



2012

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

August 14, 2012

Over the past several years, the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council has worked diligently to deliver on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families.

The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities as indicated throughout this report.

Our strategic planning has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the South Phoenix Region. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future.

The South Phoenix Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets vendor Applied Survey Research for their hard work and dedication in highlighting data representative of the South Phoenix region. The new report will help guide our decisions on behalf of young children and their families within the South Phoenix region.

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

Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens and throughout the entire State. Thank you for your continued support.



James Washington, Chair
South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council



INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INTRODUCTIONS

School Readiness Indicators

In August 2011, the First Things First Board approved a set of 10 indicators that provide a composite measure for young children as they prepare to enter kindergarten. The intent of the indicators is to provide an opportunity to achieve measureable and long-term results for children. Each region was asked to select a few indicators to prioritize within their region. The First Things First South Phoenix Region chose to prioritize 8 of the 10 indicators, their selections are listed below.

- # and % of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical
- # and % of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars
- % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year
- # of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education
- # and % of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)
- # and % of children receiving timely well-child visits
- # and % of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay
- % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being

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



Snapshot of Community Assets

The 2012 First Things First Needs and Assets Report for the South Phoenix Region includes a section entitled “Snapshot of Community Assets.” This section was added to the report in an effort to include community programs and groups working to address the needs of families and children ages birth through 5 in the First Things First South Phoenix Region and provides a brief overview of programs or agencies that families, community members, and service providers have identified as assets or which can easily be found by parents looking for resources online. The assets included are those which can be found within the regional boundaries or within a short drive to central Phoenix.

What the Community Is Saying

The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Council held 3 Town Hall meetings in early 2012. Information gathered from these meetings has been included in the report as it relates to data indicators. This data is not meant to be representative of the opinions of all residents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region but instead, to provide a glimpse of what town hall participants have shared with the regional council regarding the needs and challenges facing children and families in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council owes special thanks to the agencies and key stakeholders who have contributed their time, skill, support, knowledge and expertise.

To the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council members, your dedication, commitment and passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Our continued work will aid in the building of a comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire state.

Data were provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services; the Arizona Department of Economic Security; the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the South Phoenix region; Child Care Resource and Referral Network; St. Luke’s Health Initiatives; and other local, state and federal agencies for their contribution of data for this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE REGION AND THE PEOPLE

There were 419,714 residents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2010 according to the U.S. Census. Of those, 52,710 were children birth through 5. This was nearly 10% of the state's population of children birth through five. The largest population of children birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region was in the Maryvale Neighborhood (23,075 children), and the smallest population was in the Central City South Neighborhood (6,210) in 2010.

Interestingly, these two neighborhoods are located next to one another; both in the northern end of the First Things First South Phoenix Region.

The population of children ages birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region primarily identified as Hispanic or Latino (78%). This was a much higher percentage than in Arizona overall (45%). Nine percent of children birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region identified as White alone, and 8% identified as Black. Less than 2% identified as American Indian. Fifty-six percent of the population five and over in the First Things First South Phoenix Region spoke Spanish in the home. According to U.S. Census data, one in five children between the ages of 5 and 17 years old lived in a home where no one over the age of 14 spoke English "very well."

Income and 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.

Approximately one in three children ages birth through 5 was part of a family living in poverty in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2010, according to U.S. Census data.

- Children 5 to 17 living in the areas served by Isaac (43%) and Murphy (44%) Elementary School Districts had a much higher rate of poverty than those in the areas served by Laveen (20%) and Pendergast (23%) Elementary School Districts.
- Median family incomes in Phoenix City were below those of families in Arizona. For example, married couple families in Phoenix City earned \$65,778 as compared to \$72,316 in Arizona according to the 2008-2010 Census estimates.



Food Insecurity

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.

Approximately 1 in 4 children in Maricopa County lived in families that didn't have enough food to eat in 2010.

- Overall food insecurity rates in Maricopa County (16%) were similar to those of Arizona (19%) in 2010. Children in the state (29%) as well as Maricopa County (25%) were much more likely to be food insecure than adults.
- The percentage of children eligible for free and reduced price meals increased across most districts in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, from 2007 to 2011.
 - Pendergast Elementary School District increased from 51% of children eligible for free and reduced price meals in 2007 to 65% in 2011. Cartwright had the highest percentage of children eligible for free or reduced price meals in 2011 at 92%.

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.

Half of parents surveyed in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having gone without at least one basic need in the 12 months prior to the 2012 survey.

- Nearly half of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region who went without basic needs in the last year reported having gone without gasoline for their car. Forty-two percent reported having gone without medical care and 34% reported having gone without food.
- Nearly three-quarters of First Things First South Phoenix survey respondents reported receiving some form of public assistance in 2012.
 - Of those who reported receiving assistance, 71% reported receiving SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) and 39% reported receiving WIC benefits. Twenty-nine percent of survey respondents reported receiving Medicare or Medicaid.



Unemployment

The unemployment rate as defined by the International Labor Organization measures the number of people who are without jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks. The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. While the unemployment rate provides some measure of a community's economic well-being, it does not capture those who have stopped looking for work, who are underemployed, or struggling to make ends meet.

Nearly one in 10 individuals in the labor force in Phoenix City was unemployed in 2011.

- The unemployment rate in Phoenix City was nearly 10% in 2011, down from 11% in 2010.

Foreclosures

When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally. When children change homes frequently, it can contribute to lower performance in school and more delinquent behaviors in the classroom. Families who experience foreclosure are often left in housing they are still unable to afford, where parents have to make tradeoffs in order to pay for other household costs such as food and health care. Young children living in families that are behind in rent are more likely to be in fair or poor health, at risk of delays in their social, emotional, motor, or cognitive development and may be below average length or height due to food insecurity.

The foreclosure rates in most communities of the First Things First South Phoenix Region were higher than both Maricopa County and Arizona.

- The Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood had the highest foreclosure rates in the region, with 1 in every 118 homes in foreclosure in zip code 85043 and 1 in 123 homes in zip code 85339.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

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

There are limited numbers of child care spaces in the First Things First South Phoenix Region and the cost of many child care spaces is high.

- There were a total of 231 child care programs in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2011, with 9,630 spaces available to children.



- The average daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from \$20.00 to \$40.80 in 2010. For part-time child care, the average daily cost ranged from \$12.50 to \$33.00. Having a child under the age of one in child care was more costly on a daily basis than having children ages one through five in child care.
- The number of families receiving child care subsidies decreased from 1,837 families in January 2009 to 1,174 in January 2011. In 2009, families benefited from additional funds to child care assistance programs by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The decrease seen in 2011 is likely due to the exhaustion of those funds.¹

Family Literacy and School Success

Family Literacy

Research in 40 countries showed that children in homes with more than 100 children's books performed much better in reading achievement at 4th grade than did children with 10 or fewer books. Arizona ranks as one of the worst states in the country (44th out of 50) for the percentage of parents reading every day to their child ages 0-5; only 43% of parents of children 0-5 surveyed in the National Survey of Children's Health in 2003-2004 reported reading every day to their child.²

Half of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having 10 or fewer books in their home. Less than 10% reported having 50 or more books.

- Fifty-five percent of Latino parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix area said that they read to their child every day in a usual week, according to the Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Kindergarten Readiness

Between 15% and 30% of kindergarten students in the First Things First South Phoenix Regional School Districts were at grade level at the beginning of the school year in 2010/11, based on available data.

- In Isaac School District, 15% of students entered kindergarten at grade level. In both Pendergast and Fowler Elementary School Districts, more than half (56% and 60%, respectively) needed substantial intervention.

¹ National Women's Law Center. (2011). State Child Care Assistance Policies 2011. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.nwlc.org/>

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The National Survey of Children's Health (2003), Rockville, Maryland; U.S. department of Health and Human Services 2005.



3rd Grade Reading Scores

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

Many children in the First Things South Phoenix Region are behind in their reading skills.

- Twelve percent of students in Roosevelt Elementary School District were “falling far below” on the 3rd grade AIMS standards in reading followed by Isaac Elementary and Cartwright Elementary School Districts at 9% of students “falling far below” in 2011.

Graduation rates in the First Things First South Phoenix Region varied greatly from district to district.

- Though there are no high school districts in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, there are individual high schools serving the region. Westland School has had the lowest graduation rate of high schools in the region with 58% of students graduating in 2010. At Maryvale High School, 93% of students graduated in the same year.

Children with Special Needs

It’s crucial to have early identification of children’s special needs so that children can get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.³ Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and hearing screenings are an important practice to ensure children’s optimal growth.

There are limited services for children with special needs in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.

- About 359 children up to 36 months old in the First Things First South Phoenix Region received services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) in 2009/10, up from 161 in 2006/2007.
- Nearly 5% of Latino parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region with children ages 0-5 stated that their child had been diagnosed with Autism, 2% reported their child had been diagnosed with a developmental disorder and 2% with ADD or ADHD in 2010.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services reported that there were 64 Speech Language providers and 1 Audiologist in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2011.

³ 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.



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.

Most children in the First Things First South Phoenix Region seem to have regular access to medical care.

- Ninety percent of Latino parent respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported that their child had one person who they considered to be the child's personal doctor (thereby having a medical home) in 2010. Nine percent reported one or more doctors, and fewer than 2% said they had no one they considered their child's personal doctor.
- Slightly more than half of Latino parent respondents to the Arizona Health Survey in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported that their child had AHCCCS as insurance coverage, followed by 15% with employee-based coverage and 14% with other coverage in 2010.
- KidsCare enrollment numbers have dropped significantly in recent years due to severe funding cuts. KidsCare enrollment decreased 72% from 2010 to 2012 in Maricopa County.

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.

The number of births in the First Things First South Phoenix Region has decreased in recent years.

- There were 7,287 births in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2009, down from 8,244 in 2005.

The First Things First South Phoenix Region has seen an increase in the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, from 72% in 2005 to 77% in 2009.

- However, the First Things First South Phoenix Region has had slightly lower percentages of women who began prenatal care in the first trimester, when compared to the state. While 77% of women in the First Things First South Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first trimester this was compared to 80% in Arizona in 2009.



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.

There was a higher percentage of births to teen mothers in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in comparison to the state overall.

- Eighteen percent of births were to teen mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, compared to the state of Arizona (12%) in 2009. The percentage of teen mothers who were 19 years or younger has decreased in the region from 19% in 2005 to 18% in 2009.

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.

Many parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region do not have the support they need.

- About 16% of First Things First South Phoenix Region parent survey respondents reported that they never had someone they could count on to watch their child when they needed a break.
- More than 1 in 5 parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported feeling so sad or hopeless for 2 weeks or more that they stopped doing some of their usual activities.
 - Of respondents who reported feeling sad or hopeless, more than half (53%) reported they did not receive or did not really receive the help they needed.



PARENT PERCEPTIONS AND AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD 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.

- Parents of children ages 0-5 in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were asked to provide their perspectives on their knowledge about what First Things First does in their community in the 2012 survey. Half (53%) were not at all knowledgeable, 31% said they were somewhat knowledgeable and 16% were very knowledgeable about what First Things First does in their community.

Most parents get information on services and activities via word of mouth.

- Parent survey respondents reported they received important information about activities and services for their child and family from these top five sources: friends and family members (64%), the television (30%), Internet/email (29%), community agencies (14%), and doctors/clinics (14%).



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



OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

The First Things First South Phoenix Region is a primarily urban area within the Phoenix metropolitan area. The region itself has been defined by First Things First by zip codes: 85009, 85031, 85033, 85035, 85037, 85040, 85041, 85042, 85043, and 85339. According to U.S. Census data, the population was 419,714 in 2010. There were an estimated 52,710 children ages 0-5, 13% of the overall population.

To better understand the diversity within the region, the South Phoenix Regional Council has divided the region into regional neighborhoods. They have defined four neighborhood areas in the region: Maryvale (85037, 85031, 85033, 85035); a portion of Central City South (85009); Laveen/Southwest Suburban (85043, 85339); South Phoenix, 85041, 85040, 85042. These divisions are used throughout the report to better identify and target the needs and assets of children in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.

There are nine different school districts serving children within the First Things First South Phoenix Region: including Roosevelt, Laveen, Murphy, Fowler, Riverside, Cartwright, Isaac, Pendergast and Tolleson. Data from these school districts, and the areas they serve, provide a more comprehensive view of many of the issues affecting the community.



BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

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



Population

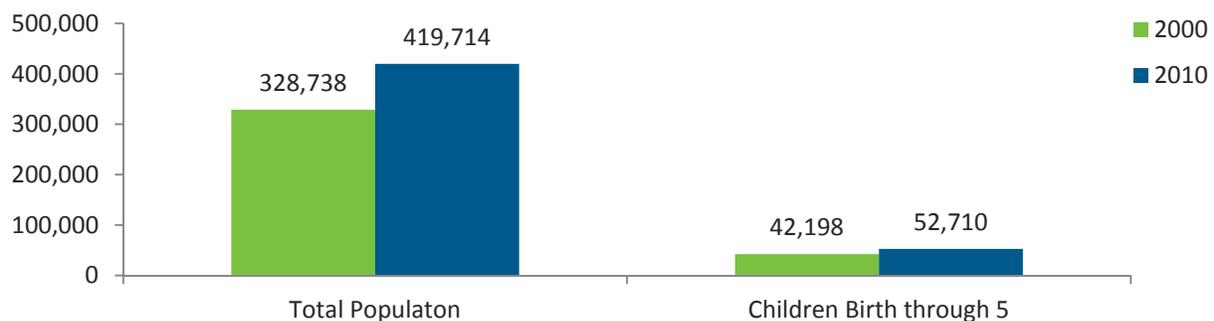
Why It Is Important

Since the 2010 First Things First Needs and Assets Report, the U.S. Census Bureau released a number of new data. Demographics of the First Things First South 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

The estimated total population of the First Things First South Phoenix Region was 419,714 in 2010, up from 328,738 in 2000. The total population estimate of children ages birth through 5 rose from 42,198 in 2000 to 52,710 in 2010.

Total Population Estimates, First Things First South Phoenix Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table QT-P2- Single years of age and Sex. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Forty-four percent of the region's target population, children ages 0-5, lived in the Maryvale Neighborhood (23,075 children), followed by the South Phoenix Neighborhood with 28% (14,782 children ages 0-5).

Population by First Things First South Phoenix Region Neighborhoods, 2011

AREA	TOTAL POPULATION	POPULATION BIRTH THROUGH 5	% OF POPULATION BIRTH THROUGH 5
Maryvale Neighborhood	175,787	23,075	13.1%
Central City South Neighborhood	52,520	6,210	11.8%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	66,146	8,643	13.1%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	125,261	14,782	11.8%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	419,714	52,710	12.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table QT-P2- Single years of age and Sex. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

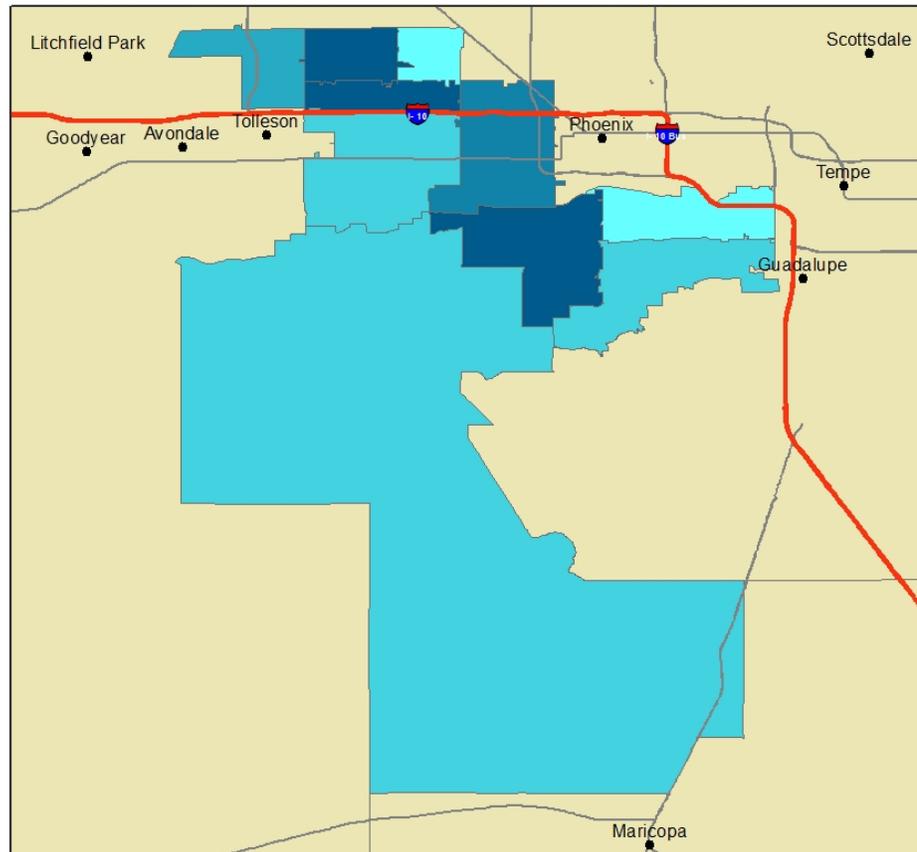


Population Birth Through 5 Years Old, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2011



First Things First South Phoenix Region

Population Birth through 5 Year Olds



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table QT-P2- Single years of age and Sex. Retrieved 2011 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 suggest 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

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*. 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.



A recent study by Child Trends suggests that children and adolescents from disadvantaged families were less likely to act out, display symptoms of depression, or to have been retained in a previous grade, when their mothers reported having emotional support with childrearing. These children and adolescents were also more likely to display social competence and school engagement than were their counterparts whose mothers did not report having emotional support.⁶

While the effects of single parent households on the health and well-being of children have been long recognized, 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 led households in 2009. These grandfamilies require unique programs and services targeted at bridging the generation gap.⁷

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Golden Gate KARE Center*** supports family members raising grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted children, children with a family member in jail, or any child under 18 not born to them. KARE offers Spanish and English advocacy, support groups, referrals, and help with guardianship packets.
- **Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)** supports individuals applying for child support services in Arizona regardless of income, residency, nationality or gender. The department helps to establish paternity; establish child support payments for the parent whose children live in the home; modify child support payments; enforce child support and locate absent parents. DES recognizes and provides services to grandparents raising grandchildren and other custodians.

⁶ Bandy, T. Andrews, K. and K. Anderson Moore. (2012). Publication #2012-05: Disadvantage families and child outcomes: the importance of emotional support for mothers. Child Trends. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.aopc.org/>

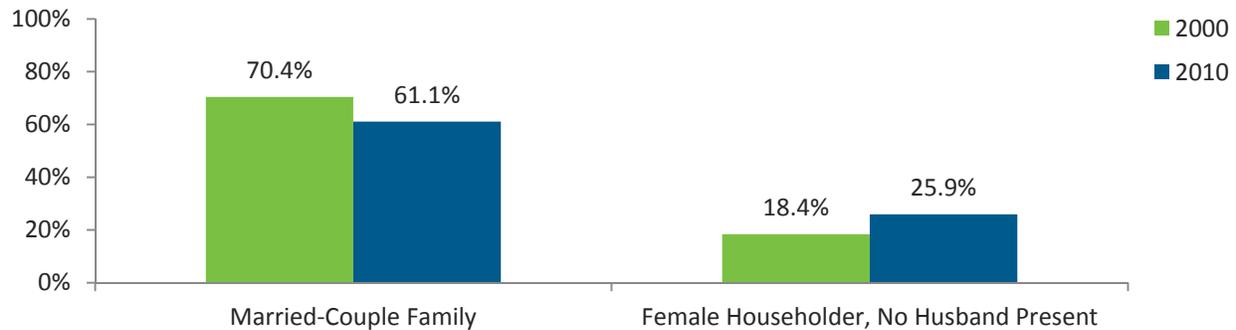
⁷ Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E. (2009). A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. *School Psychology Quarterly*, Vol 24(3), Sep 2009, 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226



What the Data Tell Us

The percentage of married-couple families decreased from 70% in 2000 to 61% in 2010 in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. The percentage of single mother households increased from 18% to 26%.

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

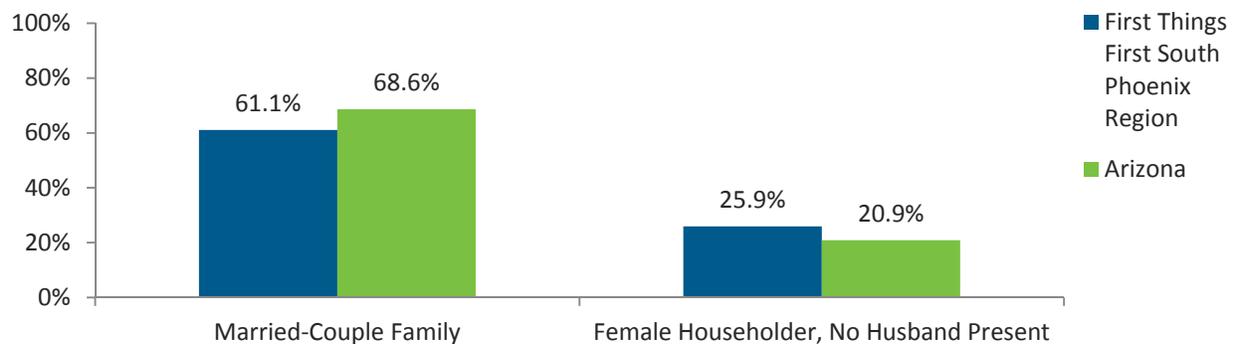


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P015- Family Type by Presence of Own Child Under the age of 18. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.

Note: 85042 unavailable for 2000.

When comparing the First Things First South Phoenix Region to Arizona, data show a higher percentage of female headed households in the region (26%) as compared to Arizona as a whole (21%).

Types of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P38- Family Type by Presence of Own Child Under the age of 18. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.



There were 7,234 households with children under 18 led by grandparents in the region (5% of regions households with children under 18). In the majority (80%) of grandparent-led households, the child's parent(s) were also present, while 20% of grandparent-led households had no parent present.

Children Under 18 Years Old Living with Grandparents, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 18
Grandparent-led households	7,234	5.0%
Of Grandparent-led households		
Parent Present	5,811	80.3%
No Parent Present	1,423	19.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B1002- Grandchildren under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent by Grandparents Responsibility and Presence of Parent. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B1005- Households By Presence of People Under 18 Years by Household Type. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these numbers due to small population sample

Race/Ethnic Distribution

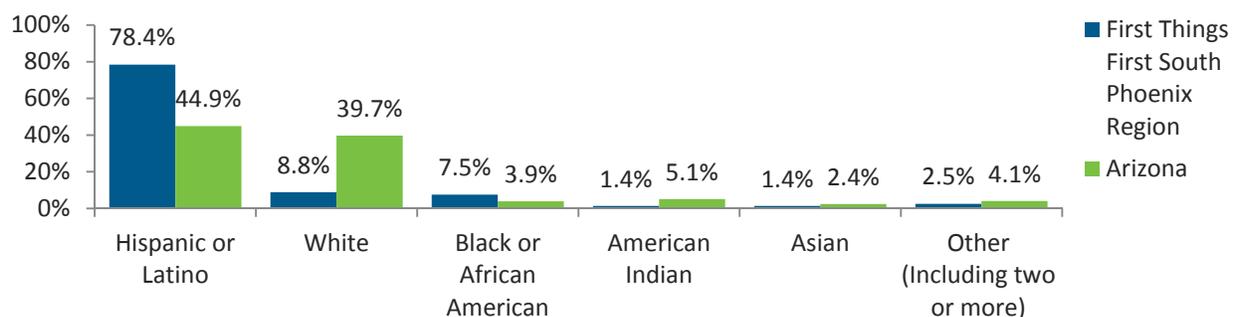
Why It Is Important

Arizona is a very ethnically diverse state with large percentages of individuals who identify as White, Latino and American Indian. 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

The population of children ages birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region was primarily Hispanic or Latino (78%) in 2010. This was followed by White alone (9%), and Black (8%). There was a higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino and Black children age birth through five in the region (78% and 8%) than compared to the state (45% and 4%).

Race/Ethnicity of Children Birth Through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table Pct12 (H - O)-Sex by Age. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.

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



The ethnicity of children ages birth through five varied by neighborhood. Ninety-two percent of children in the Central City South Neighborhood identified as Hispanic Latino, compared to just 60% of children in the Laveen Neighborhood. The Laveen Neighborhood had a higher percentage of children who identified as White (16%), while the South Phoenix Neighborhood had the highest percentage of children identified as Black/African American (12%).

Race/Ethnicity of Children Birth Through Five, 2010

AREA	HISPANIC / LATINO	WHITE	BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN	AMERICAN INDIAN
Maryvale Neighborhood	85.4%	7.0%	4.2%	0.7%	0.8%
Central City South Neighborhood	91.9%	3.3%	3.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	60.4%	16.0%	10.9%	4.2%	4.3%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	72.3%	9.6%	12.4%	1.5%	1.2%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	78.4%	8.8%	7.5%	1.4%	1.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P18 (H and I)-Sex by Age. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.

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.⁸ 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

While there are no English as a Second Language programs for children in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, there are a number of programs for adults including:

- ***Unlimited Potential*** offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and tutoring for class participants. Offerings include a two-year ESL class and English conversation classes.
- ***The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)*** offers English as a Second Language classes.

⁸ The Center for Public Education. (2000). Top Five Languages by State. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>



- **The Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS)** offers a Spanish Bilingual Assistant class that trains bilingual Spanish speaking staff to serve as health care interpreters. Students participate in clinical practice and written and listening/comprehension exercises.
- **Head Start Parents** may take ESL classes at the Martin Luther King, Jr. School.
- **Friendly House's** Adult Education Program includes instruction in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
- **Amigos Center**, a satellite program of the Wesley Community Center, offers English as a Second Language and Conversational Spanish classes.

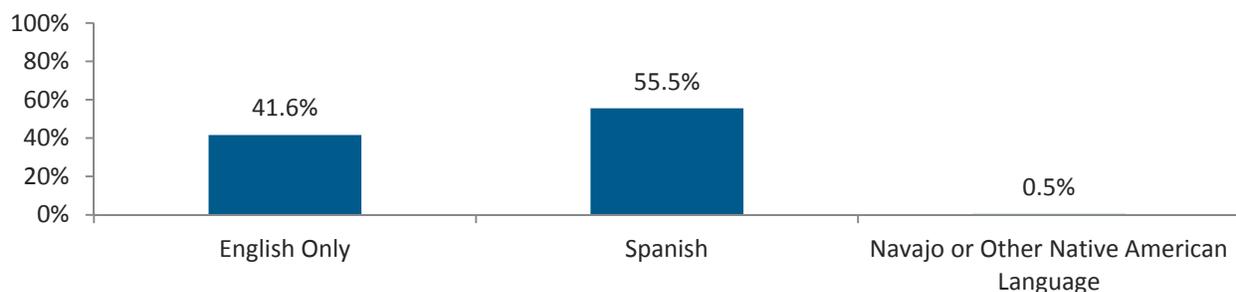
What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in town hall meetings at M.L. King Elementary and in the Riverside School District in 2011 reported that language could be an obstacle:
 - Participants in M.L. King reported that **social workers sometimes only speak English**.
 - Participants in M.L. King also said that **language barriers make it difficult to help their children with school work**, and that there was a different language spoken in the schools and no support from those schools.
 - Participants in Riverside School District said that it would be **useful to get information on English classes** to help adults communicate with their children's teachers.
 - Participants in M.L. King also said that they believed **learning English** was one of the most important things parents and caretakers can do to help their children.

What the Data Tell Us

Fifty-six percent of the population age five and over in the First Things First South Phoenix Region spoke Spanish in the home and 42% spoke English in the home in 2010. Less than 1% reported speaking Navajo or another Native American Language.

Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 and Over, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2010

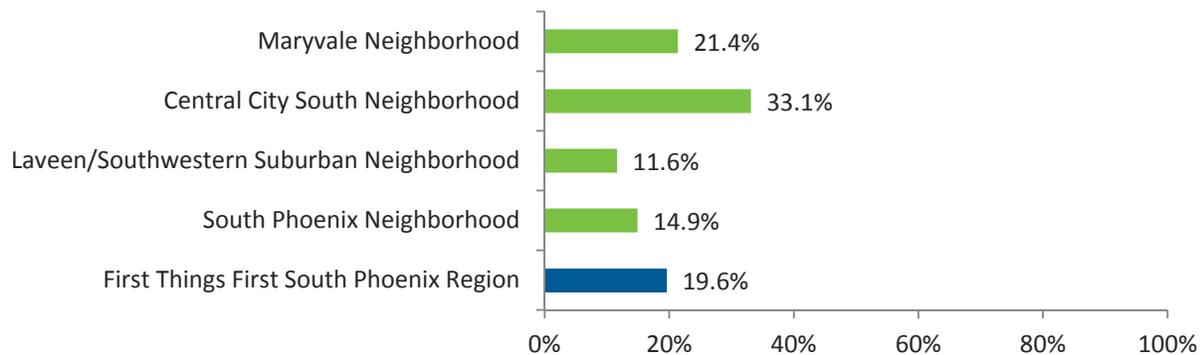


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table B16001- Language Spoken in the Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 and Over. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.



One-third (33%) of children ages 5 through 17 living in the Central City South Neighborhood lived in non-English speaking households compared to just 12% in the Laveen/Southwestern Suburban Neighborhood, and 20% in the region overall in 2010.

Children Ages 5 Through 17 Living in Non-English Speaking ⁹ Households, 2010



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

Note: Values are the number of children ages 5 through 17 living in linguistically isolated households divided by the total number of children ages 5 through 17 living in households.

⁹ A "linguistically isolated" household is one "in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English and no person 14 years old and over who speaks a language other than English speaks English 'Very well.' In other words, a household in which all members 14 years old and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than 'Very well' (have difficulty with English)." (U.S. Census Bureau).

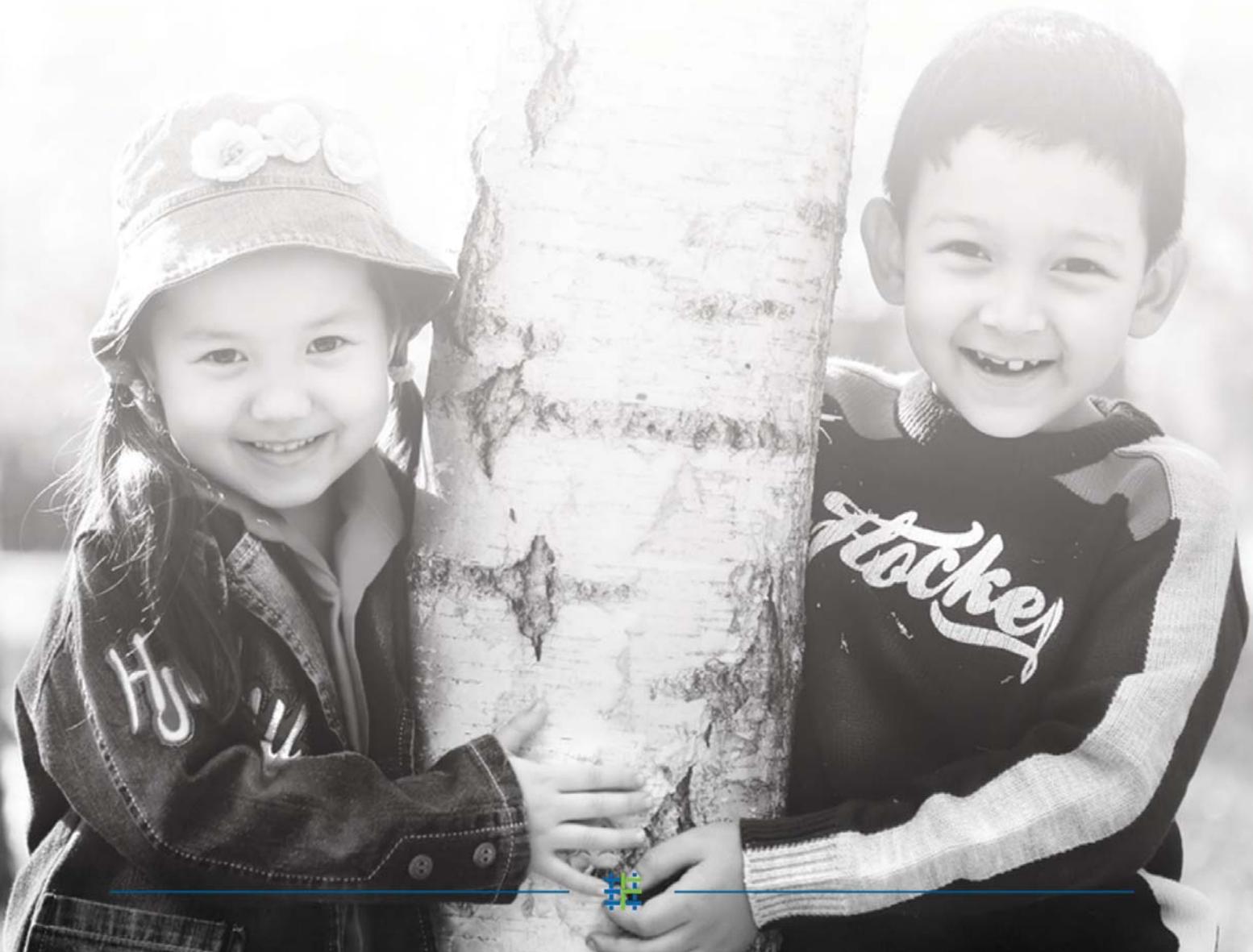


ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

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



Income

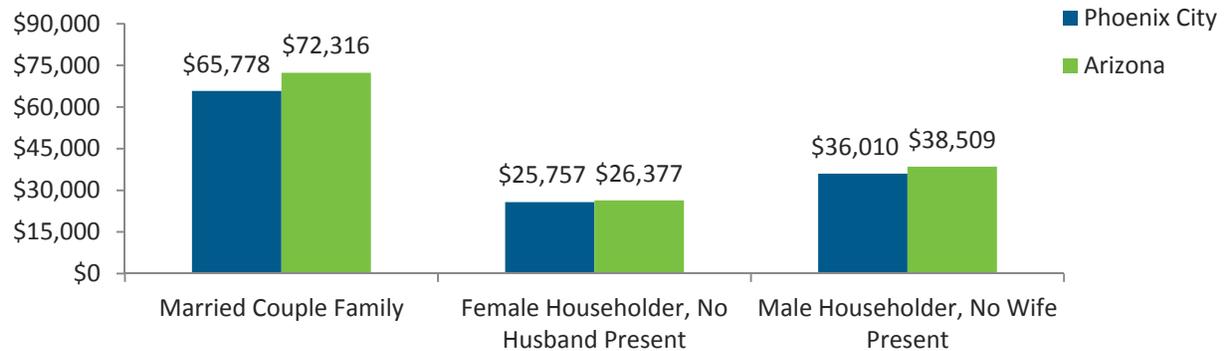
Why It Is Important

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

What the Data Tell Us

Median family incomes in Phoenix City were below those of families in Arizona. For example, married couple families in Phoenix City earned \$65,778 as compared to \$72,316 in Arizona according to the 2006-2010 Census Estimates. Male householders without a wife present in Phoenix City had much lower incomes (\$36,010) than those in the state of Arizona (\$38,509).

Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, 5-Year Estimates 2006-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.



Families living in the Isaac Elementary School District area had much lower median incomes (\$19,469 for female headed households) than families living in the areas served by the other regional school districts.

Median Family Income, First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts, 5-Year Estimates 2006-2010

AREA	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER	MALE HOUSEHOLDER
Maryvale Neighborhood			
Cartwright Elementary School	\$45,397	\$27,409	\$41,002
Pendergast Elementary School	\$67,657	\$43,147	\$42,327
Central City South Neighborhood			
Isaac Elementary School	\$36,406	\$19,469	\$33,472
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood			
Fowler Elementary School	\$61,347	\$21,585	\$51,094
Riverside Elementary School	\$47,232	\$30,313	\$43,750
Laveen Elementary School	\$81,644	\$38,963	\$43,104
South Phoenix Neighborhood			
Roosevelt Elementary School	\$57,258	\$26,983	\$38,661

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table S1903- Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2008 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: Data on the area surveyed by Murphy Elementary School are not presented due to large margin of error.



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. The most recent Self-Sufficiency Standard available for Arizona was released in 2012 and provides a helpful estimate of a families' financial situation. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Maricopa County was \$51,115 annually for a single parent with two children and \$58,798 for a family with two parents, a preschooler and school age child.

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Maricopa County, 2012

MONTHLY EXPENSE	FAMILY TYPE			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler School-age	2 Adults + Infant Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler School-age
Housing	\$871	\$871	\$871	\$871
Child Care	\$861	\$1,319	\$1,419	\$1,319
Food	\$388	\$582	\$731	\$799
Transportation	\$295	\$295	\$561	\$561
Health Care	\$394	\$417	\$464	\$472
Miscellaneous	\$281	\$348	\$405	\$402
Taxes	\$563	\$695	\$748	\$742
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$53	-\$100	-\$100	-\$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167	-\$167
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly	\$19.99	\$24.20	\$14.01 per adult	\$13.92 per adult
Monthly	\$3,518	\$4,260	\$4,931	\$4,900
Annual	\$42,214	\$51,115	\$59,178	\$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 Labor 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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Arizona Workforce Connection's*** Phoenix West and Phoenix South sites offer job listings, workshops, training, resume preparation, and job fairs.
- ***The Maricopa Workforce Connection's One-Stop Career Center- West Valley*** offers job search and retention assistance and resources.
- ***The Arizona Department of Economic Security Employment Services Program (N. 95th Ave and S. Central Ave offices)*** matches employers with qualified applicants.
- ***Friendly House*** connects business and job seekers by hosting job fairs, assisting businesses with small/medium scale recruitment, providing space for job interviews, and matching candidates to available jobs. The organization also provides direct services to job seekers, including job-related workshops and assessments, career guidance, and onsite computers.

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



What the Data Tell Us

The unemployment rate in Phoenix City was nearly 10% in 2011, however this was lower than the 11% seen in 2010; the unemployment rate was much higher than those seen prior to the economic downturn.

Unemployment Rate

PLACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Phoenix City	3.7%	6.1%	10.4%	10.6%	9.6%
Maricopa County	3.1%	5.1%	8.9%	9.1%	8.2%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.0%	9.3%

Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2012). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

Poverty

Why It Is Important

Developed in the early 1960s, the Federal Poverty Thresholds (more commonly known as Federal Poverty Levels) were based on three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate food plan, as determined by the Department of Agriculture. This figure presupposes that the average family spends one-third of their income on food. Annual adjustments for inflation occur, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, but the Federal Poverty Thresholds do not consider other factors besides food, such as child care, and housing costs. The Federal Poverty Thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes – including estimates of the number of Americans in poverty each year. Each person or family is assigned to one of 48 possible poverty thresholds based on size of family and ages of the family members.¹²

With more than 1 in 4 children living in poverty, Arizona had the 5th highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010.¹³ 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.¹⁴

¹²U.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>.

¹³Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from arizonaindicators.org

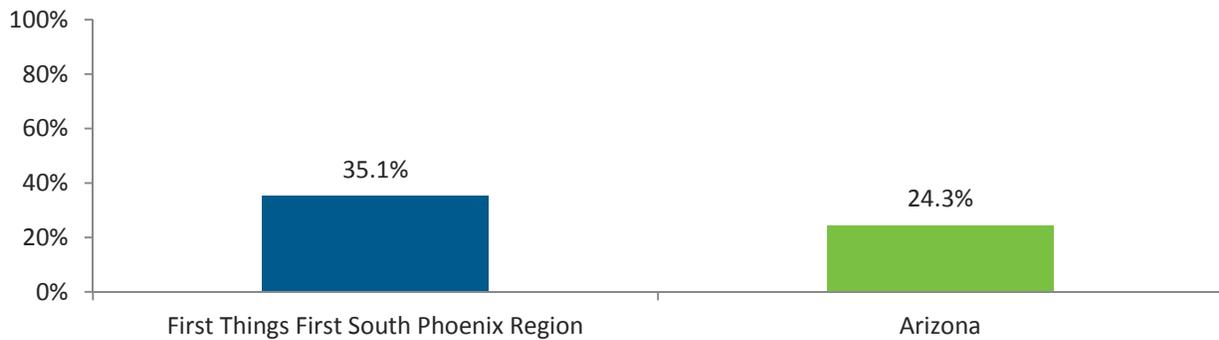
¹⁴Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.



What the Data Tell Us

Thirty-five percent of children ages birth through five living in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were in families that earned less than the federal poverty level, higher than in Arizona with 24% of children ages birth through five.

Children Ages Birth Through Five in Families Living in Poverty, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table B1700- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex and Age. American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Children 5 to 17 living in the Isaac and Murphy Elementary School District areas had a much higher rate of poverty (43% and 44% respectively) than those in the Laveen and Pendergast Elementary School District areas (20% and 23% respectively).

Children Ages 5 Through 17 in Families Living in Poverty, First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts, 2010

AREA	NUMBER OF CHILDREN 5-17	NUMBER OF CHILDREN 5-17 IN POVERTY	PERCENT OF CHILDREN 5-17 IN POVERTY
Maryvale Neighborhood			
Cartwright Elementary District	20,859	7,592	36.4%
Pendergast Elementary School	10,972	2,468	22.5%
Central City South Neighborhood			
Isaac Elementary District	7,896	3,426	43.4%
Murphy Elementary District	2,067	915	44.3%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood			
Fowler Elementary District	5,500	1,729	31.4%
Riverside Elementary District	1,287	315	24.5%
Laveen Elementary District	6,783	1,358	20.0%
South Phoenix Neighborhood			
Roosevelt Elementary District	16,411	5,875	35.8%

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



Basic Needs

Why It Is Important

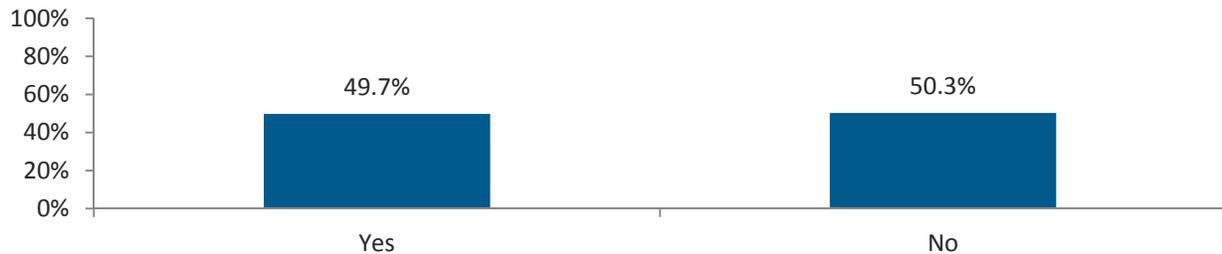
Individuals and families living in poverty or below the self-sufficiency level often have to make tough choices each month, sometimes foregoing certain basic needs. Going without basic needs such as food, housing, child care, health care, or clothing can have short and long-term consequences to residents' health and well-being.

What the Data Tell Us

Half of parents surveyed in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having gone without at least one basic need in the 12 months prior to the 2012 survey.



In any given month in the last 12 months, did you or your family have to go without basic needs such as child care, food, housing, or medical care? 2012



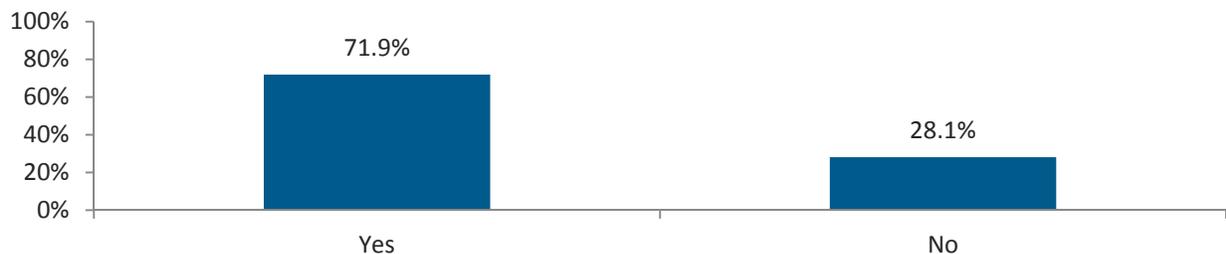
N=551

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Twenty eight percent of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported they did not usually have reliable transportation to the services they needed in 2012.



Do you usually have reliable transportation to services that you need, such as the grocery store, church, school, the doctor, or child care? 2012



N=533

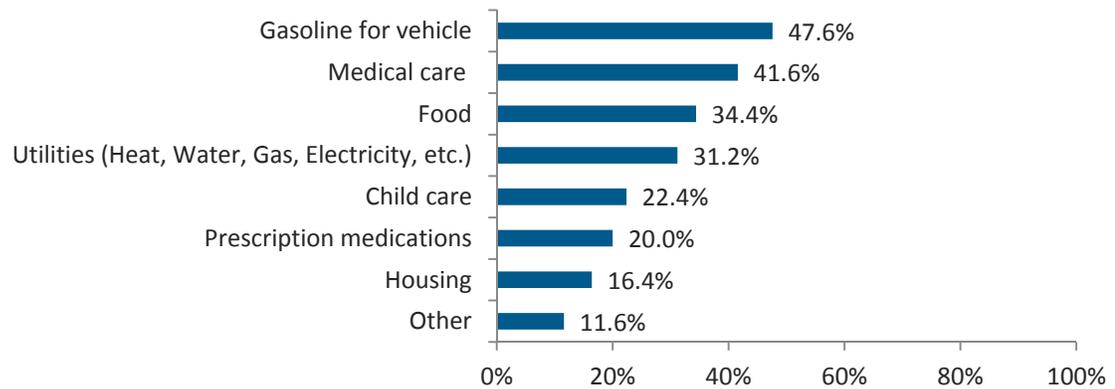
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Nearly half of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having gone without gasoline for their car in the 12 months prior to the 2012 survey. Forty-two percent reported having gone without medical care and 34% reported having gone without food.



In the past 12 months did you or your family go without any of the following? (Of respondents who reported going without a basic need)



Multiple response question with 527 respondents offering 840 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

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 18.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ This makes children more likely to suffer from poverty when they become adults.

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

¹⁵ Feeding America. (2012). Child Hunger Facts. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.feedingamerica.org>.

¹⁶ 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.



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.¹⁷

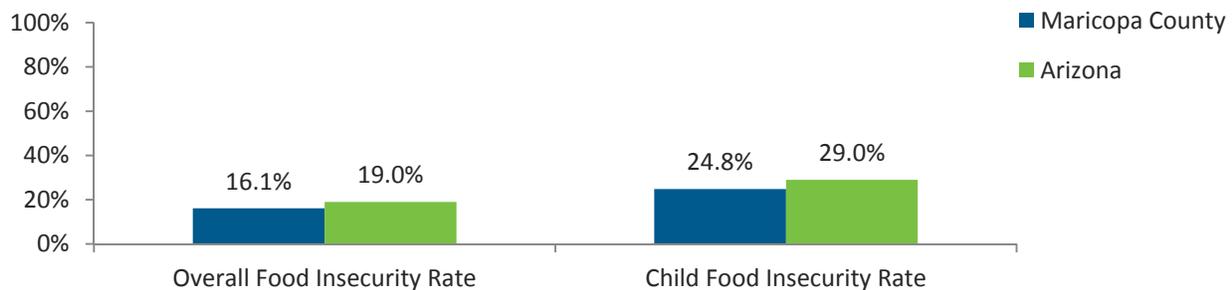
Snapshot of Community Assets

- *There are 16 food providers/food banks* in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.¹⁸
- *The Worthy Institute Family Resource Center* offers food box vouchers and WIC vouchers as part of its range of services.

What the Data Tell Us

Overall food insecurity rates in Maricopa County (16%) were similar to those of Arizona (19%) in 2010. Children in the state (29%) as well as Maricopa County (25%) were much more likely to be food insecure than adults.

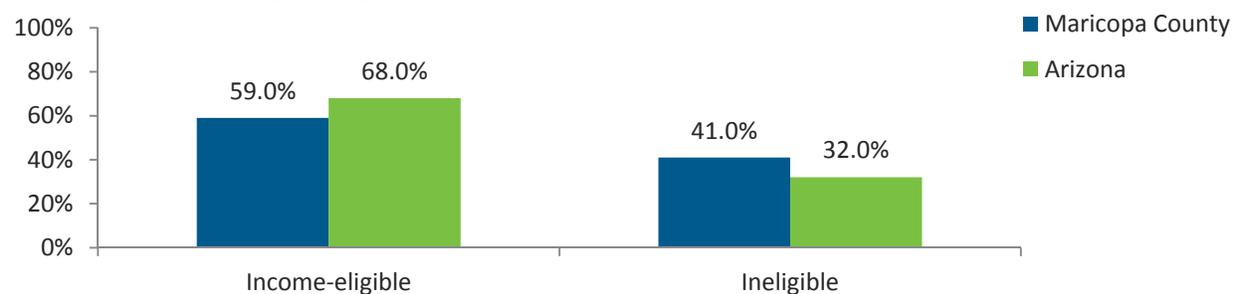
Food Insecurity Rate, 2010



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

Over a third (41%) of Maricopa County's food-insecure households had incomes that made them ineligible for supplemental food services like WIC and SNAP in 2010.

Supplemental Food Program Eligibility, 2010



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

¹⁷ Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. (2011). Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity. *Feeding America*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://feedingamerica.org/>.

¹⁸ Association of Arizona Food Banks. (2011). Food Provider Directory. Retrieved March 2012 from <http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/>.



The percentage of children eligible for free and reduced price meals saw gains across all districts in the First Things First South Phoenix Region from 2007 to 2011. Pendergast Elementary School District increased from 51% in 2007 to 65% in 2011. Cartwright had the highest percentage of children eligible for free or reduced price meals in 2011 (92%).

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	OCTOBER 2007	OCTOBER 2008	OCTOBER 2009	OCTOBER 2010	OCTOBER 2011
Maryvale Neighborhood					
Cartwright Elementary District	81.9%	85.6%	89.7%	90.3%	92.4%
Pendergast Elementary District	51.0%	58.5%	63.5%	59.1%	65.4%
Central City South Neighborhood					
Isaac Elementary District	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%	89.1%	89.0%
Murphy Elementary District	86.1%	87.8%	89.9%	90.8%	93.3%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood					
Fowler Elementary District	76.8%	80.3%	82.5%	85.4%	86.6%
Riverside Elementary School District	84.7%	83.4%	92.4%	90.8%	90.4%
Laveen Elementary District	65.6%	67.2%	71.9%	70.6%	71.2%
South Phoenix Neighborhood					
Roosevelt Elementary District	85.0%	89.7%	76.2%	86.2%	88.4%

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

Economic Supports

Why It Is Important

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Travis L. Williams and John F. Long Family Services Centers* provide emergency rental and utility assistance in crisis situations.



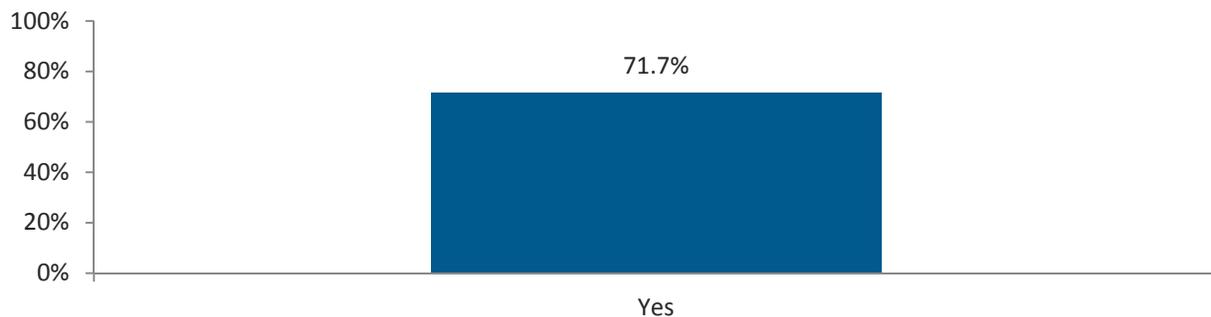
- **Friendly House's** social services program assists individuals and families to access necessary resources such as emergency food boxes and rent/utility/living expenses assistance.
- **The Society of St. Vincent St. Paul** offers tangible assistance to those in need of service. Assistance is offered on a person-to-person basis and may include direct financial or in-kind service, intervention, or consultation.
- **Black Family and Child Services of Arizona's** Family Support Program offers a variety of services to families, including assistance in locating emergency shelter, provision of emergency food, diapers and clothing, positive parenting information, and help connecting with other community resources.
- **Catholic Charities** offers a free FDIC-created financial education series focusing on financial recovery, credit use, and loans (including how to avoid predatory lending).
- **Carl Hayden Community Center** offers the Summer Meal Program with meals offered to all children in areas with significant concentrations of low-income children.

What the Data Tell Us

Nearly three-quarters of First Things First South Phoenix Region survey respondents reported receiving some form of public assistance in 2012.



Do you or your family receive any form of public assistance? 2012



N= 541

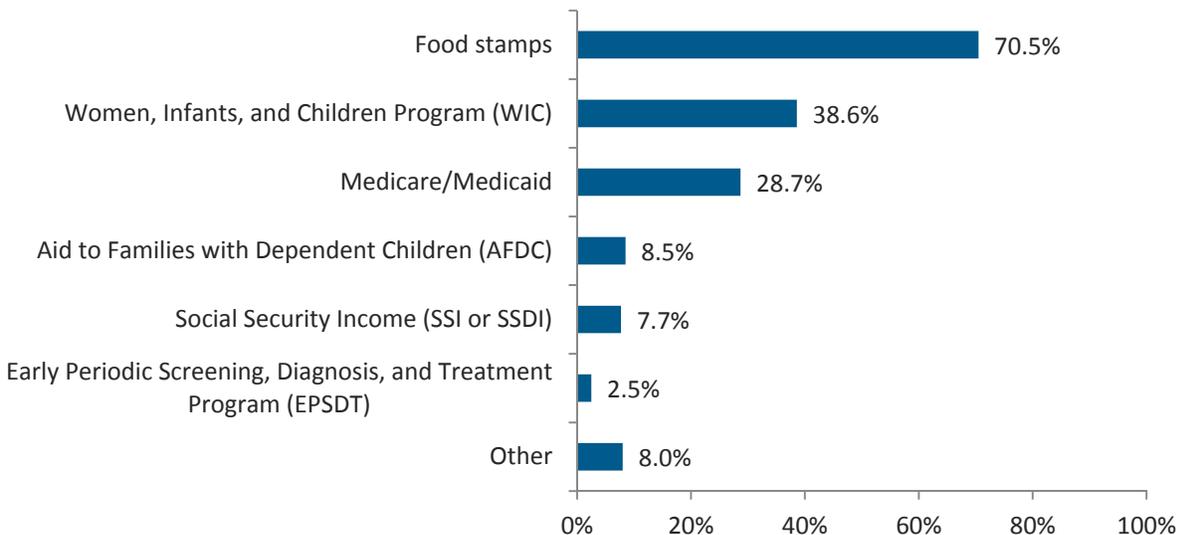
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Of those who reported receiving assistance, 71% reported receiving SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) and 39% reported receiving WIC benefits. Twenty-nine percent of survey respondents reported receiving Medicare or Medicaid.



Do you or your family receive any of the following forms of public assistance? (Of respondents who reported receiving assistance) 2012



Multiple response question with 519 respondents offering 753 responses.

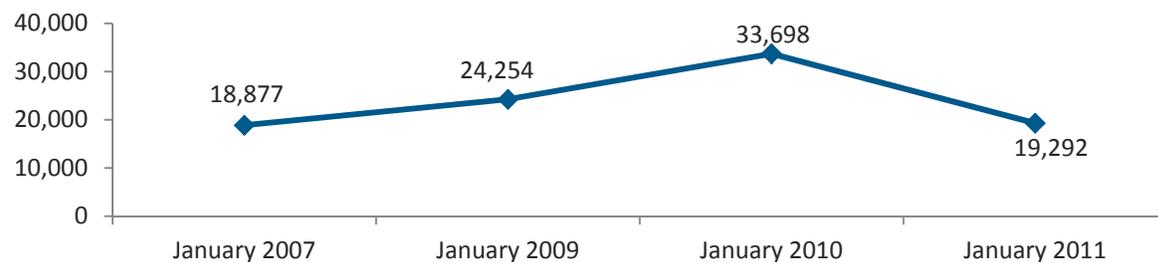
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

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.

From January 2010 to January 2011, the number of SNAP recipients in the First Things First South Phoenix Region decreased by more than 14,000. This was in contrast to a prior increase from 18,877 in 2007 to 33,698 in 2010.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) Recipients, Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, First Things First South Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Recipients. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from Arizona First Things First.

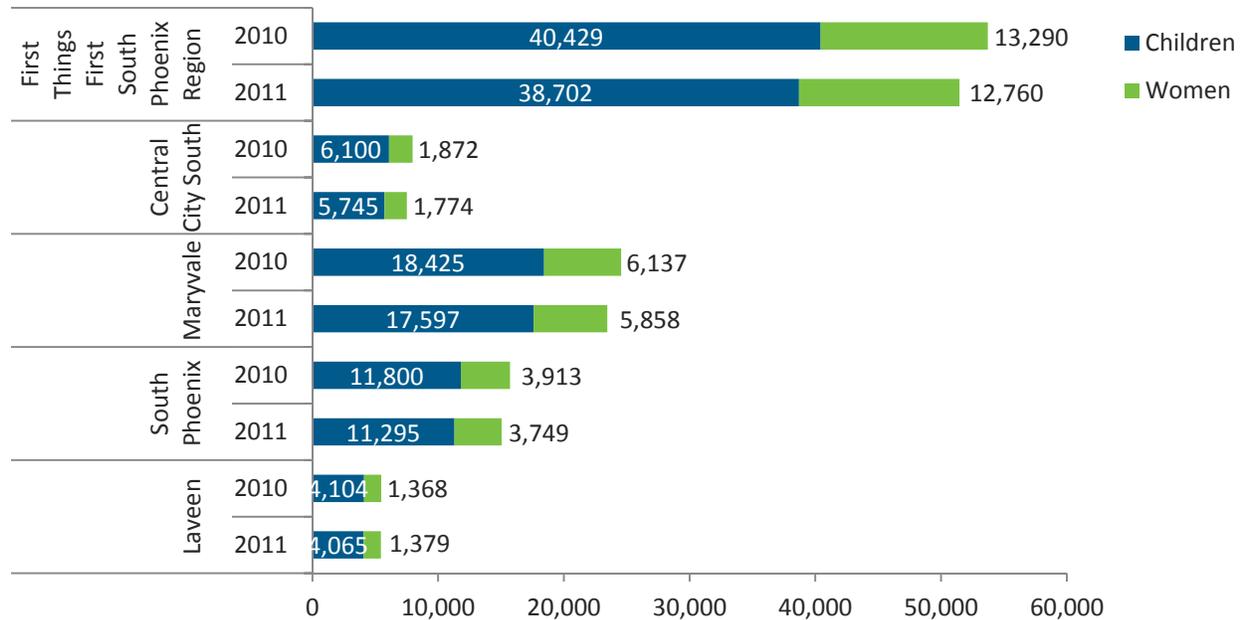
Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was formerly the Food Stamp Program.

Note: Data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).



The number of women and children receiving WIC benefits decreased between 2010 and 2011 in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. In 2011, there were 38,702 children and 12,760 women receiving WIC benefits. Within the region, the Maryvale Neighborhood had the greatest number of individuals receiving services, with 5,858 women and 17,597 children.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished data). Retrieved 2012 from First Things First. Note: First Things First South 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 South Phoenix Region only includes ZIP codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them.

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.¹⁹ 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.

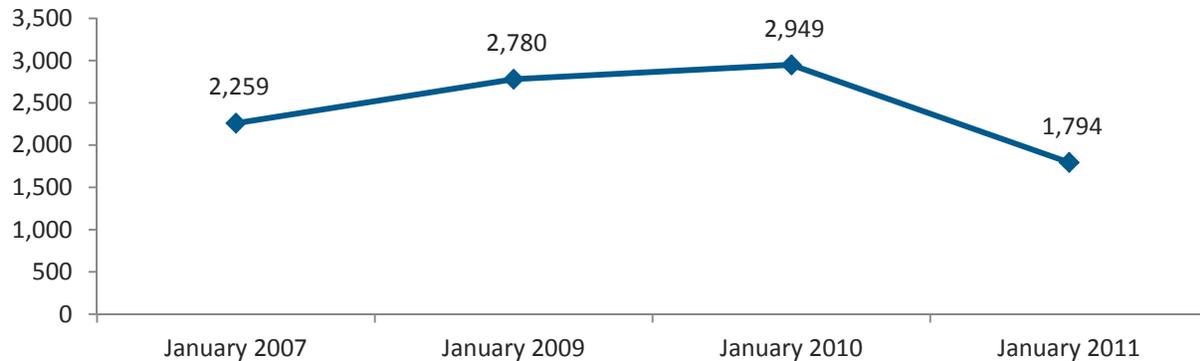
From 2007 to 2010, the number of families receiving TANF increased to 2,949, but in 2011, saw a dramatic decrease of 1,155 families, ending at 1,794. The substantial decline in participants observed is the result of legislative action:

¹⁹ 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>



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

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First. Note: First Things First South Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

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.²⁰ 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.^{21, 22}

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:

²⁰ 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>

²¹ McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

²² Though the definition of homeless was expanded in 2012 to include those who are unstably housed, or in imminent danger of losing their nighttime residence. The data presented reflects information collected prior to the definitional change.



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.

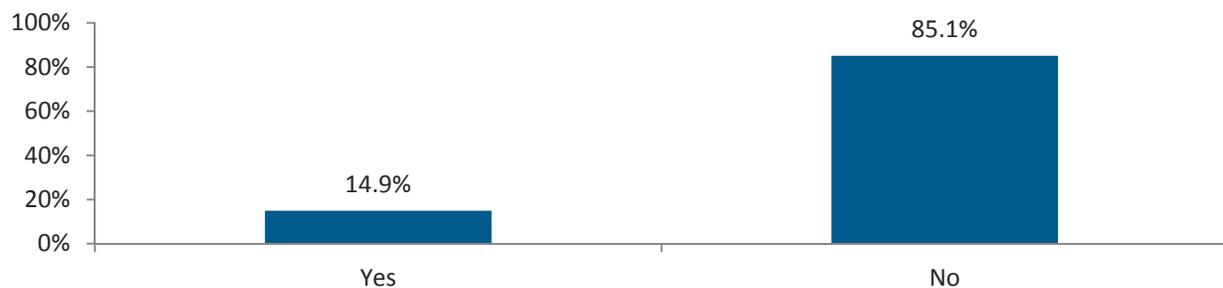
What the Data Tell Us

One of the most common living situations prior to entering literal homelessness is living with friends or family due to economic need, which is known as doubling up. The McKinney-Vento Act includes children in doubled up situations, however these children and families are often unidentified by school districts and service providers.

While 8% of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported they have themselves been without a home, apartment or place to stay in the 12 months prior to the survey, 15% of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having someone staying in their home that might otherwise be considered homeless. While this percentage seems low, with just over 500 respondents, this still translates to 77 individuals who report having someone who is doubled up in their homes.



Is anyone currently staying at your home on a temporary basis that otherwise might be considered homeless?



N=518

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Homeless Children, First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts, 2011/2012

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Isaac Elementary School District	10	15	131
Laveen Elementary School District	1	4	61
Pendergast Elementary School District	2	14	153
Riverside School District	0	4	16

Source: First Things First South Phoenix Regional School Districts. (2012). Correspondence with District Representatives. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First South Phoenix Regional School Districts.

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

Note: Total unavailable as not all districts reported numbers.

Homeless Children, City of Phoenix Head Start

SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER
2010/2011	90

Source: Head Start. (2012). Head Start PIR Summary Report. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

Note: Head Start homeless children only include those children enrolled in Head Start

Note: Data from 2009/2010 are not presented due to small population and the possibility of identifying participants.

Note: City of Phoenix Head Start data includes Head Start programs in Deer Valley, Washington, Alhambra, Greater Phoenix Urban League, B.T. Washington, Wilson, Murphy, and Fowler.

Foreclosure

Why It Is Important

Many families across the country have been negatively affected by the mortgage crisis. When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally. While not all children who experience a foreclosure will become homeless, they often experience the same increased mobility associated with homelessness. This increased mobility has been shown to be associated with lower performance in math and reading, and more delinquent behaviors in the classroom. A recent study by Children's Health Watch reported that children in families that are behind in rent are more likely to be in fair or poor health, to experience food insecurity and at risk of delays in their social, emotional, motor or cognitive development.²³

²³ Children's Health Watch. (2011) Behind Closed Doors: The hidden health impacts of being behind on rent. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/>



What the Data Tell Us

The foreclosure rate in most communities of the First Things First South Phoenix Region was higher than both Maricopa County and Arizona.

Foreclosure Rate by Community, First Things First South Phoenix Region, May 2012

PLACE (ZIP CODES)	NUMBER OF FORECLOSURES	RATE OF FORECLOSURES
Maryvale Neighborhood		
85031	33	1 in 264
85033	105	1 in 153
85035	67	1 in 223
Central City South Neighborhood		
85009	60	1 in 239
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood		
85043	80	1 in 118
85339	98	1 in 123
South Phoenix Neighborhood		
85037	109	1 in 134
85040	61	1 in 171
85041	146	1 in 118
85042	N/A	N/A
Maricopa County	6,593	1 in 249
Arizona	9,330	1 in 305

Source: RealtyTrac. (2012). Foreclosure Trends. Retrieved 2012 from Realtytrac.com



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

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

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

Early Child Care & Education

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

Special Needs

- Children with Disabilities: Identification & Services

Education

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

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

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

²² Ibid.



Early Child Care and Development

Child Care Access and Enrollment

Why It Is Important

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.²⁷ Child care and, in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, provides critical support for working families. Child care choices include center-based facilities, family and child care homes, and informal care by family (kin) and friends (kith).

Family, friend, and neighborhood child care programs (kith and kin) are a likely option for parents who cannot afford licensed child care centers. In Arizona, as many as 50% of children age 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

Nationally, a number of states have implemented Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) in an effort “to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs.” Quality First, Arizona’s QRIS and one of FTF’s signature programs, was established in response to this educational reform effort to improve quality and promote school readiness. The Quality First Rating Scale, which measures quality on a 5-star scale, incorporates evidence-based predictors that lead to positive child outcomes. The scale ranges from a 1-star rating –where the provider demonstrates a commitment to examine practices and improve the quality of care beyond regulatory requirements – to a maximum rating of 5-stars, where providers offer lower ratios/group size, higher staff qualifications that support significant positive outcomes for young children, curriculum that aligns with state standards and child assessment, and nurturing relationships between adults and children that promote emotional, social and academic development.

Approximately 36,000 Arizona children in 711 center and home-based settings now have access to a higher standard of child care through Quality First! The First Things First South Phoenix Region currently had 68 Quality First Child care programs in 2012. The Quality First star rating system is still in progress, however, as of July 2012, the First Things First South Phoenix Region housed fifteen 1-star programs, fifty-one 2-star rated programs, and two 3-star rated programs. The Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R) helps parents to find quality early care programs in their community.

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



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 CCR&R. Providers that are registered with CCR&R are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
 - Funds training and offers 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.
- ***The Arizona Kith and Kin Project*** aims to improve the quality of care provided by friends and family.

What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in a town hall meeting in the Cartwright School District in 2011 reported that many child care centers had a backlog.
- When participants in three 2011 town hall meetings were asked what qualities they thought a “good” child care center/home should have, common themes included cleanliness, safety, good nutrition, qualified/trained staff, good communication between parents and staff, and a low child to adult ratio.
 - Participants also identified as positive a range of educational strategies for child care centers/homes, including: exposing children to stimulating experiences, providing a print rich environment, not having a television, offering a positive emotional environment, and offering developmentally appropriate curriculum and toys.
 - Other positive attributes that came up in these discussions included diverse and culturally competent programs and two-way relationships with the community that could foster a sense of community ownership.



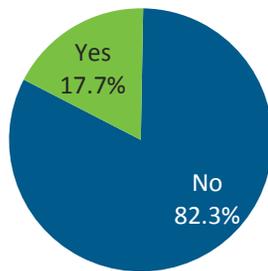
- Participants in town hall meetings in the Riverside and Cartwright School Districts in 2011 identified *The Arizona Kith and Kin Project's* services as helpful for their interactions with young children. Some participants in M.L. King Elementary reported that these services would have been helpful, but they could not access them.
- Participants in a town hall meeting in the Cartwright School District in 2011 identified *Head Start's* services as helpful for their interactions with young children.

What the Data Tell Us

A 2010 study of Latino parents in the South Phoenix Region found that nearly 18% of Latino parent survey respondents used child care for 10 hours or more per week in 2010.



Do you currently have any kind of regular child care arrangements for your child, for 10 hours or more per week? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



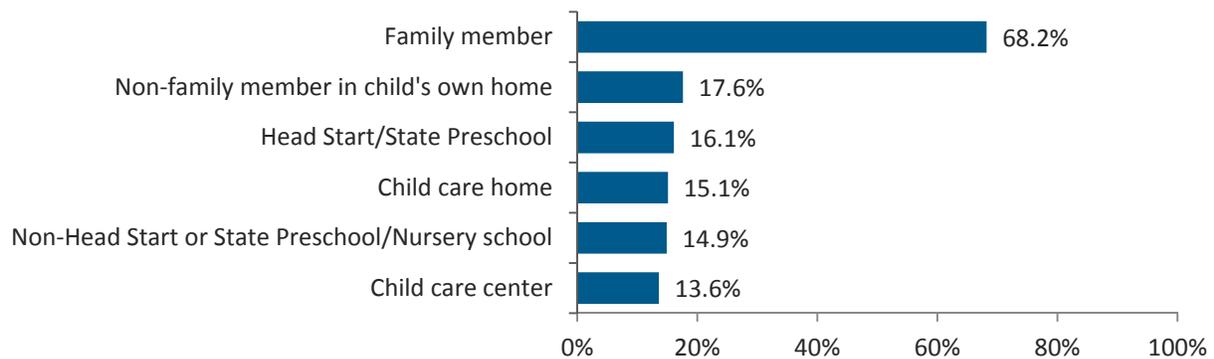
N=588

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

The top 3 sources of child care for Latino parent survey respondents in South Phoenix was a family member (68%), a non-family member in the child's home (18%), and Head Start/State Preschool in 2010 (16%).



Sources of Child Care (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



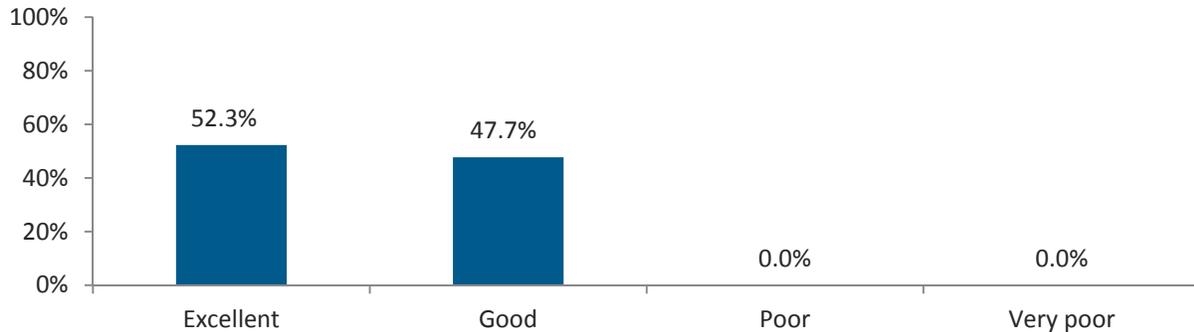
Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First. Multiple response questions, data may add to more than 100%



Latino parent survey respondents in South Phoenix rated their child care as excellent (52%), and good (48%) in 2010.



Describe the quality of the child care or early childhood education your child receives. (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010

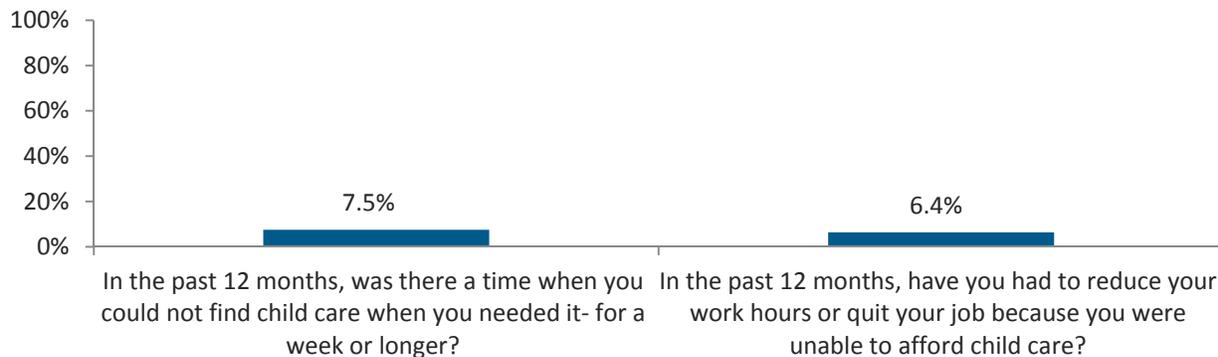


Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Less than ten percent of Latino parent respondents in the South Phoenix Region had trouble accessing child care in the 12 months prior to the study. Yet, 8% reported they could not find child care when they needed it (for a week or longer) and 6% had to reduce their work hours or quit a job because they were unable to afford child care.



Trouble Accessing Child Care, Respondents Answering “Yes” (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

School Readiness Indicator

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

There were a total of 231 child care programs in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2011, with 9,630 spaces available to children. About one-quarter, 55 of the 231 child care providers in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were enrolled in Quality First. Of programs enrolled in Quality First, the majority (69%) were child care centers.



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

	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	60	6,199
Child Care Public Schools	39	2,908
Child Care Small Group Homes	55	523
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	55	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	22	NA
Total Programs	231	9,630*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	55 (38 Centers, 17 Homes)	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). First Things First South Phoenix Region CCR&R. Received 2011 from First Things First.

National Association for the Education of Young People. (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.nacccp.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.

Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First South Phoenix Region Neighborhoods, 2011

CENTRAL CITY SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	9	1,008
Child Care Public Schools	6	636
Child Care Small Group Homes	1	10
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	0	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	0	NA
Total Programs	16	1,654*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	6 (5 Centers, 1 Home)	NA



MARYVALE NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	19	1,907
Child Care Public Schools	8	629
Child Care Small Group Homes	15	146
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	28	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	5	NA
Total Programs	75	2,682*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	13 (8 Centers, 5 Homes)	NA

SOUTH PHOENIX NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	27	2,231
Child Care Public Schools	11	543
Child Care Small Group Homes	27	260
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	19	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	9	NA
Total Programs	93	3,034*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	28 (21 Centers, 7 Homes)	NA

LAVEEN/SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	5	1,053
Child Care Public Schools	14	1,100
Child Care Small Group Homes	12	107
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	8	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	8	NA
Total Programs	47	2,260*
Enrolled Quality First Programs	8 (4 Centers, 4 Homes)	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). First Things First South Phoenix Region CCR&R. Received 2011 from First Things First.

National Association for the Education of Young People. (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.nacccp.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.

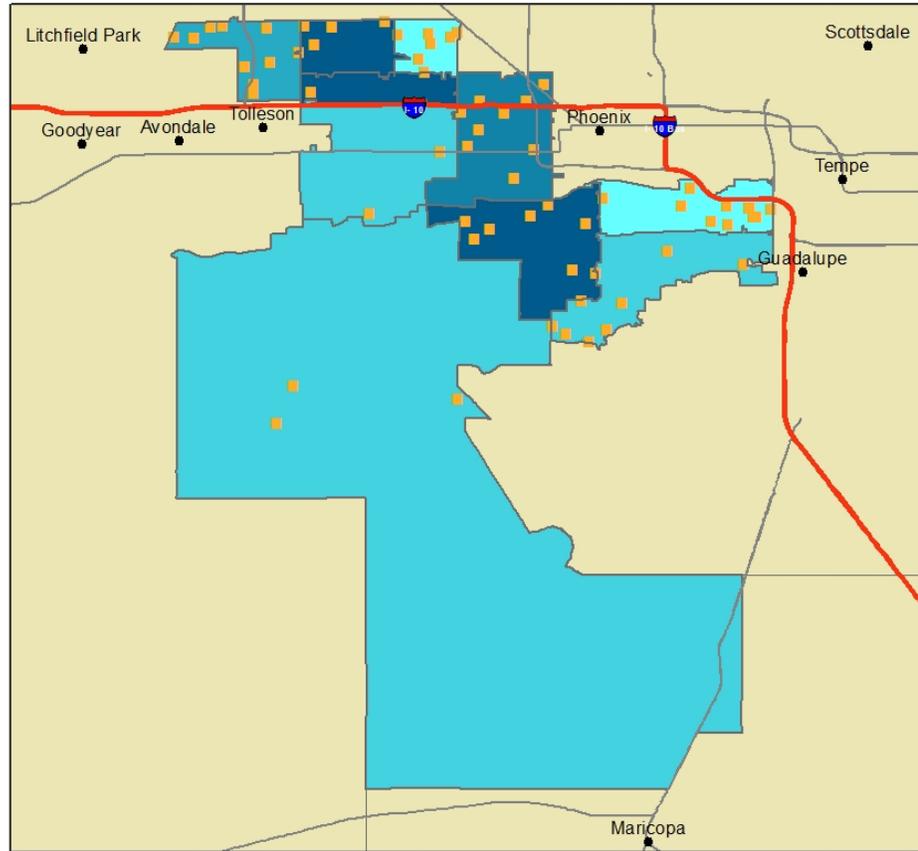
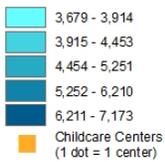


Number of Children Birth Through Five and Child Care Centers, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2011



First Things First South Phoenix Region

Population Birth through 5 Year Olds



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table QT-P2- Single years of age and Sex. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>
 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>.
 Note: Dot density information is based on zip code data, as such placement of dots are not site specific.

There were more than 4,000 children served by the City of Phoenix Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the 2010/2011 school year.

Head Start Enrollment, City of Phoenix Early Head Start and Head Start

	2009/10	2010/11
Enrollment		
Funded Enrollment	3,390	3,390
Cumulative Enrollment (Children)	3,947	4,185

Source: Head Start. (2012). Head Start PIR Summary Report. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: City of Phoenix Head Start data includes Head Start programs in Deer Valley, Washington, Alhambra, Greater Phoenix Urban League, B.T. Washington, Wilson, Murphy, and Fowler.



Cost of Child Care

Why It Is Important

Child care can be very costly for families. The cost of child care has grown twice as fast as the median income of families with children in the United States since 2000²⁹. However, many families are benefiting from local child care programs and subsidies that significantly lessen these costs.

For those who qualify, Head Start child care is provided at no cost to parents. Head Start 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.

Low-income parents who are working, in job training, or in school can receive child care subsidies through the Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The statutory limit for eligibility for child care assistance is 85% of the State median income. In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security (DES) administers CCDF subsidies.

In addition to CCDF subsidies, Arizona was the first in the nation to launch a statewide scholarship program through its First Things First emergency Child Care Scholarships. Implemented in April 2009, it allocated \$23 million, totaling more than 11,600 children who could benefit from the program.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First South 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 Community Is Saying

- Participants in a 2011 town hall meeting at the Riverside School District reported that the need for child care subsidies was increasing even as actual subsidies were being cut. They noted that both women and grandparents were going back to work, leaving a gap in available child care for families.

²⁹ 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.



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 the age of one in child care was more costly on a daily basis than having children ages 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 Year	\$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: Arizona 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.

Child Care Center Costs Compared to Median Household Income

SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA	INCOME		COST AS % OF INCOME	
	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER
Maryvale Neighborhood				
Pendergast Elementary School District	\$67,657	\$43,147	25.4%	21.3%
Cartwright Elementary School District	\$45,397	\$27,409	37.9%	33.5%
Central City South Neighborhood				
Isaac Elementary School District	\$36,406	\$19,469	47.2%	47.2%
Laveen/ Southwest Suburban Neighborhood				
Fowler Elementary School District	\$61,347	\$21,585	28.0%	42.6%
Riverside Elementary School District	\$47,232	\$30,313	36.4%	30.3%
Laveen Elementary School District	\$81,644	\$38,963	21.0%	23.6%
South Phoenix Neighborhood				
Roosevelt Elementary School District	\$57,258	\$26,983	30.0%	34.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). *American Communities Survey*. Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). Market Rates Survey. Retrieved January 16, 2011 from <http://www.azdes.gov>

Note: Calculations assumes costs of care includes 260 days-10 Federal holidays= 250 work days, based on a single mother with 1 1-2 year old, and married couple family with 1 1-2 year old and 1 3-5 year old.



Eighty-two percent of eligible families received child care subsidies in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2011, similar to the percentages in the state of Arizona.

Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

	JANUARY 2009	JANUARY 2010	JANUARY 2011
Number of Families			
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	2,275	1,336	1,438
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	1,837	1,111	1,174
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	80.7%	83.2%	81.6%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	81.4%	82.2%	81.1%
Number of Children			
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	3,552	2,070	2,292
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	2,637	1,599	1,899
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: First Things First South Phoenix Region	74.2%	77.2%	82.9%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	76.3%	77.0%	81.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Care Subsidies. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
Note: The First Things First South Phoenix Region is the sum of the 10 zip codes listed in the appendices.

Eighty percent of Head Start and Early Head Start enrolled children were income eligible for Head Start child care in the 2010/11 school year.

Head Start Demographics, City of Phoenix Early Head Start and Head Start

	2009/10	2010/11
Eligibility		
Income Eligible	95.0%	80.1%

Source: Head Start. (2012). Head Start PIR Summary Report. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
Note: City of Phoenix Head Start data includes Head Start programs in Deer Valley, Washington, Alhambra, Greater Phoenix Urban League, B.T. Washington, Wilson, Murphy, and Fowler.



Child Care Providers

Why It Is Important

The preparation and ongoing professional development of early child care professionals is closely linked to increased student learning and development.³⁰ According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, teachers who have good preparation in early childhood education can apply their knowledge of child development, use appropriate teaching strategies, meet the social/emotional demands of young children, understand children's thinking, know how to build student learning over time, and understand language and literacy developments.

It is often too costly for those who seek further education in the area of child development to obtain advanced degrees. To address this barrier, First Things First offers Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (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 REWARD\$ was designed to help retain qualified teachers to care for and educate young children. It was launched in FY 2010 to offer financial incentives (from \$300 to \$2,000) to early care and education professionals for education and commitment to continuous employment for at least a year.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
 - Provides TEACH scholarships for higher education and credentialing early care and education teachers.
 - Offers professional REWARD\$ financial incentives to encourage longevity and continuous skill improvement.
 - Supports education, mentoring and training for early care and education directors.
 - Funds mental health consultations for teachers and caregivers and tuition reimbursements to support professional development.
 - 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.

³⁰ Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). *Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.



What the Data Tell Us

There are several Early Childhood Education (ECE) professional development programs in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, including programs through Maricopa Community College, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona State University.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Programs, First Things First South 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 It Is Important

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.³¹ 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Unlimited Potential's Early Childhood Development Program*** teaches mothers about activities they can do at home to promote positive development and engages young children in varied activities that increase their physical, social, cognitive and linguistic skills. This program runs concurrently with the morning English as a Second Language class.
- ***Southwest Behavioral Health*** offers workshops to parents and families on early childhood development, parenting skills, parent/child communication and healthy families through its Community Youth Development office.
- ***Family Resource Centers*** offer a number of child development services to families and children ages birth through five in the community:
 - ***The Worthy Institute Family Resource Center*** offers nutrition education, parenting education and support groups, and early literacy after school programs.
 - ***The A.M. Hamilton Family Resource Center***, located within the Murphy School District, provides referrals and resources to assist families with basic needs and help parents encourage their children to learn.
 - ***The Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center***, funded by First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council in collaboration with the UA Cooperative Extension and the Roosevelt School District, offers weekly parent/child play groups, parenting classes, baby care workshops, support groups, and referrals.
 - ***Maricopa Integrated Health System***, funded by First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, also hosts a Family Resource Center

³¹The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>



- **Father Matters** offers monthly programs and workshops, including Fathers Mentoring Fathers, Teen Fatherhood, Financial Literacy, and Court and Custody. The organization also offers a weekly parenting class called “Parenting Across Cultures” that focuses on strengthening multi-ethnic families and communities.
- **Southwest Human Development’s Healthy Families Program** provides in-home support for families with newborns up to three months old; families may participate in the program for up to five years. Support includes child development and health information, peer support for families, and child and family literacy information.
- **The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council** funds in-home support services on a variety of topics, including parenting skills, early childhood development, and literacy through three local providers: Nurse Family Partnership through Southwest Human Development, Nurse Family Partnership through Maricopa County Department of Public Health and Parents as Teachers through Tanner Community Development Corporation.
- **Friendly House** provides in-home training and instruction in child care, behavior management, child development, household management and non-violent parent/child interactions. It also provides some in-home counseling for individuals and families, and in-office crisis counseling.
- **Catholic Charities’** services for families include counseling on a variety of topics, including parenting and family conflict.
- **Amigos Center**, a satellite program of the Wesley Community Center, offers child development programs for local residents.

What the Community Is Saying

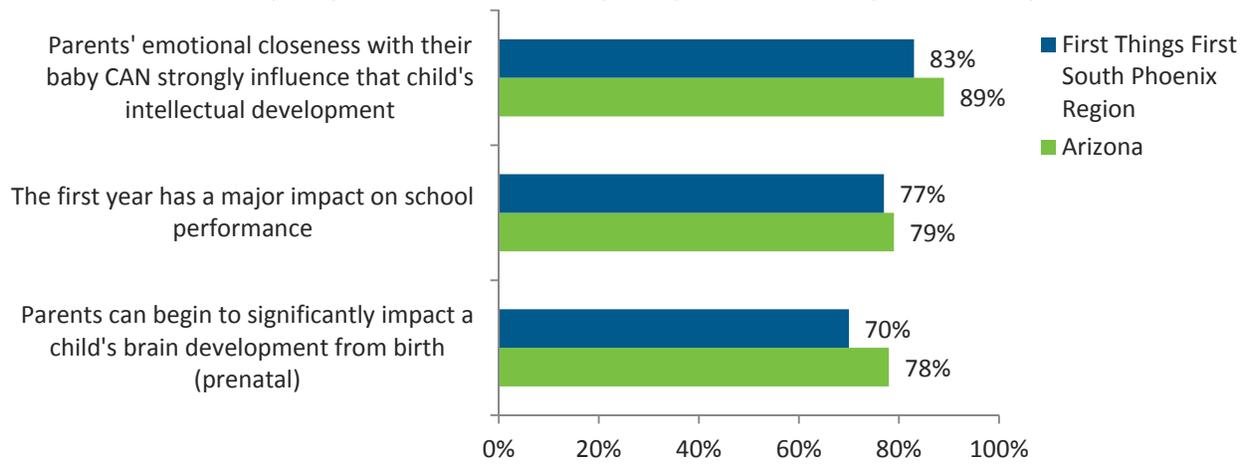
- Participants in a town hall meeting at the Riverside School District in 2011 identified “**Family Resource Center**” when asked “What services were helpful to you for your interactions with young children?”



What the Data Tell Us

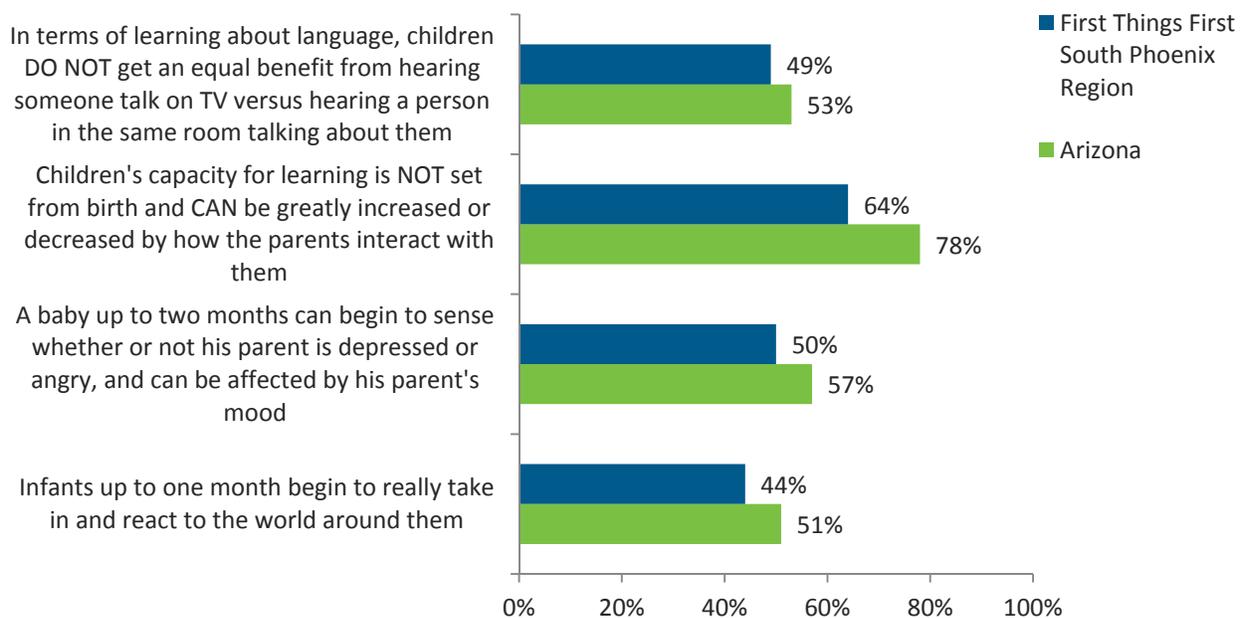
The large majority of parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region agreed with the statement that parent's emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence that child's intellectual development (83%), while only 44% of parents believed that infants at one month begin to take in and react to the world around them in 2008. Half of parents did not know that hearing a person speak in the same room with a child is better for the child's language development than having the child watch television. Only half of parents knew that a baby up to two months old can begin to sense whether his/her parents are depressed or angry and can be affected by his/her parent's mood.

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



Source: Arizona First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

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

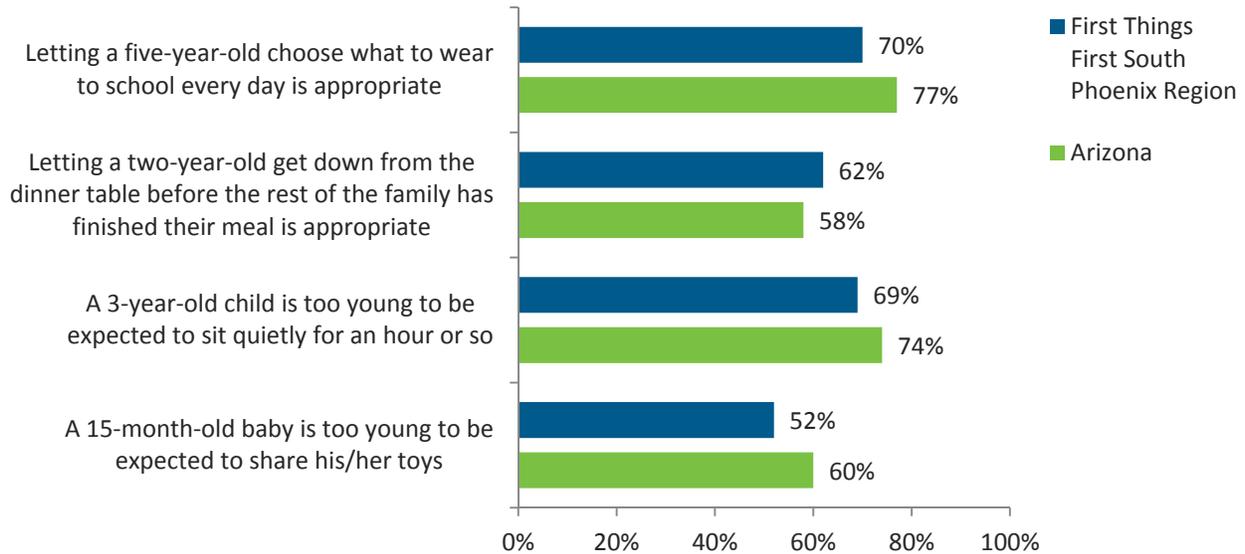


Source: Arizona First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.



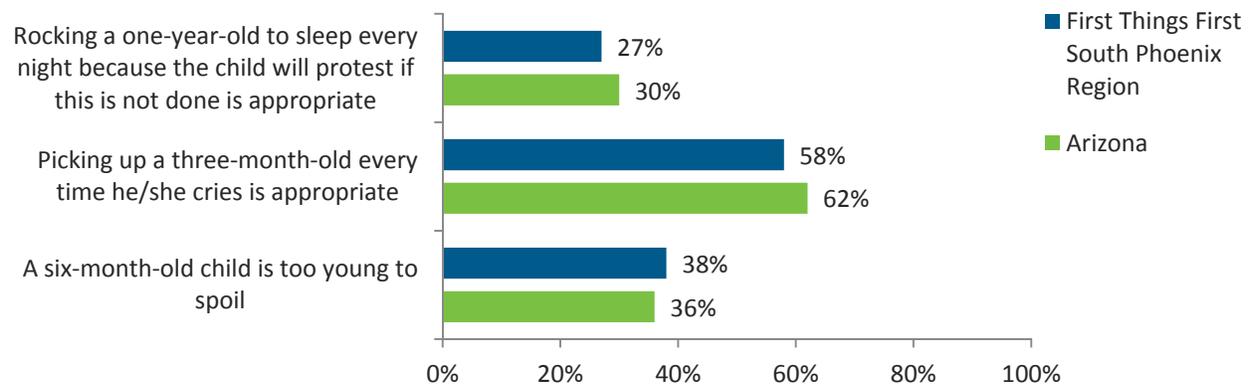
When parents were asked about children's social and emotional development, 70% of parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region agreed that letting a five-year-old choose what to wear to school every day is appropriate in 2008. Sixty-nine percent of parents knew that a three-year-old child is too young to be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so. However, only 27% of parents in the region believed that rocking a one-year-old to sleep every night because the child will protest if this is not done, is appropriate.

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



Source: Arizona First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First. Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

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



Source: Arizona First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2010 from First Things First. Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.



Special Needs

Children with Disabilities: Identification & Services

Why It Is Important

Early identification of children with special needs helps ensure these children get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.³² Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and hearing 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 help them be active participants in all areas of their child's special education framework (free resources, trainings, workshops, and consultations).

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Golden Gate Community Center's* free Health and Immunization Fairs include vision and hearing screenings for children.
- *The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)* offers vision and hearing screenings during its no-fee health fairs.

³² 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.

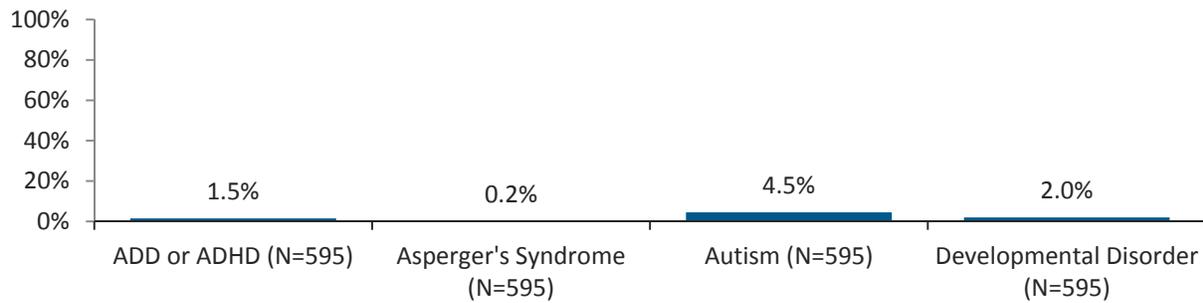


What the Data Tell Us

Nearly 5% of Latino parents in the South Phoenix Region stated that their child had been diagnosed with Autism, 2% reported their child had been diagnosed with a developmental disorder and 2% with ADD or ADHD in 2010.



Children 0-5 with Doctor Diagnosed Disability (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

The Arizona Department of Health Services reports that there were 64 Speech Language providers and 1 Audiologist in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2011.

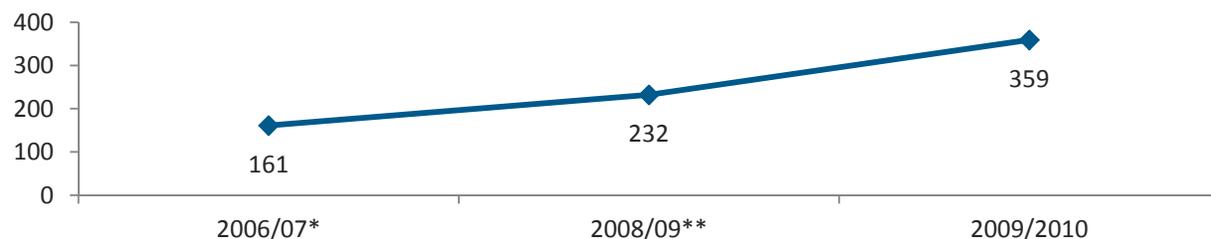
Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2011

TYPE OF PROVIDER	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
Audiologists	1
Speech Language Assistant	16
Speech Language Pathology	27
Speech Language Pathology Limited	21

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Provider Databases. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

There were 359 children up to 36 months old in the First Things First South Phoenix Region who received services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) in 2009/10, up from 161 in 2006/2007.

Children Up to 36 Months Old Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, First Things First South Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First

Note: First Things First South Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

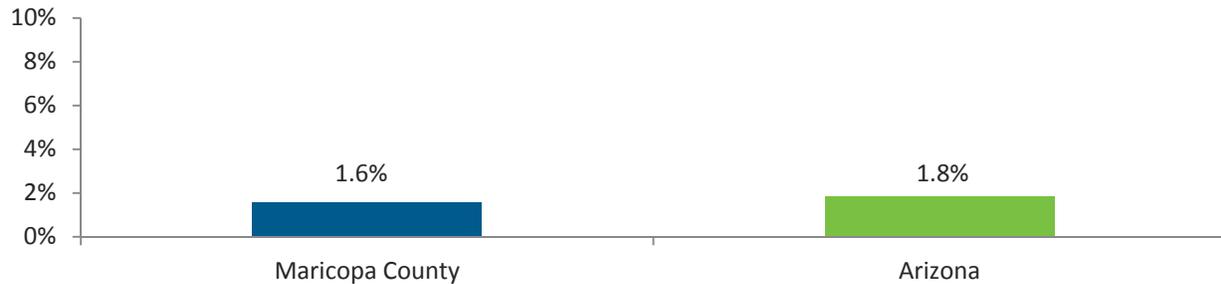
* 2007 data are cases serviced between 07/01/2006 and 06/30/2007.

** 2009 data are cases serviced between 07/01/2008 and 06/30/2009.



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.

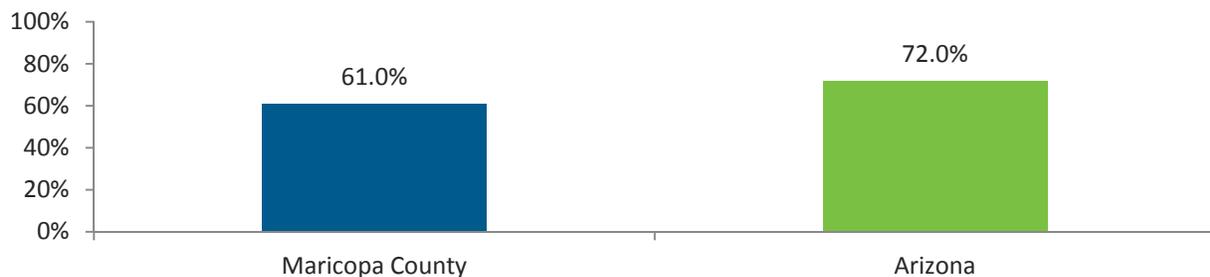
Infants Ages Birth to Three with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), 2008/2009



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 with IFSPs in Maricopa County 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

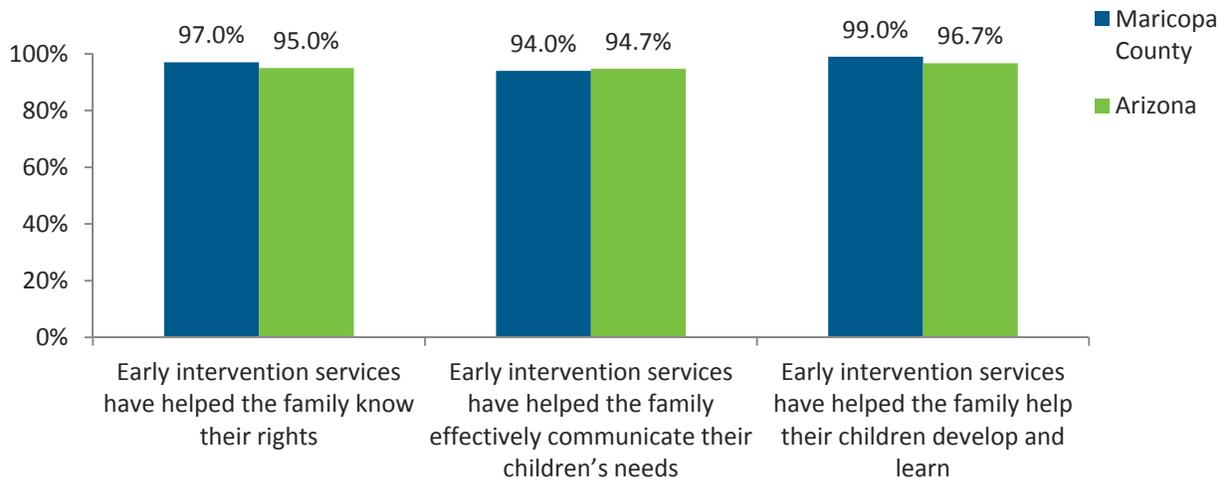


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>
 Note: 2009 data are cases serviced between 04/01/2009 and 06/30/2010.
 Note: Most recent year available.



The majority of parents participating in early intervention services in Maricopa County 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 in 2008/09.

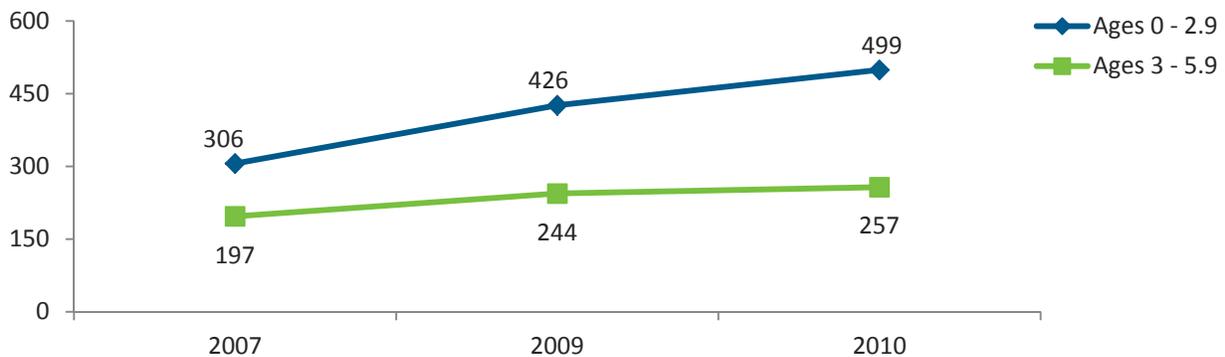
Perceptions of Families Participating in Early Intervention Services, 2008/2009



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.

Seven hundred and fifty-six children ages birth through five received services from the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2010, up from 503 in 2007. Only children who are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism qualify for DDD services (in addition to AzEIP services).

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities. (2010). 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.
 Note: Data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).



Pendergast Elementary School District reported serving more than 140 preschoolers with a disability in the 2011/12 school year. Isaac Elementary reported serving 94 the same year. The most frequently reported disability was developmental delay in all districts except Laveen Elementary where speech impairment was more common.

Preschool Enrollment by Disability, First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts, 2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	DEVELOP- MENTALLY DELAYED	HEARING IMPAIRED	PRESCHOOL SEVERE DELAY	SPEECH LANGUAGE IMPAIRED	VISUALLY IMPAIRED	PRESCHOOL DISABILITY TOTAL	DISTRICT DISABILITY TOTAL
Laveen Elementary School District	25	1	11	33	0	70	586
Isaac Elementary School District	41	2	29	15	0	94	993
Riverside Elementary School District	7	0	2	6	0	15	93
Pendergast Elementary School District	51	1	19	48	1	144	1,155

Source: First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts. (2010). Personal Communication with District Representatives. Received 2010 from First Things First South Phoenix Region School Districts.

Note: Data presented are from those school districts that provided disability data.

There were 428 children identified with a disability by the City of Phoenix Head Start preschool and migrant education programs in the 2010/11 school year.

Head Start Preschool and Migrant Program Enrollment by Disability, City of Phoenix

DISABILITY	2009/10	2010/11
Speech Impairment	190	267
Visual Impairment	0	1
Non-Categorical Developmental Delay	183	160

Source: Head Start. (2012). Head Start PIR Summary Report. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.

Note: City of Phoenix Head Start data includes Head Start programs in Deer Valley, Washington, Alhambra, Greater Phoenix Urban League, B.T. Washington, Wilson, Murphy, and Fowler.



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).³³

School Enrollment

Why It Is Important

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

What the Data Tell Us

More than 58,000 children were enrolled in schools districts in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in the 2010/2011 school year. Just over 1,000 children were enrolled in district preschools.

School Enrollment, South Phoenix Region School Districts, 2010/2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PRESCHOOL	KINDERGARTEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Maryvale Neighborhood			
Pendergast Elementary School District	141	819	9,723
Cartwright Elementary School District	158	2,157	17,710
Central City South Neighborhood			
Isaac Elementary School District	196	848	7,521
Murphy Elementary School District	250	239	2,295
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood			
Fowler Elementary School District	53	480	4,605
Riverside Elementary School District	47	84	770
Laveen Elementary School District	67	611	5,177
South Phoenix Neighborhood			
Roosevelt Elementary School District	101	1192	10,482
First Things First South Phoenix Region Total	1,013	6,430	58,283

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). Research and evaluation section. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.us/researchpolicy/AZenroll>.

Note: Preschool enrollment includes only students attending preschools associated with public school districts.

³³ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Received 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



School Readiness

Why It Is Important

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten perform 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.³⁴ 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.³⁵

Arizona requires an assessment of each kindergartener's skill level at the time of entry, to determine their school readiness. Many school districts in Arizona assess children's literacy and reading skills using the AIMSweb Test of Early Literacy or the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). The assessments focus on measures such as letter naming, letter sound, phoneme segmentation, and word fluency. While both assessments only focuses on the early literacy aspects of kindergarten readiness, the results provide some picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

As children progress in their course of study, third grade reading skills are measured. Third grade reading scores have shown to be an excellent predictor of later school success, including high school graduation rates and career success.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** funds pre-kindergarten scholarships to quality preschool programs. The purpose of this funding is increase the number of three and four year olds enrolled in high quality preschool programs that prepare them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.
- ***Leaps and Bounds*** is a kindergarten readiness program that supports parents of children ages three through five in acting as their child's first teacher. Services include a "World as a Classroom" workshop series for parents, designed to promote their child's brain development through home-based activities.

³⁴ Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return. *Big Ideas for Children*. First Focus, Washington, DC.

³⁵ Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.



What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in a town hall meeting in the Cartwright School District in 2011 identified *Leaps and Bounds*, a kindergarten readiness program, as helpful for their interactions with young children.

What the Data Tell Us

Based on data from the five school districts who reported kindergarten readiness data, it is estimated that between 15% and 30% of kindergarten students were at grade level at the beginning of the school year in 2010/11. In Isaac School District, 15% of students entered kindergarten at grade level. In both Pendergast and Fowler Elementary School Districts, more than half (56% and 60%, respectively) needed substantial intervention.

School Readiness Indicator

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

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Fowler Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	11%	14%	15%	17%	18%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	15%	10%	15%	25%	23%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	74%	76%	70%	58%	60%
Isaac School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	4%	5%	9%	11%	15%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	27%	29%	41%	37%	13%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	69%	67%	51%	52%	72%
Pendergast District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	NA	NA	NA	21%	30%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	NA	NA	NA	44%	15%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	NA	NA	NA	35%	56%
Riverside School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	NA	NA	NA	35%	14%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	NA	NA	NA	39%	43%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	NA	NA	NA	26%	43%
Roosevelt Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	10%	11%	12%	14%	18%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	34%	34%	39%	38%	15%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	57%	56%	48%	48%	67%

Source: First Things First South Phoenix Region School District. (2011). Correspondence with District Representative. Received 2011 from First Things First South Phoenix Region School District.



Note: School districts that did not provide data included Cartwright, Laveen Elementary, and Murphy Elementary.

At the end of the school year more students were at kindergarten grade level in every school district in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. At Isaac School District, 15% began the 2010/11 school year at grade level and 58% ended the year at grade level; the need for substantial intervention dropped in 2010/11 from 72% at the start of that year to 25% by year's end.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Fowler Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	44%	70%	84%	89%	55%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	20%	15%	9%	11%	18%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	37%	16%	7%	0%	27%
Isaac School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	80%	80%	85%	90%	58%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	11%	11%	6%	6%	17%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	9%	9%	10%	4%	25%
Pendergast District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	NA	NA	NA	89%	81%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	NA	NA	NA	6%	12%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	NA	NA	NA	6%	7%
Riverside School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	NA	NA	NA	86%	86%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	NA	NA	NA	14%	9%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	NA	NA	NA	0%	5%
Roosevelt Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	66%	66%	70%	67%	60%
Strategic - Needs Additional Intervention	15%	14%	13%	17%	18%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	18%	20%	17%	17%	22%

Source: First Things First South Phoenix Region School District. (2011). Correspondence with District Representative. Received 2011 from First Things First South Phoenix Region School District.

Note: School districts that did not provide data included Cartwright, Riverside, Laveen Elementary, and Murphy Elementary.

3rd Grade Test Scores

Why It Is Important

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child's reading level at the end of third grade. In third grade it is expected that children will show evidence of reading comprehension and be able to read unfamiliar words through various strategies. Reading



proficiency at this point prepares the student for fourth grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”³⁶ The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

What the Data Tell Us

Beginning in the year 2013/14, students whose scores show they are “falling far below” on their 3rd grade AIMS reading will not be promoted from 3rd grade. In 2010/11, parental notification requirements began for any student who seemed to be falling behind.

Twelve percent of students in Roosevelt Elementary School District were “falling far below” on the 3rd grade AIMS standards in reading. While Roosevelt had the highest percentage of students identified, the other districts had similar percentages; Isaac Elementary and Cartwright Elementary both had 9% of students “falling far below,” in 2011.

Percentage of Students “Falling Far Below” on 3rd Grade AIMS Reading by District, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PERCENT FALLING FAR BELOW
Maryvale Neighborhood	
Pendergast Elementary School District	8%
Cartwright Elementary School District	9%
Central City South Neighborhood	
Isaac Elementary School District	9%
Murphy Elementary School District	8%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	
Fowler Elementary School District	5%
Riverside Elementary School District	7%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	
Roosevelt Elementary School District	12%

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

Note: Data for Laveen Elementary School District were not available.

Riverside School District had the highest percentages of students meeting or exceeding the 3rd grade reading standards (79% in 2011) and 3rd grade math standards (66%) compared to other school districts in the region in 2011.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2008	2009	2010	2011
Maryvale Neighborhood				

³⁶ 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/>



Pendergast District	57%	60%	66%	69%
Cartwright School District	60%	57%	62%	69%
Central City South Neighborhood				
Isaac Elementary School District	41%	40%	59%	63%
Murphy Elementary School District	49%	49%	59%	67%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood				
Fowler Elementary School District	44%	44%	58%	71%
Riverside School District	51%	51%	63%	79%
Laveen Elementary School District	50%	50%	70%	68%
South Phoenix Neighborhood				
Roosevelt Elementary School District	63%	64%	57%	58%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2011). School Report Cards. Retrieved from http://www.ade.state.az.us/srcs/find_school.asp/.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2008	2009	2010	2011
Maryvale Neighborhood				
Pendergast District	70%	70%	57%	55%
Cartwright School District	67%	67%	56%	62%
Central City South Neighborhood				
Isaac School District	40%	41%	52%	57%
Murphy Elementary School District	65%	65%	49%	56%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood				
Fowler Elementary School District	69%	69%	58%	68%
Riverside School District	52%	52%	42%	62%
Laveen Elementary School District	54%	54%	65%	66%
South Phoenix Neighborhood				
Roosevelt Elementary School District	63%	63%	49%	48%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2011). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>.

Graduation Rate

Why It Is Important

High school graduation is an important indicator of future economic and personal success. Youth who leave high school prior to graduation are more likely to experience lower earnings and unemployment.³⁷ Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including

³⁷ 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/>



child abuse, substance abuse, unaddressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.³⁸

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.³⁹

What the Data Tell Us

Though there are no high school districts in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, there are individual high schools serving the region. Westland School has had the lowest graduation rate of high schools in the region with 58% of students graduating in 2010. At Maryvale High School, 93% of students graduated in the same year.

Graduation Rate, South Phoenix Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Maryvale Neighborhood						
Maryvale High School	77%	84%	86%	89%	90%	93%
Trevor Browne High School	68%	67%	73%	74%	79%	85%
Westland School	60%	81%	68%	61%	64%	58%
Barry Goldwater High School	74%	71%	77%	80%	79%	78%
Central City South Neighborhood						
Carl Hayden High School	74%	77%	82%	81%	78%	81%
South Phoenix Neighborhood						
South Mountain High School	81%	86%	82%	85%	87%	87%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). Graduation Rate. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.us/researchpolicy/Azenroll>

Note: There are no high school districts in the Laveen/South Central Suburban Neighborhood

Data presented are the most recent data available.

Educational Attainment

Why It Is Important

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success because those with at least a high school diploma have better employment opportunities. Limited education and employment can also impact other quality of life areas including access to health care and life

³⁸ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

³⁹ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from arizonaindicators.org



expectancy. Low educational attainment is often associated with lower income or poverty, less access to good quality child care, and poorer health.

Snapshot of Community Assets

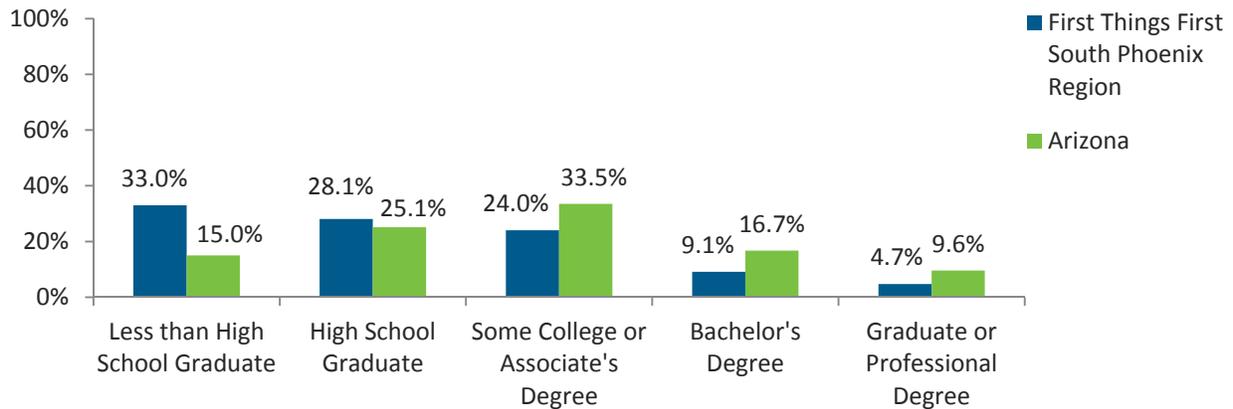
- ***Unlimited Potential*** offers:
 - ***Bilingual summer GED classes*** with instruction in math, social studies, science, literature and writing.
 - ***A Continuing Education Program that provides scholarships and mentoring*** to selected graduates of the organization's two-year English as a Second Language class.
- ***Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center*** offers family literacy and English as a Second Language classes, as well as a library.
- ***At South Mountain Community College***, funding assistance for single parents returning to college may be available through the Dorrance Merit Scholarship program.
- ***Friendly House*** offers:
 - Free adult education services that include adult basic education and GED test preparation.
 - A TriO/Educational Talent Search Program that supports kids who might otherwise drop out of school in staying in school, getting their high school diplomas, and enrolling in college. Services include mentoring, study skills assistance, cultural activities and a one week summer camp.



What the Data Tell Us

Education attainment in the First Things First South Phoenix Region is lower than in the state of Arizona as a whole. Approximately 33% of adults 25 years and over had not completed high school or received a GED in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, in comparison to 15% in Arizona.

Educational Attainment of Population 25 Years and Over, 5-Year Estimates 2006-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>; U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table S1501 Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>

Educational attainment varied by neighborhoods within the region. Fifty-two percent of the population 25 and over had not completed high school in the Central City South Neighborhood, in comparison to 24% in Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood.

Educational Attainment, First Things First South Phoenix Neighborhoods, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates

NEIGHBORHOOD	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME COLLEGE	BACHELOR'S	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL
Maryvale	33.5%	29.7%	24.9%	7.4%	4.1%
Central City South	51.6%	28.0%	11.9%	4.0%	1.4%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban	23.6%	27.3%	30.3%	12.0%	6.8%
South Phoenix	30.7%	26.7%	24.0%	11.5%	5.5%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	33.0%	28.1%	24.0%	9.1%	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.



Family Literacy and Learning

Why It Is Important

One important component of parenting knowledge is understanding the importance of reading to and with children from an early age. When families read to their infants and preschool children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Reading Club at the Golden Gate Community Center*** is open to parents who want to read to their children in English but for whom English is not a first language. The Reading Club provides parents with the opportunity to expand the skills they need to read to their children.
- ***The Phoenix Public Library*** system has a total of five branches in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, including a new branch at the South Mountain Community College built in response to many years of resident requests. Library services include preschool story times, baby and toddler time, and a Palo Verde branch First Five Years/Los Primeros Cinco Años interactive learning space for families with young children.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Ready for School. (2012). Reach out and Read Arizona. *Personal correspondence with Representative*. Received February 2012 from Ready for School.



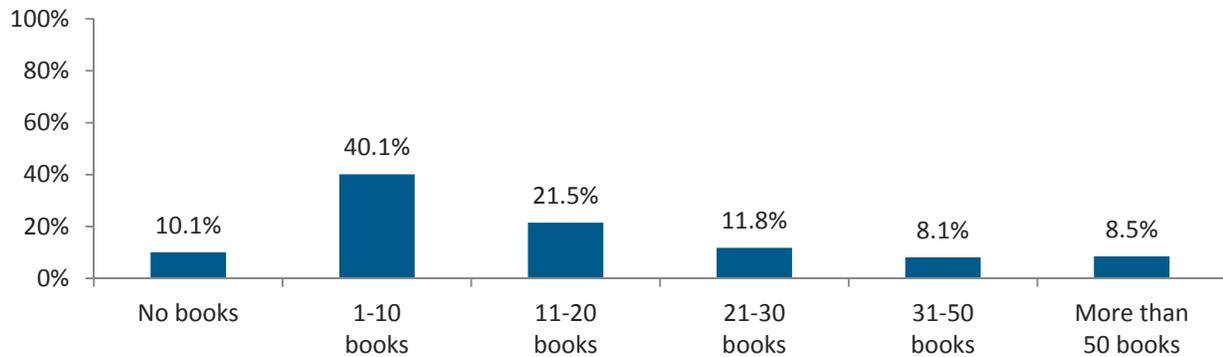
What the Data Tell Us

Research in 40 countries showed that children in homes with more than 100 children's books performed much better in reading achievement at 4th grade than did children with 10 or fewer books.⁷

Half of survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having 10 or fewer books in their home. Less than 10% reported having more than 50 books.



How many children's books are in your home?



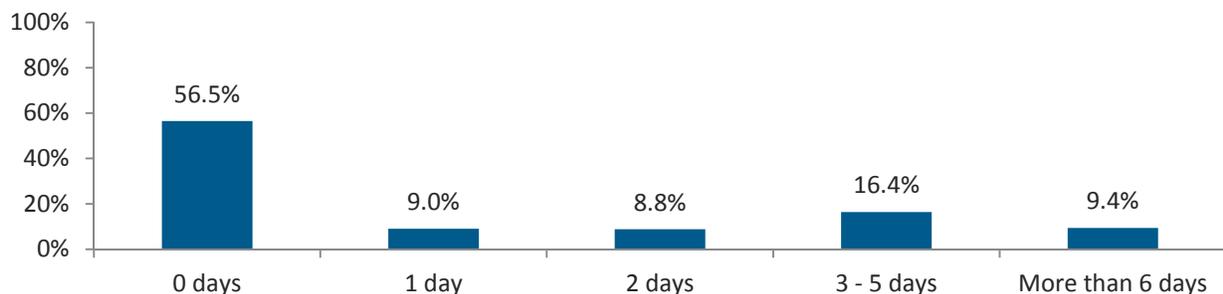
N=484

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Nearly 57% percent of survey respondents reported they had not visited a local library in the month prior to the survey.



How many days in the past month have you visited a local library to borrow a book, access the internet or attend a story hour?



N=513

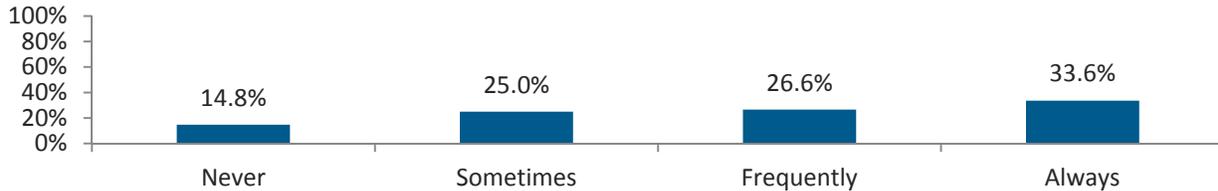
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



One-third of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported that they always asked their child about the pictures, story, or talked about new words when reading a book. Fifteen percent of parents reported they never engaged in the activities when reading with their child.



When you read a book, how often did you ask your child about the pictures, story, or talk about new words?



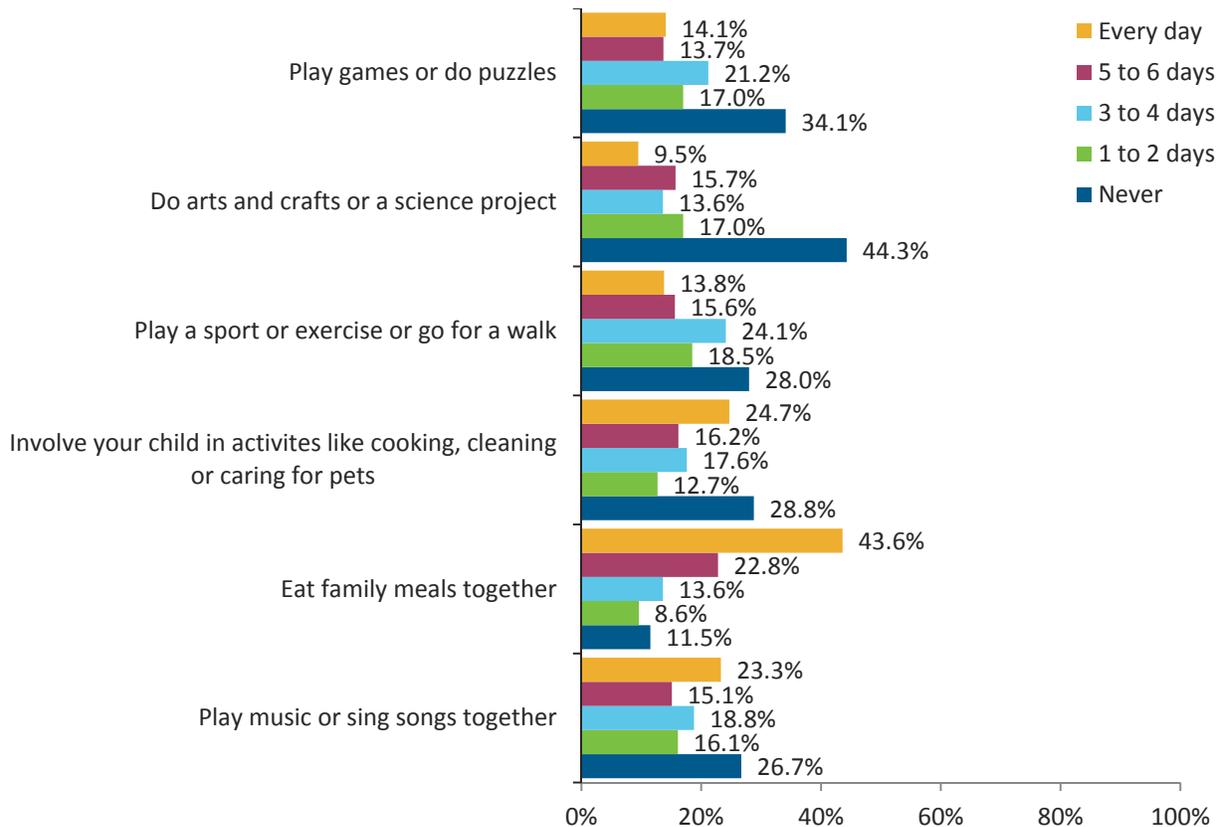
N=527

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

The activity in which the greatest percentage of parent respondents reported engaging in every day was eating family meals together (44%). Twenty-five percent of parent survey respondents reported involving their child in household activities every day, while 29% reported never engaging their children in activities like cooking, cleaning or caring for pets.



In the last week, how many days did you, or any other family member, do the following with your child?



Play games/puzzles N=505; Arts/Crafts N=506; Play sport or exercise N=514; Involve your child in activities N=511; Eat meals together N=523; Play music/sing songs N=516.

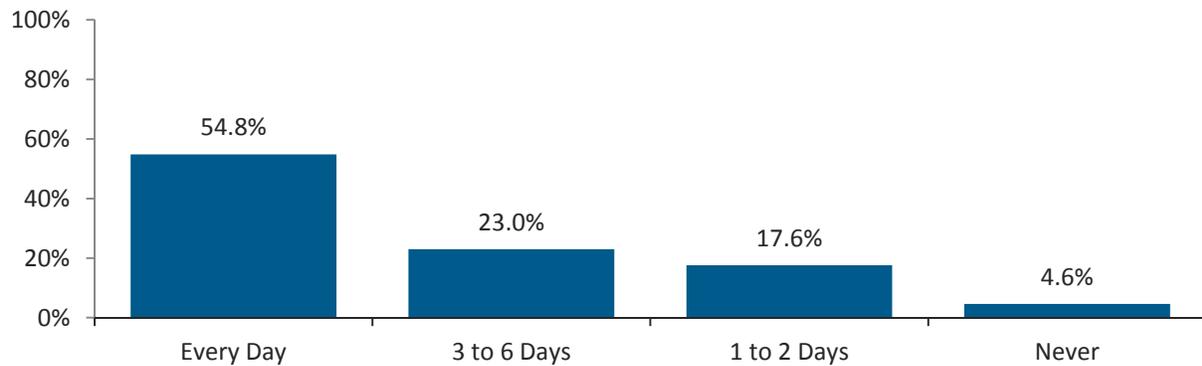
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Over 50% of Latino parent survey respondents in the South Phoenix Region said that they read to their child every day in a usual week in 2010. Less than 5% percent reported that they never read to their child in a usual week.



In a usual week, about how many days do you or any other family member do the following: Read stories or look at picture books with your child? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



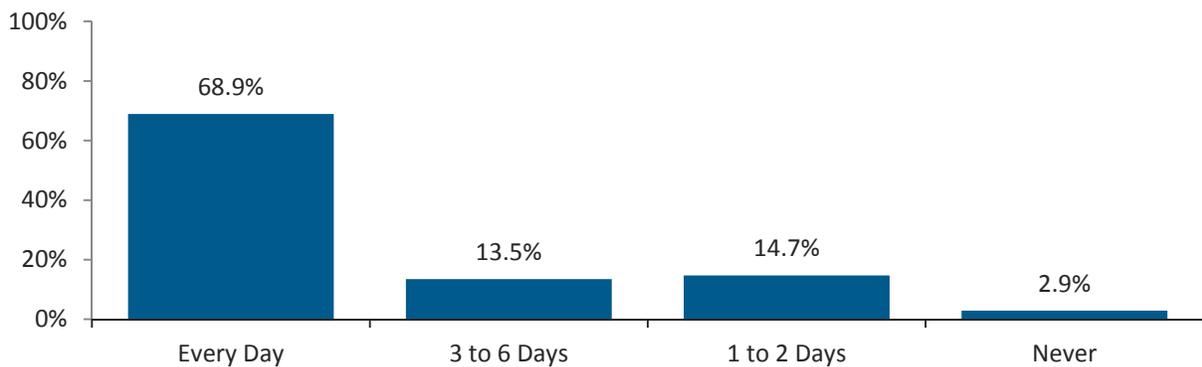
N=591.

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Over two-thirds (69%) of Latino parent survey respondents in the South Phoenix Region said that they play music or sing songs with their child every day in a usual week in 2010. Three percent reported that they never played music or sang songs to their child in a usual week.



In a usual week, about how many days do you or any other family member play music or sing songs with your child? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



N=592.

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



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
- Parent's Mental Health
- 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Travis L. Williams and John F. Long Family Services Centers* offer counseling and direct services to families.
- *The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)* supports families with multiple needs or in crisis with parent support groups, crisis counseling and community service referrals.

What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in town hall meetings at the Riverside School District and M.L. King Elementary in 2011 reported that they had accessed a very broad range of services for their child/family during the previous year. These included:
 - *Basic resources* such as WIC, food boxes, and free diapers
 - *Health care services* such as free immunizations, AHCCCS and medical facilities
 - *Child care, Head Start and after school services*
 - *Developmental and other screenings*
 - Other specific programs ranging from a *domestic violence group* for women, to a *parenting program for fathers*, to *nurse-family partnership* home visitation services.
- Participants in a town hall meeting in the Cartwright School District in 2011 reported that they had found that the city of Phoenix's family service center(s) were "always swamped" and that residents could only call in during certain times. They identified a combination of more need on one hand, and less service and staff due to budget cuts on the other hand.

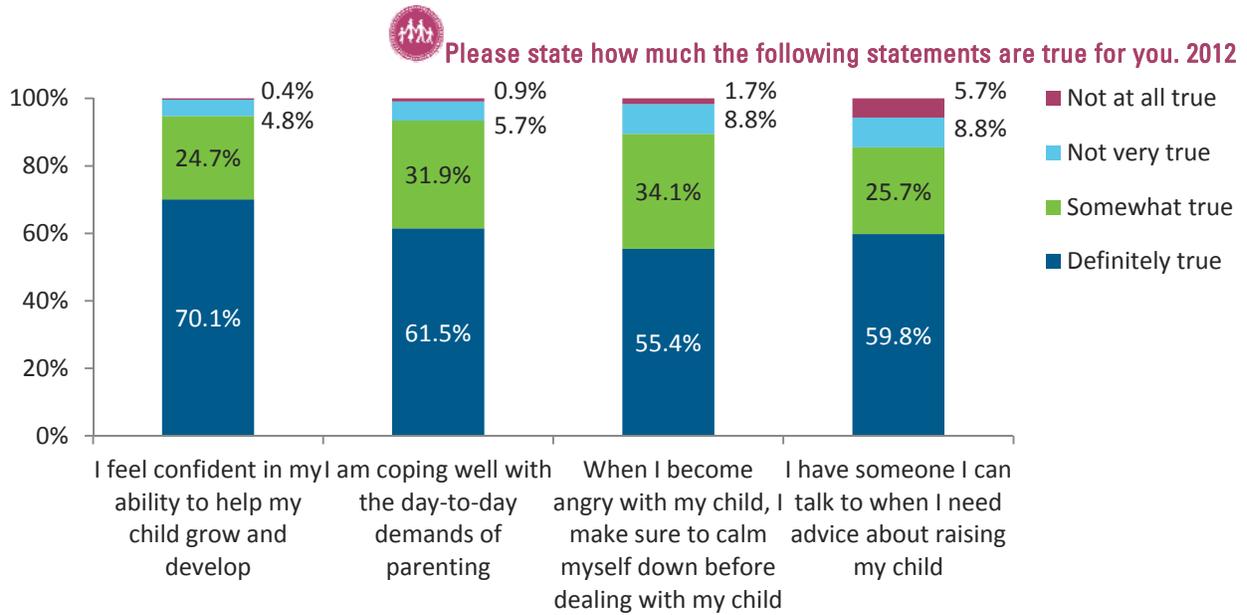


School Readiness Indicator

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being

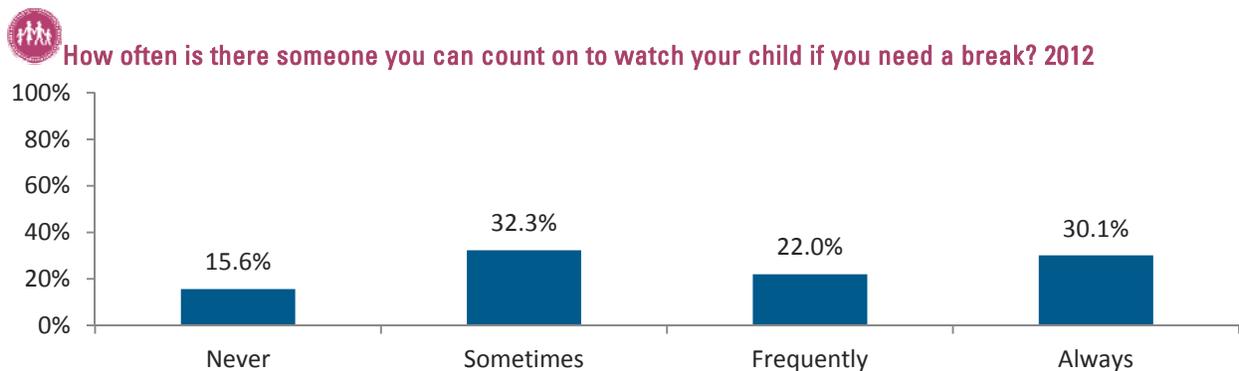
What the Data Tell Us

One quarter of First Things First South Phoenix Region parent respondents felt somewhat confident in their ability to help their child grow and develop in 2012. About two-thirds reported coping well with the day-to-day demands of parenting, while 55% said that they calmed themselves down before dealing with their child when they got angry with their child.



2012 N: Confident in ability to help child grow and develop=538; Coping well with day-to-day demands of parenting=530; Calm myself down before dealing with child=525; Has someone to talk to =522.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

About 16% of First Things First South Phoenix Region survey respondents reported that they never had someone they could count on to watch their child when they needed a break.



N=532
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Fifty-nine percent of parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region relied on their spouse for support in 2008. More often, parents reported relying on their mothers (64%).

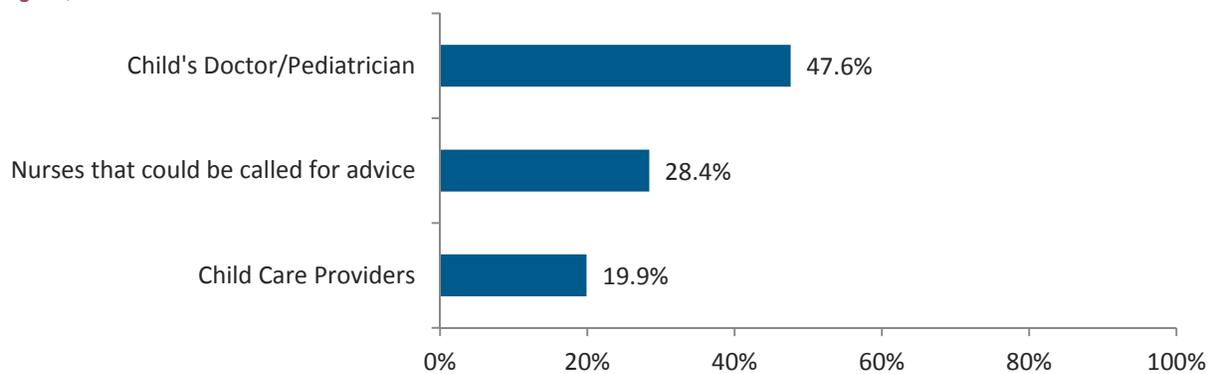
Parents Who Report That They Rely “Frequently” on Family and Community Members for Support, 2008

PERSONAL SUPPORTS	2008
Spouse	58.9%
Your Mother	64.3%
Your Spouse’s Mother	22.6%
Your Father	21.0%
Your Spouse’s Father	9.3%
Friends and Neighbors	18.3%

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

About half (48%) of parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported they frequently relied on their child’s doctor or pediatrician for support in 2008. Twenty percent of parents in the region reported frequently relying on a child care provider.

Parents who Report that They “Frequently” Rely on Service Providers, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2008



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

Though most parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region seem to have support from community members, many parents reported struggling with their role as parents and providers.

In the First Things First South Phoenix Region parent survey respondents showed the highest levels of concern in regard to finances, paying bills and keeping jobs. More than one in four parent survey respondents reported being extremely concerned about money, paying bills, buying food, paying the mortgage, car payments or rent in the year prior to the 2012 survey.



Yet, 14% reported they were extremely concerned about finding child care and one in ten respondents reported being extremely concerned about their relationship with their spouse or partner.



In the last year, how concerned were you about the following things? 2012

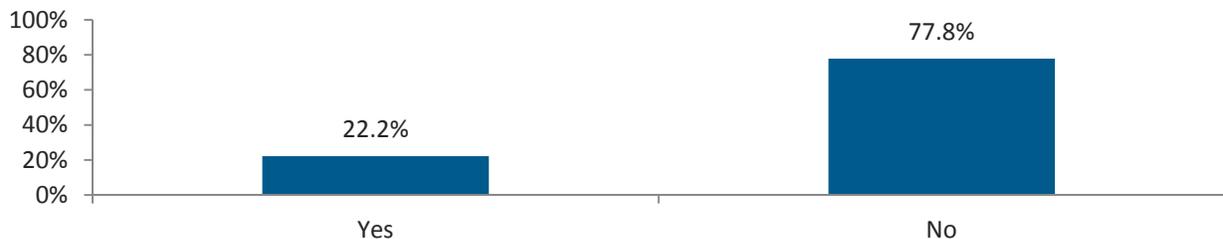
	EXTREMELY CONCERNED	SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	NOT VERY CONCERNED	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED
Finding child care	14.4%	22.2%	16.3%	47.1%
Money, paying bills, buying food, paying the mortgage, car payments, or rent	26.7%	32.6%	14.2%	26.5%
Relationship between you and your spouse/ partner	10.0%	18.6%	19.9%	51.6%
Sexual, emotional, or physical abuse of someone in the family	2.9%	7.2%	15.1%	74.9%
Problems with alcohol or drugs of someone in the family	3.8%	9.2%	14.3%	72.7%
Having stable housing	12.5%	19.2%	18.4%	49.9%
Getting or keeping a stable job	18.2%	22.5%	16.8%	42.5%

2011 N: Finding Child Care=522; Money and payment problems=521; Relationship with partner=512; Abuse of someone in the family =513; Drug or alcohol problems of someone in the family=502; Having stable housing=511; Getting or keeping a stable job=506.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

More than 1 in 5 parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported feeling so sad or hopeless for 2 weeks or more that they stopped doing some of their usual activities.



During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities? 2012



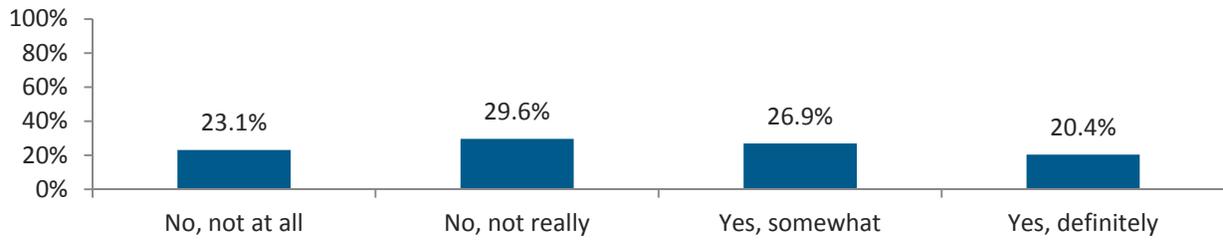
N=510.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Of respondents who reported feeling sad or hopeless, more than half (53%) reported they did not receive or did not really receive the help they needed.



If yes, did you get the help you needed?



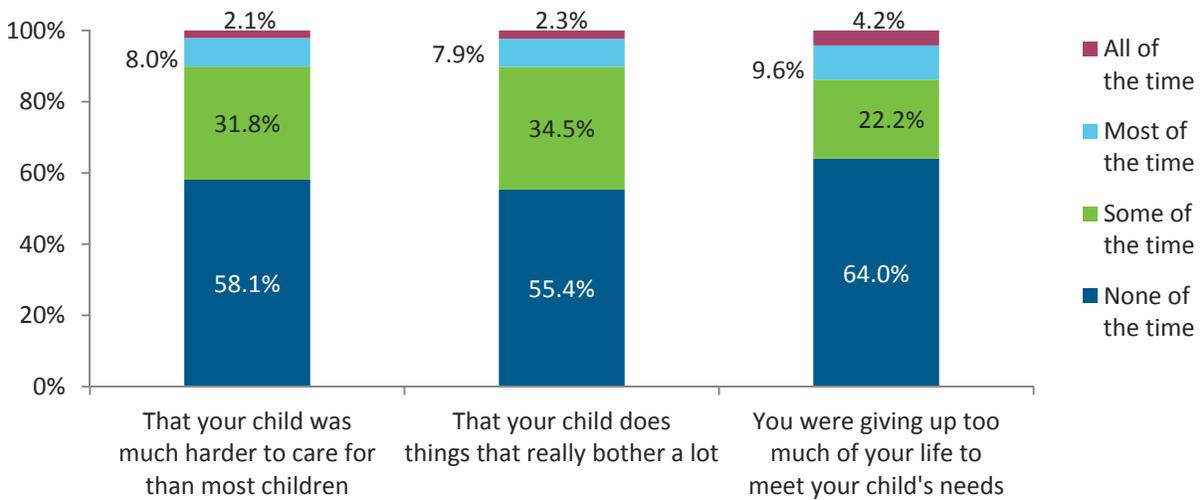
N=108

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Nearly 14% of parent survey respondents reported they had felt they were giving up too much of their life to meet the needs of their child all or most of the time in the month prior to the survey. One in 10 respondents reported they felt their child was harder to care for than most children all or most of the time.



Thinking about the past month, how much time have you felt...



2011 N: Child much harder to care for than most children=535 Child does things that really bother parent=522; Giving up too much=522.

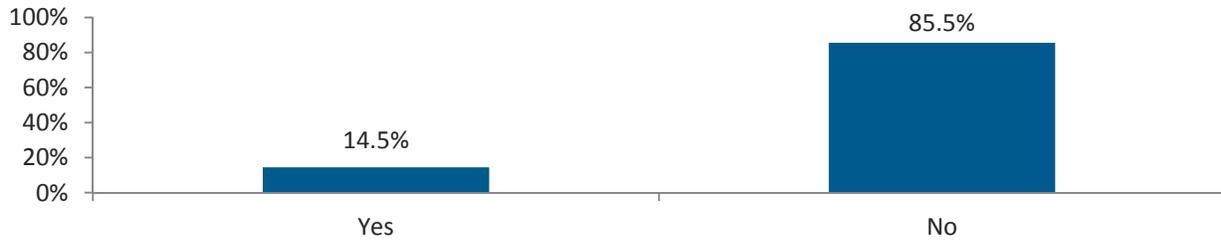
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



Just 15% of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having attended a parent class or support group in the three months prior to the 2012 survey.



Have you attended any parenting classes or parent support groups in the past three months? 2012



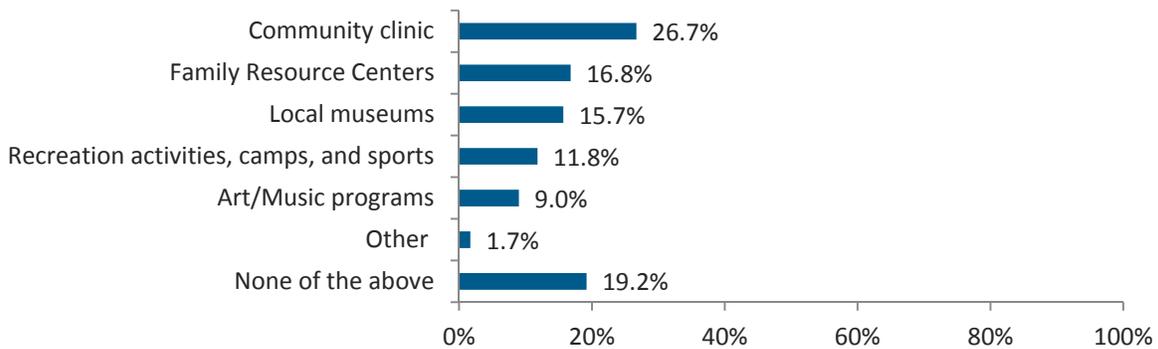
N=524.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).
 Note: Parents who reported having attending local agencies and programs reported using the Family Learning Center, a local church, Ebony house, Kith and Kin and Marguale Pregnant & Parental Class

Of those who had used one of those resources, the greatest percentage had visited a community clinic.



In the past year, what types of local family resources have you used?



Multiple response question with 536 respondents offering 995 responses.

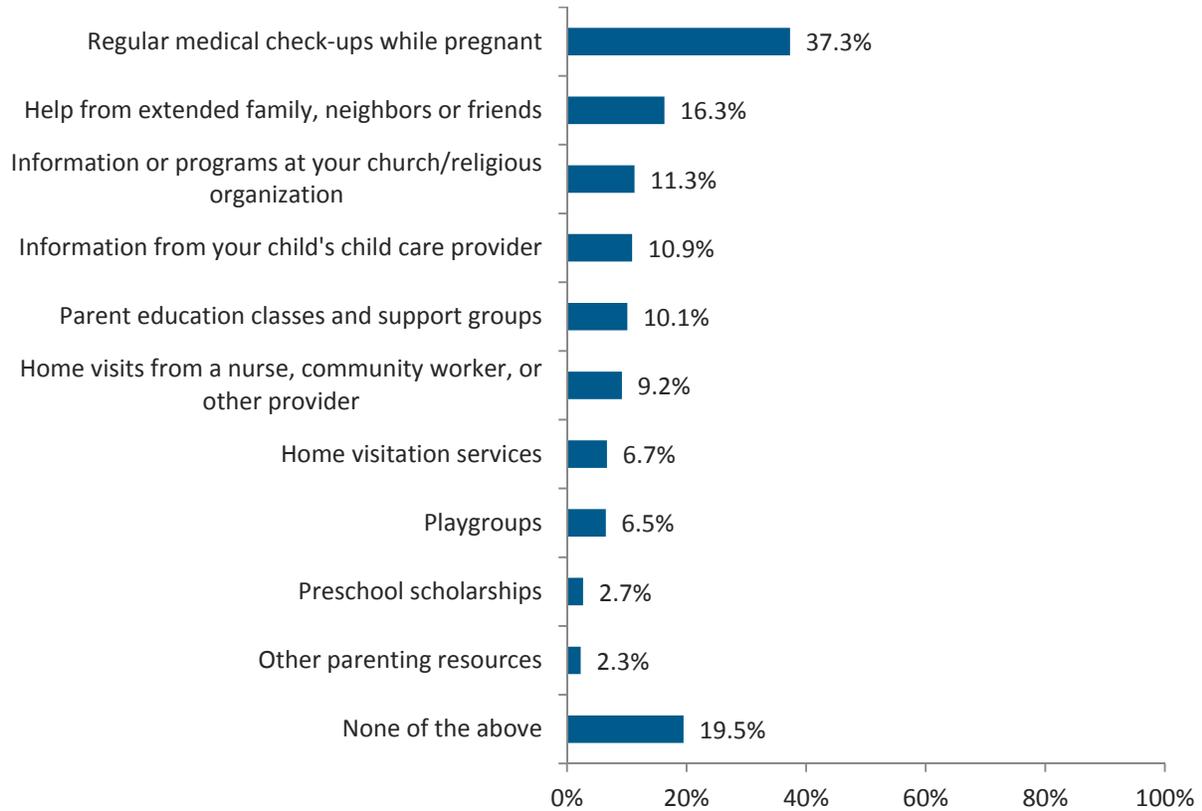
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).



The greatest percentage of parent survey respondents reported having received support from regular medical check-ups while pregnant (37%). This was followed by help from their extended family, neighbors or friends (16%). Just 10% reported receiving support from classes or support groups, and less than 7% from playgroups.



What kinds of parenting programs, services, or support have you received?



N=Multiple response question with 523 respondents offering 998 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished data).

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.



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.⁴² 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.⁴³ 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Family Renewal Center** provides long-term temporary housing for women and children leaving emergency domestic violence shelters, as well as offering parenting classes for men held in a different location.
- **Healthy Families Maricopa County** seeks to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing free early intervention, family support, and child development information through a voluntary long-term home visiting program. Services can continue for up to five years.
- **The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council** funds Court Teams led by superior court judges that monitor case plans and supervise placement for children birth to five who are involved with the court system.
- **De Colores**, a program of Chicanos Por La Causa, offers bilingual (Spanish/English) and bicultural services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. De Colores' services include a 24/7 crisis hotline, shelter, and the Ahijado program providing counseling and positive experiences for children who have been victims of domestic violence.

⁴² Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2004, February). Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect. Retrieved from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/pdfs/riskprotectivefactors.pdf>

⁴³ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims*, 11, 113-128; and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. (2008, May). Child abuse: The hidden bruises. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruires



- **Prevent Child Abuse Arizona (PCA Arizona)** seeks to prevent child abuse and neglect, strategically focusing on new parents, early in the family life cycle, to help them raise healthy children who are ready to succeed in school and in life. PCA Arizona is part of the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative.
 - **Never Shake a Baby Arizona**, a program of Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, is a voluntary program for parents offered by nurses to new parents just prior to discharge from the hospital. Participants receive a tip sheet on how to handle a crying infant, watch a video on Shaken Baby Syndrome and are asked to sign a form stating that they were educated on the dangers of shaking babies.

What the Data Tell Us

There was a 108% increase in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Maricopa County since 2007, with 1,089 cases in 2007 and 2,261 cases in 2011. The majority of cases in 2011 were neglect (1,807), followed by physical abuse (382), and sexual abuse (66).

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Maricopa County

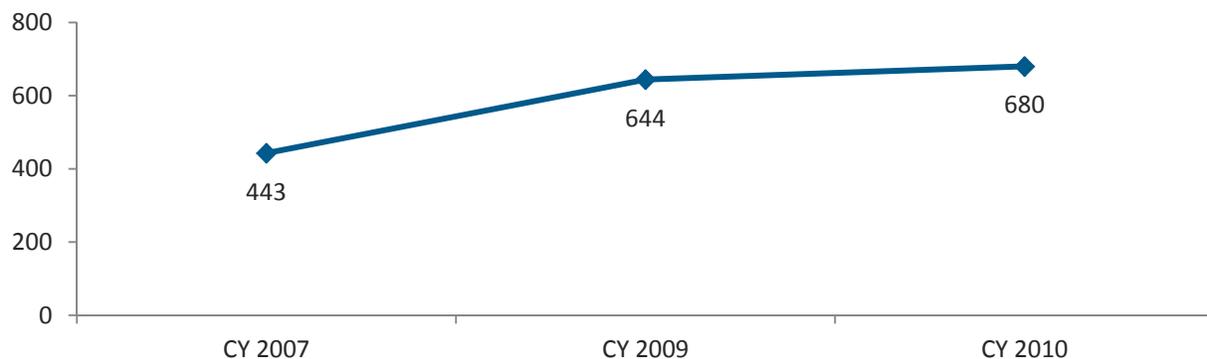
TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Emotional Abuse	1	4	0	1	6
Neglect	432	445	425	1,578	1,807
Physical Abuse	535	402	403	356	382
Sexual Abuse	121	93	104	79	66
Total	1,089	944	932	2,014	2,261

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services. (2012). Children, Youth and Families: Child Welfare Report. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdes.gov/appeaprts.aspx>

Note: Fiscal year goes from October to September.

There were 680 children removed from home by Child Protective Services (CPS) in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2010, up from 443 children in 2007.

Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services, First Things First South Phoenix Region



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

Note: Data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).



Foster Care

Why It Is Important

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is care for children ages birth through 17 who are removed from their parents' or guardians' home and placed in a different setting such as a family foster care home, relatives' home, group residential home, or an institutional care facility. It is generally held that the child's best interests are served by being with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues at home so as to reunite the family.⁴⁴

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Black Family and Child Services of Arizona** provide training for foster parents and offers a foster-adopt program aimed at increasing the number of foster children who are formally adopted by their foster families.
- **Agape Adoption** provide a number of services including child placement services for adoptive and foster families, as well as support and classes for both foster and birth families who may need assistance.

What the Data Tell Us

The number of children entering out-of-home care is reported in 6 month increments. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, there were 2,682 children removed from the home in Maricopa County. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, 7% of those children had a prior removal in the last 12 months.

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



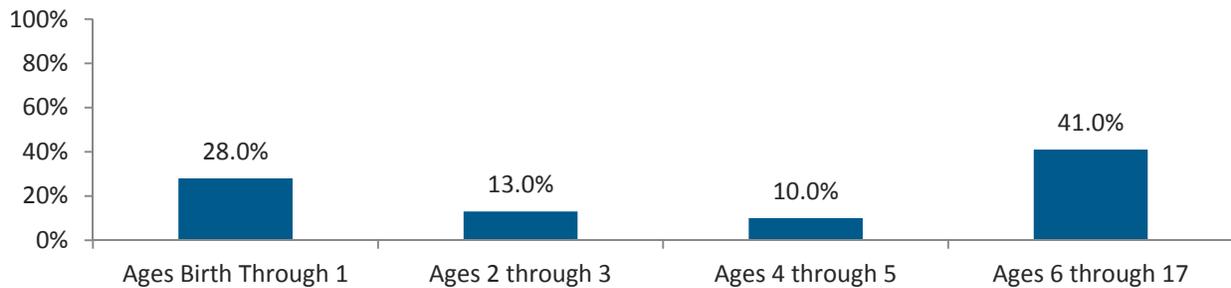
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). Children, youth, and families: Child welfare report. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?Category=57&subcategory=20&menu=154>

⁴⁴ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family Preservation Services. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>



Over one-quarter of children (28%) who entered out-of-home care in 2009 were ages birth through one year old; 23% were ages 2 through 5; and 41% were ages 6 through 17.

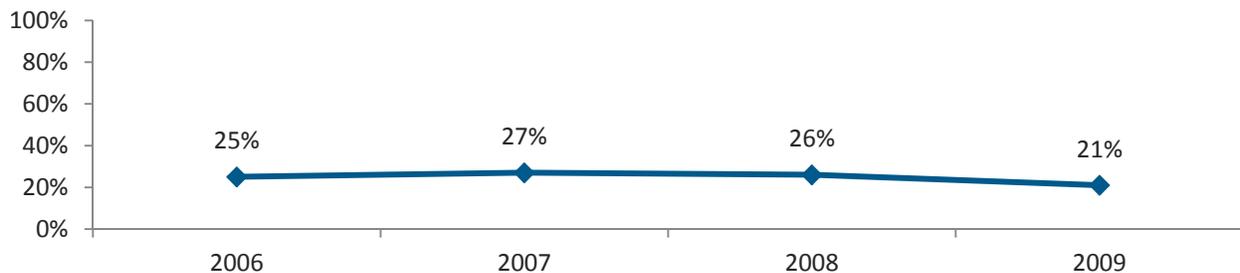
Age at Entry into Out-of-Home Care, Maricopa County, 2009



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 are the most recent available.

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

Re-entry 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 are the most recent available.

Parent's Mental Health

Why It Is Important

Access to quality mental health services is often difficult for many people, but often more so for people with low-incomes. Compared with coverage of physical health issues, private insurance has generally been more restrictive in coverage of mental health illness. Public insurance programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid (ACCCHS), have also historically imposed limitations on mental health coverage.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ National Conference of State Legislature. (2010). State Laws Mandating or Regulating Mental Health Benefits. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.ncsl.org>.



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.⁴⁶ 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Friendly House** offers occupational skills training, paid work experience, guidance counseling, summer employment, tutoring, and case management to youth 14-21 who are in or out of school.
- **Project LAUNCH** enable families and children in the area to benefit from resources to support early childhood development and address the root causes that lead to juvenile and adult criminal activity and incarceration.

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.

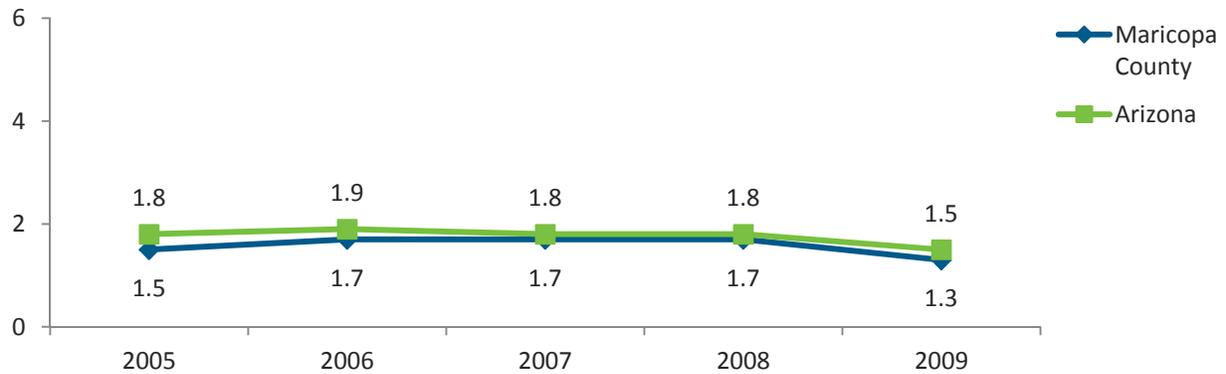
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

⁴⁶ Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs. *Harvard Education Review*.



Maricopa County experienced 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)



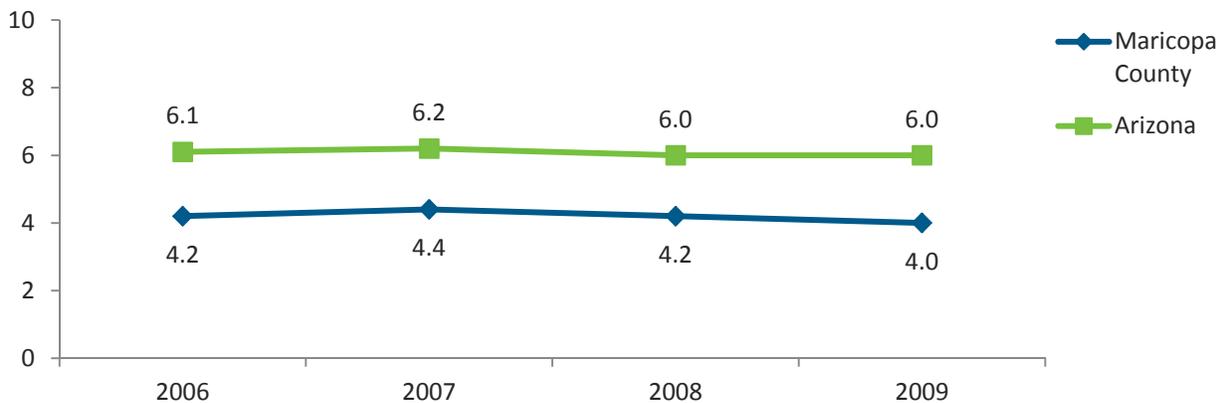
Source: Kids Count Data Center. (2011). State Profile. Retrieved 2011 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

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

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

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



Children of Incarcerated Parents

Why It Is Important

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability, especially due to the increased likelihood of single parent households or grandfamilies. These children are more like to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested. They are also more likely to later be incarcerated themselves if preventive steps are not taken.⁴⁷ Arizona had the highest rate of incarceration nationally. There were an estimated 95,669 minor children in Arizona affected by parental incarceration in 2007, and an additional 80,398 children had at least one parent on probation. Overall, it was estimated that on any given day, 176,067 children have a parent involved in the Arizona criminal justice system.⁴⁸

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Golden Gate KARE Center** supports family members raising grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted children, children with a family member in jail, or any child under 18 not born to them. KARE offers Spanish and English advocacy, support groups, referrals, and help with guardianship packets.

What the Data Tell Us

There were an estimated 58,995 children of incarcerated parents living in Maricopa County in 2011, and a population of 103,112 children impacted by incarceration (such as having parents in the probation system).

Population of Children of Incarcerated Parents in the Correctional System, 2011

	MARICOPA COUNTY	ARIZONA
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. (2007). Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents. *Arizona: Bill of Rights Project*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://thepartnership.us>.

⁴⁷ 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

⁴⁸ Pima 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



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.⁵⁰ Lack of prenatal care is often associated with lack of health insurance and other barriers to health care, including communication difficulties, lack of child care, and transportation obstacles.⁵¹ Women are advised to seek prenatal care early in their pregnancy (in the first trimester) and to have effective, high quality prenatal care visits throughout the pregnancy.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*** funds pregnancy support services:
 - In the ***Nurse Family Partnership***, specially trained nurses visit first-time mothers in their homes during pregnancy and up to two years afterward. Nurses support mother and infant health, help strengthen mothers' parenting skills, increase safety in the home, and support continuing education and job skill development.
 - ***South Phoenix Healthy Start*** offers case management and home visits before and during pregnancy, and during the first two years of the baby's life. The program also provides one-on-one and group classes on health before and after a birth, and referrals for screenings, well woman care, infant care, and a range of community resources.
- ***Banner Estrella Medical Center*** offers free nurse-led support groups for expecting and new mothers of children birth through 18 months.
- ***The Mountain Park Health Center's*** Baseline and Maryvale locations offer classes on what mothers and babies need for a healthy pregnancy and delivery. Spanish and English classes are available.

⁵⁰ U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (n.d.) A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>

⁵¹ American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Universal maternity care. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893



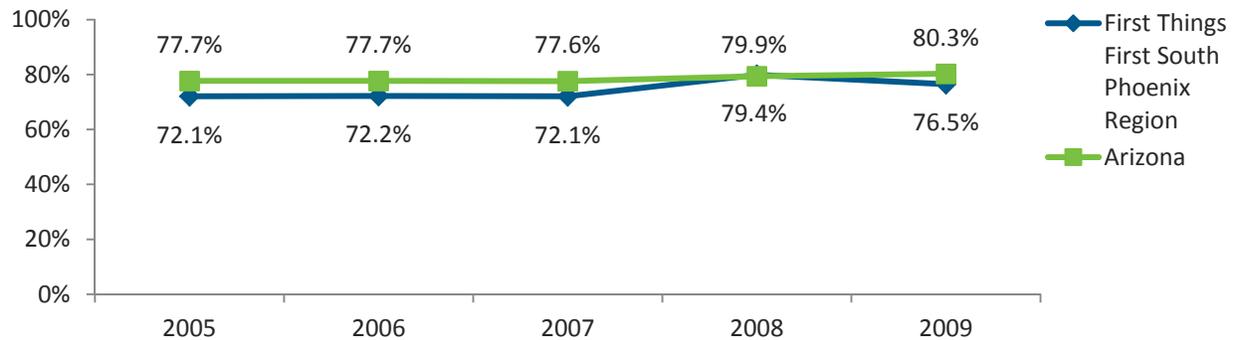
- ***The South Central Family Health Centers***, part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), offers bilingual pregnancy and postpartum depression support groups for mothers.
- ***The South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative*** works to improve the coordination, collaboration, and capacity of communities to effectively address and improve preventive health issues and strategies in South Phoenix, Maryvale, and Laveen. The Collaborative is facilitated by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Family Health Partnerships and receives First Things First funding.
- ***Native Health*** provides comprehensive prenatal care, including office visits, ultrasounds and blood/lab work. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** offers a variety of services to expecting mothers, including prenatal care, referrals, and classes on topics such as nutrition and gestational diabetes.
- ***Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Maricopa*** County seeks to improve maternal child health and birth outcomes by using a Promotora model to educate women on prenatal care, increase awareness and access to health care for women, and empower women to act on their own behalf. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Maricopa is part of the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative.
- ***The Center for African American Health, Arizona (CAAHaz)*** focuses on reducing health disparities that affect African Americans, offering community-based health education, screening and outreach. CAAHAz's Maternal And Health program addresses infant mortality and health care during pregnancy. CAAHAz is part of the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative.
- ***A Mother's Worth Birth Services*** is a local business that offers doula services, hosts classes and workshops in the community and works with partner organizations both pre and post natal to optimize health outcomes for women and children. A Mother's Worth is part of the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative.



What the Data Tell Us

The First Things First South Phoenix Region has seen an increase in the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, from 72% in 2005 to 77% in 2009. However, the First Things First South Phoenix Region has had slightly lower percentages of women who began prenatal care in the first trimester, when compared to the state from 2005 to 2009. For example, 77% of women in First Things First South Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 80% in Arizona in 2009.

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy

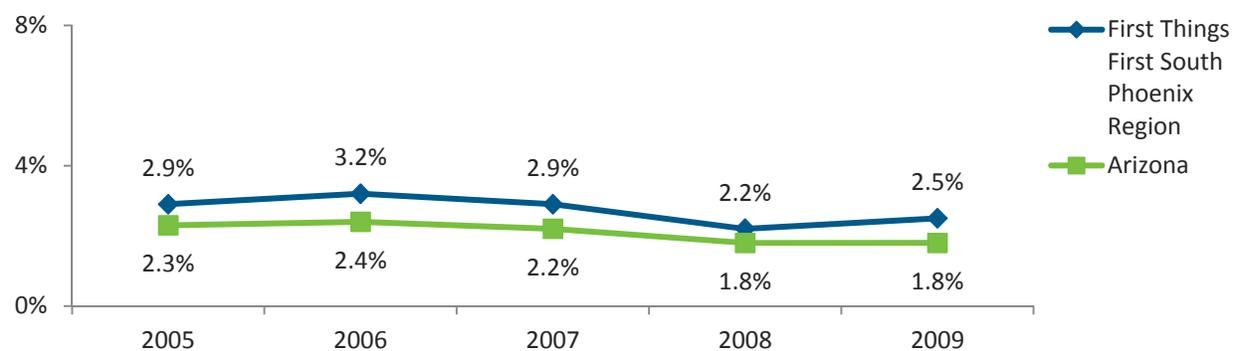


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Percentage of total births.

The percentage of women who received no prenatal care in the First Things First South Phoenix Region remained between 2% and 3% since 2005. The First Things First South Phoenix Region has consistently had slightly higher rates of women who received no prenatal care during pregnancy, as compared to Arizona overall.

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Percentage of total births.



Prenatal care varied by neighborhood within the First Things First South Phoenix Region. Four percent of mothers in the Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood did not receive prenatal care during their pregnancy, compared to only 3% in the Central City South Neighborhood.

First Prenatal Care Visit, By First Things First South Phoenix Region Neighborhoods, 2009

	1 ST TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY	NO PRENATAL CARE
Maryvale Neighborhood	76.0%	2.2%
Central City South Neighborhood	72.4%	3.2%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	75.5%	4.2%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	79.0%	2.4%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	76.5%	2.5%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Birth Characteristics

Why It Is Important

There are many factors surrounding a child's birth that are related to infant and child survival, health, and development. Low birth weight in particular is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.⁵² Low birth weights are commonly associated with pre-term births which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.⁵³ 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.

⁵² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). Child Health USA 2008-2009. Retrieved 2012 from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

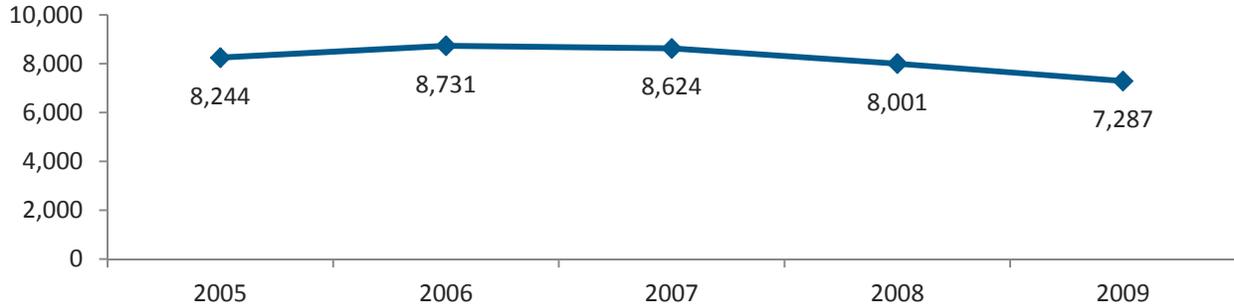
⁵³ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm Births. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4



What the Data Tell Us

There were 7,287 births in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2009, down from 8,244 in 2005.

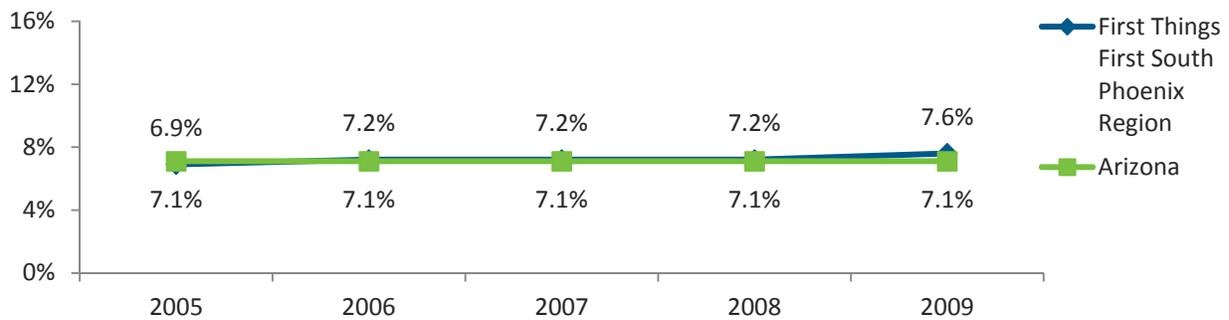
Total Births, First Things First South Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). *Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County*, Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

In 2009, 8% of total births in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were babies born at a low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams), compared to 7% of births in the state.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Percentage of total births.

There was a higher percentage of low birth weight babies born in the Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood (11%), as compared to Maryvale Neighborhood (7%) or overall in the region (8%).

Low Births Weight by First Things First South Phoenix Region Neighborhoods, 2009

	TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER OF BIRTHS WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT	PERCENT OF BIRTHS WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT
Maryvale Neighborhood	3,519	240	6.8%
Central City South Neighborhood	1,050	94	9.0%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	310	34	11.0%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	2,408	189	7.8%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	7,287	557	7.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.



Substance Abuse During Pregnancy

Why It Is Important

Tobacco and alcohol use by pregnant women has a number of serious consequences. Infants prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop a range of disorders known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders such as developmental delays in thinking, speech, movement or social skills, poor coordination, and heart defects.⁵⁴ Furthermore, smoking tobacco during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among mothers and infants. Babies born to smokers are more likely to be born prematurely, with a low birth weight and reduced life expectancy.⁵⁵

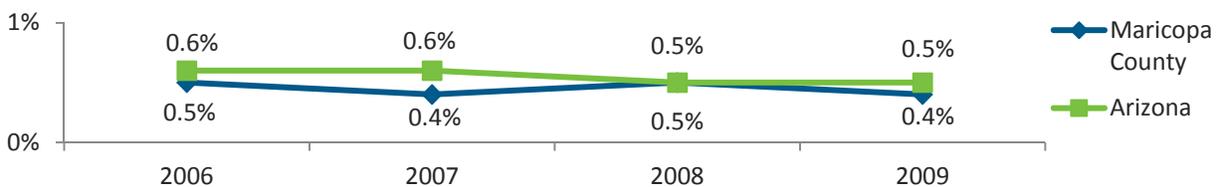
Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Lifewell Behavioral Wellness** offers sliding scale outpatient and residential services for community members struggling with substance abuse and mental illness. Outpatient services include counseling, parenting education, and education and job skills support. One of Lifewell's residential centers provides treatment to low-income mothers while their children are on site with them.
- **Ebony House Alcohol and Drug Treatment** offers individualized outpatient services to adults 18 and older seeking to end their physical dependency on drugs or alcohol. Services are available on a sliding scale fee for income eligible participants.
- **Southwest Behavioral Health Broadway Outpatient Clinic** offers sliding fee scale drug and alcohol counseling for adults, and counseling for adults and children.

What the Data Tell Us

Unfortunately, statistics on mothers' drug and alcohol use are 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 2009, less than one percent (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. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

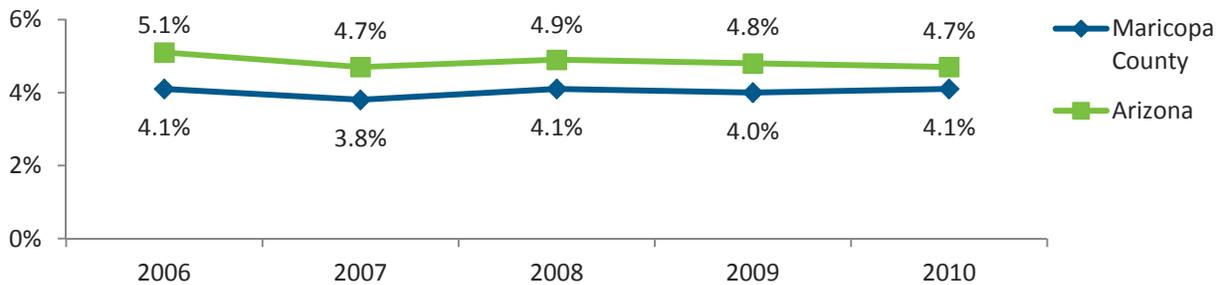
⁵⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

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



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

Births to Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

One hundred seventeen infants experienced drug withdrawal in Maricopa County in 2009, the highest in the previous five years.

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

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

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Teen Births

Why It Is Important

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay childbirth. Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and therefore have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.⁵⁶ Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues. Retrieved 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>.

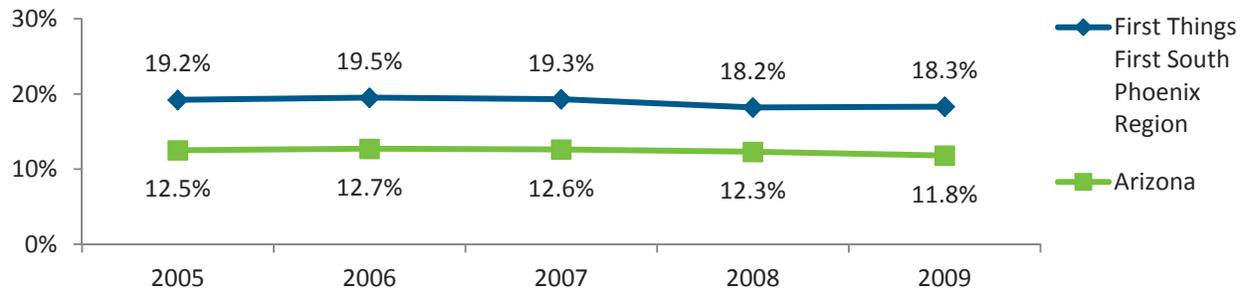
⁵⁷ Arizona Department of Health Services and National Center for Health Statistics.



What the Data Tell Us

Eighteen percent of births were to teen mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First South Phoenix Region, compared to the state of Arizona (12%) in 2009. The percentage of teen mothers who were 19 years or younger has decreased in the region from 19% in 2005 to 18% in 2009.

Births to Teen Mothers



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: Births to teen mothers are shown as a percentage of the total number of births in the region.

The percent of births to teen mothers varied by neighborhood, the Central City South Neighborhood had more than 1 in 5 births to mothers 19 years or younger. While the South Phoenix Neighborhood had the lowest percentage of teen births at 17%, it was still much higher than the state at 12%.

Teen Births by First Things First South Phoenix Region Neighborhoods, 2009

	TOTAL BIRTHS	NUMBER OF TEEN BIRTHS	PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO TEENS
Maryvale Neighborhood	3,519	646	18.4%
Central City South Neighborhood	1,050	215	20.5%
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood	310	58	18.7%
South Phoenix Neighborhood	2,408	416	17.3%
First Things First South Phoenix Region	7,287	1,335	18.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

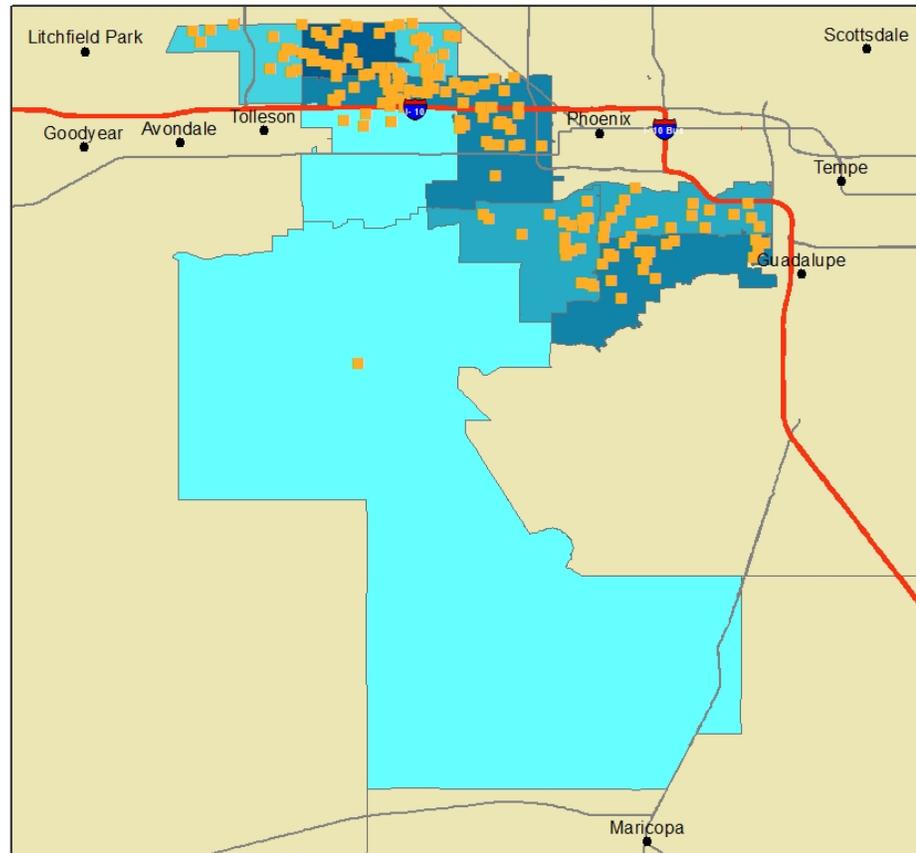
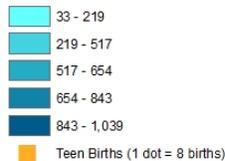


Teen Births and Births to Mothers 20 Years and Older, First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2009



First Things First
South Phoenix Region

Total Births (Less Teen Births)



Source: Total Birth Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Health Status and Vital Statistics by Census Tract, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm>.

Note: Dot density information is based on census tract data, as such placement of dots are not site specific.

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.⁵⁸

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Golden Gate Community Center* holds free Health and Immunization Fairs during the year.
- *The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)* holds no-fee health fairs that include child immunizations.
- *The Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership* publishes immunization information and a list of immunization clinics throughout Phoenix and Maricopa County at www.mcchip.org.

What the Data Tell Us

The percent of kindergarteners with required immunizations in Maricopa County were similar to those of the state. 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

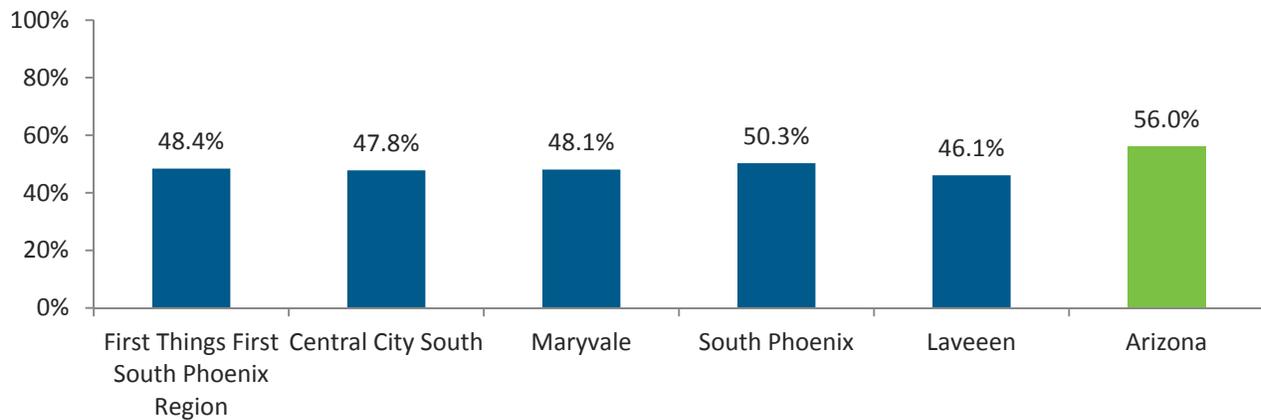
	MARICOPA COUNTY	ARIZONA
4+ DTap	95.2%	95.6%
3+ Polio	95.6%	95.6%
2+ MMR	95.3%	95.3%
3+ Hep B	96.5%	96.6%
2 Varicella	81.4%	81.2%
1 Varicella or Hx	15.6%	16.1%
Personal Exempt	3.4%	3.2%
Medical Exempt	0.2%	0.3%

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

⁵⁸ 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>.



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 South 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.

Health Care

Health Care Need and Access: A Focus on Latino Families

Why It Is Important

Children with a regular source of primary health care have better health. They receive more preventative care, have increased access to care, receive continuous care, have lower rates of hospitalization, and lower health care costs.⁵⁹ An inability to receive medical care has the potential to cause adverse health consequences for children. People foregoing health care at the first cause for concern are more likely to require later hospitalization.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (2008). Women's Health USA. Rockville, Maryland.

⁶⁰ Billings, J., J.D., Bindman, A. B., M.D., Grumbach, K., M.D., et al. (1995). Preventable Hospitalizations and Access to Health Care. JAMA (274(4): 305-311.

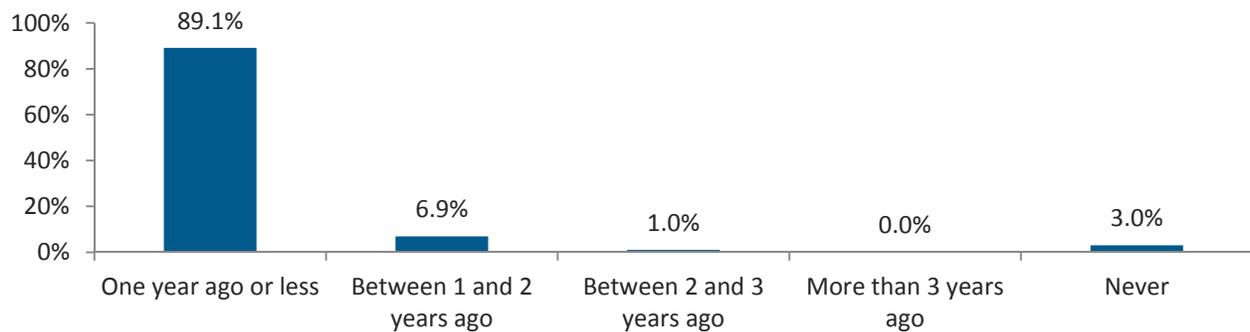


What the Data Tell Us

Nearly 90% of Latino parent respondents to the Arizona Health Survey in South Phoenix reported that their child had seen a doctor within the last year in 2010. Three percent reported that the child had never seen a doctor.



About how long has it been since your child last saw a medical doctor? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



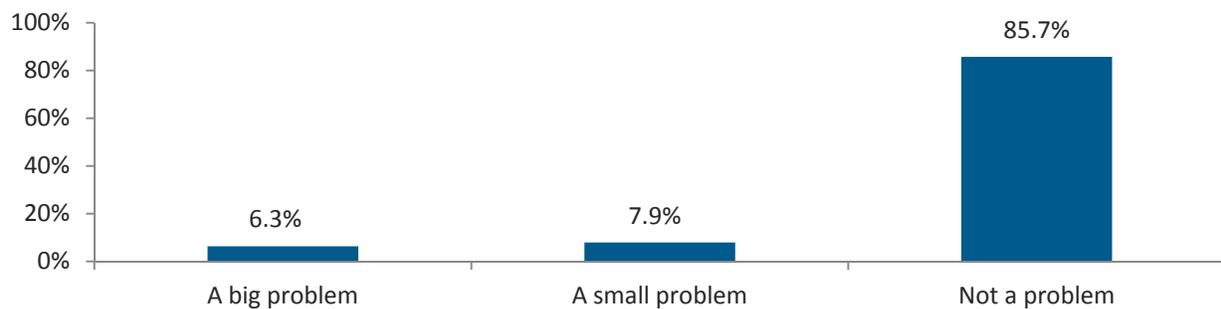
N=101

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Nearly 86% of Latino parent respondents in the region reported that when their child's doctor thought the child should get care, tests, or treatment, that it wasn't a problem to get those services. Fourteen percent said it was a big or small problem.



In the past 12 months, how much of a problem (if any) was it to get the care, tests, or treatment a doctor believed was necessary? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



N=63

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



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.

There has been an increase in enrollment of children in public programs like KidsCare and AHCCCS, but the economic recession has made it harder for many families to obtain this coverage. These programs provide health coverage for approximately 1 in 4 Arizonans. As many Arizonans have lost their jobs or health coverage, they have turned to AHCCCS for insurance. However, AHCCCS faces significant budget cuts from the state, including a freeze in KidsCare in 2009 which resulted in over 22,000 children losing KidsCare insurance.⁶³

Snapshot of Community Assets

- A number of local community organizations **assist families and children trying to apply for KidsCare and AHCCCS**. Some of these programs include: Chicanos Por La Causa, Maricopa Gila River, Helping Families in Need, Mountain Park Park Baseline, Maricopa Mountain Park, Park Maryvale, Neighborhood Ministries, Rio Vista Center.

What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in 2011 town hall meetings at M.L. King Elementary, the Riverside School District, and the Cartwright School District reported a range of difficulties in accessing public insurance, including:
 - Trying to apply for AHCCCS and learning that it was frozen until the following month (M.L. King)
 - Difficulty applying for AHCCCS because the applications were only in English (M.L. King)

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/>.

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

⁶³ Arizona Health Futures. (2011). After the Dust Settles. Retrieved 2012 from <http://slhi.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05ib-2011-April.pdf>.

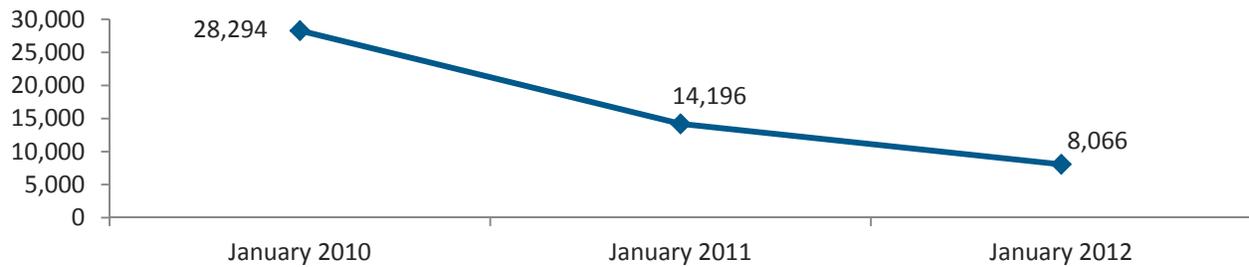


- Not qualifying for AHCCCS (Riverside)
- Having difficulty applying for AHCCCS and being treated badly by Department of Economic Security staff (Riverside)
- Seeing undocumented clients facing health insurance problems, including being unable to access preventative care (Cartwright)

What the Data Tell Us

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

KidsCare Enrollment, Maricopa County

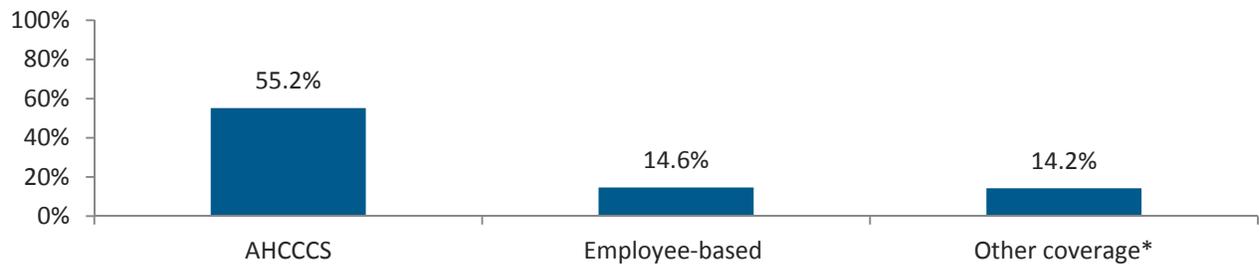


Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2011). Kids Care Enrollment. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx.Primary Care>

Slightly more than half of Latino parent respondents to the Arizona Health Survey in South Phoenix reported that their child had AHCCCS as insurance coverage, followed by 15% with employee-based coverage and 14% with other coverage in 2010.



Types of Child Health Insurance Coverage (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



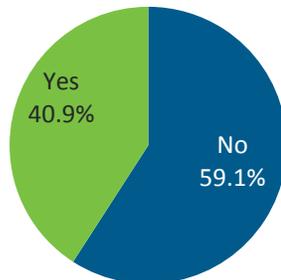
Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.
 Note: Other coverage includes Kidscare, other government plan or private plan



About 40% of Latino parent respondents to the Arizona Health Survey in South Phoenix reported that in the past 12 months, their child had a period of time when they were uninsured in 2010.



During the past 12 months, was there any time when your child had no health insurance at all? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



N=44

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Primary Care and Medical Homes

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.⁶⁴ 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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The South Central and Maryvale Family Health Centers***, part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), offer 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 AHCCS.
- ***Mountain Park Health Center's*** Baseline and Maryvale clinics offer sliding fee scale primary care, including pediatrics and women's health.
- ***The Golden Gate Community Center*** holds free Health and Immunization Fairs during the year. Services include physical exams for children and adults.

⁶⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). National Healthcare Disparities Report. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>



- ***The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)*** offers physical wellness exams during its no-fee health fairs.
- ***The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
 - Funds financial incentives such as stipends and loan forgiveness for professionals to work in underserved communities.
 - Funds “medical home” efforts to provide appropriate and coordinated health care for children birth through five.
- ***Interfaith Cooperative Ministries*** collaborates with ***Cathedral Health Services*** and their mobile medical volunteers to offer free medical clinics to uninsured community members. Clinic services include general medical checkups and child development assessments.
- ***Mission of Mercy*** offers completely free mobile primary care services, as well as referrals to specialists who have agreed to treat Mission of Mercy patients within their private practice. One third of the mobile clinic’s patients are children under the age of 18. The clinic also provides prescription medication at no cost from its on-board formulary.
- ***Native Health*** offers well-child checkups and immunizations, adult and teen check-ups, and prevention-focused health screenings. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- ***Wesley Health Center*** offers wellness exams for children, women and men, health education, urgent care and other services for the community on a sliding fee scale.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** offers primary and preventative health care for all ages and provides a sliding fee scale for those individuals and families without insurance.
- ***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.

What the Community Is Saying

- Participants in town hall meetings in the Riverside and Cartwright School Districts in 2011 reported that their ***children received regular medical care*** through various sources including:
 - Pediatricians
 - Community-based, mobile, sliding scale, school-based and pediatric clinics/services
 - Urgent care facilities
 - Hospitals/emergency rooms

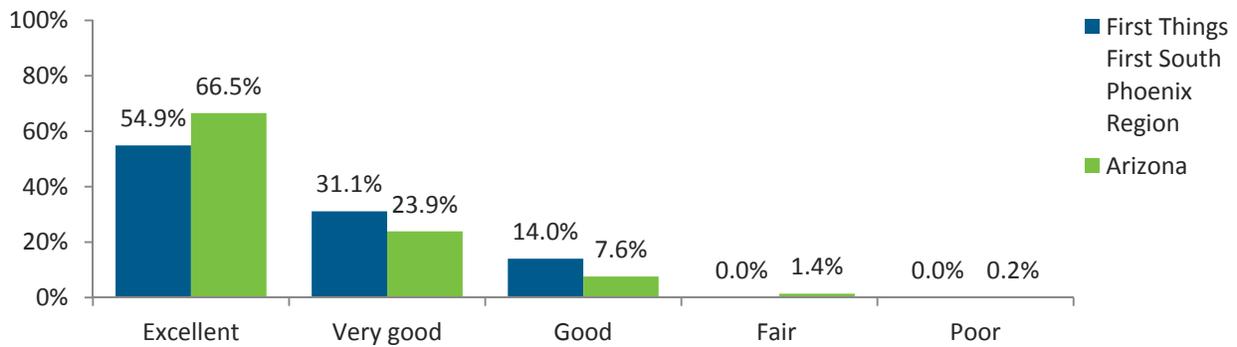


- Some participants mentioned using the hospital “as a last resort” for their children’s regular medical care. Others simply included hospitals and emergency rooms in their list of sources for their children’s regular medical care.
- Participants in town hall meetings at Riverside in 2011 identified *Mission of Mercy’s* services as helpful for their interactions with young children.

What the Data Tell Us

About 86% of Family and Community Survey parent respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region said that their child’s health was “excellent” or “very good,” compared to 90% in Arizona in 2008.

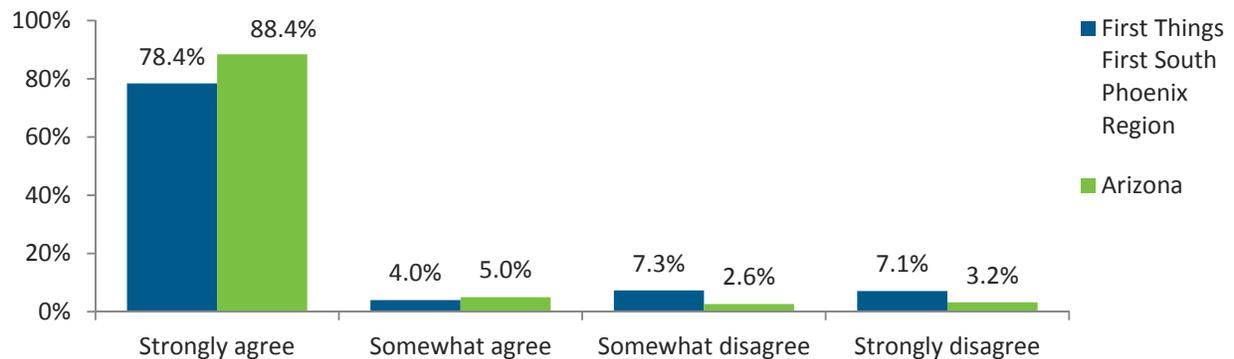
Parent Perceptions of the Statement “Compared with Other Children Ages Birth Through Five, Would You Say that Your Child’s Health Is...” 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.

Seventy-eight percent of parent respondents in the region strongly agreed that their child five and under had regular visits to the same doctor’s office in 2008, compared to 88% in the state.

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



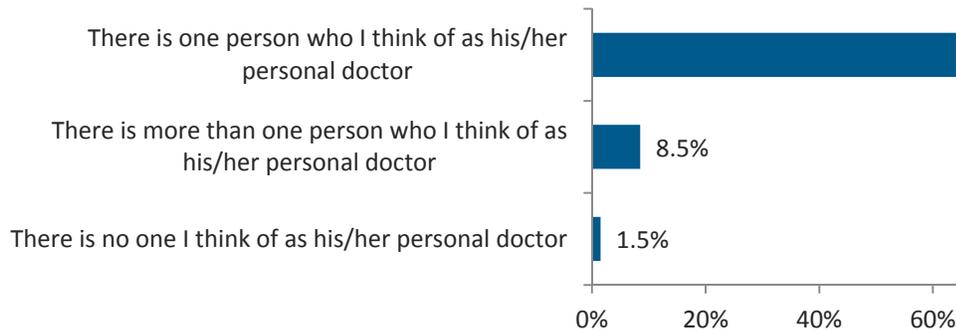
Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.



Ninety percent of Latino parent respondents in the South Phoenix Region reported that their child had one person who they considered to be the child’s personal doctor (thereby having a medical home) in 2010. Nine percent reported one or more doctors, and fewer than 2% said they had no one they considered their child’s personal doctor.



A personal doctor is someone your child would see if they need a check-up. Your child also may see a personal doctor if advice is needed about a health problem, or they get sick or hurt. Which of the following statements best describes your child’s current situation? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received from First Things First.

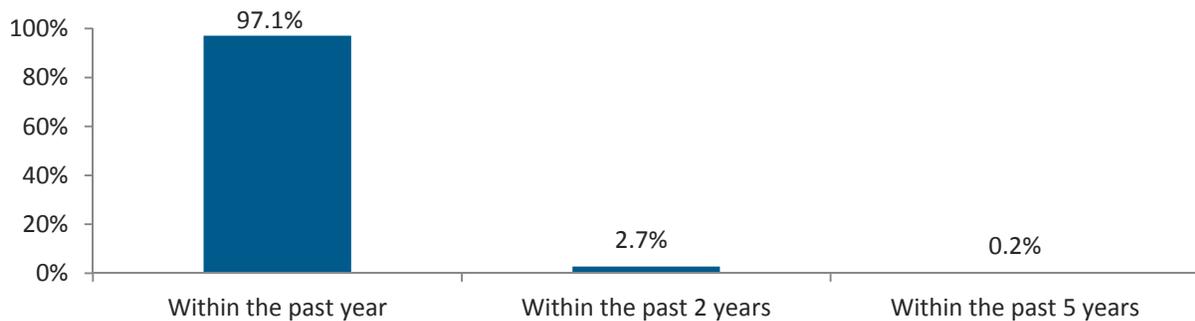
2011

Ninety-seven percent of Latino parent respondents in the region reported that their child had received a routine visit or well-child visit within the past year. **School Readiness Indicator** that past year. **% and % of children receiving timely well-child visits**



About how long has it been since your child last visited a doctor for a routine checkup or well-child visit? A routine checkup is a general physical exam, exam for a specific injury, illness, or condition. (South Phoenix Latino Families),

not an 2010



Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



There are three Primary Care Areas serving the First Things First South Phoenix Region. In 2010, there were more than 2,000 primary care physicians serving in these three areas.

Health Care Providers, Primary Care Areas Serving the First Things First South Phoenix Region, 2010

TYPE OF PROVIDER	PHOENIX CENTRAL	PHOENIX-SOUTH CENTRAL	PHOENIX-SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Primary Care Physicians (M.D. and D.O.)	1,208	784	84
Physician Assistants	184	106	8
Nurse Practitioners	193	24	29
Registered Nurses	2,436	434	807
Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives	13	3	3
Emergency Medical Personnel	338	1,702	114

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Primary Care Area. Retrieved 2012 from www.azdhs.gov

There were 352 people to every one physician served by the three Primary Care Areas of Phoenix Central, South Central and South Mountain, a higher ratio than in Maricopa County (464:1) or Arizona overall (501:1) in 2010.

Provider to Population Rates, 2010

REGION	PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER TO POPULATION
Phoenix-Central, South Central and South Mountain Areas	352:1
Maricopa County	464:1
Arizona	501:1

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Primary Care Area. Retrieved 2012 from www.azdhs.gov



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

Oral health is also an essential for pregnant women and women of reproductive age. Physiologic changes occurring during pregnancy can place a tremendous strain on a woman's body, including the mouth. Poor oral health of the mother, including dental decay and periodontal disease before and during pregnancy, has been linked to poor birth and pregnancy outcomes such as preterm birth and low birth-weight.⁶⁸

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The South Central Health Center**, part of Maricopa Integrated Health System, offers sliding fee scale dental services.
- **The Mountain Park Health Center** includes a dental clinic at its Baseline location. Payment plans are available for patients without insurance.
- **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic** offers dental services, including comprehensive children's treatment plans, to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Dentists, dental hygienists, and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.
- **The Golden Gate Community Center** offers dental exams for children at its free Health and Immunization Fairs.
- **The Childhelp H.K. Cummings Community Center (Cummings)** includes dental exams in the services available at its no-fee health fairs.

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

⁶⁸ South Carolina Oral Health Advisory Council and Coalition. (2011). *Oral Health Care for Pregnant Women*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009437.pdf>.



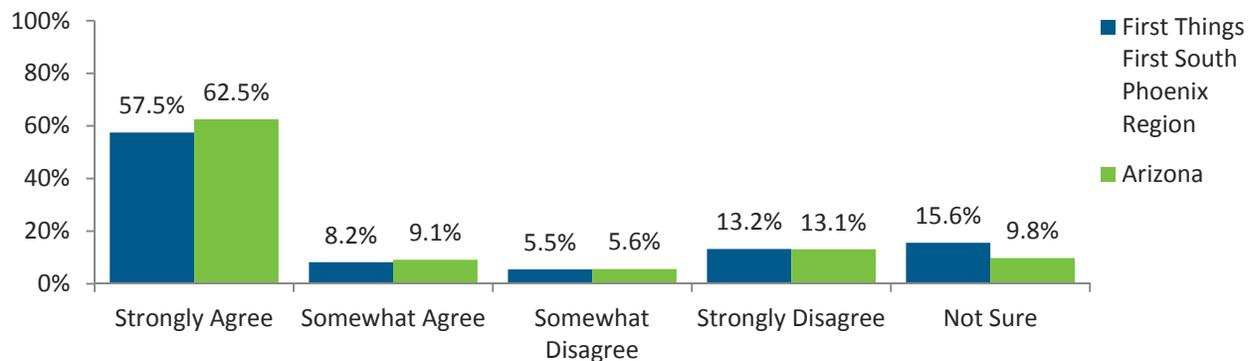
What the Data Tell Us

There is limited data regarding dental care for children ages birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. Current data regarding untreated tooth decay does not exist though survey data from the region speaks to the number of children ages birth through five with regular dental providers.

School Readiness Indicator
and % of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay

Sixty-six percent of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2008 “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their child age five and under had regular visits with the same dental provider, compared to 72% of Arizona parents.

Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits with the Same Dental Provider.” 2008

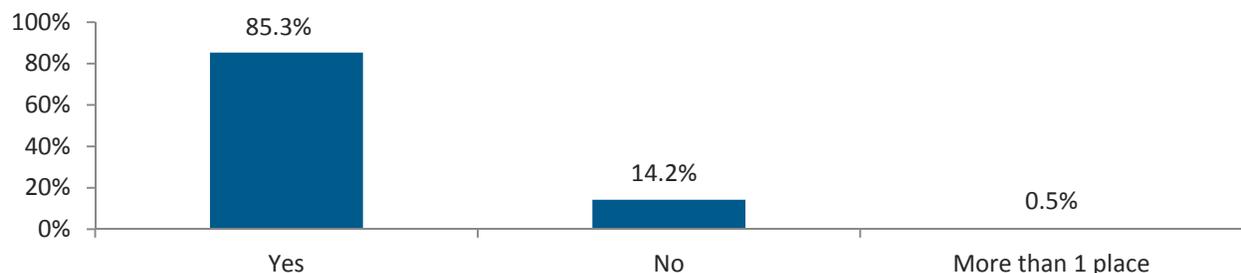


Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First..

Eighty-five percent of Latino parent respondents in the region reported that their child had a particular dentist that they usually visited for dental care, in the 2010 survey.



Is there a particular dentist or place you USUALLY go to for your child's dental care? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



N=367.

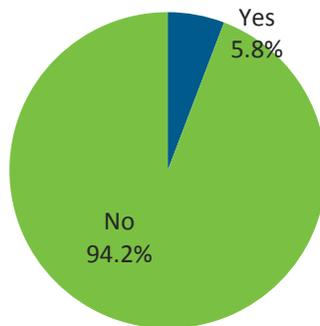
Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



A relatively small percentage (less than 6%) of Latino parent respondents in the South Phoenix Region said that within the last year, there were times when their child needed dental care but the family could not afford it in 2010.



During the past 12 months, was there any time when your child needed dental care but you could not afford it? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



N=548.

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Chronic Disease and Mortality

Injury and Illness

Why It Is Important

Injuries among children can be intentional or unintentional. Intentional injuries, including child abuse, assault, and self-inflicted injuries require intervention by the authorities to protect the child and prevent recurrence. Unintentional injuries, or accidents, are more common, and are generally preventable. Parent education on the importance of child-proofing the home, appropriate use of car/booster seats, placing fences around pools and yards, bicycle helmet use, animal safety, and safe storage of firearms can reduce the likelihood of accidents.

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.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Safe Kids Coalition** of Maricopa County provides free car seat inspections, educates parents and caregivers during the inspection process, and provides educational workshops to community groups, Head Start programs, schools and others.



- **The First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council** works with the Maricopa Department of Health to build a coalition of health education programs. The coalition will establish a comprehensive health education system and provide community-based health trainings to young children and their families, with a focus on decreasing chronic health issues among young children.

What the Data Tells Us

Vaccine preventable diseases, hepatitis, and tuberculosis have been on the decline since 2005 in Maricopa County. However, between 2008 and 2009 the number of vaccine preventable illnesses increased from 220 to 306 reported cases.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Maricopa County

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Vaccine Preventable	631	457	203	220	306
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 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 are 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.⁶⁹ Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.⁷⁰ Even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care. Well-controlled asthma allows for less symptoms and decreases interference with normal activities, including sleep, work and school.⁷¹

⁶⁹ U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. (2010). Asthma. *Medline Plus*. Retrieved June 23 2010 from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmainchildren.html>.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

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



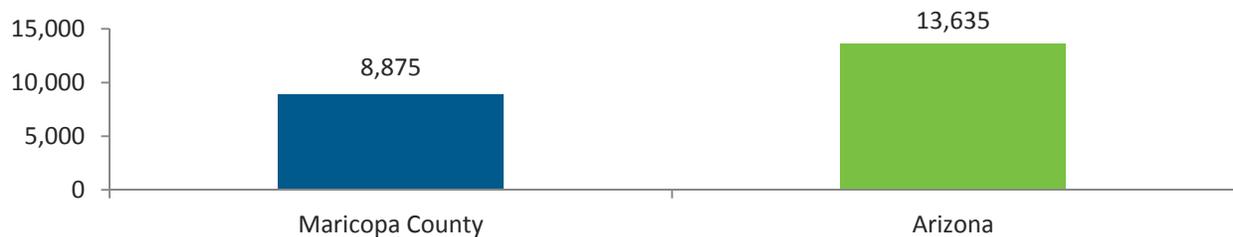
Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Maricopa County Asthma Coalition's* programs include a partnership with City of Phoenix Head Start to provide asthma screening and asthma education for teachers, children and parents in Head Start classrooms. The coalition is part of the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative.

What the Data Tell Us

In 2009 there were 8,875 Emergency Room visits related to asthma in Maricopa County in 2009.

Emergency Room Visits by Children Ages Birth Through Five with Asthma, 2009



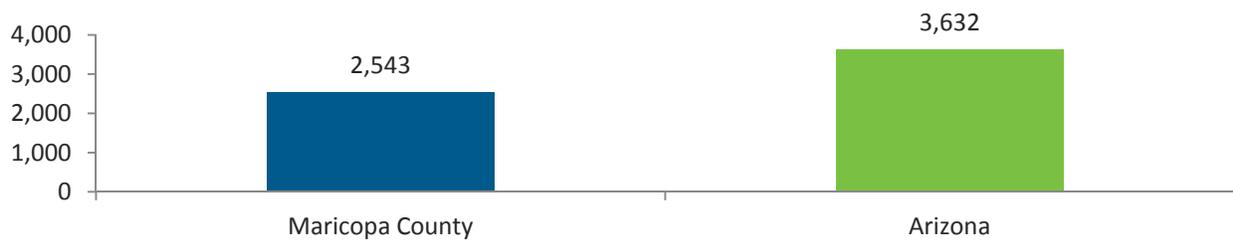
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Table 7- Emergency Room Visits and Discharges of Patients with Asthma. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>

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

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

In Maricopa County, there were 2,543 inpatient discharges for children birth through five with asthma.

Hospital Discharges of Inpatients Ages Birth Through Five with Asthma, 2009



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Table 7- Emergency Room Visits and Discharges of Patients with Asthma. Retrieved 2011 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 are the most recent available.



Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Fitness

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 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.⁷²

Good physical fitness increases memory, concentration and energy levels for children that assist in learning and maintaining a good quality of life. Exercise also contributes to lowering obesity and overweight levels for children. However, there are several key factors that contribute to fewer opportunities for children to remain physically active including unsafe neighborhoods, reductions in school exercise and sports programs, and budget related reductions in parks and recreation programs.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Mountain Park Health Center’s “All Kids Can Club”*** offers bilingual classes for children on the importance of exercise and healthy diet. This program is offered at the Baseline and Maryvale locations.
- ***The City of Phoenix*** has an estimated four district parks, seventeen community parks and twenty-five neighborhood parks in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.
- ***Maryvale on the Move*** encourages community-based efforts to promote policy and environmental changes that support healthy eating and active living opportunities for children and their families.
- ***The Desierto Verde Community Garden***, launched in 2012, is a project of the Amigos Center, Calvary United Methodist Church, Maryvale on the Move and other partners. This 100,000 square foot community garden offers four by twenty foot plots/garden boxes for community members to adopt for \$20 per year.
- ***Salvation Army Ray Croc Center*** offers sports fields, an aquatic center, dance and aerobics classes as well as education and art classes. Membership scholarships are available for annual membership when funding permits.

⁷² 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.



- **The Roosevelt School District**, in collaboration with partners D.L. Withers and Orcutt/Winslow, provide classes and facilities created to enhance and support Wellness and Nutrition Education within the school district. Services include edible landscape learning lab, gardens, greenhouses and nutritional analysis classes.

What the Community Is Saying

Participants in a town hall meeting in the Riverside School District in 2011 identified **community gardens** as a particular service they needed for their young child that they had not been able to find in their community.

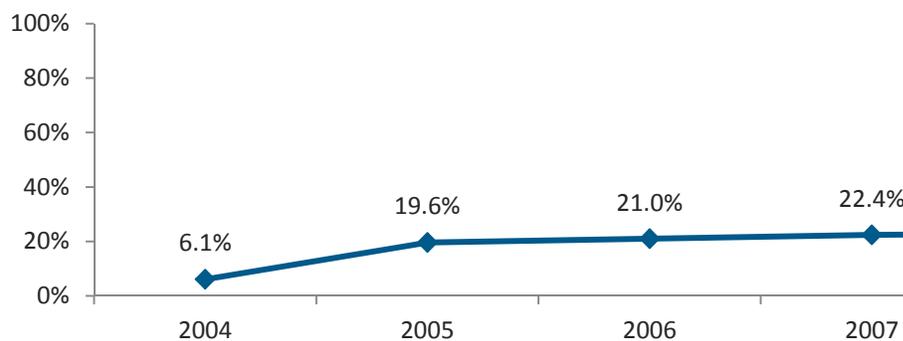
What the Data Tell Us

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

School Readiness Indicator

#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)

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

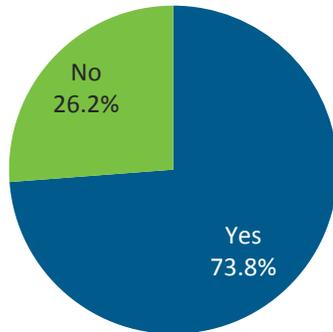
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



Nearly three out of four Latino parent respondents in the region reported that at their child’s last doctor’s visit, the doctor talked about nutrition and healthy eating in 2010.



When your child had their last routine physical exam or well-child visit, did you and a doctor talk about their nutrition or healthy eating? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



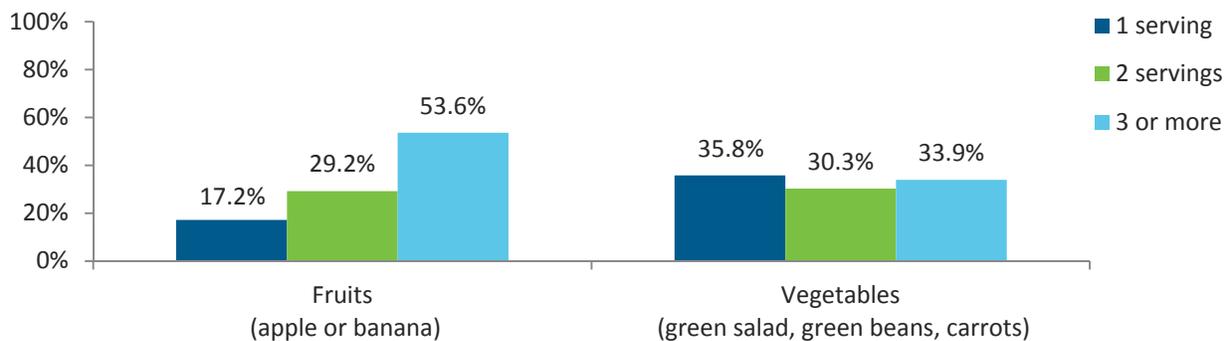
N=149.

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

Half of Latino parent respondents in the region reported that their child typically ate 3 or more servings of fruits a day, and about one-third of parents reported that their child ate 3 or more servings of vegetables a day. This meant that a high percentage of children consumed fewer than 3 servings of fruits a day (46%) or vegetables (66%) in 2010.



Amount of Servings Child Eats During a Typical Day of Fruits or Vegetables (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



Fruits N=390; Vegetables N=330.

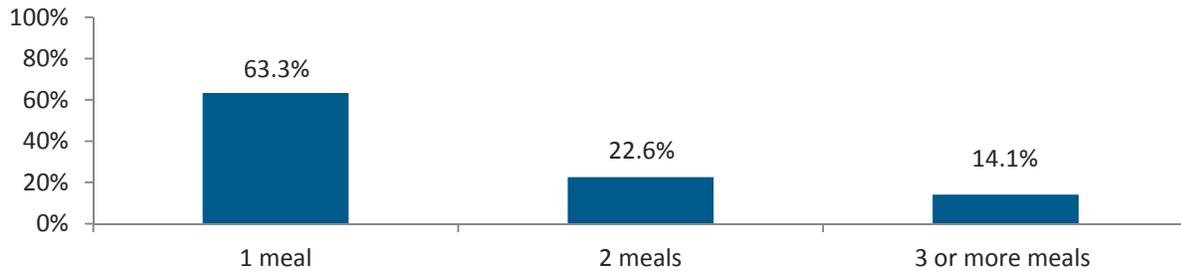
Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



Two out of three Latino parent respondents (63%) in the region reported that their child ate fast food once during a typical week, almost 1 in 4 parents (23%) reported eating fast food twice a week, and 14% said their child ate 3 or more meals at fast food restaurants during a typical week in 2010.



How many times does {he/she} eat fast food during a typical week? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010

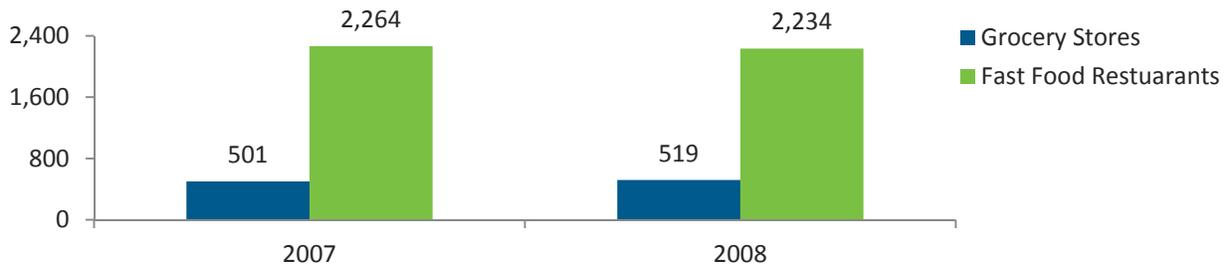


N=248

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.

In Maricopa County, there were over four times as many fast food restaurants as grocery stores in 2008.

Availability of Grocery Stores and Fast Food Restaurants, Maricopa County



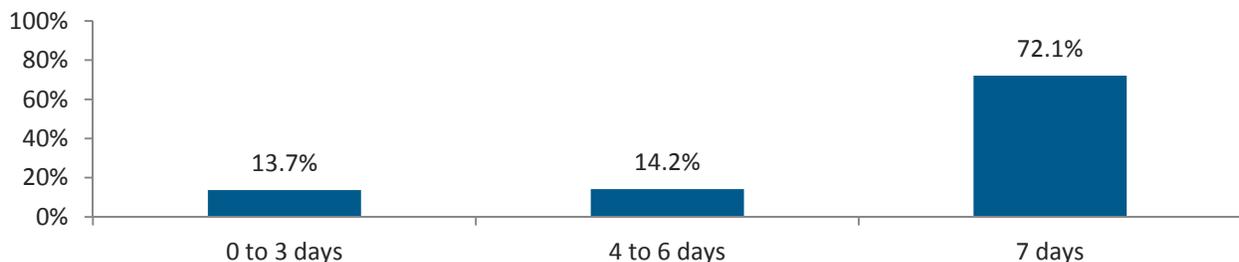
Source: Food Environment Atlas. (Various Years). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx>

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Seventy-two percent of Latino parent survey respondents in the region reported that their child was physically active for at least 60 minutes during each of the last 7 days.



On how many days of the past 7 days was your child physically active for at least 60 minutes total? (South Phoenix Latino Families), 2010



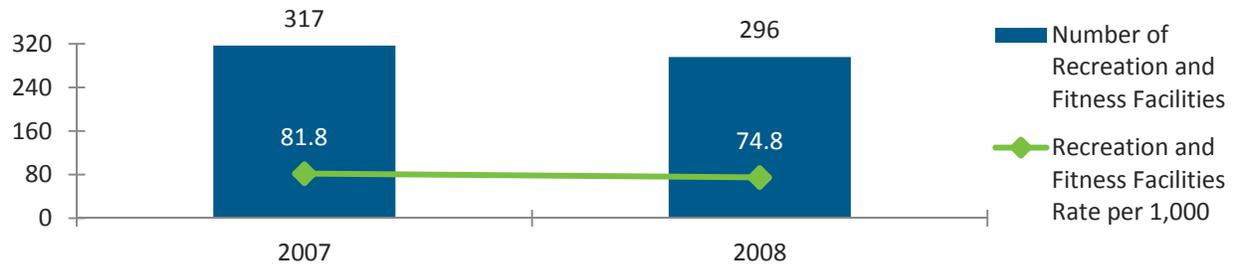
N=402.

Source: Arizona Health Survey. (2010). Young Children of South Phoenix. (Unpublished raw data). Received 2011 from First Things First.



There were nearly 300 recreation and fitness facilities in 2008, in Maricopa County.⁷³ 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 are the most recent available.

Diabetes

Why It Is Important

While type II diabetes is primarily associated with overweight adults over age 40, inactivity and increased obesity rates have led to greater incidence in children. Children with type II diabetes are at greater risk for the long-term complications of diabetes, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Early diagnosis and treatment of type II diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes complications. The cornerstones of diabetes management for children with type II diabetes are weight management and increased physical activity.⁷⁴

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Mountain Park Health Center's** Baseline and Maryvale clinics offer diabetes classes that teach disease management and healthy eating habits. Spanish and English classes are available at the Baseline location; Spanish classes are available at the Maryvale site.
- **The South Central and Maryvale Family Health Centers**, part of Maricopa Integrated Health System, offer instruction to community members with diabetes. Topics include healthy eating, exercise, prevention of long-term problems, stress management and blood sugar checks.

⁷³ Food Environment Atlas for Maricopa County.

⁷⁴ National Diabetes Education Program. (2008). Overview of Diabetes in Children and Adolescents. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from www.yourdiabetesinfo.org

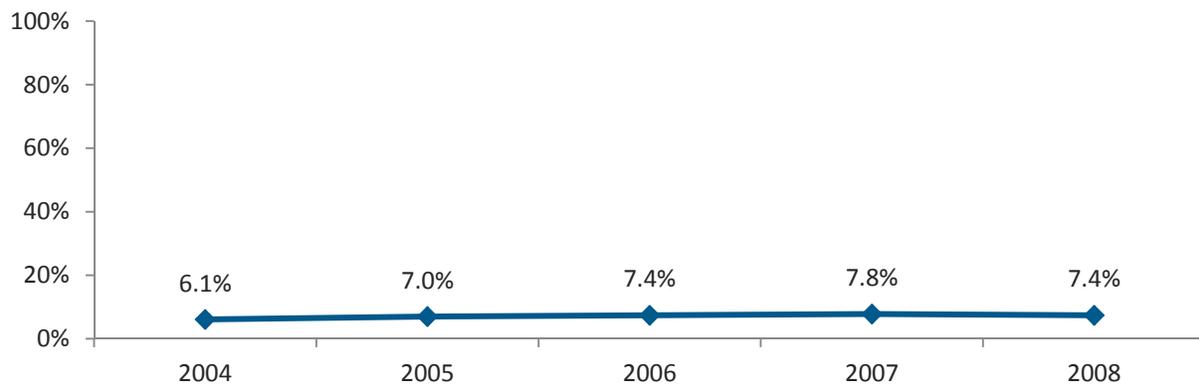


- **Mission of Mercy's** free mobile health care services include diabetes management and education to assist patients with diabetes to gain better control of their blood sugar levels and prevent complications.
- **Native Health** offers diabetes management services, including blood sugar control assistance, glucose machine education, insulin management and diabetic nutrition. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- **Interfaith Cooperative Ministries/Cathedral Health Services'** medical clinics for uninsured community members include diabetes tests in their range of services.
- **Adelante Healthcare** provides sliding fee diabetes screenings.

What the Data Tell Us

While we do not currently have data for the percentage of children with diabetes in the region, over 7% of adults in Maricopa County were estimated to have diabetes in 2008, an increase from 6% in 2004.

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



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2008). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older

Note: Most recent data available.



Leading Causes of Death

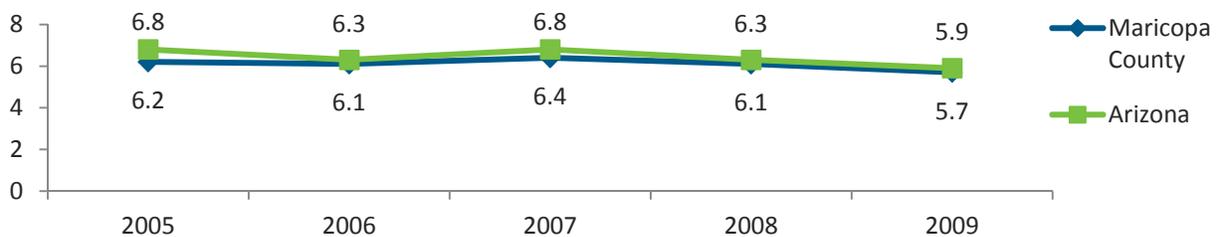
Why It Is Important

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 2003.⁷⁵ The leading causes of death are birth defects, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and complications with the mother.

What the Data Tells Us

Infant mortality in Maricopa County decreased from 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 5.7 deaths in 2009.

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.⁷⁶

Total deaths over the past 5 years have been decreasing for children under age 18 in Maricopa County. Among children under 18, the leading manner of death remained natural, accounting for 67% of deaths in 2009. Sixteen percent of children's deaths were due to unintended injuries.

Manner of Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

MANNER OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Accidental (Unintended Injury)	137	121	101	73	86
Homicide	31	46	52	39	36
Suicide	17	28	17	20	9
Natural	440	455	446	388	365
Undetermined	17	14	32	57	46
Total Maricopa County	642	664	648	577	542

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.

Note: 2005 undetermined manner of death data include one death due to unknown manner.

⁷⁵ 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>

⁷⁶ 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/>



Accidental deaths are often preventable deaths. The leading cause accidental death among children under age 18 in Maricopa County continued to be motor vehicle accidents in 2009; however 16 deaths were caused by drowning and 9 by suffocation.

Cause of Accidental Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Motor Vehicle	60	67	43	30	42
Firearm	1	8	2	1	1
Suffocation	12	19	2	14	9
Drowning	22	15	1	13	16
Hanging	1	0	0	2	3
Poisoning	10	1	11	4	5
Fire/Burn	17	4	NA	1	2
Exposure	3	NA	3	1	NA
Fall/Crush	1	6*	5	4	4
Other Injury	10	1	34	3	4
Total Accidental Death	137	121	101	73	86
Total Deaths Maricopa County	642	664	648	577	542*

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.

* Excludes SIDS and prematurity

Note: 2006 data regarding fall/crush include 2 deaths by blunt force trauma. Total Includes 1 undetermined cause of accidental death



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 Knowledge and Satisfaction with Early Childhood Services

Why It Is Important

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First South 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 Community Is Saying

- Participants in town hall meetings in the Riverside and Cartwright School Districts in 2011 reported that they had found out about services they had used for their child/family from friends and family, schools, churches, and the internet.
 - Cartwright town hall participants also reported that they had found about these services from information available in *public spaces* such as Laundromats, through *social service agencies, Family Resource Centers and community action programs*, at *health fairs*, and also through the *popular media*—television, radio (including Spanish language radio), newspapers and magazines.
 - In contrast, Riverside town hall participants *did not mention popular media* as a source for information about services for their child/family, and also did not mention the wide range of other sources that Cartwright participants had used. Riverside participants did, however, mention learning about services from fliers at child care, from parent liaisons, and through their own research.

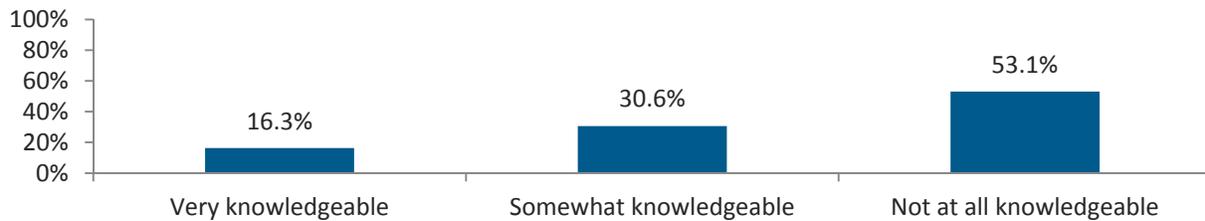


What the Data Tell Us

Parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were asked to provide their perspectives on their knowledge about what First Things First does in their community in the 2012 survey. Half (53%) were not at all knowledgeable, 31% said they were somewhat knowledgeable and 16% were very knowledgeable about what First Things First does in their community.



How knowledgeable are you about what First Things First does in your community? 2012



N=533.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished raw data).

Parent survey respondents reported they received important information about activities and services for their child and family from these top five sources: friends and family members (64%), the television (30%), Internet/email (29%), community agencies (14%), and doctors/clinics (14%).



How do you get important information about activities and services for your child and family? 2012

RESPONSE	2012
Friends and family members	63.9%
Television	30.4%
Internet/email	29.1%
Community agencies	14.3%
Doctors/clinics	13.9%
Newspaper / magazines	13.7%
Radio	13.3%
Child's teacher	11.9%
Mail	7.6%
Child care worker	6.5%
Parent classes/groups	4.4%
Other	4.4%

Multiple response question with 540 respondents offering 1,152 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished raw data).

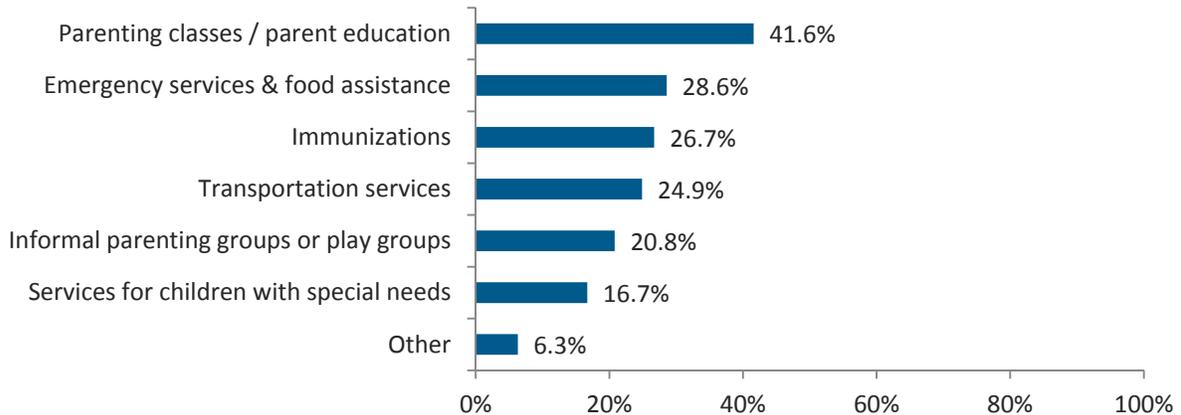
Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.



Parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported parenting education and parenting classes were the most needed early childhood service in the region. Twenty-nine percent reported the need for additional emergency services and food assistance.



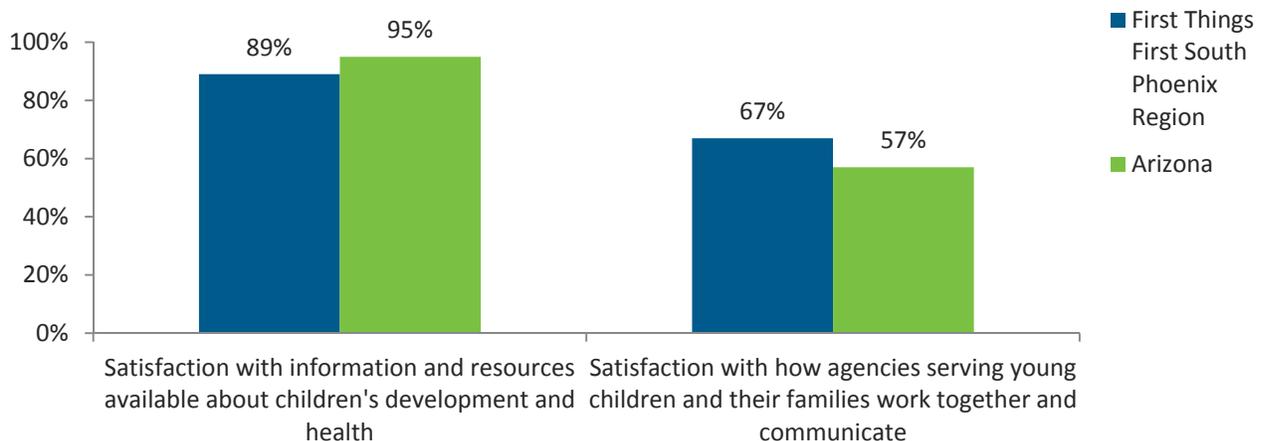
Which of the following services for children under the age of 6 and their families do you think are most needed in the First Things First South Phoenix Region? 2012



Multiple response question with 539 respondents offering 1,133 responses.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2012). First Things First – South Phoenix Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages 0-5. (Unpublished raw data).
 Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive, respondents were asked to mark their top two priorities for the region.

Eighty-nine percent of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were “somewhat” or “very satisfied” with the information and resources available about children’s development and health in 2008. Nearly 70% were satisfied with how agencies serving young children and their families worked together and communicated.

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

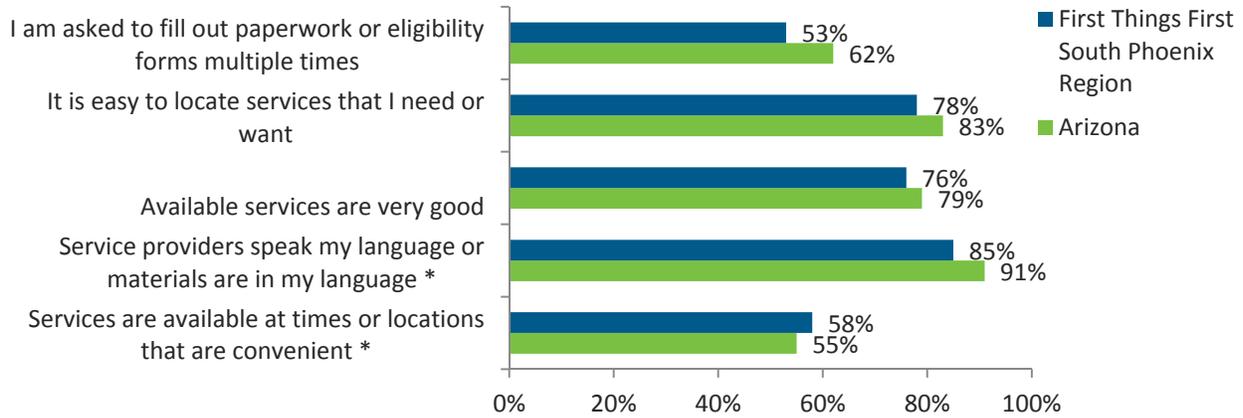


Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Early Childhood Services: Parents Who “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



Family and community survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region said that service providers spoke their language or materials were in their languages (85%) and it was easy to locate services they needed or wanted (78%) in 2008. However, only 58% said that services were available at times or locations that were convenient.

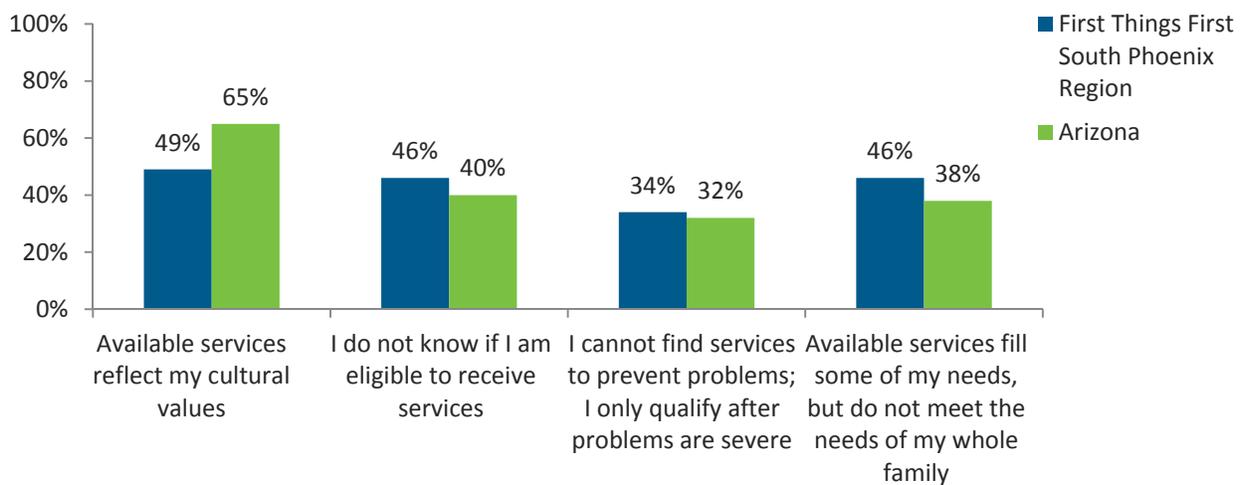
Parents Who Responded “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” to the Following Statements (50% or higher), 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Early Childhood Services: Parents Who “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008
 * 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 with the other questions.

The family and community survey parent respondents said that available services filled some of their needs but not the entire family needs (46%), and 46% did not know whether they were eligible for services in 2008. Almost half of parent respondents said that services were available that reflected their cultural values and 34% said that they could not find services to prevent problems.

Parents Who Responded “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” to the Following Statements (Below 50%), 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Early Childhood Services: Parents Who “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

The families and children living within the First Things First South Phoenix Region

There were 419,714 residents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region in 2010 according to the U.S. Census. Of those, 52,710 were children birth through 5. The largest population of children birth through five was in the Maryvale Neighborhood (23,075 children), and the smallest population was in the Central City South Neighborhood (6,210) in 2010. Fifty-six percent of the population five and over in the First Things First South Phoenix Region spoke Spanish in the home and 42% spoke English in the home in 2010. Less than 1% reported speaking Navajo or another Native American Language.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the First Things First South 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.

Latino children ages birth through five in the region are accessing health care

Nearly 90% of Latino parent respondents to the Arizona Health Survey in South Phoenix reported that their child had seen a doctor within the last year in 2010. Three percent reported that the child had never seen a doctor. Nearly 86% of Latino parent respondents in the region reported that when their child's doctor thought the child should get specific care, that it wasn't a problem to get those services.

There are many medical service providers serving the region

There were 352 people to every one physician served by the three Primary Care Areas of Phoenix Central, South Central and South Mountain. This was a lower ratio than in Maricopa County (464:1) or Arizona overall (501:1) in 2010. While the number of medical providers is important to medical access, health insurance coverage and increasing medical costs are still a concern for parents and children in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.

Community Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Despite the concerted efforts of First Things First, community organizations, and individuals, there are areas affecting the health and well-being of children and families in the First Things First South Phoenix Region that need additional improvement. One struggle is the different needs of the different neighborhoods and communities.



The region is impacted by poverty and unemployment

Thirty-five percent of children ages birth through five living in the First Things First South Phoenix Region were in families that earned less than the federal poverty level, higher than in Arizona (24%). Children ages 5 to 17 living in the Isaac (43%) and Murphy (44%) Elementary School District areas had a much higher rate of poverty than those in the Laveen (20%) and Pendergast (23%) Elementary School District areas. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in Phoenix City was 9% in 2011.

Many families are going without basic needs such as food

Half of parents surveyed in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having gone without at least one basic need in the 12 months prior to the 2012 survey. At the same time, support services are becoming harder to access. 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.⁷⁷ 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. From 2007 to 2010, the number of families receiving TANF increased to 2,949, but in 2011, saw a dramatic decrease of 1,155 families, ending at 1,794.

Approximately 1 in 4 children in Maricopa County lived in families that didn't have enough food to eat in 2010. From January 2010 to January 2011, the number of SNAP recipients in the First Things First South Phoenix Region decreased by more than 14,000, ending a three year period in which SNAP recipients increased from 18,877 in 2007 to 33,698 in 2010. The number of women and children receiving WIC benefits decreased between 2010 and 2011 in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. In 2011, there were 38,702 children and 12,760 women receiving WIC benefits.

Children are not prepared for kindergarten

Between 15% and 30% of kindergarten students in the First Things First South Phoenix Regional School Districts were at grade level at the beginning of the school year in 2010/11. In Isaac School District, 15% of students entered kindergarten at grade level. In both Pendergast and Fowler Elementary School Districts, more than half (56% and 60%, respectively) needed substantial intervention.

⁷⁷ 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>



While some parents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region are promoting early literacy skills in the home, many are not frequently reading to their children and asking them about the books they are reading together. Just 55% of Latino parent survey respondents in the South Phoenix area said that they read to their child every day in a usual week, according to the Arizona Health Survey 2010. One-third of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported that they always asked their child about the pictures, story, and new words when reading a book. Fifteen percent of parents reported they never engaged in those activities when reading with their child.

Parents are not accessing parent support programs such as parenting classes, playgroups and support sessions

Just 15% of parent survey respondents in the First Things First South Phoenix Region reported having attended a parenting class or support group in the three months prior to the 2012 survey.

While many early childhood service agencies provide parenting programs and support classes, respondents of the same survey reported parenting education and parenting classes were the most needed early childhood service in the region. Twenty-nine percent reported the need for additional emergency services and food assistance.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the First Things First South 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 economic and educational needs of their children, particularly in regards to poverty, hunger, early literacy and kindergarten readiness. In light of these challenges in the First Things First South 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 South Phoenix Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

Primary Data

Measures of community progress depend upon consistent, reliable, and scientifically accurate sources of data. One of the types of data gathered for this project was primary data. The central primary data are from a *Face-to-Face Parent Survey* of a sample of parents of young children (birth through five) in the First Things First South Phoenix Region.

Face-to-Face Parent Survey

In order to better understand the needs of young children ages birth through five in the First Things First South Phoenix Region and gather important information on how to help provide greater opportunities for them to grow up ready to succeed, ASR conducted a face-to-face survey with parents of young children (birth through five) in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. In all, 551 unique self-administered surveys were completed in early 2012.

A convenience sampling approach was used, whereby trained surveyors went to different locations and events in the First Things First South Phoenix Region and asked people to complete the survey. Surveyors were instructed to prioritize locations and events where they believed there would be a strong presence of the target population, including (but not limited to) community and school events, local community organizations, and child care providers. In addition, surveyors conducted face-to-face surveys on an individual basis, whereby trained surveyors asked eligible individuals they knew to complete the survey, including family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who had children ages birth through five.

The team of surveyors consisted of community volunteers, service providers, and other community members, all of whom were required to attend a comprehensive training, and were compensated at a rate of \$3.00 per completed survey. In order to attract survey respondents, a children's book was offered (in both English and Spanish) as an incentive gift in appreciation for their time and participation.

It is important to note that the face-to-face survey process was subject to the limitations common to this form of convenience sampling, notably inclusion of only those parents frequenting the various survey locations or being present at the different organizations and events where surveys were distributed. Thus, survey respondents who received the survey by convenience may be less representative of the region than a sample obtained through random sampling due to differences in the types of parents who frequent these events or are present at organizations where surveys were distributed. For example, parents who participate in these events may obtain more parent education than parents who do not attend events, such that results reflect a more educated group than is valid. However, this would skew results in the direction that would make it harder to measure parenting difficulties, such that those difficulties seen in survey results may actually be *more* prevalent.



Arizona Health Survey –South Phoenix

The Arizona Health Survey was sponsored by St. Luke’s Health Initiatives (SLHI). The survey was a population-based random-digit dial telephone survey of residents in the South Phoenix area, and surrounding zip codes. The survey was conducted in the first half of 2010 and was designed to collect data on individual indicators of health status, health care access and related behaviors. The South Phoenix oversample focused on Latino families with children.

Westat, a private firm that specializes in statistical research and large-scale sample surveys, conducted AHS data collection under the contract with SLHI. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish using Westat’s computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. The data sample was weighted based upon Arizona Department of Commerce population Estimates. A full description of survey design and methodology can be found at <http://www.arizonahealthsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/AHS-2010-Methods-Report.pdf>.

Applied Survey Research was provided with the raw data file in 2011. The neighborhood level data presented in this report are calculations based zip code definitions of neighborhoods listed below.

- **Neighborhoods:**
 - Maryvale 85037, 85031, 85033, 85035;
 - Central City South 85009;
 - Laveen/Southwest suburban 85043,85339;
 - South Phoenix, 85041,85040,85042

Secondary Data

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

The First Things First South Phoenix Region is a complicated region for which to collect representative data. County-level data are not accurate as the region represents a portion of the city of Phoenix. 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.



Further, this region is divided into four neighborhoods for additional analysis and comparison. Therefore, whenever possible, every effort was made to collect data for individual neighborhoods.

U.S. Census Data

For data from the Census, each neighborhood was defined by zip code or a set of Census tracts which fall within a zip code (see below). Neighborhood totals were calculated from data for each Census tract or zip code within the neighborhood. The First Things First South Phoenix Region total was calculated from the combination of the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Definitions by Zip Codes and Census Tracts

MARYVALE NEIGHBORHOOD (85037, 85031, 85033, 85035)	
820.02	1095
820.12	1096.01
820.08	1098.02
820.18	1096.03
820.09	1096.04
820.17	1098.01
820.28	1097.03
820.07	1097.04
820.16	1097.05
820.1	1125.03
1099	1125.02
1093	1124.02
1100.01	1124.01
1100.02	1125.09
1094	1123.01
1097.01	1123.02
1096.02	1125.07
1097.02	1125.04

CENTRAL CITY SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD (85009)	
1147.03	1122.02
1126.02	1145
1127	1121
1122.01	1126.01

LAVEEN/SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD (85043,85339)	
1125.13	1166.1
1125.08	1166.04
1125.12	1166.08
1125.1	1166.11
1125.11	1166.09
1125.05	9410
1166.03	1125.14
1166.05	



SOUTH PHOENIX NEIGHBORHOOD (85041,85040,85042)	
1160	1167.02
1159	1166.02
1161	1166.13
1158.01	1157
1152	1166.06
1153	1156
1162.04	1155
1167.03	1166.07
1162.05	1167.32
1162.02	1158.02
1164	1165
1163	1166.12
1167.04	1154
1162.03	

Arizona Department of Health Services Data

Data from ADHS was collected at the Census Tract level whenever available. When Census Tracts were not available data was collected for the following Primary Care Areas.

Arizona Department of Health Services, Primary Care Areas for First Things First South Phoenix Region

- Phoenix Central
- Phoenix – South Central
- Phoenix – South Mountain



School District Data

Some data were available at the school district level including some Census data. The school districts that belong in each neighborhood are listed below. The First Things First South Phoenix Region total was calculated from the combination of all the schools and school districts in this region.

Neighborhood Definitions by School Districts

NEIGHBORHOOD
Maryvale Neighborhood
Pedergast Elementary School District
Cartwright Elementary School District
Central City South Neighborhood
Isaac Elementary School District
Murphy Elementary School District
Laveen/Southwest Suburban Neighborhood
Fowler Elementary School District
Riverside Elementary School District
Laveen Elementary School District
South Phoenix Neighborhood
Roosevelt Elementary School District

While all efforts were made to find community hub and region-specific data, some data were not available at these levels. In these instances, data for comparable areas were presented as a proxy such as Maricopa County data.

All efforts were made to identify data for the population ages birth through five in the South Phoenix Region, although data were not always available for this age group. In these cases, data were collected for other age ranges, such as birth through four or under 18 years. Whenever possible, multiple years of data were collected to present trends. State level data were also collected for comparison to South Phoenix Region data.

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



Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey

Arizona State 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 of 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 remained blind to the survey sponsor. For the First Things First South Phoenix Region, there were 310 surveys completed from 204 parents and 106 members of the general population.



APPENDIX B: DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Data collection for the First Things First South Phoenix Region can be difficult due to the First Things First regional boundaries. Many sources publish data at the county level, which may not represent the true population of the First Things First South Phoenix Region. Additional sources are available for Phoenix City but do not show the diversity of the population. Despite these challenges, region-specific data were collected, when available, about issues related to children ages birth through five and their families. Data were also collected at the neighborhood level when available.

Six surveys had been conducted in the First Things First South Phoenix Region prior to this report. These surveys have provided the council with valuable data regarding the population they serve. Below is list of surveys previously conducted in the region and the strengths and limitations of those studies:

DATA SOURCE	STRENGTHS	LIMITATIONS
2004: Perinatal Periods of Risk - A Community Approach to Address Fetal and Infant Mortality in Maricopa County	Informative data about a group that is important to the council	More than 7 years old
2006: Prenatal Care Satisfaction and Resilience Factors in Maryvale and South Phoenix, Arizona	Informative data about a group that is important to the council	More than 6 years old
2007: A Summary of Five Focus Groups: African American Women's Views on Health Care Use, Satisfaction, and Community Strength in South Phoenix, Arizona	Informative qualitative data about a group that is important to the council	More than 5 years old
2010: Arizona Health Survey	595 surveys	Region level and limited neighborhood breakdowns
	Somewhat recent	Limited to Latino residents (78% of population)
	Informative data about a group that is important to the council	Limited to primary health issues
2008 & 2012: FTF Family and Community Survey	2008: 310 surveys	Region level only, no neighborhood breakdowns
	Recent and trend data	2012: Data not available for inclusion in 2012 Needs & Assets Report
	Informative data about a topic that is important to the council	
2011: FTF Child Care Demand Study	Informative data about a topic that is important to the council	2011: Data on child care demand will not be available for inclusion in 2012 Needs and Assets Report

To supplement existing data, the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Council conducted a survey of parents in the region to gather local data from parents of children ages birth through five in 2012. This survey data allowed for the collection of region specific data of particular interest to the council. The survey provided new data regarding:



- Early childhood services in the First Things First South Phoenix Region
- Parent knowledge of First Things First
- Family and child literacy practices
- Level of confidence in parenting skills, coping strategies and parental support systems
- Community stressors, basic needs and parent use/reliance on support services

Additional support and collaboration with community members, schools, and organizations in the area resulted in current and relevant data regarding, kindergarten readiness scores, services for children with disabilities, community assets, and more.

Despite these surveys and secondary data, vital information about children ages birth through five in the region is missing. More comprehensive, current, and representative data will help to make more informed conclusions about the state of children in the First Things South Phoenix Region and can better guide initiatives within the communities. While the First Things First South Phoenix Region has identified School Readiness priority indicators, data to measure the success are not yet available in the region. Future efforts should be made to improve the data available for these measures and 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; these measures do not assess many of the other skills needed for children to succeed in school. First Things First is currently working to build a common, cohesive system for measuring school readiness.
- **Quality First Child Care Centers Capacity** – Data on the capacity of Quality First Child Care spaces are not currently available. Through the efforts of First Things First, a comprehensive database of Quality First Child Care centers and homes is being created. It will provide regional data on capacity and accessibility of Quality First Child Care for children.
- **Child Abuse, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice** – The majority of these indicators are available only at the county level. While child abuse data are collected at the zip code level, the Department of Economic Security was unable to release these data for many areas due to the small number of reports per zip code and a concern for confidentiality.
- **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. AZ Health Survey data provides some further understanding of health insurance coverage of Latino families in the First Things First South Phoenix Region however; it does not provide the exact number of people without health insurance in the region.



- **Oral Health Care Data**– There is limited oral health data available at the First Things First South Phoenix Regional level. Again, the AZ Health Survey provides limited information regarding access for Latino families. However, there is not comprehensive data on the scope and scale of oral health care needs for children in the region.
- **Obesity and Diabetes** – Obesity and diabetes data are available for adults living in Maricopa County. 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, obese, or diagnosed with diabetes. The AZ health survey provides limited data on Latino children in the region.
- **Children with Disabilities** – Current data on children with special needs do not give a comprehensive picture of children with disabilities in the First Things First South Phoenix Region. Data provided from regional school districts regarding the number of preschool children identified with a special need and the diagnosis is the first step in understanding the scope and scale of needs for children in the region. However, more comprehensive data regarding children 0-5 with identified special needs, the age and source of diagnosis, and the academic progress since diagnosis would greatly add to the councils understanding of services needed in the region.



NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMARIES

