning for their children. There are currently 56 Quality First programs in the region.

School readiness needs improvement

Upon entering kindergarten in the 2010/2011 school year, 40% of children in the Deer Valley Unified District were at grade level in reading and literacy skills and just 24% of kindergarteners at Washington Elementary District.



The First Things First North Phoenix Region recognizes the need for improving kindergarten readiness. The region is providing scholarships to quality preschool programs in a variety of settings to allow programs to serve more children. Increasing the number of 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in high quality preschool programs helps to prepare them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Not every child in the region has medical insurance

It was estimated that 13% of children under the age of 18 did not have health insurance in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. In Maricopa County, KidsCare enrollment decreased 71% from 2010 to 2012. First Things First had previously supported outreach strategies to increase medical insurance enrollment, however, as these funding cuts have affected eligibility requirements, these strategies have been placed on hold.

As funding for state and national health insurance programs decrease, there is an increased need for programs that provide regular medical services to children and families without medical coverage.

Many children are not receiving their scheduled vaccinations

Nearly 60% of children, ages 19 through 35 months, had not received all their required immunizations in 2010. This was higher than the state of Arizona, with 44% of children not fully vaccinated or up to date. The percentage both regionally and at the state decreased, to less than 5% of children whom had not completed their vaccination series by the time they entered kindergarten. However, increasing education among parents regarding the importance of staying on track with the recommended immunization schedule and increasing the availability of vaccinations may help to increase immunization rates among younger children.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children age birth through five in the First Things First North Phoenix Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, children and families in the region are thriving. However, communities appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to health insurance, child care, and early education. In light of these challenges in the First Things First North Phoenix 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 communities in the North Phoenix area to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

SECONDARY DATA

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

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

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

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 North Phoenix Region, there were 328 surveys completed from 203 parents and 125 members of the general population. The survey sample may not be representative of the region as a whole



especially those families living poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk. Data presented are limited to data released to ASR for the purposes of this report.

First Things First North Phoenix Region Zip Codes and Corresponding Census Tracts

ZIP CODE	CENSUS TRACT							
85020	1037.02		1035.02		1043.01		1056.02	
	1047.01		1048.02		1043.02		1057.01	
	1047.02	85023	1036.08		1044.01		1057.02	
	1052.00		1036.09		1042.12		1058.00	
	1063.00		6187.00		1040.00		1059.00	
	1051.02		6188.00		1036.14		1060.01	
	1053.00		1036.04		1045.02		1042.05	
	1046.00		6186.00		1042.05		1055.01	
	1062.00		1036.05		1044.02	85053	1041.00	
	1048.01		6189.00		1032.10		1042.02	
	85021		1045.01		1036.12		85032	1032.11
1054.00				1036.14	1032.15			1042.26
1055.02		85024	6149.00	1033.02	6184.00			
1055.03			6168.00	1033.03	6185.00			
1060.02			6169.00	1033.04	1040.00			
1060.03			6124.00	1033.05	1042.12			
1061.00			6167.00	1033.06	85054			6152.00
1044.02			6193.00	1034.00	85083			6114.00
1045.02			6170.00	1035.01				6115.00
1055.01			85027	6145.00	6195.00			6116.00
1062.00				6146.00	6196.00			6119.00
1046.00	6147.00			6198.00	85085	6120.00		
1053.00	6148.00	6197.00		6122.00				
85022	1036.11			6164.00		6113.00		
	1037.01			6165.00		6123.00		
	6190.00			6166.00		85086	6102.00	
	6191.00			6167.00			6103.00	
	6192.00			6186.00			6104.00	
	1036.07			6123.00			6106.00	
	1036.06	85028	1049.00	1036.06			6105.00	
	6194.00		1051.01	1036.07			6105.00	
	1036.12		1048.02	85050	6150.00		6101.00	
	6189.00		1048.01		6151.00		6107.00	
	6193.00		1032.08		6171.00		6100.00	
1036.05	1051.02		6172.00		6113.00			
1036.14	85029		1036.15		6173.00		85087	6100.00
1036.04			1039.00		6170.00	6107.00		
			1042.03		85051	1042.06		6101.00
						1056.01		6105.00



First Things First North Phoenix Region School Districts

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

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

Washington Elementary School District - <http://wedschools.org/>



APPENDIX B: DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Data collection for the First Things First North Phoenix Region can be difficult due to the First Things First regional boundaries. Most sources publish data at the county level, which in the case of Maricopa County is not representative of the true population in the First Things First North Phoenix Region. Despite these challenges, region-specific data were collected about many issues related to children ages birth through five and their families. Support and collaboration with many community members, schools, and organizations in the area resulted in current and relevant data regarding, kindergarten readiness scores, children with disabilities, community priorities, and more.

Yet, some vital information about the children ages birth through five in the region is still missing. More comprehensive, current, and representative data will help to make more informed conclusions about the state of First Things First North Phoenix Region children 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 schooling. Efforts are underway to build a common, cohesive system for measuring school readiness.
- **Children with Special Needs** – there are limited data on children with special needs and the services they access. Data regarding the number and percent of children who are identified prior to attending school and the number and percent of children who have successfully mainstreamed would greatly improve the regions understanding of children with special needs.
- **Oral Health** - There are no current data regarding oral health care.
- **Parent knowledge and engagement in children learning and development** – there are limited data on parent knowledge and engagement in their child’s learning and development. First Things First Family and Community Survey collects some data and efforts have been made to collect more recent data in the region.
- **Parent’s mental health/well-being and support systems** – there are no current sources of parent’s mental health status. Information regarding parent supports systems has been gathered by First Things First in the Family and Community Survey, however this data is limited.
- **Child abuse, foster care, and juvenile justice** –data are available only at the county level. While child abuse and foster care data are collected at a zip code level, the Department of Economic Security only released the number of children removed from their home by Child Protective Services.



- **Health insurance** – enrollment numbers for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and KidsCare are not available at breakdowns lower than the county level. Census data provides a rough estimate however it is variable when measured for populations smaller than County level.
- **Asthma** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on hospital use for children with asthma, but only at the county level. There are no region-specific data on the number or percentage of children with asthma.
- **Obesity and Diabetes** – Obesity and 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 considered to be overweight or obese or diagnosed with diabetes.

