

Needs and Assets Report 2010

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

First Things First
Applied Survey Research

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

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August 24, 2010

Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families by developing and expanding our partnership with public preschools and private child care providers, expanding the scope and reach of family support programs and beginning an Oral health strategy.

The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities to improve access and affordability to quality childcare, provide professional development for early childhood education and provide support and services to families with children with special needs.

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lemos, Chair

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

LL/ce

Regional Partnership Council Members

Yuma Regional Partnership Council Members

Lisa Lemos – Chair – Child Care Provider

Irene Garza, Vice Chair – Parent

Mario Ybarra – School Administrator

Judy Watkinson – Early Childhood Educator

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Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments

First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council

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

This Needs and Assets Report for the Yuma Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face in the Yuma Region include additional quality and affordable child care services; a need for services that better prepare them for school and increased access to health insurance and preventative health services.

The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. A strong focus throughout the Yuma Region, in the past year has been to increase access to quality child care and pre-school programs, increasing the availability of supportive services for families including those with children with special needs; and increasing public awareness of early childhood development and health. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations; while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

Acknowledgments:

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

To the current and past members of the Yuma Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Our continued work will only aid in the direction of building a true comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire State.

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council would also like to thank The Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report

Introduction and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

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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 report was primary data. The central primary data are from a *Face-to-Face Parent Survey* of a sample of parents of young children (ages birth through five) and a *Face-to-Face Provider Survey* of child care providers in the First Things First Yuma Region.

Data Legend

-  Denotes a *Face-to-Face Parent Survey*
-  Denotes a *Face-to-Face Provider Survey*

Face-to-Face Parent Survey

In order to better understand the needs of young children ages birth through five in the First Things First Yuma 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 Yuma Region. In all, 581 unique self-administered surveys were completed over a three-week period, from March 26, 2010 to April 8, 2010 (see Appendix C for survey demographics).

A convenience sampling approach was used, whereby trained surveyors went to different locations and events in the Yuma Region and asked people to complete the survey. Surveyors were instructed to target 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 and local community organizations and child care providers. Some of these locations and events where surveys were conducted included the Yuma County Fair, library story times, flea markets, parks, schools, and child care centers throughout

the Yuma Region. 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 coworkers 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 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.

Face-to-Face Provider Survey

In addition to the *Face-to-Face Parent Survey*, surveys were conducted with child care providers at the "Professional Development Training Conference" that was held on March 27, 2010 at the Arizona Western College Entrepreneurial Center in the City of Yuma. These *Face-to-Face Provider Surveys* were designed to yield important information about child care providers in the Yuma Region, such as their knowledge of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field, their level of job satisfaction, their approach to screening for developmental concerns and special needs, their approach to caring for children with special needs, and more. In total, 125 unique self-administered *Face-to-Face Provider Survey* surveys were completed (see Appendix C for survey demographics).

Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First conducted a survey of community members and parents (or related, non-paid caregivers) of children ages birth through five in 2008. The survey assessed respondents' views of coordination among service providers, the quality and accessibility of family support programs, and their understanding of early childhood development and parenting. A randomly-selected, geographically-balanced sample of 5,193 Arizona adults (18 and older) was surveyed. The sample included 3,690 parents/caregivers of children ages birth through five and 1,503 members of the general population who did not have children under six. This randomized sample was drawn to ensure the generalizability of results to the adult Arizona population. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATIs) were conducted during August and September, 2008. The respondents were selected randomly from sample lists, and random predictive dialing was also used to supplement the purchased lists. This strategy helped to ensure that residents who were not yet listed in a directory (or who chose not to be listed) were still eligible for selection. To include "cell phone only" households, the contractor manually dialed randomly-generated cell phone numbers (based on known cell phone exchanges). Cell phone contacts were given the option of completing their interview using their calling plan minutes or scheduling a call-back (on a land line or such a time when cell phone calling plan minutes were "free"). The average length of a parent interview was 21 minutes; and the average general population interview lasted 7 minutes. Interviewers and respondents remained blind to the survey sponsor. For the Yuma Region, there were 192 surveys completed from 143 parents and 49 members of the general population.

Secondary Data

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

Most data were collected for Yuma County, which is generally representative of the First Things First Yuma Region. Whether county-level data include data for the Cocopah and Quechan Indian Tribes was often unknown. Whenever possible, Cocopah data were removed. While all efforts were made to identify data for the population ages birth through five in the Yuma Region, data were not always available at this level. In these cases, data were collected for other age ranges (such as ages birth through four or under 18 years). Data were also collected for multiple years when available to present trends.

Data in the report 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.

Yuma Region Zip Codes: 85333, 85336, 85347, 85349, 85350, 85352, 85356, 85364, 85365, 85366, 85367, 85369.

Yuma Region 2000 Census Places: Fortuna Foothills CDP, Gadsden CDP, San Luis City, Somerton City, Tacna CDP, Wellton Town, Yuma City.

Yuma Region School Districts: Antelope Union High, Crane Elementary, Gadsden Elementary, Hyder Elementary, Mohawk Valley Elementary, Somerton Elementary, Wellton Elementary, Yuma Elementary, and Yuma Union High School.

Yuma Region Department of Health Services Communities: Dateland, Gadsden, Roll, San Luis, Somerton, Tacna, Wellton, Yuma.

American Community Survey, 2005 to 2008

The American Community Survey is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with a fresh look at how they are changing. The survey has the most current population and demographic data available and is used throughout this report. The American Community Survey is published every year for states, counties, and communities with a population of more than 65,000 people. Data from the survey is presented in this report for Yuma County and Arizona.

Executive Summary

The First Things First Yuma Region is composed of all of Yuma County excluding the Cocopah Indian Tribe reservations. The region is situated in southwestern Arizona, and extends to the California border in the west, La Paz County in the north, Maricopa and Pima Counties in the east, and the border with Mexico in the south. The Colorado River runs along the western edge of the region. Most of the population and services in the region are located within the city of Yuma.

There were an estimated 21,082 children ages birth through five in the Yuma Region in 2009 and a total population of approximately 194,000 in 2010. The population of the county is primarily Hispanic or Latino. In 2008, 76% of children in the region were Hispanic or Latino, and 19% identified as “White alone not Hispanic.” There were roughly equal numbers of Spanish-speakers and English-speakers, with 53% of the population (ages five and over) speaking only English in the home, and 45% speaking primarily Spanish in the home in 2008. Nearly one-third of families with children ages birth through five in the region were single-parent households in 2008.

Demographic Overview

Many children are living in poverty. In 2008, 30% of children ages birth through five years old in Yuma County were living below the Federal Poverty Level (\$21,200 for a family of four in 2008¹), higher than for young children in Arizona (23%). In 2008, the average median family income for families with children less than 18 years old in Yuma County was \$36,144, which was substantially lower than the median family income for these families in the state of Arizona (\$56,385) and the United States (\$60,944). Further, the median family income for single family households fell below the self-sufficiency level, the level at which families can meet their basic needs without private or public assistance. Likely as a result of these high levels of poverty, one-third of parent survey respondents indicated that they had gone without basic needs (such as child care, food, housing, or medical care) in the past 12 months.

Unemployment rates are significantly higher than the state. Unemployment rates in Yuma County (21%) were over two times as high as the rates in Arizona as a whole. Certain border communities, such as Gadsden, San Luis, and Somerton had unemployment rates of up to 30% to 43%.

Some children are meeting educational standards, but it varies greatly by school district. Learning readiness at kindergarten is an important predictor of later school success, but only 19% to 20% of students assessed in two school districts in Yuma were at grade level when entering kindergarten. Another crucial predictor of later school success is third grade reading scores, measured by the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). There was a wide range in AIMS scores in Yuma’s seven school districts from 43% to 82% of students meeting and exceeding the reading standard. Arizona had an overall rate of 69%. Over a quarter (29%) of the population ages 25 years and older in the Yuma Region had an education attainment level of “less than high school graduate.”

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2010, July). *The 2008 HHS poverty guidelines: One version of the [U.S.] federal poverty measure*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Retrieved from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>

Early Childhood System

There is a great need for quality child care. It was estimated that 6,855 children were in need of child care in the Yuma Region in 2008, and almost 40% of providers indicated that they had a waiting list for children that needed care. Child care providers with degrees in early childhood education are especially needed.

More women are receiving prenatal child care during the first trimester but the numbers are still too low. Though the percentage of women receiving prenatal care during the first trimester increased from 58% in 2004 to 68% in 2008, the level was still substantially less than Arizona at 79% in 2008 and the target 90% set by Healthy People 2010.² Less than three-quarters of women (70%) in the Yuma Region had an adequate number of prenatal visits (nine or more visits) over the course of their pregnancy; 4% did not receive any prenatal care before giving birth.

Birth characteristics in Yuma County are better than Arizona as a whole but infant mortality rates are higher. There are fewer births with low birth weight, pre-term births, births with complication of labor and delivery, and births with medical risk factors in the Yuma Region than Arizona as a whole. However, infant mortality rates in Yuma County are higher than those of Arizona as a whole. In 2008, the infant mortality rate in Arizona was 6.3 per 1,000 live births and was 7.7 in Yuma County.

The percentage of births to teen mothers in Yuma County is higher than in Arizona as a whole. In 2008, 12% of the births in Arizona were to teen mothers. During the same year, nearly 16% of births in Yuma County were to teen mothers. The teen birth rate was especially high in the border town of San Luis, where 20% of births were to teen mothers.

Many children do not have health insurance and as a result are unable to receive the medical care that they need. Over 25% of children in Yuma County did not have health insurance in 2000. These rates were higher than Arizona where 16% of children did not have insurance. Of the parents who were surveyed, only 60% stated their children were able to get the medical care that they needed “all of the time,” while over half (54%) of parents surveyed said that lack of insurance was a reason that their child was unable to receive needed medical care.

Many children need improved dental care. In 2003, 65% of children ages six through eight had experienced tooth decay. Of children who had experienced tooth decay, they had, on average, six cavities that needed filling. There is a lack of dental care providers in the Yuma Region. Over one-third (38%) of parents stated that they had to travel over 10 miles to get dental care for their children, or that none was available in their area.

Nearly half of children ages 19 to 35 months have not received the recommended vaccinations. Just under half (49%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had received the recommended vaccinations in Yuma County in 2009. In comparison, about three-quarters of children in both Arizona and the U.S. as a whole had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.³

² Healthy People 2010 are a set of health objectives for the Nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century. It can be used by many different people, States, communities, professional organizations, and others to help them develop programs to improve health.

³ A standard measure of childhood vaccination completion is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.³ This set of vaccinations is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.

Many Yuma community members are overweight or obese. In Yuma County in 2007, nearly 17% of high school students were considered overweight, and over 26% of the adults were obese. The percentage of adults with diagnosed diabetes was 8%, which was the same as the rate for Arizona.

Children are receiving the appropriate screenings for developmental disabilities but there is a severe provider shortage. Anecdotal reports from the Division of Developmental Disabilities indicate that children in the region receive adequate and timely screenings for special needs. However, there is only one speech therapist, one occupational therapist, and one physical therapist in all of Yuma County, and waitlists for these providers can be up to two or three years long. Due to these long waitlists, the opportunity for early intervention is often missed.

Fewer children are being removed from the home by Child Protective Services. In Yuma County, the number of children removed from the home by Child Protective Services decreased substantially from 152 removals in 2007 to 56 in 2009.

The juvenile arrest rate is decreasing. Overall, Yuma County has seen a decrease in the number of juvenile arrests between 91.6 per 1,000 youth in 2000 and 62.2 per 1,000 in 2008. The number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes has remained at approximately 3 out of 1,000 youth over this same time period.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the Yuma Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, Yuma Region children and families appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to health insurance, education, and services for children with disabilities. This appears to be particularly true among communities along the border with Mexico, which are in need of additional support and targeted services (For more information, see Appendix A: Issues Related to Border Health). In light of these challenges, continued collaboration is needed to help improve the situation of children and families. First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the Yuma Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.

Demographic Overview: Who are the families and children living within the Yuma Region?

Basic Demographics

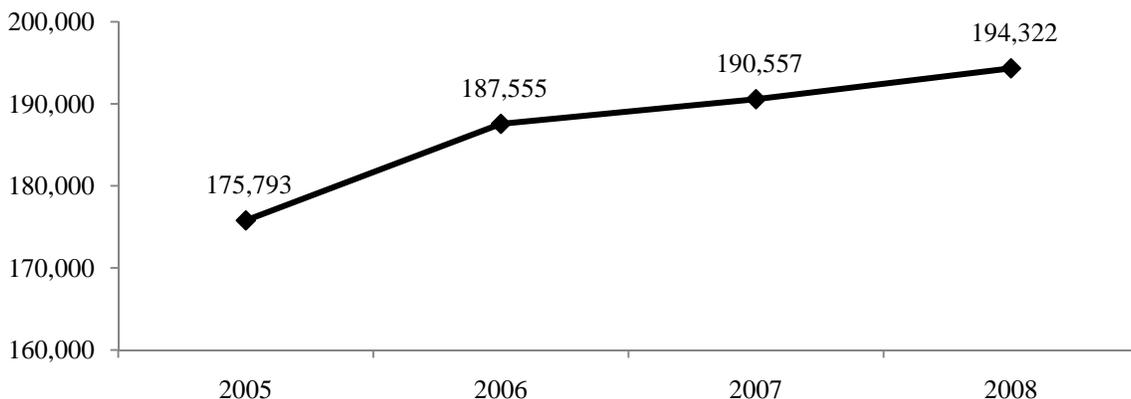
The First Things First Yuma Region is composed of all of Yuma County excluding the Cocopah Indian Tribe reservations. The region is situated in southwestern Arizona, extending to the California border in the west, La Paz County in the north, Maricopa and Pima Counties in the east, and the border with Mexico in the south. The Colorado River runs along the western edge of the region. Most of the population and services in the region are located in the city of Yuma. The communities of San Luis, Somerton, and Gadsden lie along the border with Mexico, making border health issues, such as safe drinking water, asthma, and communicable diseases, a concern in the region (For more information, see Appendix A: Issues Related to Border Health).

Children and Family Characteristics

There were an estimated 21,082 children ages birth through five in the Yuma Region in 2009. The total population for Yuma County in 2008 was estimated to be 194,322. As the population in this region grows, so too does the number of young children needing services and healthy developmental opportunities.

Family structure is an important factor in the health and development of young children, as well as their educational attainment and poverty status. Single-parent families are more likely to earn less and have higher poverty rates than two-parent families.⁴ Census data showed that over one-fourth (29%) of families with children ages birth through five in the region were single-parent households in 2000. In 2008, there were 1,480 households (5% of Yuma County households) in which the grandparents were living with and responsible for grandchildren under the age of eighteen.

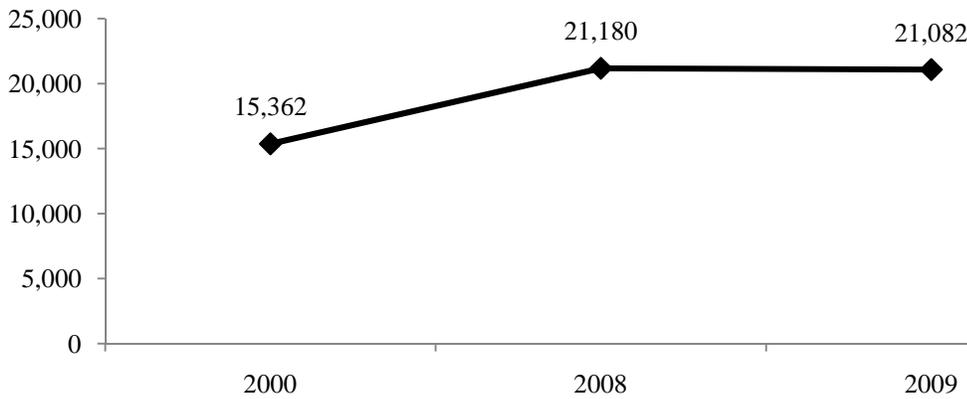
Total Population, Yuma County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

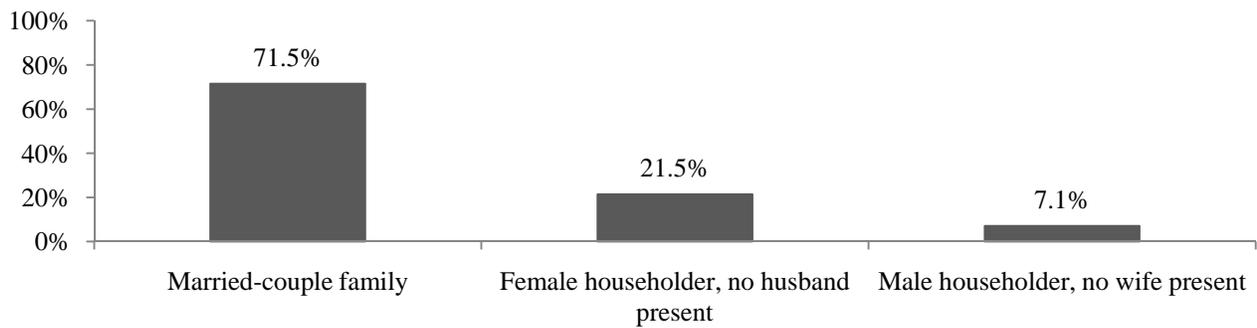
⁴ Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). *Poverty, family structure, and child well-being: Indicators from the SIPP* (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23). Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>

Estimated Population Ages Birth Through Five, Yuma Region



Source: Arizona First Things First, *Population and Potential Discretionary Allocations*, Received 2010.

Type of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, Yuma County, 2000



N=14,849,609

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Summary File 1, Table B11003*. Retrieved from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Yuma County				
Number of Households with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	972	1,215	2,374	1,480
Percent of Households with One or More People Under 18 Years with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	3.6%	4.5%	8.6%	5.4%
Arizona				
Number of Households with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	37,117	36,869	43,175	37,991
Percent of Households with One or More People Under 18 Years with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	4.8%	4.9%	5.6%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Tables, B10063 and Selected Social Characteristics in the U.S.*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Race/Ethnic Distribution and Language Characteristics

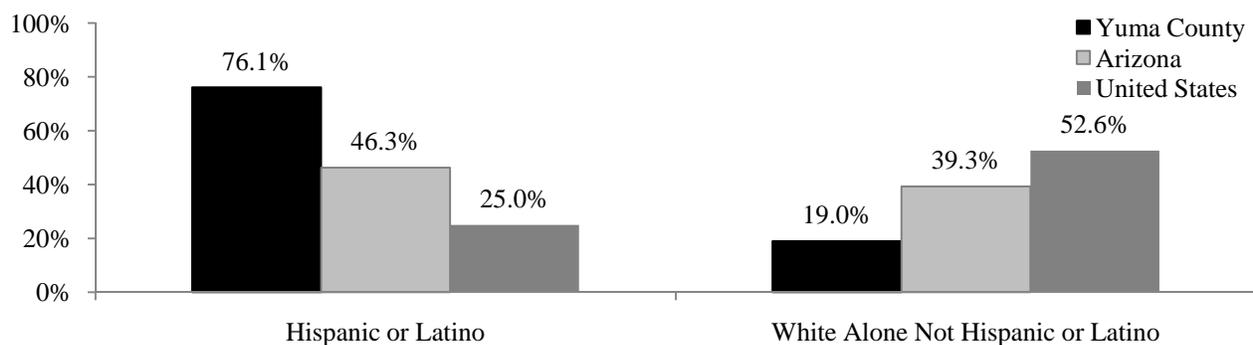
The population of Yuma County is primarily Hispanic or Latino with relatively equal numbers of Spanish-speakers and English-speakers. In 2008, 76% of children ages birth through four in the region were Hispanic or Latino and 19% were identified as “White alone not Hispanic or Latino.”

Over half of the population (53%) spoke only English in the home, while 45% spoke Spanish. Very few people (1%) in the Yuma Region spoke a language other than English or Spanish. While many child care and other service providers in the region speak Spanish, the ability to speak English can help make accessing services and information in the community easier. In Yuma County in 2000, one in five children ages 5 to 17 lived in households where no one over the age of 14 spoke English as their only language or no one spoke English very well. Overall, only 9% of children in Arizona lived in homes where English was not the primary language. However, in the San Luis border community, nearly half (45%) of children ages 5 to 17 lived in households where a language other than English was the primary language spoken in the home.

Surveys were conducted with child care providers at the “Professional Development Training Conference” that was held on March 27, 2010 at the Arizona Western College Entrepreneurial Center in the City of Yuma. In total, 125 unique self-administered *Face-to-Face Provider Survey* surveys were completed of which 57 were Center Directors of Home Care Providers. According to provider survey respondents, nearly half (45%) of children ages birth through two who were cared for by respondents spoke both Spanish and English in the home, while 35% of children that age spoke only English and 14% spoke only Spanish. For children ages three to five, 29% spoke both Spanish and English, 27% spoke only English, and 19% spoke only Spanish.

Child care programs in the Yuma Region tend to have at least some staff members who speak basic or fluent Spanish. According to provider survey respondents, 44% of sites had between one and ten staff members who had basic level Spanish-speaking skills, and 86% of sites had staff with fluent Spanish-speaking skills.

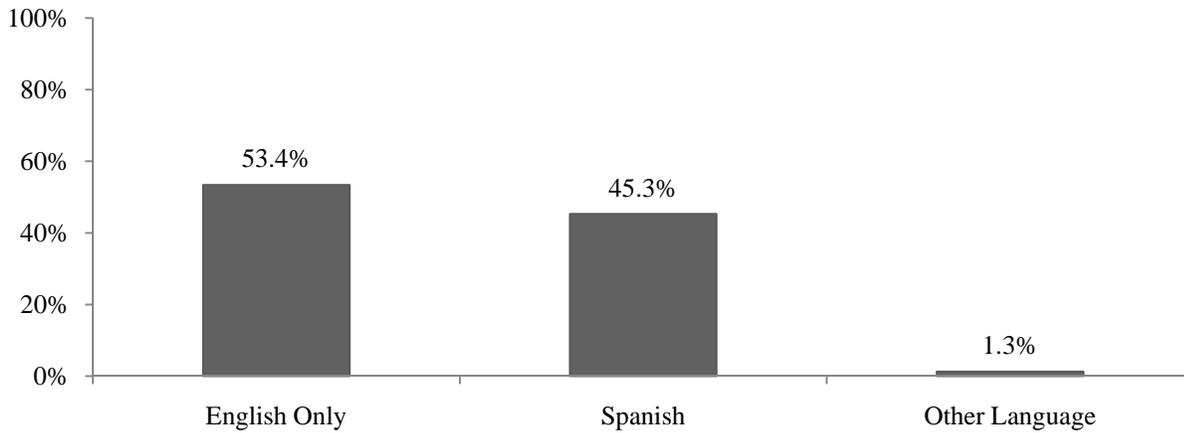
Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages Birth Through Four, Yuma County, 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Summary file 1, P12Tabke B11003* Retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

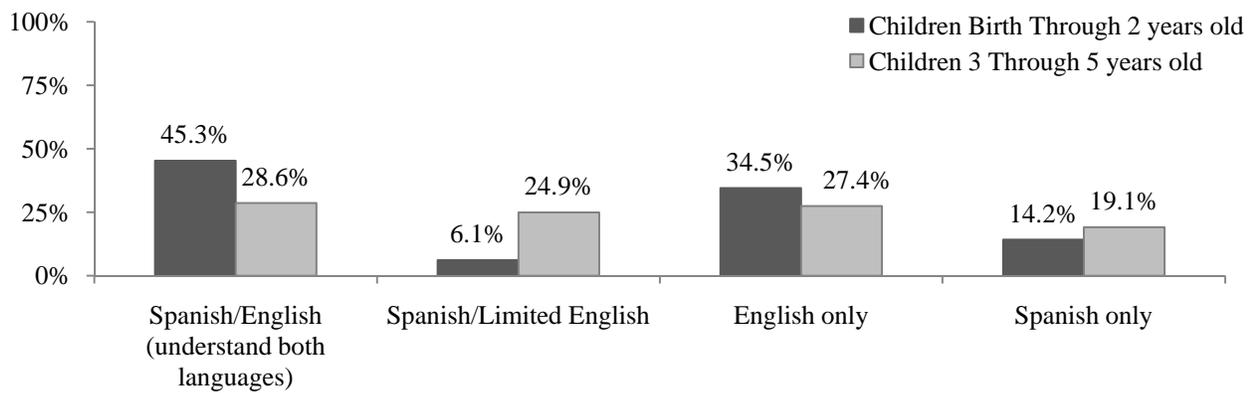
Note: The U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Respondents are asked whether or not they are of Hispanic origin in addition to their racial classification. Due to respondents answering both questions, the percentages will not add up to 100%.

Language Spoken at Home by Population Five Years and Over, Yuma County, 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Census 2000, Summary File 3, Table QT-P16, Table DP-2*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
 Note: These categories are derived from the U. S. Census. Spanish and other language speakers may or may not also speak English in the home.

•• Language Spoken by Currently Served Children in the Following Age Groups (Reported by Child Care Center Directors/Home Child Care Providers/Directors)



Children 0 to 2 N=148; Children 3 to 5 N=241.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). *First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers*. (Unpublished raw data).
 Note: Data are not available for children over age five. This question was not asked for children over age five.

Children Ages 5 to 17 Living in Non-English Speaking* Households, 2000

Place	Percent
Fortuna Foothills	8.3%
Gadsden	26.4%
San Luis	44.6%
Somerton	25.7%
Tacna	10.4%
Wellton	20.1%
Yuma City	12.5%
Yuma County	19.8%
Arizona	8.5%
United States	5.1%

Source: Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2010 (Unpublished Data).

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.

* 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).

• • Number of Basic-Level and Fluent Spanish-Speaking Staff at Child Care Centers and Homes

Response	Percent of Sites
Number of Basic-Level Spanish-Speaking Staff Members (N=23 Center Directors or Home Care Providers)	
None	52.2%
1 to 10 members	43.5%
More than 10 members	4.3%
Number of Fluent Spanish-Speaking Staff Members (N=21 Center Directors or Home Care Providers)	
None	14.3%
1 to 10 members	76.2%
More than 10 members	9.5%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

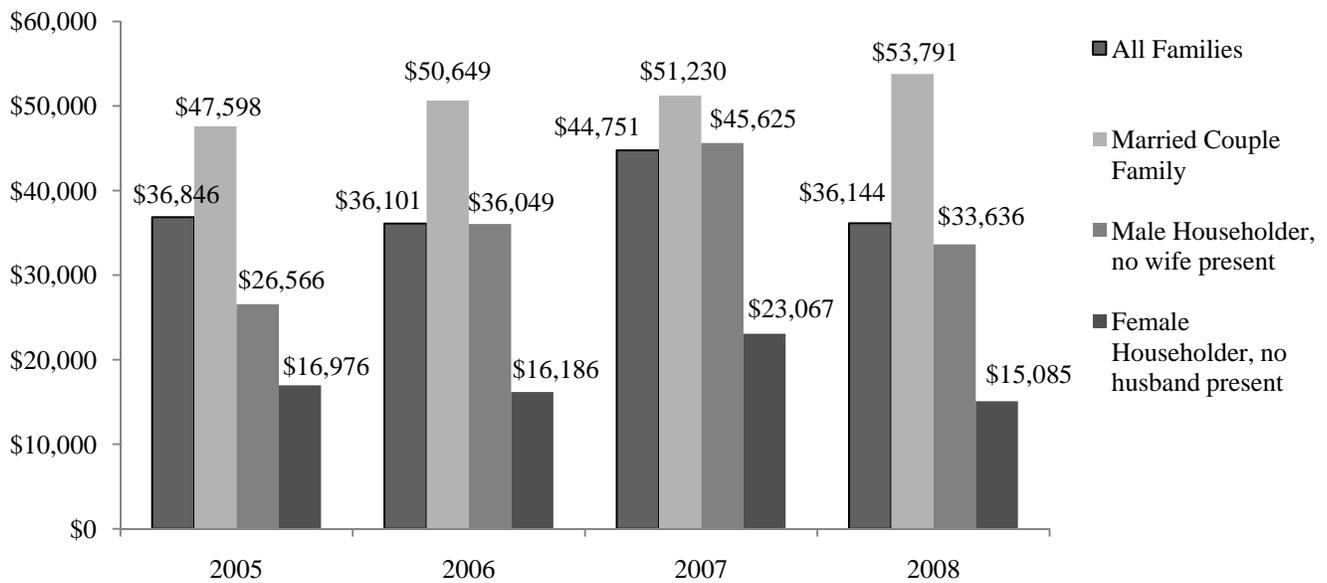
Economic Circumstances

Income

Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the well-being of its residents. In 2008, the average median family income for families with children less than 18 years old in Yuma County was \$36,144, which was substantially lower than the median family income for these families in the state of Arizona (\$56,385) and the United States (\$60,944).

The Self-Sufficiency Standard can be 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. For example, based on 2002 Self-Sufficiency Standards in Yuma County, a household with two adults, one preschooler, and one school-aged child requires \$38,524 to be self-sufficient. From 2005 to 2008, only the median family incomes of married-couple families in Yuma County met the 2002 self-sufficiency level. The median income of single-parent households was much less than the level needed to be self-sufficient, indicating that more than half of single-parent households were unable to meet their basic needs. For example, the median family income for female-headed families in 2008 was only \$15,085 while the Self-Sufficiency Standard for one adult and one preschooler was \$25,740.

Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, Yuma County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey, 1 Year Estimates, Table, B19126, Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, All Families

Place	2005	2006	2007	2008
Yuma County	\$36,846	\$36,101	\$44,751	\$36,144
Arizona	\$47,406	\$51,440	\$54,284	\$56,385
United States	\$53,607	\$56,319	\$58,686	\$60,944

Source: First Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2010 (Unpublished Data).

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Yuma County

Monthly Expense	Family Type			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School-age	2 Adults + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School-age
Housing	\$603	\$603	\$603	\$603
Child Care	\$396	\$660	\$396	\$660
Food	\$266	\$396	\$429	\$544
Transportation	\$235	\$235	\$453	\$453
Health Care	\$237	\$263	\$306	\$332
Miscellaneous	\$174	\$216	\$219	\$259
Taxes	\$363	\$443	\$474	\$539
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	-\$34	-\$11	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$44	-\$80	-\$40	-\$80
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$50	-\$100	-\$50	-\$100
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly ¹	\$12.19	\$14.92	\$7.92	\$9.12
Monthly	\$2,145	\$2,625	\$2,789	\$3,210
Annual	\$25,740	\$31,505	\$33,470	\$38,524

Source: Self-sufficiency standard for Arizona, 2002. (2010). Retrieved from University of Washington School of Social Work, Center for Women's Welfare web site: <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/pubs.html>

¹ Hourly wages for two-adult households are per adult (e.g., \$7.92 per adult for a family with two adults and one preschooler).

Poverty

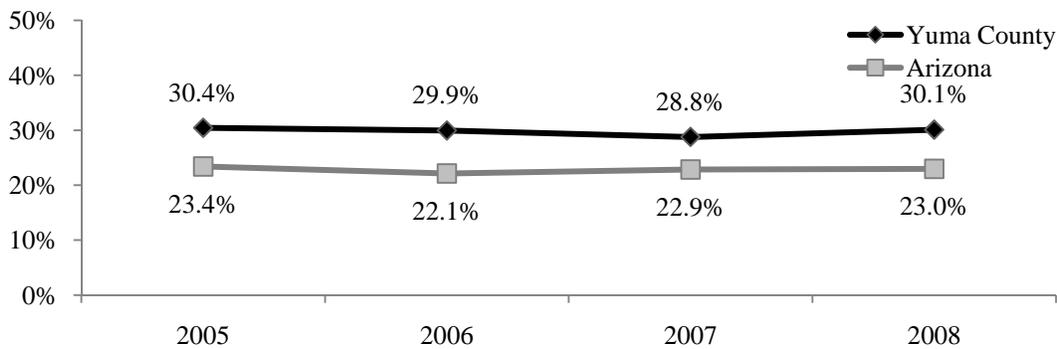
Living in poverty puts children at risk for a wide variety of problems with both immediate and lasting effects. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and lack basic health care. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, and lower levels of literacy and attainment.⁵ Nearly one-third (30%) of children ages birth through five in Yuma County lived below the

⁵ Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.

poverty level in 2008, a higher percentage than statewide poverty rates (23%). The Federal Poverty Level for a family of four was \$21,200 in 2008.⁶

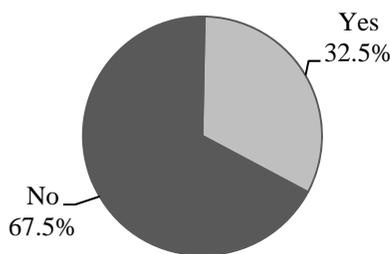
A total of 581 unique self-administered face-to-face surveys were conducted with parents of young children (birth through five) in the Yuma Region. A convenience sampling approach was used, whereby trained surveyors went to different locations and events in the Yuma Region and asked people to complete the survey. According to parent survey respondents, one-third of parents (or primary caregivers) reported they had gone without basic needs such as child care, food, housing, or medical care in the past 12 months. The most common basic needs that respondents identified having gone without were medical care (44%); housing (27%); utilities, such as gas, water, and electricity (27%); and child care (24%). Fifteen percent of parent survey respondents said they did not have reliable transportation to necessary services, such the grocery store, school, child care, or church.

Children Ages Birth Through Five Living Below the Poverty Level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years by Age of Related Children*. B17010, Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

Parents Who Indicated Having Gone without Basic Needs such as Child Care, Food, Housing, or Medical Care in the Past 12 Months

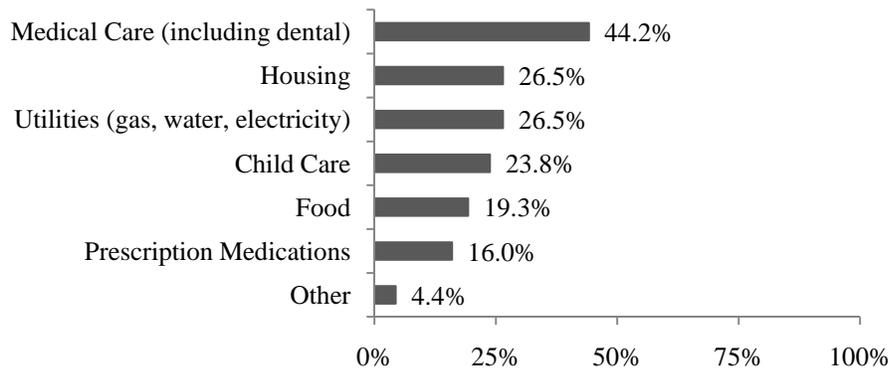


N=557.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

⁶ Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2010, April 16). *The 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines*. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>

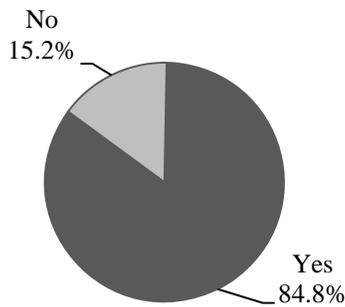
Types of Basic Needs Parents Reported Having to Go Without in the Past 12 Months



Multiple response question with 181 respondents offering 291 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Parents Who Reported Usually Having Reliable Transportation to Services that They Need, such as the Grocery Store, Church, School, the Doctor, or Child Care



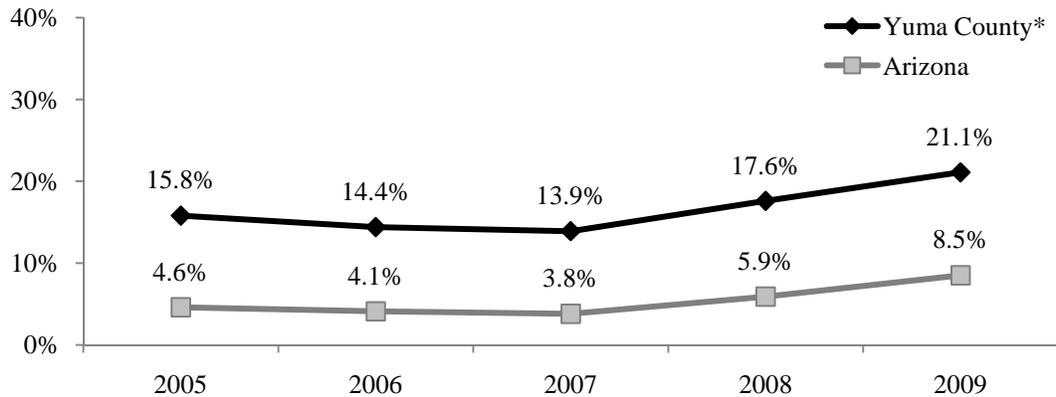
N=567.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First– Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in 2009 in Yuma County was 21%, over two times the rate of Arizona as a whole at 9%. The 2009 rate of unemployment varied within the region, from 10% in Tacna to a very high rate of 43% in San Luis.

Unemployment Rate



Source: Arizona Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2010). *Special Unemployment Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

* Data for Yuma County excludes unemployment on Native American Reservations.

Unemployment Rate by Community

Place	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fortuna Foothills	8.4%	7.7%	7.4%	9.5%	11.6%
Gadsden	23.5%	21.8%	20.9%	26.1%	30.6%
San Luis	34.1%	31.8%	30.8%	37.1%	42.5%
Somerton	24.5%	22.7%	21.9%	27.1%	31.7%
Tacna	7.5%	6.9%	6.3%	8.4%	10.3%
Wellton	17.4%	16.0%	15.4%	19.4%	23.2%
Yuma City	12.1%	11.0%	10.6%	13.6%	16.4%
Yuma County*	15.8%	14.4%	13.9%	17.6%	21.1%
Arizona	4.6%	4.1%	3.8%	5.9%	8.5%

Source: Arizona Unemployment Statistics Program, *Special unemployment Report*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=142>.

* Data for Yuma County excludes unemployment on Native American Reservations.

Note: Sub-county figures are calculated using a census share methodology; by multiplying current estimates of county-wide employment and unemployment by the respective employment and unemployment shares (percentages) for each sub-county area at the time of the 2000 Census. This method assumes that the rates of change in employment and unemployment, since 2000, are exactly the same in each sub-county area as at the county level (i.e., that the shares are still accurate). If this assumption is not true for a specific sub-county area, then the estimates for that area may not be representative of the current economic conditions. Since this assumption is untested, caution should be employed when using these data.

Foreclosures

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. The mortgage crisis is projected to cause more than 86,000 foreclosures and affect more than 68,000 children in Arizona.⁷

Foreclosure rates during March of 2010 were lower in all places in Yuma County than in Arizona as a whole, with a total of 224 foreclosures in Yuma County. Within the region, Somerton had the highest rate of foreclosures (1 in 159) for a total of 25 foreclosures during March of 2010.

Foreclosure Rate, March 2010

Place (Zip Codes)	Number of Foreclosures	Rate of Foreclosures
San Luis (85349)	23	1 in 165
Somerton (85350)	25	1 in 159
Wellton (85356)	5	1 in 570
Yuma City (85364, 85365, 85367)	171	1 in 438
Yuma County	224	1 in 390
Arizona	18,856	1 in 144

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

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

Economic Supports

There are several state and federal programs available to provide assistance for families struggling in the current economic conditions. One such program is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash assistance for struggling families.⁸ In Yuma County, 381 families with children ages birth through five received support from TANF in January of 2010, a decrease from 521 in 2007. This enrollment decline may have been a result of more restrictive eligibility policies, thus reducing the number of poor families eligible for assistance.⁹

Another area in which families receive assistance is nutritional support. Nutritional support programs are designed to address hunger and food insecurity. These programs are important because chronic undernutrition, food insecurity, and hunger can be associated with poorer health status, higher levels of

⁷ Lovell, P. and Isaacs, j. (2008) *The Impact of the Mortgage Crisis on Children and Their Education*. First Focus, Brookings Institute. Retrieved June 29 2010 from http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04_mortgage_crisis_isaacs.aspx

⁸ 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 from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html>

⁹ Legal Momentum. (2009). *The Bitter Fruit of Welfare Reform: A Sharp Drop in the Percentage of Eligible Women and Children Receiving Welfare*. Retrieved June 28, 2010, from Legal Momentum: Advancing Women's Rights: <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/lm-tanf-bitter-fruit.pdf>.

aggression, hyperactivity, anxiety, and passivity, as well as diminished capacity to learn, lower test scores, and increased school absences, tardiness, and suspensions.¹⁰

One such program, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), provides food assistance, education, and health care referrals for pregnant women and mothers of children ages birth through five. The number of women and children receiving WIC support in Yuma County has been fairly constant from 2005 through 2009. WIC services are offered from four local WIC clinics in Yuma, San Luis, Somerton, and Wellton. There are 19 authorized WIC stores in Yuma County, eight of which are in the city of Yuma.

Another food assistance program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as Food Stamps, provides support to many families in Yuma County. Thirty percent of families with children under eighteen years in Yuma County received food stamp assistance in 2008, which was about two times the statewide rate of 16% and U.S. rate of 15%.

The National School Lunch Program qualifies low-income children living in families between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced-cost meals and those at or below 130% of the poverty level for free meals.¹¹ For school districts in Yuma County, between 67% (Antelope Union High School District) and 97% (Gadsden Elementary School District) of students were eligible for free or reduced price meals in 2009.

The Association for Supportive Child Care also seeks to address the issue of inadequate nutrition in children. The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides nutrition training and reimbursement to child care providers who serve nutritious meals to children. Within the Yuma Region, 146 child care centers and homes participated in the food program.

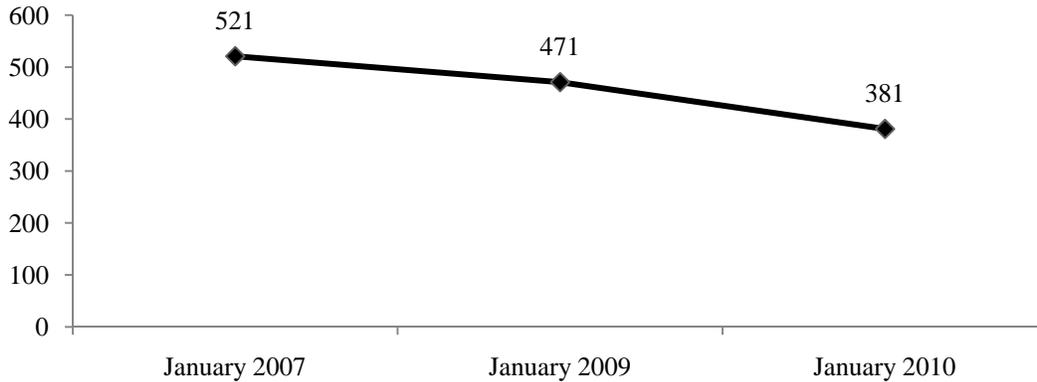
The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council allocated additional funding to improve access to nutritious food during the economic and employment recession. Emergency food boxes were provided to 400 families with children ages birth through five during the 2009/10 fiscal year.

Among parent survey respondents, over half (57%) reported that they or their family received some type of public assistance, with food stamps (59%) and WIC (57%) being the most commonly utilized services.

¹⁰ 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.

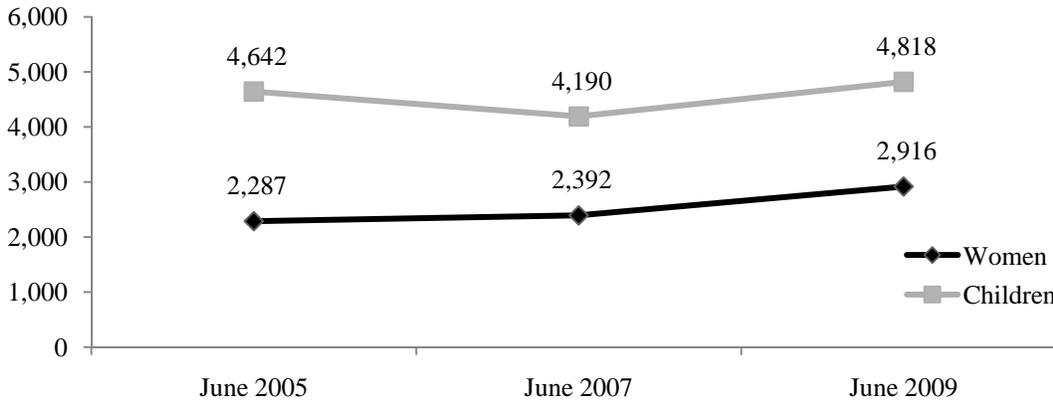
¹¹ United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009, August). *National School Lunch Fact Sheets*. Retrieved June 22, 2010, from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/AboutLunch/NSLPFactSheet.pdf>

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



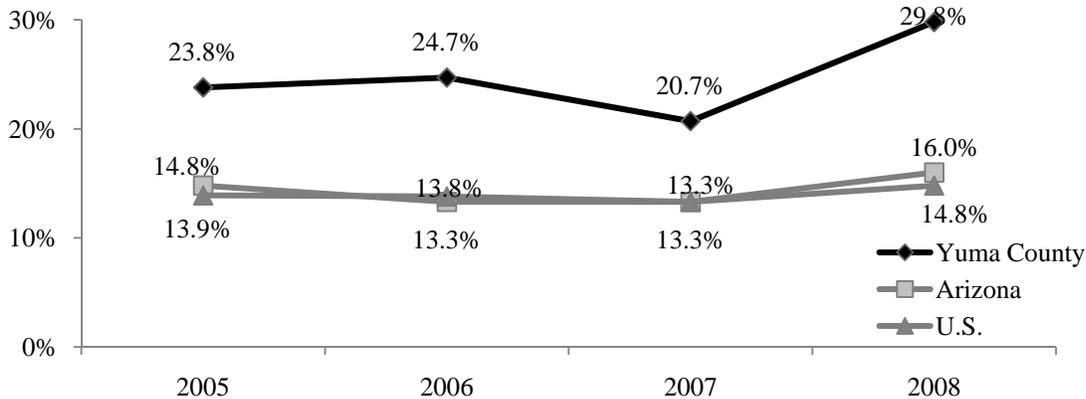
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Recipients, Yuma County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). *Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Recipients*. Received June, 2010 from Arizona First Things First (Unpublished Data).

Households with Children Under 18 Years Receiving Food Stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)



Yuma County 2005 N = 6,407; 2006 = 6,705; 2007 N = 5,710; 2008 N = 8,161.

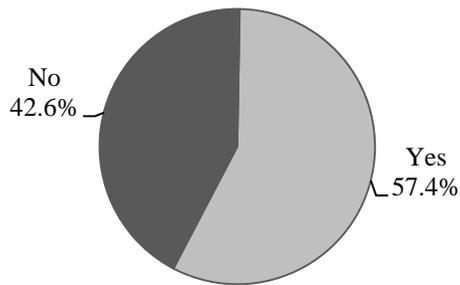
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (n.d.). *Receipt of Food Stamps in the Past 12 Months by Presence of Children Under 18 Years for Households, 2002*, Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, Yuma County School Districts

School District	October 2006	October 2007	October 2008	October 2009
Antelope Union High School District	61.4%	67.5%	67.9%	67.4%
Crane Elementary District	66.9%	64.3%	65.0%	68.3%
Gadsden Elementary District	96.4%	96.4%	96.4%	97.1%
Hyder Elementary District	NA	91.1%	91.1%	91.1%
Mohawk Valley Elementary District	72.1%	72.0%	75.3%	73.3%
Somerton Elementary District	83.4%	79.8%	84.7%	84.7%
Wellton Elementary District	65.4%	67.5%	71.1%	74.9%
Yuma Elementary District	66.7%	67.8%	67.1%	69.5%
Yuma Union High School District	65.2%	65.0%	66.9%	66.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2009). *National School Lunch program and School Breakfast Program*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/>.

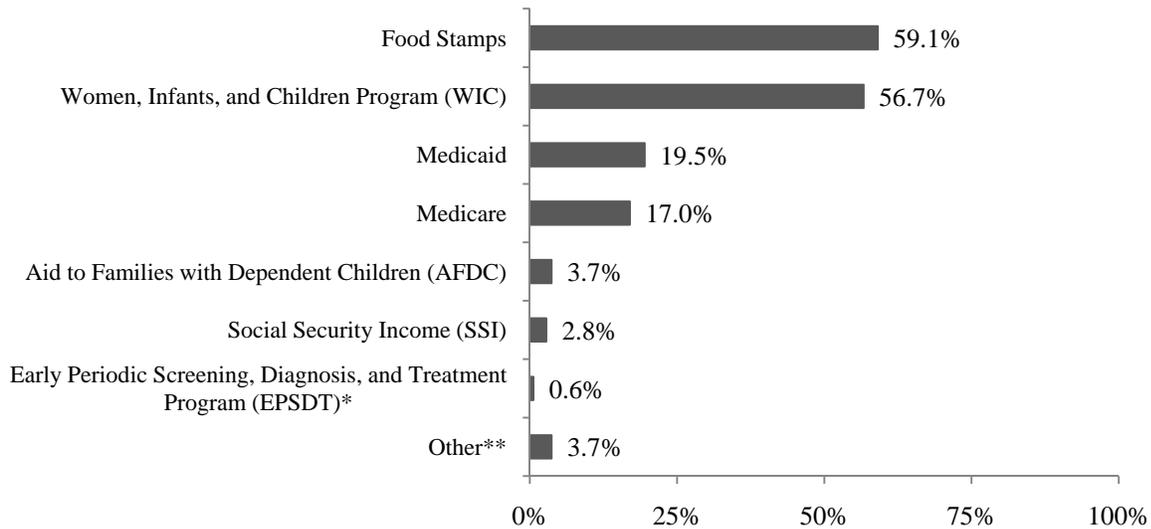
Parents Who Indicated that They or Their Family Received Public Assistance



N=563.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Types of Public Assistance Received by Parents or Their Family



Multiple response question with 323 respondents offering 527 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

* EPSDT is a program under AHCCCS.

** Other responses included: “IPA,” “Kids care” (2), “Mercy care.”

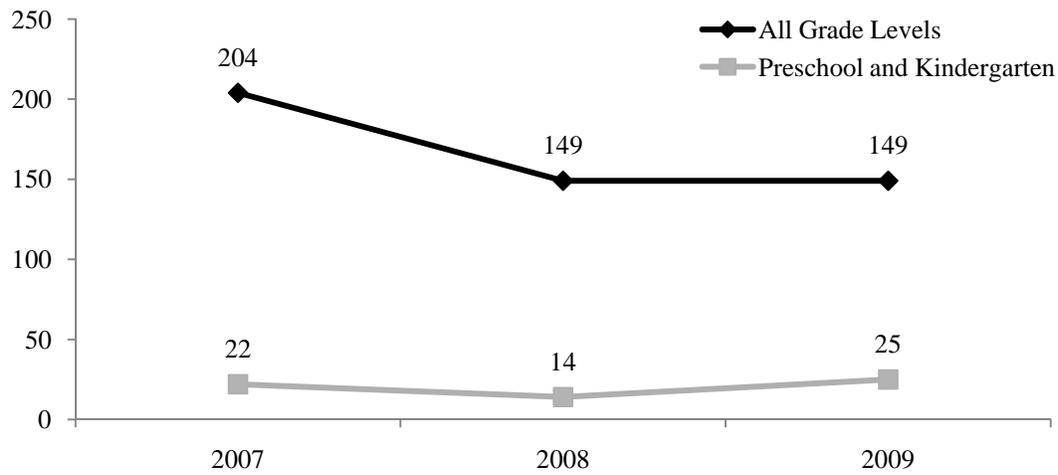
Homelessness

Homelessness among young children, and the high mobility often associated with homelessness, can lead to behavior problems and reduced academic success in school.¹² The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as “1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and 2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”¹³ Based on the McKinney-Vento Act definition, there were 149 students reported as homeless in 2009 in Yuma County, 25 of whom were in preschool or kindergarten.

¹² Zerger, S. (2004, February). Health care for homeless Native Americans. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/FINALHnNativeHealth.pdf>

¹³ McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento Eligible), Yuma County



Source: Department of Economic Security, *Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona*, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Educational Indicators

Children’s success in school is improved by a combination of promoting physical and mental health, increasing literacy, enhancing social and emotional skills, and increasing youth leadership roles and involvement within the community. Typically, children who do well in school have early literacy skills and higher social and emotional skills at entry to kindergarten. Continued success in school, graduation from high school, and further educational attainment leads to healthier communities and more supportive environments for the growth and development of children. Preparing children for success after graduation through higher levels of educational attainment in turn leads to healthier communities and more supportive environments for future children’s growth and development.

The Yuma Region is composed of nine public school districts: Antelope Union High, Crane Elementary, Gadsden Elementary, Hyder Elementary, Mohawk Valley Elementary, Somerton Elementary, Wellton Elementary, Yuma Elementary, and Yuma Union High School.

School Enrollment

Total public school enrollment for all districts in the region was 36,018 during the 2009/10 school year. Yuma Elementary and Yuma Union High School Districts are the largest districts, while Hyder and Mohawk Valley Elementary Districts serve the fewest number of children. As an indicator of preschool enrollment, one-quarter (25%) of children ages three through four in the region were enrolled in public school in 2008, which was less than the statewide enrollment average (32%) for three through four year olds.

School Enrollment, Yuma Region School Districts, 2009/10 school year

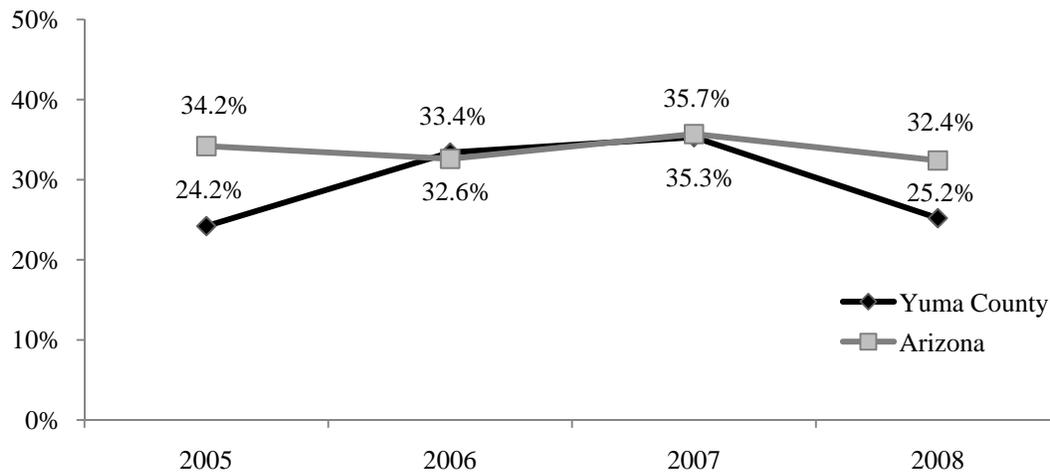
School District	Preschool	Kindergarten	District Total
Antelope Union High School District	-	-	322
Crane Elementary School District	46	614	6,049
Gadsden Elementary School District	117	407	4,952
Hyder Elementary School District	-	12	124
Mohawk Valley Elementary School District	-	12	152
Somerton Elementary School District	81	315	2,754
Wellton Elementary School District	21	41	384
Yuma Elementary School District	208	1,022	10,007
Yuma Union High School District	-	-	11,274
Yuma County Total	473	2,423	36,018

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). *Research and Evaluation*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/AZEnroll/>.

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

- Indicates data are not applicable or available for the school district.

Percentage of Three and Four Year Olds Enrolled in School



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey*, S1401. Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

School Readiness - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, are more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crime and drugs.¹⁴ A recent study showed that of children who were ready for kindergarten, 62% of them performed well on standardized tests in 3rd grade. Of children who weren't ready at kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized tests in 3rd grade. Typically, children who are unprepared for kindergarten do not make up the initial learning gap.¹⁵

In Arizona, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are used as indicators of early literacy and reading skills in children from kindergarten to sixth grade. While the DIBELS assessments only measure skills related to the letter knowledge component of kindergarten readiness, they provide some picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

Two school districts in the region provided kindergarten DIBELS scores. In the Crane Elementary School District, only 20% of students entered kindergarten at grade level and only 19% of children tested at grade level in the Yuma Elementary School District in the 2009/10 school year. In both Crane Elementary and Yuma Elementary School Districts, nearly half (44% and 41%, respectively) needed substantial intervention.

Kindergarten DIBELS Scores, Beginning of School Year, Yuma Region School Districts

School District	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Crane Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	19%	16%	19%	19%	20%
Strategic - Additional Intervention	33%	35%	38%	39%	36%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	48%	49%	44%	42%	44%
Yuma Elementary School District					
Benchmark - At Grade Level	19%	17%	19%	17%	19%
Strategic - Additional Intervention	39%	36%	39%	41%	40%
Intensive - Needs Substantial Intervention	43%	47%	43%	42%	41%

Source: Yuma County School Districts, *Personal Communication with District Representatives*, Received 2010.

3rd Grade Test Scores - Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)

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."¹⁶ The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

¹⁴ Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003) "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return."

¹⁵ Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.

¹⁶ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

The percentage of students in the Yuma Region who met or exceeded the AIMS standards for reading, writing, and math varied greatly by district. In general, Mohawk Valley Elementary School District consistently had the highest percentages of students meeting or exceeding the standards, and was greater than Arizona as a whole. The other school districts in the region generally had fewer students meeting or exceeding the standards than Arizona.

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

School District	2005	2006	2007	2008
Crane Elementary School District	58%	63%	66%	62%
Gadsden Elementary School District	23%	36%	46%	43%
Hyder Elementary School District	75%	47%	55%	47%
Mohawk Valley Elementary School District	54%	69%	73%	82%
Somerton Elementary School District	47%	47%	57%	54%
Wellton Elementary School District	55%	61%	65%	78%
Yuma Elementary School District	60%	64%	66%	62%
Arizona	65%	67%	69%	69%

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

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

School District	2005	2006	2007	2008
Crane Elementary School District	75%	53%	85%	72%
Gadsden Elementary School District	52%	36%	71%	65%
Hyder Elementary School District	80%	53%	82%	71%
Mohawk Valley Elementary School District	62%	57%	100%	93%
Somerton Elementary School District	71%	37%	73%	61%
Wellton Elementary School District	41%	26%	78%	82%
Yuma Elementary School District	64%	48%	81%	74%
Arizona	73%	52%	81%	76%

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

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

School District	2005	2006	2007	2008
Crane Elementary School District	66%	66%	65%	59%
Gadsden Elementary School District	45%	50%	55%	51%
Hyder Elementary School District	90%	40%	64%	65%
Mohawk Valley Elementary School District	73%	77%	87%	96%
Somerton Elementary School District	58%	45%	62%	53%
Wellton Elementary School District	57%	58%	68%	60%
Yuma Elementary School District	64%	66%	67%	66%
Arizona	72%	72%	72%	71%

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

Graduation Rate

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 higher unemployment.¹⁷ Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including child abuse, substance abuse, un-addressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.¹⁸ In 2009, Antelope Union High School District graduated 77% of its students and Yuma Union High School District graduated 75% of its students. Both districts saw a large decrease in graduation rates from 2004 to 2009, with Antelope Union High School District dropping from 91% to 77% and Yuma Union High dropping from 82% to a 75% graduation rate. The high school completion rates in Yuma high school districts were slightly higher than the 2007 United States public high school graduation rate of 74% and the Arizona 70% graduate rate.

Graduation Rate, Yuma Region School Districts

School District	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antelope Union High School District	91%	81%	70%	77%	72%	77%
Yuma Union High School District	82%	82%	70%	75%	71%	75%
Arizona	67%	85%	71%	70%	71%	NA
United States	74%	75%	73%	74%	NA	NA

Source: 2008 and 2009 data from Yuma County Superintendent of Schools Office, *Correspondence with Department Representative*, Received 2010. 2005-2007 data from Arizona Department of Education (n.d.), *Research Evaluation Section*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad/>. For Arizona and U.S. Data: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), (2010). *NCES Common Core of Data State Dropout and Completion Data File*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/>

¹⁷ United States Department of Education. (n.d.). *Promoting Educational Excellence for all Americans, Questions and Answers on No Child Left Behind*. Retrieved July 2010 from <http://answers.ed.gov/>

¹⁸ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, (2010). *Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth, 2000*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EAI.pdf>

Educational Attainment

In the Yuma Region, 72% of the population 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma or a GED in 2008, which was less than that of Arizona (84%). Additionally, a lower percentage of the Yuma Region population went on to obtain a Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. In 2008, 14% of the population in the region had a Bachelor's or advanced degree, compared to 25% of the population in Arizona.

With respect to the relationship between education and child well-being, it is important to examine maternal education levels. Research suggests that a mother's education relates to her child's health,¹⁹ school readiness,²⁰ and school achievement.²¹ Mothers who have attained higher levels of education tend to have healthier children who are more ready for school, and who do better in school. In Yuma County, more than half of women (56%) who had given birth in the past 12 months had an Associate's, Bachelor's, or advanced degree in 2008. This was higher than the level for the general population ages 25 and older, which was 47% in Yuma County in that same year. In other words, recent mothers were more educated than the general population.

Individuals in the Yuma Region seeking to pursue higher education have several options. Arizona Western College is based in Yuma and has satellite campuses in Somerton, San Luis, and Wellton. Degree programs include occupational certificates, occupational degrees, and transfer degrees. One of Arizona's three public four-year universities, Northern Arizona University, has a Yuma campus where students can pursue a wide range of opportunities. The other two public universities are located in Phoenix and Tucson.

Additionally, there are specific adult education programs available for adults seeking to further their education. The Arizona Department of Education offers classes in Adult Basic Education in Basic Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Skills, and GED Preparation Classes. In the Yuma Region, the programs are offered through Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona, Crane Adult Education, and South Yuma County Adult Education Consortium. Adults can take these classes face-to-face or through a distance learning approach.

¹⁹ Basu, A. M., & Stephenson, R. (2005). Low levels of maternal education and the proximate determinants of childhood mortality: A little learning is not a dangerous thing. *Social Science & Medicine*, 60(9), 2011-2023.

²⁰ Augustine, J.M., Cavanagh, S. E., & Crosnoe, R. (2009). Maternal education, early child care and the reproduction of advantage. *Social Forces*, 88(1), 1-29.

²¹ Boxer, P., Dubow, E.F., Huesmann, L.R. (2009). Long-term effects of parents' education on children's educational and occupational success: Mediation by family interactions, child aggression, and teenage aspirations. *Merill Palmer Q (Wayne State University Press)*, 55(3).

Educational Attainment, Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment Level	2005	2006	2007	2008
Less than High School Graduate				
Yuma County	30%	27%	27%	29%
Arizona	16%	16%	17%	16%
High School Graduate				
Yuma County	29%	30%	29%	25%
Arizona	26%	27%	27%	25%
Some College or Associate's Degree				
Yuma County	27%	31%	30%	33%
Arizona	33%	32%	31%	34%
Bachelor's Degree				
Yuma County	9%	7%	8%	9%
Arizona	16%	16%	16%	16%
Graduate or Professional Degree				
Yuma County	5%	5%	5%	5%
Arizona	9%	9%	9%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2007). *Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over*. Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=

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

Educational Attainment Level	2005	2006	2007	2008
Less than High School Graduate	32%	6%	41%	14%
High School Graduate	29%	46%	26%	31%
Some College, Associate's Degree	33%	42%	31%	49%
Bachelor's Degree	5%	1%	NA	2%
Graduate or Professional Degree	NA	6%	2%	5%

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). *Women 15 to 50 Year who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Educational Attainment*. Retrieved March 2010 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>.

The Early Childhood System

Early Care and Education

Over forty years of research has shown that children begin learning at birth and that all settings where they are cared for on a daily basis need to provide a quality environment that supports optimal growth and development.²² For these reasons, 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 simulate children at different stages of learning; and low staff to child 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.²³

Child Care Capacity and Enrollment

Quality early care and education helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.²⁴ Subsidizing child care for low-income families assures that the children of working families will have options for quality care. The Department of Economic Security (DES) provides subsidies to eligible working families to help with the costs of child care so that they can afford the cost of regulated child care. Child care choices include center-based facilities, family child care homes, and informal care by family (kin) and friends (kith).

There are 213 licensed, certified, or registered child care programs within the Yuma Region, with a combined approved capacity of about 6,248 children. Included in the number of licensed child care centers are 10 Head Start Programs located in Yuma, Roll, Wellton, Somerton, and San Luis.

Quality First was implemented by First Things First (FTF) in 2009 to increase the availability of quality early care and education in child care centers and homes so that children begin school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed. It is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for programs serving children ages birth through five. The Yuma Region currently has 26 Quality First programs, 8 centers and 18 home sites. The First Things First Yuma Region hopes to expand the number of providers participating in Quality First in the 2010/11 fiscal year to include three more centers and 10 more home care providers. Quality First facilitates quality improvements for participating early care and education providers by assessing the quality of care they provide, preparing an affordable quality improvement plan for centers and homes, and helping to train and enhance the abilities of existing and new staff and teachers.

National accreditation agencies provide an additional measure of quality for early care and education programs. These programs are voluntary and child care centers and homes must apply for accreditation. In the Yuma Region, there are 16 programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

²² Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (2006). *The Importance of Early Care and Education*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.practitionerresources.org/cache/documents/639/63935.doc/>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ 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/>

The Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R) is a resource for parents to find quality early care programs in their community. CCR&R maintains a list of child care providers who are licensed by the Department of Health Services, certified by the Department of Economic Security, or registered with the CCR&R. There are providers that are registered with the CCR&R that are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receiving CPR and First Aid training. CCR&R helps to match children to programs that fit their needs based on age, personality, special needs, and location. Parents are also provided with a checklist to use when visiting possible child care providers.

According to parent survey respondents, the primary source of child care was an adult family member (43%), with Head Start being the second most frequently cited source of child care (19%). During the 2009/10 school year, 798 children were enrolled in Head Start programs in Yuma County. Of children enrolled in Head Start, 65% were four years old, 89% were Hispanic, 86% were eligible by income, and Spanish was the primary language of over half the children (53%).

With respect to child care centers and homes in the Yuma Region, data from the provider survey indicated that the majority of centers and homes (81%) had fewer than five staff members. Nearly all child care centers and home care providers were open Monday through Friday (96% to 98%), 56% offered child care on Saturdays, and only 15% of child care centers and home providers offered child care on Sundays. Provider survey respondents indicated that 37% had a waiting list.

Child Care Programs and Capacity, Yuma Region, 2010

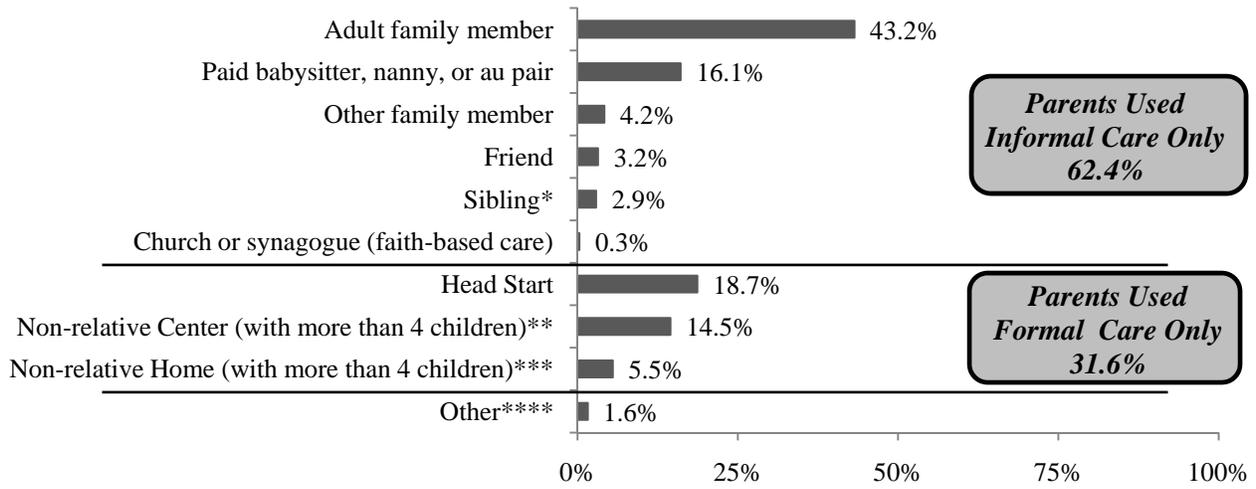
	Number of Programs	Approved Capacity
ADHS Licensed Programs	83	5,724
Child Care Centers	47	4,051
Child Care Public Schools	13	1,453
Child Care Small Group Homes	23	220
ADES Certified Programs: Child Care Homes	118	464
Child Care Resource and Referral Registered Programs: Family Child Care Homes*	12	60
Total Programs	213	6,248
Accredited Programs	16	-
Quality First Programs	26 (8 Centers, 18 Homes)	-

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, *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, *Yuma Regional Partnership April 12, 2010*, Received 2010 from First Things First. National Association for the Education of Young People, *Accredited Program Search*, Retrieved July 15, 2010 from <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/search>

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.

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

Primary Source of Child Care



Multiple response question with 380 respondents offering 418 responses; responses are not mutually exclusive. Therefore, 5.0% of respondents reported that their child is receiving both informal and formal care.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five] (Unpublished raw data).

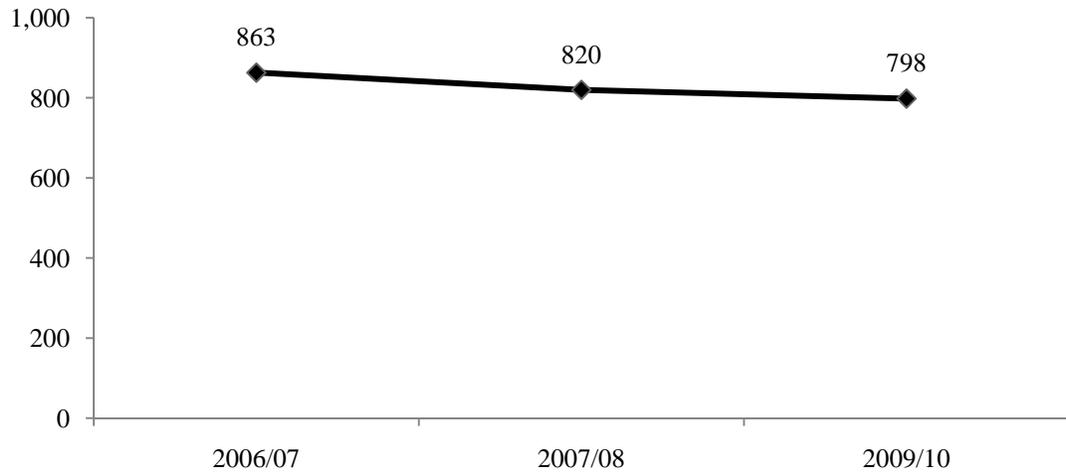
* 1 sibling was 12 years old or younger; 2 siblings were between 13 to 18 years old (8 respondents did not answer).

** 31 reported that their non-relative center was certified or licensed, (24 respondents did not answer)

*** 13 reported that their non-relative home was certified or licensed and 3 reported that the non-relative home was not certified or licensed. (5 respondents did not answer)

**** Other responses included: “DDD,” “Kindergarten,” “School”.

Head Start Enrollment, Yuma County



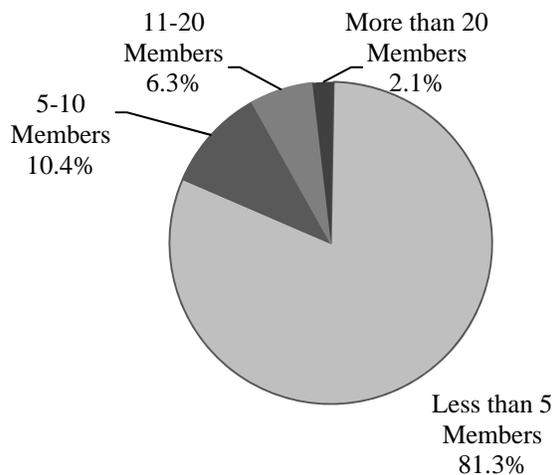
Source: Western Arizona Council of Governments, *Personal Communication with Representative*, Received 2010.

Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Yuma County, August-December 2009

Demographic	Percent
Age	
3 years old	35.3%
4 years old	64.6%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	89.2%
Eligibility	
Income Eligible	85.7%
Receipt of Public Assistance	8.3%
Foster Children	1.1%
Homeless	1.5%
Over Income	3.4%
Primary Language	
English	46.8%
Spanish	52.8%
Other	0.4%

Source: Western Arizona Council of Governments, *Personal Communication with Representative*, Received 2010.

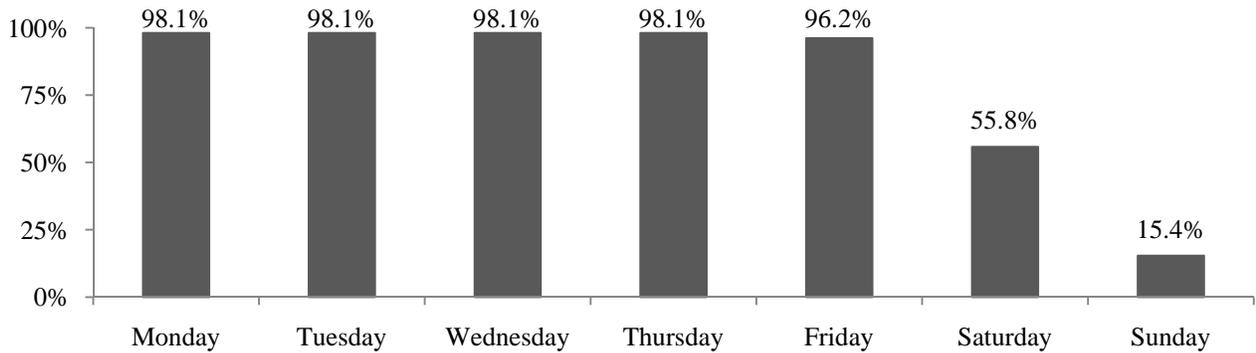
•• Number of Staff Members at Child Care Centers and Homes (Reported by Child Care Center Directors/Home Child Care Providers/Directors)



N=48 Child Care Center Directors or Home Child Care Providers/Directors.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data). Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

• • Days of the Week Child Care Center Directors or Home Child Care Providers/ Directors Reported Being Open



Multiple response question with 52 Child Care Center Director or Home Child Care Providers/Director respondents offering 291 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data). Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

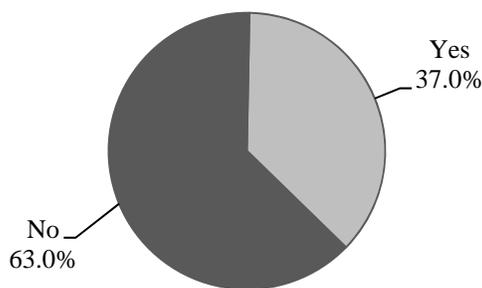
• • Hours of Operation (Reported by Child Care Center Directors/Home Child Care Providers or Directors)

Days of the Week	Half Day (Less than 8 hours)	Full Day (8 to 12 hours)	Extended Day (More than 12 hours)	Overnight
Weekdays	7.5%	37.7%	54.7%	20.8%
Saturday	12.5%	31.3%	56.3%	21.9%
Sunday	20.0%	50.0%	30.0%	40.0%

Weekdays N=53; Saturday N=32; Sunday N=10.

Source: Applied Survey Research, First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers, 2010

• • Child Care Center Directors or Home Child Care Providers/Directors who Reported Having a Waiting List



N=54. Child Care Center Directors or Home Child Care Providers/Directors

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Child Care Need

There is a great need for quality child care in the Yuma Region. The total approved capacity of child care programs is 6,248 children, which only accounts for an estimated 48% of the children with parents in the work force. It is estimated that there is a need for an additional 6,855 child care slots.

Parent survey responses illustrate the demand for child care in the region. According to parent survey respondents, 69% utilized child care when they needed to work, go to school, or other reasons. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents' children spent more than 20 hours per week in child care, with 40% spending over 30 hours per week in child care.

Estimated Child Care Need, Yuma County

	Number
Number of Children Ages Birth Through Five with Parents in Work Force *	13,103
Total Approved Capacity of Child Care Programs **	6,248
Approximate Number of Child Care Slots in Need***	6,855

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2008). *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, *Yuma Regional Partnership April 12, 2010*, Received 2010 from First Things First. U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 2008 1-Year Estimates Table B23008*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

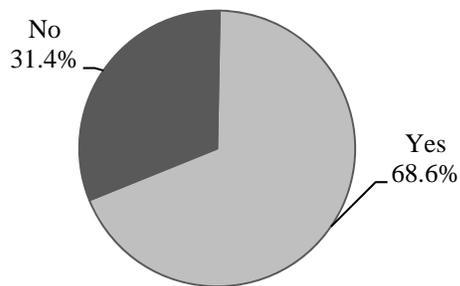
Note: Data regarding the number of children ages birth through five with parents in the work force is from 2008 while the data regarding capacity of child care program is from 2010.

* Includes children ages birth through five living with two parents who are both in the labor force, children ages birth through five living only with a father who is in the labor force, and children ages birth through five living only with a mother who is in the labor force. Data are from the 2008 American Community Survey. This value is an estimate of the actual number of children who need child care, as some children with all parents in the work force may have other sources of care.

** Total approved capacity for the Yuma Region includes slots for children ages birth through 12 years old.

*** The approximate number of slots needed is calculated by subtracting the total approved capacity from the number of children with all parents in the work force.

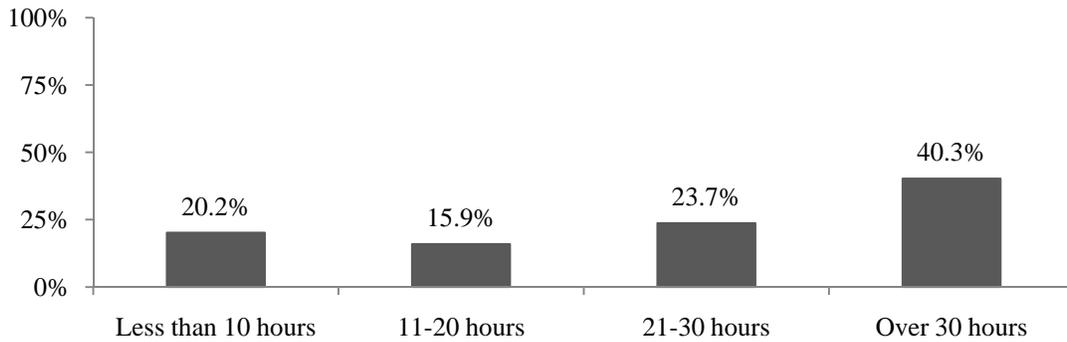
Parents Who Use Child Care When They Need to Work, Go to School, or for Other Reasons



N=570.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Number of Hours Child is in Child Care per Week



N=372.

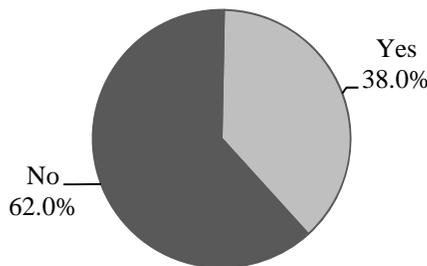
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Parent Satisfaction with Child Care

In the Yuma Region, many parents reported facing challenges meeting their child care needs. According to parent survey respondents, over one-third (38%) of parents had to make adjustments to accommodate their child care situation. The most common adjustments parents reported making were changing their work schedules (45%) and paying more money for child care (42%).

Overall, parents were satisfied with their child care experiences. Nearly 80% of respondents reported being “very satisfied” with the way that providers interacted with their children, with the experience level of the provider, with the way providers interacted with the parent/guardian, with the stability of the child care staff, with the hours of operation, and with the condition of the facility. Fewer respondents (70%) indicated that they were “very satisfied” with the cost of child care and how well their provider prepares their child for kindergarten.

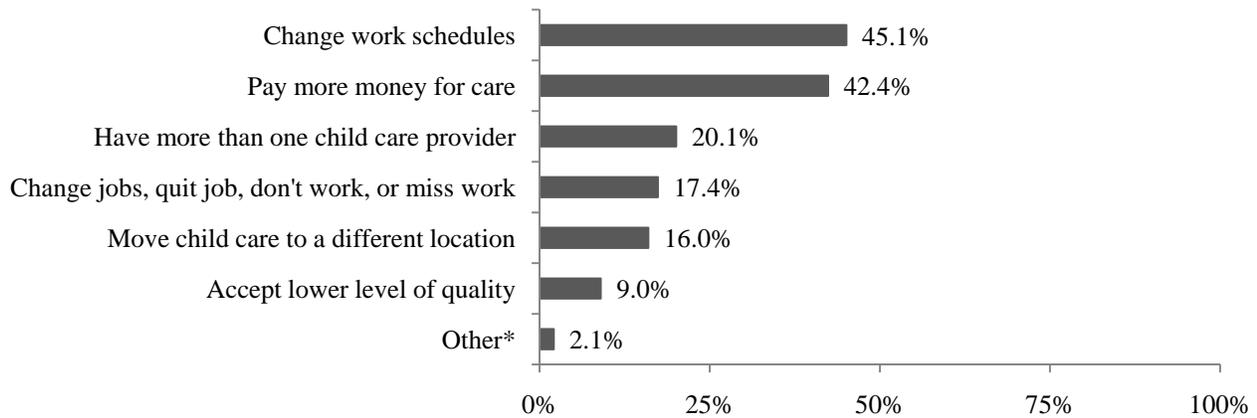
Parents Who Indicated Ever Having to Make Adjustments to Accommodate Their Child Care Situation



N=379.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Types of Adjustments Parents Have Ever Made to Accommodate Their Child Care Situation

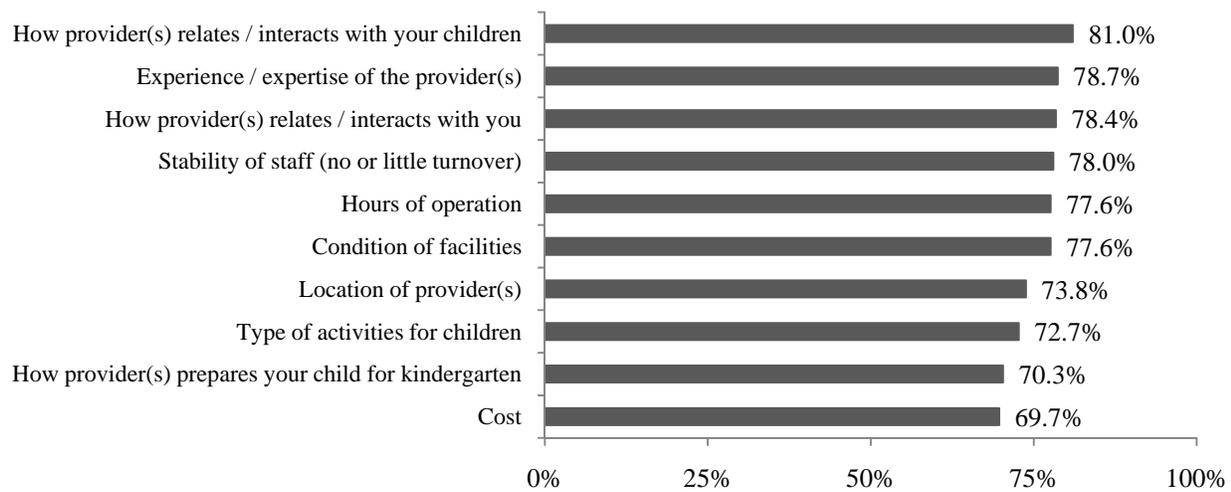


Multiple response question with 144 respondents offering 219 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

* Other responses included: “A relative came to live with us,” “Changed School Schedule” (2).

Parents who Indicated Being “Very Satisfied” with the Following Aspects of Their Child Care Arrangement



N=337 for “How provider(s) relates/interacts with children;” N=338 for “Experience/expertise;” N=334 “How provider(s) relates/interacts with you;” N=328 for “Stability of staff;” N=339 for “Hours of operation;” N=348 for “Condition of facilities;” N=340 for “Location of provider(s);” N=337 for “Type of activities;” N=330 for “How provider(s) prepares child for kindergarten;” N=347 for “Cost.”

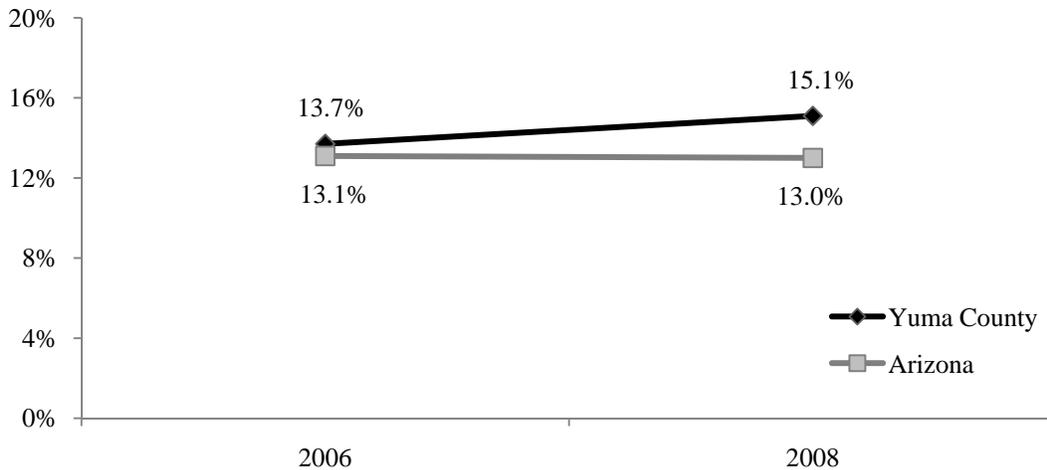
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Cost of Child Care

Child care can be very costly for families. In 2008, for Yuma County, an estimated 15% of a family’s income was spent on center-based child care, slightly higher than in Arizona as a whole (13%). During the same year, the average daily cost of *full-time* child care ranged from \$18.00 to \$25.00. The average daily cost of *part-time* child care ranged from \$11.00 to \$17.60. Child care for children under the age of one year old and child care provided by centers tended to be more costly than child care for older children or approved homes. Based on data from parent survey respondents, 41% of families spent \$150-\$349 per month on child care, and 33% of families spent \$350-\$549 per month on child care.

Among parent survey respondents, 10% indicated that they were receiving subsidized child care, such as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies. The number of families in Yuma County who were eligible for and receiving CCDF child care subsidies in January of 2010 dropped dramatically from January of 2009, likely as a result of funding cuts to the program. There were 1,007 eligible families and 810 receiving subsidies in 2009. In 2010, there were only 531 eligible families and only 428 receiving subsidies. Despite the decrease in the number of families eligible and receiving subsidies, the percentage receiving assistance remained constant around 80%. Similar to the trend for families, children eligible for and receiving subsidies decreased by half from 1,073 in January of 2009 to 562 in January of 2010. In January of 2010, only 74% of children eligible for subsidies were receiving them, which was slightly less than statewide rates (77%).

Estimate of Percent of Family Income Spent on Center-Based Preschool (Ages 3 to 5)



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

Note: Data presented are the cost of child care for one child age 3, 4, or 5 years old attending a child care center. Annual cost of child care assumes 5 days of child care per week for 52 weeks per year and is based on the average daily cost of child care: full-time for Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties. The percent is calculated by dividing the annual cost of child care by the median annual family income in Yuma County.

Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Full-Time, Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties

Age of Child	2002	2004	2006	2008
Children Under One				
Centers	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$21.60	\$25.00
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$20.00
Certified Group Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$22.00
Unregulated Homes	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$25.00
1 and 2 Year Olds				
Centers	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$22.00
Approved Homes	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$19.50
Certified Group Homes	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$21.00
Unregulated Homes	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$25.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds				
Centers	\$17.75	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$21.00
Approved Homes	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Certified Group Homes	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Unregulated Homes	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$23.50

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

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

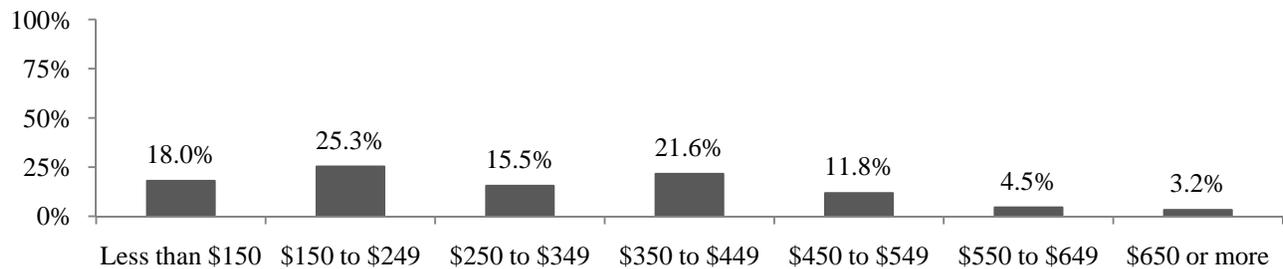
Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Part-Time, Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties

Age of Child	2002	2004	2006	2008
Children Under One				
Centers	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$17.00	\$17.00
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$12.00
Certified Group Homes	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$16.00
Unregulated Homes	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$15.00
1 and 2 Year Olds				
Centers	\$14.40	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$17.60
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.03
Certified Group Homes	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.50
Unregulated Homes	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$15.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds				
Centers	\$12.00	\$12.60	\$14.00	\$15.75
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.00
Certified Group Homes	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Unregulated Homes	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$15.00

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

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

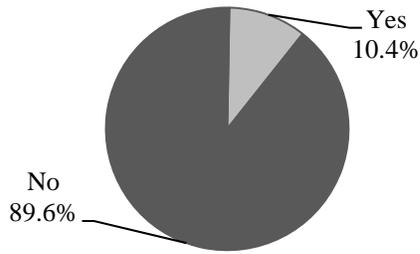
Parents' Monthly Payment for All of Their Children's Child Care Combined



N=245.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Parents Who Reported that They Receive Subsidized Child Care (Such as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Subsidies)



N=375.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

	January 2009	January 2010
Number of Families		
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: Yuma County	1,007	531
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: Yuma County	810	428
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Yuma County	80.4%	80.6%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	81.3%	82.2%
Number of Children		
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: Yuma County	1,406	756
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: Yuma County	1,073	562
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Yuma County	76.3%	74.3%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Arizona	76.4%	77.0%

Source: Arizona First Things First, Department of Economic Security Child Care Subsidy Report, Received 2010.

Professional Development

Preparation and ongoing professional development of Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals is linked to increased learning and development of children receiving care.²⁵ There are many professional development options in the Yuma Region. Arizona Western College offers several ECE certificates and associate degree programs right in Yuma, San Luis, Somerton and Wellton. Northern Arizona University also offers two ECE Master of Education programs at its Yuma Branch campus. Many other colleges and universities offer online Associate of Child Development certificate or ECE degree programs in which Yuma residents interested in the early childhood field can enroll.

However, there are many barriers preventing early childhood educators from seeking further education and training to improve their knowledge and skills in early education and child development. One such barrier is the cost of education. First Things First offers Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) scholarships which help child care center teachers, directors, and providers obtain their Associate of Early Childhood Degree or Associate Assessment of Child Development. Recipients receive tuition support, books, travel and paid release time. Between January and March of 2010, there were a total of 21 ECE professionals receiving T.E.A.C.H. scholarships in the Yuma Region.

In addition to T.E.A.C.H., the Professional Career Pathway Project, supported by the First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council, provides scholarship opportunities for 35 students to obtain a Child Development Associate's Certificate.

Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) is the grantee for Head Start programs in the Yuma Region, along with the partner organization Chicanos Por La Causa. WACOG encompasses Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties. In the 2006/07 school year, 68% of teachers and 11% of assistant teachers at WACOG Head Start had at least an Associate's Degree in an Early Childhood Education field compared to the state in which 56% of assistant teachers had only a high school education or less, and 32% of teachers had college degrees.²⁶

According to provider survey respondents, in 2010, 31% of respondents had a high school diploma, 34% had some college, while only 5% had a Bachelor's Degree. However, most providers had a high self-rating of their knowledge of the early childhood education field. Their mean score, on a one-to-ten scale of ECE knowledge (with "1" being very poor knowledge and "10" being excellent knowledge) was 7.57. The majority of providers indicated that they had "excellent" or "good" skills in areas such as engaging in positive interactions with the children at their sites, supporting families in promoting healthy child development, and designing early childhood education curriculum to enhance learning. While this data indicates that providers have high confidence in their skill levels, this survey is not designed as measure that accurately determines with reliability the actual skills these providers possess.

Child care providers reported interest in further professional development. Among provider survey respondents, 71% expressed interest in professional development opportunities related to positive discipline, 64% in child development, and 38% in school readiness. Many providers also reported that they would like to receive additional specialized trainings for themselves and their staff, particularly in the areas of special needs in general, behavioral issues, and communication with parents about their child's special needs.

²⁵ Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). *Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

²⁶ State Board on School Readiness, Governor's Office of Children, Youth & Families; Association for Supportive Child Care; Children's Action Alliance. (2005). *Compensation and Credentials: A Survey of Arizona's Early Education Workforce*. Retrieved from http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/PDF/CC_Compensation_Credentials.pdf

The Association for Supportive Child Care offers many programs geared towards improving the availability of quality child care. One program, the Child Care Professional Training program, prepares individuals for employment in the ECE field with a two week course covering topics of child development, positive discipline, language and literacy, and child nutrition and health. In addition, the Yuma County Association for the Education of Young Children conducts one conference each year providing continued training for professionals working with young children, and the WACOG Professional Development grant provides several conferences and workshops each year.

Providers indicated that they were satisfied with their jobs. Ninety-four percent of respondents said that they were either “very” or “mostly satisfied” with their work. However, only 18% of respondents were “very satisfied” with their salaries. Research has shown that teachers’ wages play a significant role in program quality. Higher wages enable centers to hire better-qualified teachers, which can contribute to both lower turnover rates and more secure attachments between children and teachers.²⁷ In the 2007/08 school year, the average salary for a WACOG Head Start teacher with an Associate’s Degree in early childhood education or a related field was \$21,147, while the average teacher with an ECE Bachelor’s Degree earned \$21,861 annually; much lower than the National Head Start average annual salary of \$28,000 for the same level of education. The average salary of Head Start teachers in the Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties regions was less than the average salary of Head Start teachers in Arizona, but slightly more than average for private or non-profit child care providers.

Parents appeared to understand the positive effect that teacher job satisfaction and low turnover rates have on a child’s development. Most parents (71%) who responded to the First Things First Family and Community Survey in 2008 believed that frequent changes to child care providers had negative effects on infant development.

²⁷ Phillips, D., Mekos, D., Scarr, S., McCartney, K., & Abbott-Shim, M. (2000). Within and beyond the classroom door: Assessing quality in child care centers. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(4), 475-496.

ECE Professional Development Programs, Yuma Region

College or Institution	Degree	Degree Name	Location
Arizona State University	M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education	Online
Arizona Western College	Occupational Certificate	Early Childhood Education	Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Wellton
	Occupational Degree	Early Childhood Education	Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Wellton
	Transfer Degree	Elementary Education: Early Childhood Emphasis	Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Wellton
Childcare Education Institute	C.D.A. Certificate	Child Development Associate	Online
Grand Canyon University	B.S.	Elementary Education: Early Childhood Education	Phoenix, Online
	M.A.	Elementary Education	Phoenix, Online
Northern Arizona University	B.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
	M.Ed.	Special Education: Early Childhood	Yuma
	M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Yuma
Prescott College	B.A.	Early Childhood Education	Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ; Online
	B.A.	Early Childhood Special Education	Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ; Online
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, 2010.

Level of Education of Head Start ECE Professionals, WACOG, 2006/07 School Year

ECE Professionals	High School Graduate	Associate Degree	Baccalaureate Degree	Advanced Degree	CDA or State Equivalent	Total Staff*
Classroom/Child Development Staff						
Teachers	-	60.4%	7.6%	0%	30.2%	53
Assistant Teachers	-	9.3%	1.3%	0%	12.0%	75
Supervisory Child Development Staff						
Child Development Supervisors	-	47.1%	29.4%	11.8%	11.8%	17
Family and Community Partnerships Staff						
Family Workers	40.0%	44.0%	16.0%	0%	-	25
Family and Community Partnerships Supervisors	14.3%	50.0%	21.4%	14.3%	-	14

Source: Head Start. (2008). *Head Start Program Information Report for the 2006/07 Program Year*. (Unpublished data).

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

Note: Data are presented for the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Head Start Grantee level and includes Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties.

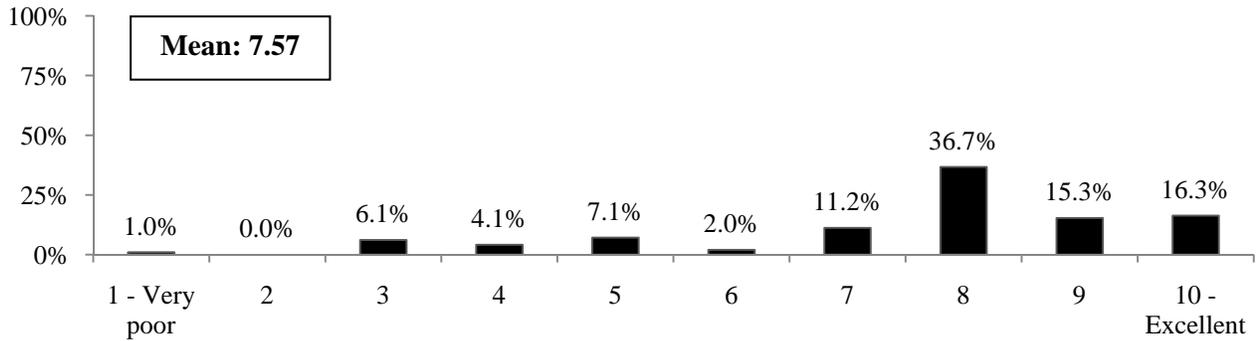
* Total staff includes staff with and without a degree or credential.

• • Highest Level of Education Completed by Child Care Provider Survey Respondents

Educational Attainment	N =	116
Less than 9 th grade		4.3%
9 th grade to 12 th grade (no diploma)		12.9%
High school diploma (includes GED or equivalent)		31.0%
Some college, no degree		33.6%
Associate’s degree		10.3%
Bachelor’s degree		5.2%
Graduate or professional degree		2.6%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

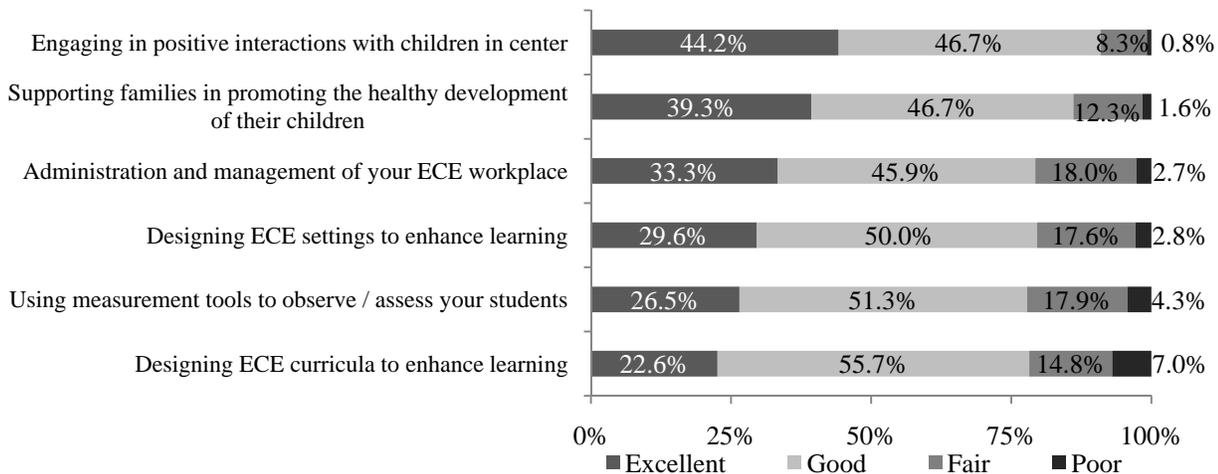
•• Child Care Providers' Rating of Their Knowledge of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Field



N=98.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

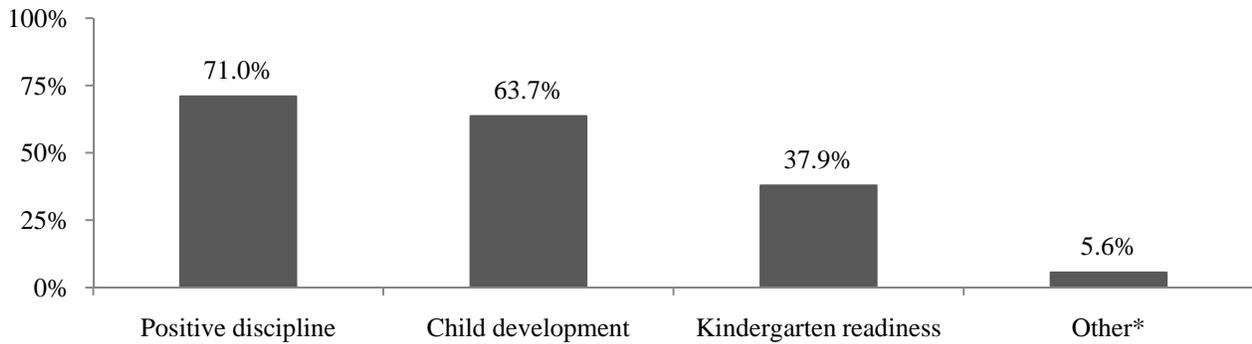
•• Child Care Providers' Rating of Their Skills in the Following ECE Areas



N=120 for “Engaging in positive interactions;” N=122 for “Supporting families;” N=111 for “Administration and management;” N=108 for “Designing ECE settings;” N=117 for “Using measurement tools;” “N=115 for “Designing ECE curricula.”

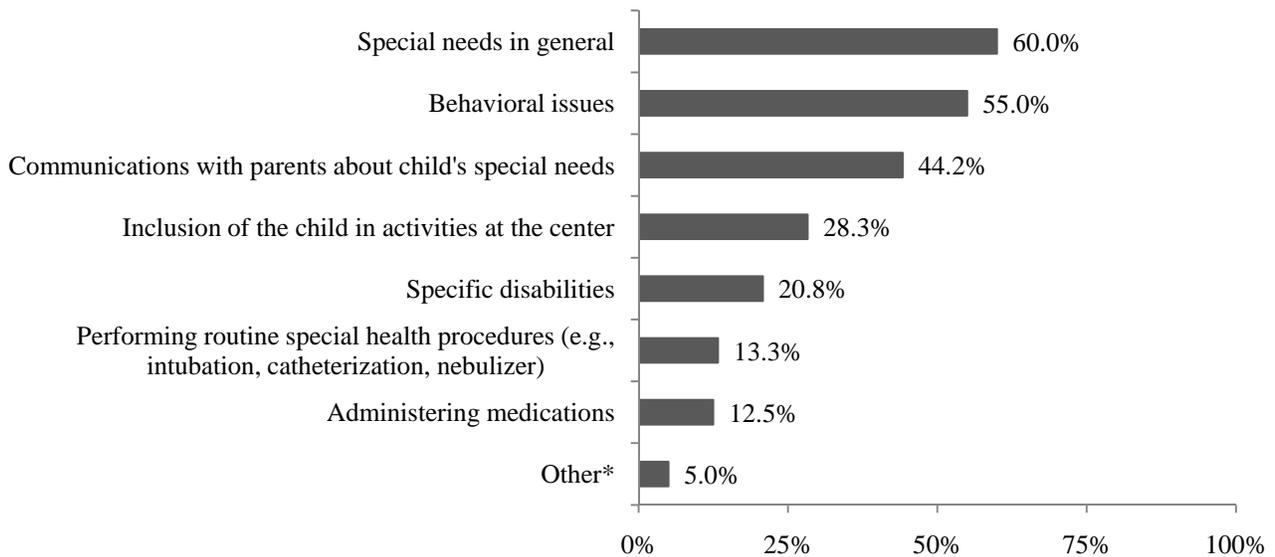
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

•• Child Care Providers Who Indicated Being Interested in the Following Types of Professional Development Opportunities



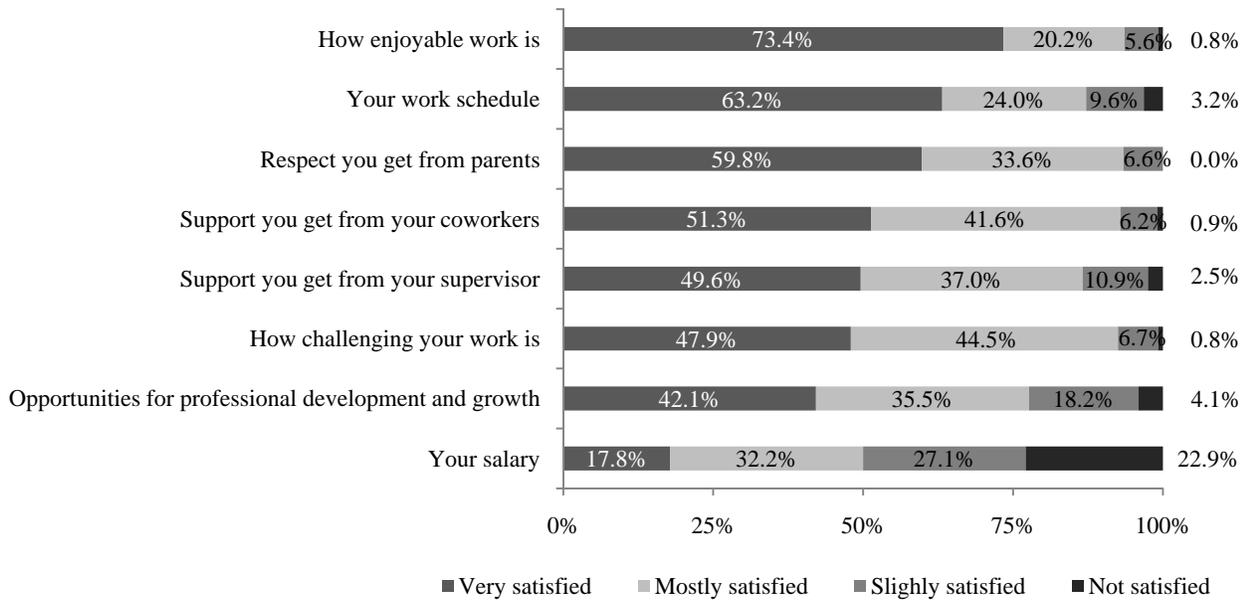
Multiple response question with 124 respondents offering 221 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).
 * Other responses included: “Training for trainers,” “Special needs” (2), “New ways to use materials,” “More ECE education,” “Before and after school training.”

•• Areas in Which Child Care Providers Would Most Like to Receive Additional Specialized Training for Themselves and/or Their Staff



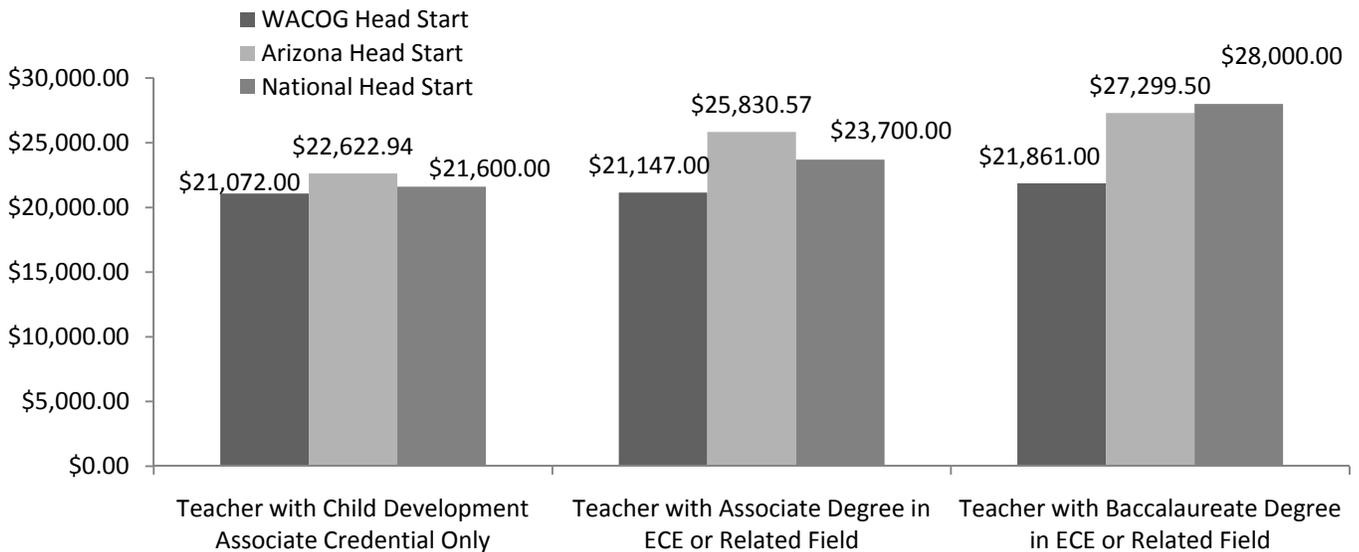
Multiple response question with 120 respondents offering 287 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).
 * Other responses included: “Sign language.”

•• Child Care Providers' Level of Satisfaction with Each of the Following Aspects of Their Current Job



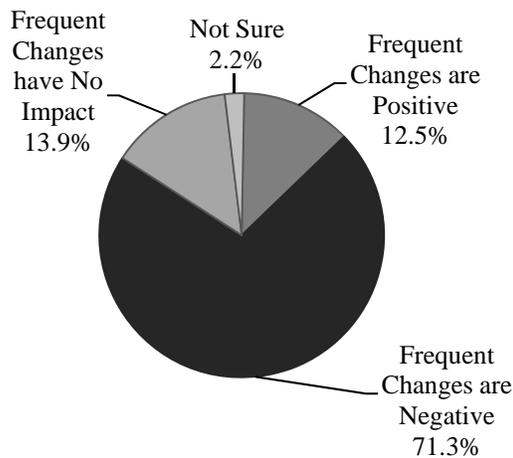
N=124 for "How enjoyable work is;" N=125 for "Work schedule;" N=122 for "Respect from parents;" N=113 for "Support from coworkers;" N=119 for "Support from supervisor;" N=119 for "How challenging work is;" N=121 for "Opportunities for professional development and growth;" N=118 for "Salary."
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Average Salary of Head Start Teachers, 2007/08 School Year



Source: Head Start. (2010). *Head Start Program Information Report for the 2007/08 Program Year*. (Unpublished data). For National Head Start: National Head Start (2010). *Basic Head Start Facts*. Retrieved from <http://www.nhsa.org/>
 Note: Data are presented for the Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Head Start Grantee level and includes Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties.

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



N=192.

Source: First Things First, *Family and Community Survey*, Received 2010.

Children with Disabilities: Identification

Supporting children and adults with disabilities helps to make sure these individuals are not left behind in school, in employment, or in life. 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.²⁸ By the middle of the 2009/10 school year, 781 Head Start children had been screened for developmental disabilities in Yuma County, with 7% of those children needing follow-up or a formal evaluation.

Among parent survey respondents, 8% reported that a doctor or other professional told them that their child (gender unknown) was developmentally delayed or had some type of special need. The most common type of diagnosis given to their child was a speech or language delay. Additionally, 8 parents reported that their child had been diagnosed with autism, a rate which is very similar to the nationally estimated rate for autism among boys. According to research, 1 out of every 70 boys (a 1.4% prevalence rate) is diagnosed with autism annually. The rate of autism among boys is higher than the estimated prevalence for the general population, which is 1 out of every 110 children (0.9% prevalence rate).²⁹

According to a representative from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), the number of children diagnosed with autism in Yuma County is increasing. More than half of children who are eligible for DDD services have an autism diagnosis or are at risk of autism. The primary method of treatment for children with autism is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and habilitation therapy as noted by the representative from DDD. In Yuma County, these services are provided by one provider who comes from Tucson every other week to conduct a two year program with children diagnosed with autism. This provider hires local assistant habilitation workers trained in ABA to assist with the caseload during his absences. However, this one provider is not sufficient to meet the demands of the community and there is a large need for additional resources, particularly in the rural parts of the county.

²⁸ Steele, M.M. (2004). *Making the Care for Early Identification and Intervention for young Children at Risk for Learning Disabilities*, *Early Childhood Education Journal*, Vol. 32, 2, 75-79.

²⁹ Autism Speaks. <http://www.autismspeaks.org/whatisit/index.php>. Retrieved July 15, 2010.

When determining whether or not a child has developmental concerns or special needs, the majority of provider survey respondents (69%) indicated that they screen children using their best judgment based on experience and training. About 17% of respondents give every child a formal developmental screening on site, and 14% use a screening tool when they have concerns about a child. Over half of all providers have worked with children diagnosed with special needs and/or children who providers felt had special needs but did not have a diagnosis.

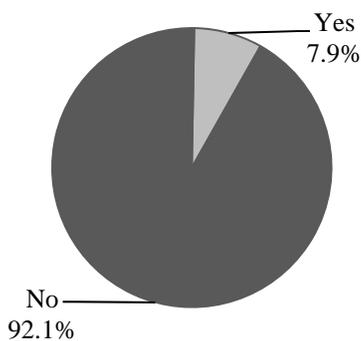
Communicating information about a child’s developmental progress to her/his parents is an important task for child care providers. The majority of provider survey respondents (80%) reported communicating to parents through informal conversations. Written report cards and regular parent-teacher conferences were two other communication strategies utilized by 28% of providers. Sixteen percent of providers communicated with parents through home visits. In general, providers felt that parents were receptive to information about the possibility that their child might have a special need or disability. More than 62% of providers “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statement “In general, when you have a child in your care who you suspect may have a disability or special need, parents have been receptive to your concerns.”

Head Start Developmental Screenings, Yuma County, August-December 2009

Head Start Children	
Number of Children Screened	781
Number of Screened Children Needing Follow-up or Formal Evaluation	51
Percent of Screened Children Needing Follow-up or Formal Evaluation	6.5%

Source: Western Arizona Council of Governments, *Personal Communication with Representative*, Received 2010.

Parents Who Reported that a Doctor or Other Professional Had Ever Told Them that Their Child was Developmentally Delayed, or Had a Disability or Special Need



N=581.

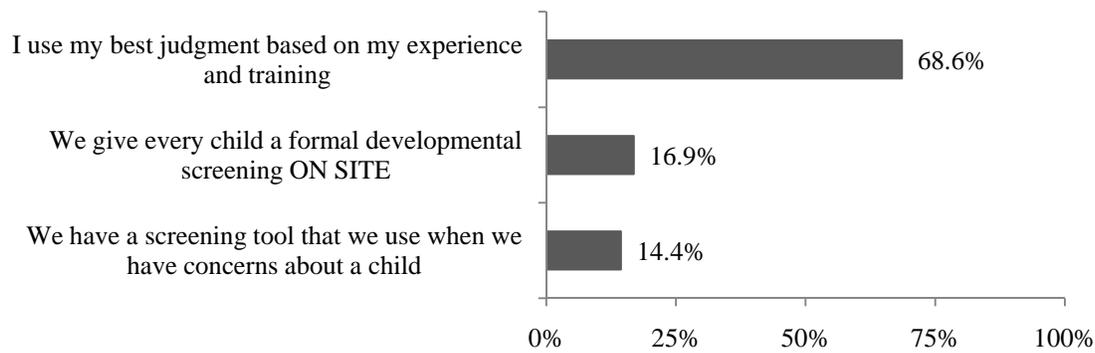
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

👤 Type of Diagnosis Given to Child

Response	Number
Speech/language delay	18
Autism	8
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	2
Other	7
Total respondents	35

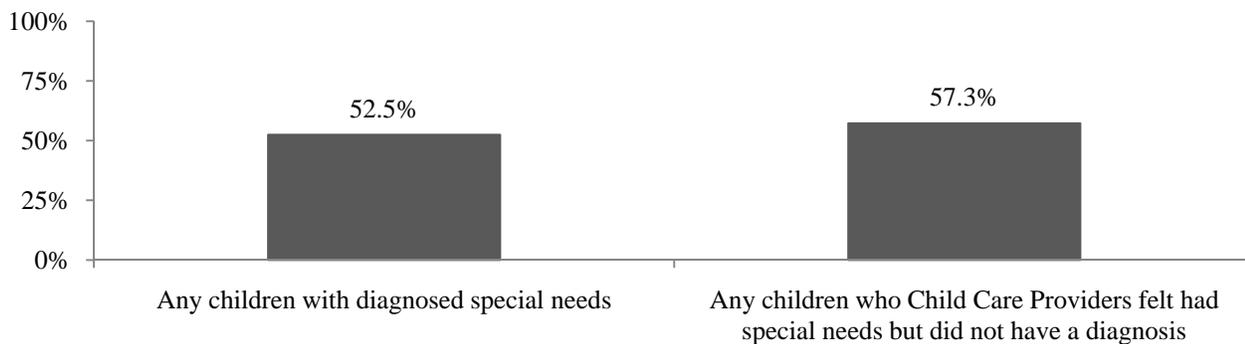
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).
 * Other responses included: “Cognitive,” “Developmental delay,” “His Head,” “Learning disability,” “Severe Retardation.”

• Child Care Providers Methods for Screening for Developmental Concerns and Special Needs



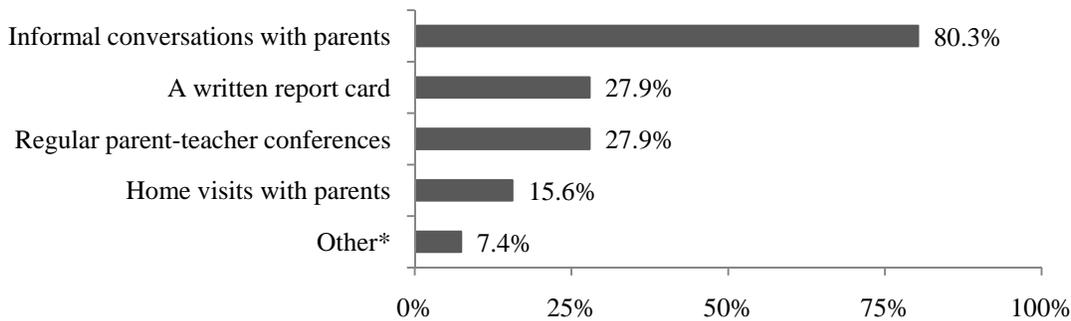
N=118.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

• Child Care Providers Who Currently, or Have in the Past, Served any Children with Diagnosed Special Needs



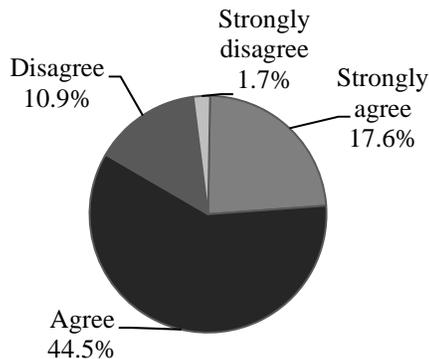
N=120 for “Any children with diagnosed special needs;” N=124 for “Any children who Child Care Providers felt had special needs but did not have a diagnosis.”
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

•• Child Care Providers Methods to Share Information about the Developmental Progress of the Child with Parents



Multiple response question with 122 respondents offering 194 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).
 * Other responses included: “Phone calls,” “Parent contacts,” “Notes to the parents,” “Newsletter, daily sheets,” “Formal conversation with parents”.

•• Child Care Providers’ Level of Agreement with the Following Statement: “In general, when you have a child in your care who you suspect may have a disability or special need; parents have been receptive to your concerns.”



N=89.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Children with Disabilities: Services

Assuring that the needs of children with disabilities are appropriately met is an important priority in the First Things First Yuma Region. While children generally receive developmental and health screening and diagnosis in a timely manner, there is a severe shortage of therapeutic services for children identified with special needs. As of May 2010, there was one speech therapy provider for all of Yuma County with a waitlist of more than 200 individuals. The waitlist for this provider is also very long and has little movement. In regards to physical therapy, there is one provider in Yuma who serves children ages birth to three; there is no therapist for children ages three to five. The result is that some children who may be diagnosed by Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) may never receive therapy through AzEIP services, because they will no longer be eligible by age when the opportunity for care becomes available for them. For children ages birth to three, the AzEIP is responsible for identifying and serving children with disabilities. There is only one occupational therapist in the county, who is based at

a clinic. In light of this severe shortage, there is a constant search to recruit new providers to Yuma County. Advertisements in medical journals, local and state newspapers, and constant communication with interested parties are some of the methods used.

In 2009, 142 children in the Yuma Region received services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), an increase from 79 children in 2007. An additional 98 children ages birth through five received services from the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in 2009. Only children who are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism qualify for DDD services (in addition to AzEIP services).

One critical component of AzEIP services is the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of referral to AzEIP. In Yuma County, the percentage of all children ages birth to three with an IFSP stayed constant between 2005/06 and 2007/08 at about 1%, which was less than the national percentage of children with an IFSP in 2007/08 of 2.5%.³⁰ Of infants and toddlers in Yuma County with an ISFP, the percentage who received an evaluation or assessment and IFSP within 45 days of referral increased from 54% in 2006/07 to 95% in 2007/08. However, the percentage of Yuma County children receiving services at home or in programs for typically developing children (children who are not receiving special education services) decreased between 2005/06 and 2007/08. Nevertheless, according to the Department of Economic Security Early Intervention Program Reports, all Yuma County families (100%) participating in AzEIP services reported that services had helped the family know their rights, helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs, and helped the family help their children develop and learn.

When children turn three years old and begin attending preschool the local school districts assume the responsibilities for meeting the needs of all children with disabilities. For the 2009/10 school year, school districts in the Yuma Region had 402 children in preschool with identified special needs. Developmental delays and speech and language impairment were the most common types of disabilities among preschool children.

However, 63% of parent survey respondents who said that they had been referred to services to address their child's special need reported that the child was not receiving those services. The main reasons for not getting services were that services were not available at convenient times or location, and lack of health insurance or money to pay for services. More than half of parents (55%) indicated that their child was not receiving special services as prescribed by their doctor, with 35% of parents citing lack of convenient times and locations for services as the reason.

According to provider survey respondents, the most common program response when a child is identified as having a developmental or behavioral concern is to suggest that the parents get the child evaluated by a doctor (69% of respondents). Nearly 42% said they refer the family to services, and 37% said they wait and monitor the child. Once children with special needs have been identified, child care providers face challenges in accommodating them in their programs. Nearly half of providers (42%) cited lack of training as a challenge to accommodating children with disabilities, while 36% cited lack of staff for necessary supervision, and 23% reported difficulties in including children with special needs in all activities. First Things First seeks to help address these identified challenges. During the 2010/11

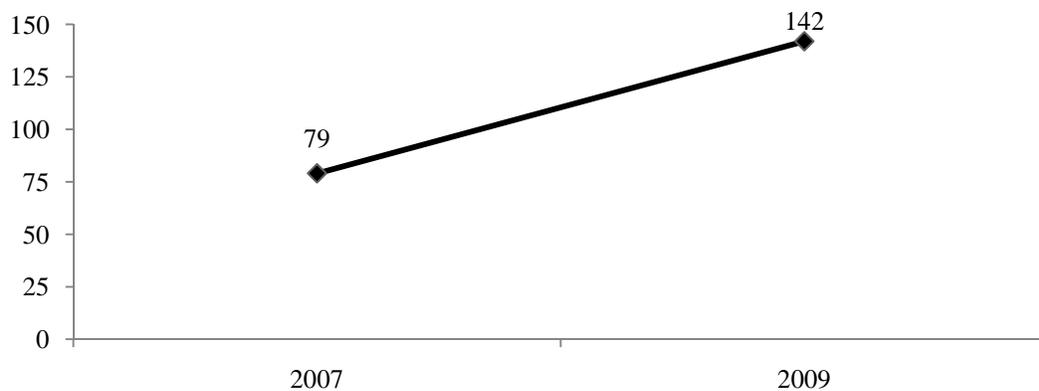
³⁰ State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (FFY 2007). Annual Performance Report IDEA Part C. Retrieved from <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/reports/aprffy2007rev200901.pdf>

fiscal year, FTF hopes to provide 10 centers and 20 home-based providers with technical assistance and training to increase their capacity to serve children with special needs.

In order to address the need for more therapist providers for children with disabilities, First Things First has developed an Early Childhood Therapist Incentives Program. The program offers loan repayment and stipends as incentives to physical therapists, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, child psychologists, and mental health specialists to provide developmentally appropriate services to children in specified areas of Yuma County, considered a high need region. Service providers who participate in the program must commit to providing services at an approved site for two years. The program has a goal of five speech-language pathologists, one occupational therapist, and one physical therapist.

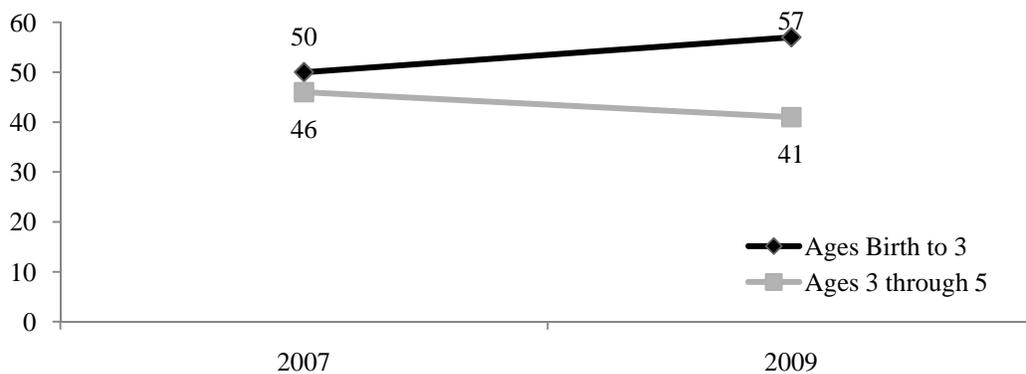
Another strategy by the First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership is to better equip parents of children at risk for a developmental delay. By providing supportive coaching and training to parents, FTF hopes to increase parent capacity for creating activities and experiences for their child to address delays and advocating for better supportive services.

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



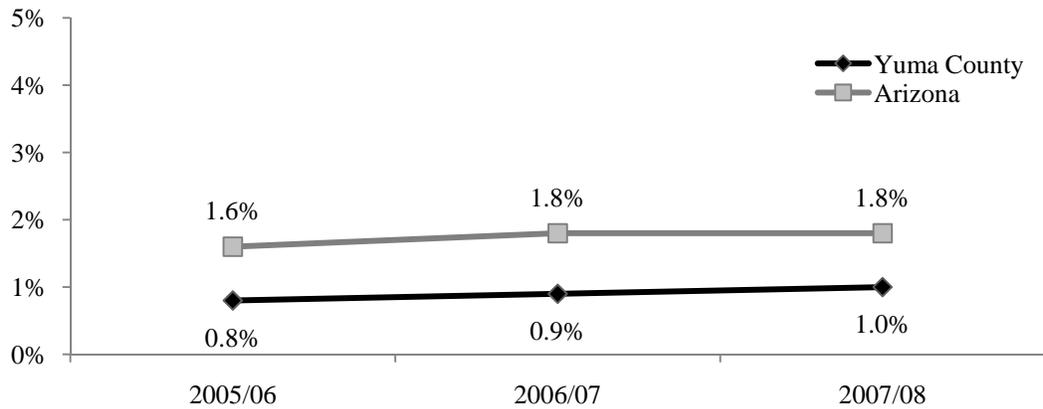
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. *Arizona Early Intervention Program*. (Unpublished data).
 Note: 2007 data includes cases serviced between 07/01/2006 and 06/30/2007. 2009 data includes cases serviced between 07/01/2008 and 06/30/2009.

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



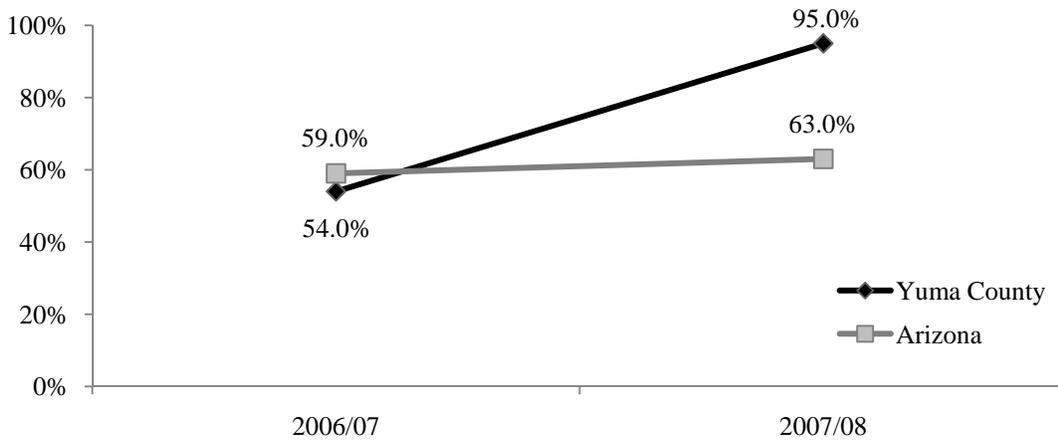
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. Division of Developmental Disabilities. (2007, 2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 Database from (Unpublished Data).
 Note: Children are eligible for DDD services if they are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism.

Infants Ages Birth through 3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



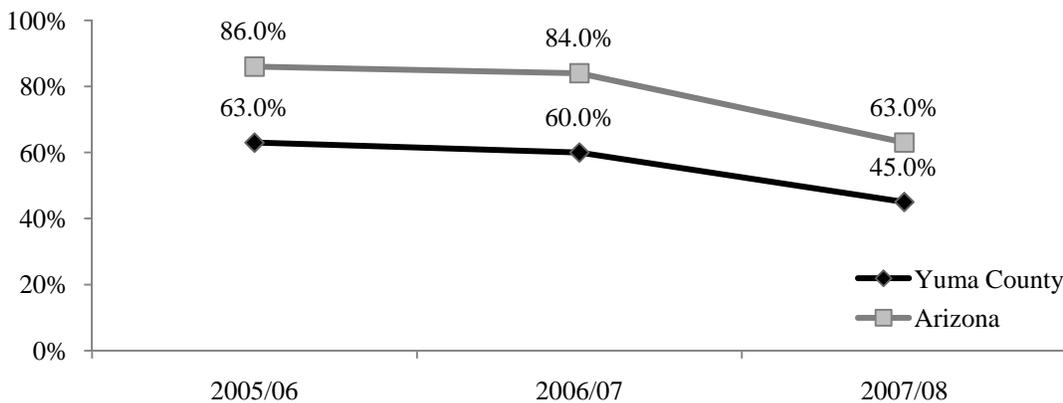
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Received an Evaluation Assessment and IFSP Within 45 Days of Referral



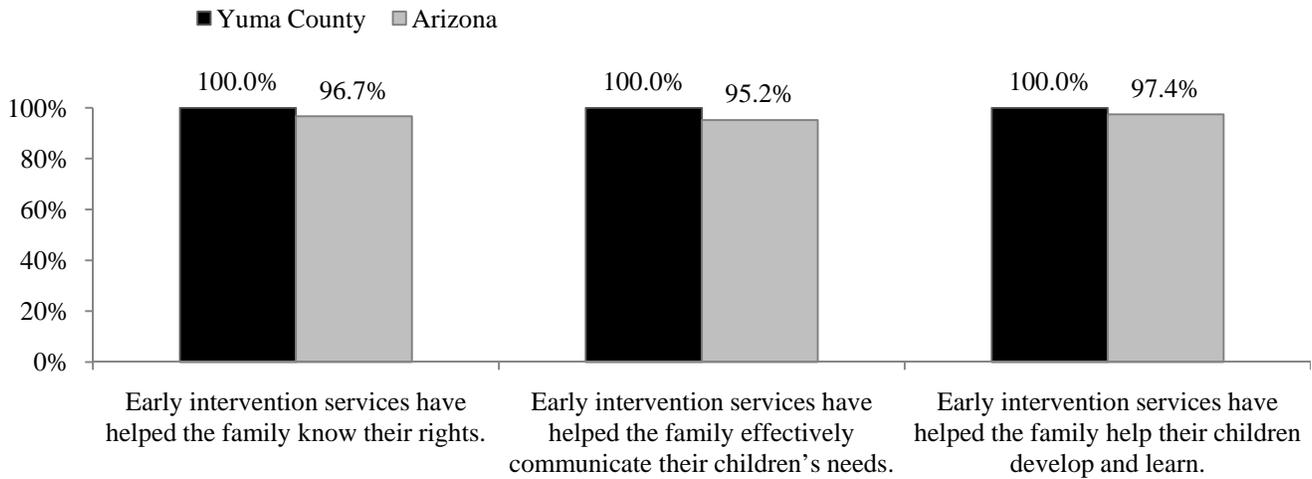
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Primarily Receive Early Intervention Services in the Home or in Programs for Typically Developing Children



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

Perceptions of Families Participating in Early Intervention Services, 2007/08



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

Preschool Enrollment by Disability, Yuma Region School Districts, 2009/10 School Year

Type of Disability	Crane Elem. School District	Gadsden Elem. District	Hyder School District	Mohawk Valley School District*	Somerton School District	Wellton School District	Yuma Elem. School District
Developmental Delay	30	38	0	2	49	3	100
Hearing Impaired	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Preschool Severe Delay	9	3	0	0	9	0	13
Speech Language Impaired	10	42	1	3	27	2	58
Visually Impaired	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Children Enrolled in Preschool with Disabilities (April/May)†	49	85	1	5	85	5	172

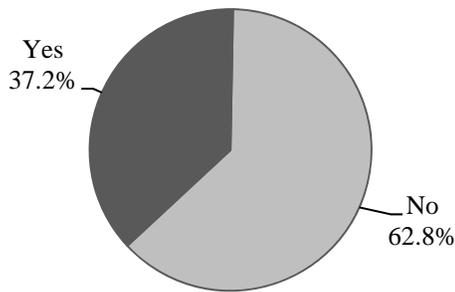
Source: Yuma Region School Districts, *Personal Communication with District Representatives*, Received 2010

† Number of enrolled children with disabilities based on data from April and May, 2010.

* Mohawk Valley School District does not have a preschool; data for preschool children are from the Roll Head Start.

Note. Numbers are not representative of all preschool-aged children in the Yuma Region. Beginning at age three, public school districts must assume responsibilities for children with special needs; therefore, students with special needs are overrepresented in the school district data.

👤👤👤 Parents Who Indicated that Their Child Was Referred to Services to Address Her/His Developmental Delay, Disability, or Special Need, and Is Receiving Those Services

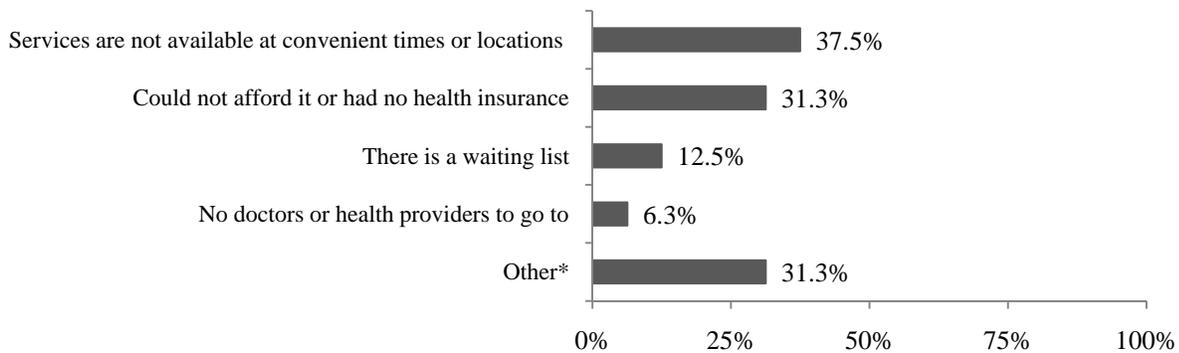


N=43.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Note: Due to the low number of respondents, caution should be used when interpreting these survey results.

👤👤👤 Percent of Children Not Receiving Services for Developmental Delay by Reason

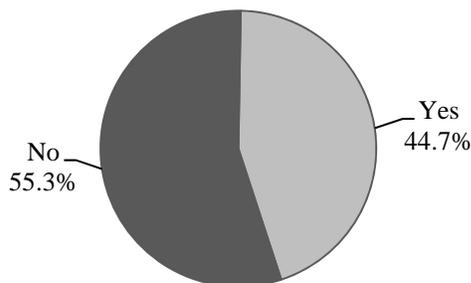


Multiple response question with 16 respondents offering 19 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Note: Due to the low number of respondents, caution should be used when interpreting these survey results.

👤👤👤 Parents Who Indicated that Their Child is Receiving Special Services for Their Disability at the Amount Prescribed by the Doctor or More

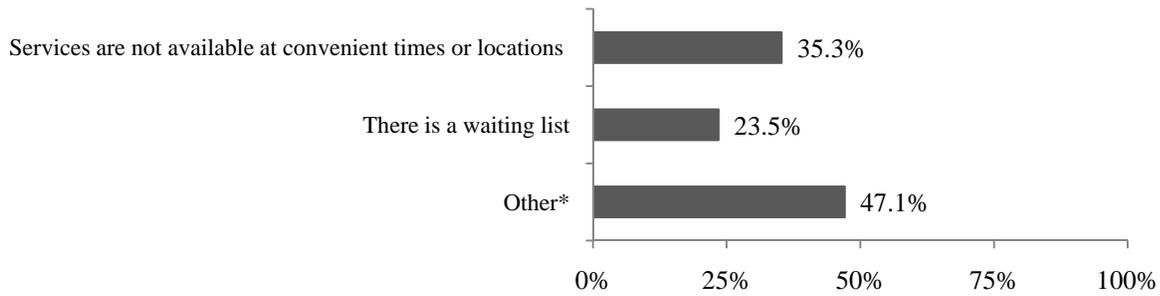


N=38.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

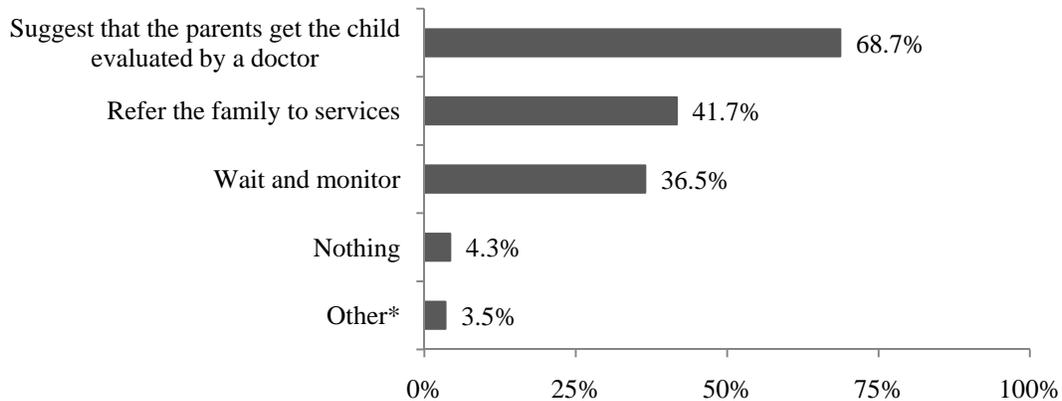
Note: Due to the low number of respondents, caution should be used when interpreting these survey results.

Reason Child is Receiving Special Services for Their Disability Less Often than was Prescribed by the Doctor



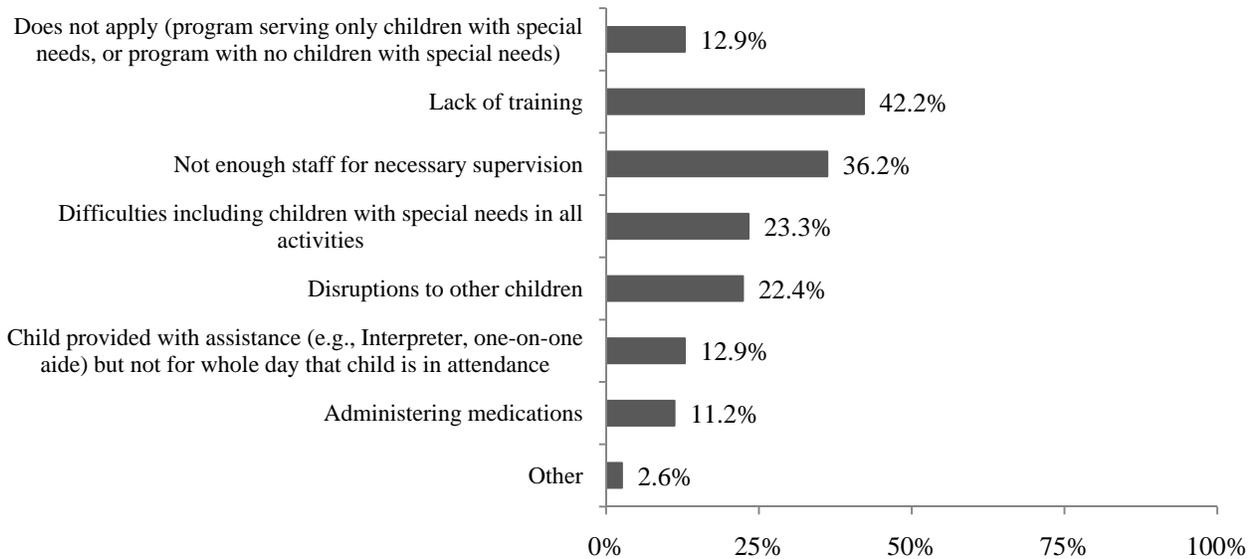
Multiple response question with 17 respondents offering 18 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).
 Note: Due to the low number of respondents, caution should be used when interpreting these survey results.
 * Other responses included: “Denied by school district,” “Not enough” (2), “Problems with insurance, Undecided.”

Child Care Providers Who Reported that Their Program Usually Does the Following When Their Program Staff Identifies a Child as Having a Possible Developmental and/or Behavioral Concern



Multiple response question with 115 respondents offering 178 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).
 * Other responses included: “SNERT (Special needs evaluation team),” “Parent teacher conferences” (2), “Director conference with parent.”

• • Child Care Providers who Indicated that the Following Issues Are the Most Challenging in Appropriately Accommodating Children with Special Needs



Multiple response question with 116 respondents offering 190 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Supporting Families

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 needs, positive discipline, managing a crying baby, and building a child’s self-esteem.

Communities in the Yuma Region offer many supports for parents and families to assist with the growth and development of children. Arizona First Things First provides Parent Kits to new parents in hospitals that include a parent guide, an infant board book, and DVDs covering six parenting topics. Beginning in September 2010, the kits will be available at local libraries. The Yuma County Public Health District and Child and Family Resources have also contracted with First Things First to provide in-home and community forum parent trainings using the Parent Kits. These trainings seek to ensure that all families of children ages birth through five have the information and support to promote the healthy development of their children.

The United Way of Yuma County and the Yuma County Library have collaborated to create a community assistance resource called Snap 211. This website serves as a comprehensive list of programs, agencies, and opportunities that serve individuals and families in Yuma County. Residents can use this resource to identify programs that will help meet their needs, determine whether they are eligible for services, and learn how to contact the organization. Resources include programs geared towards basic needs, education, health care, income security, and mental health care and counseling.

The Yuma County Public Health Services District has a Parent Awareness program that provides home visitation to deliver education, information, and support to families in their homes. The program works

to connect parents with resources in the community, promote and improve access to early childhood programs, and monitor the health and development of children.

Child Care Resource and Referral also offers community trainings for providers and parents regarding child development and health. Programs in Yuma County in 2009 covered topics such as positive discipline, conflict resolution, circle time, brain development, and physical fitness. Most trainings were free and many were also offered in Spanish.

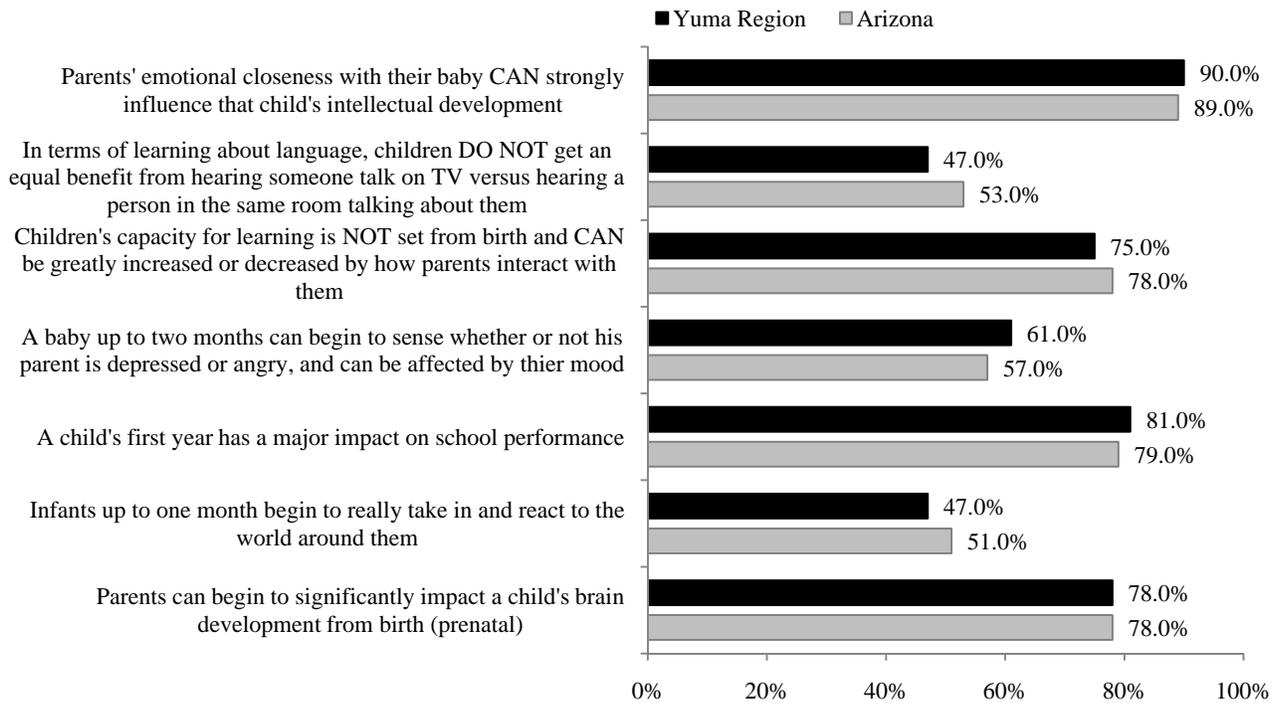
Parent Knowledge of Child Development

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

First Things First conducted a survey in 2008 among family and community members in Arizona. Respondents were asked questions about their knowledge of child development. Parents in the Yuma Region seemed to have an understanding of their child's cognitive development similar to Arizona parents as a whole. Over three-fourths (78%) of both Yuma Region respondents and statewide respondents accurately believed that parents can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development from birth. Yuma Region parents had less of an understanding of language development in children. Only 47% of respondents understood that there is benefit to children's language acquisition from hearing adults speaking in the same room compared to just hearing someone talk on the television. With respect to children's social and emotional development, Yuma Region parents had an understanding similar to Arizona parents as a whole. Three-fourths (76%) of Yuma Region parents and 77% of Arizona parents correctly thought that letting a five-year-old choose what to wear to school every day is appropriate. However, Yuma Region parents had less of an understanding of sharing behaviors. Only 51% of Yuma Region parents knew that a 15-month-old baby is too young to be expected to share toys, compared to 60% of Arizona parents.

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

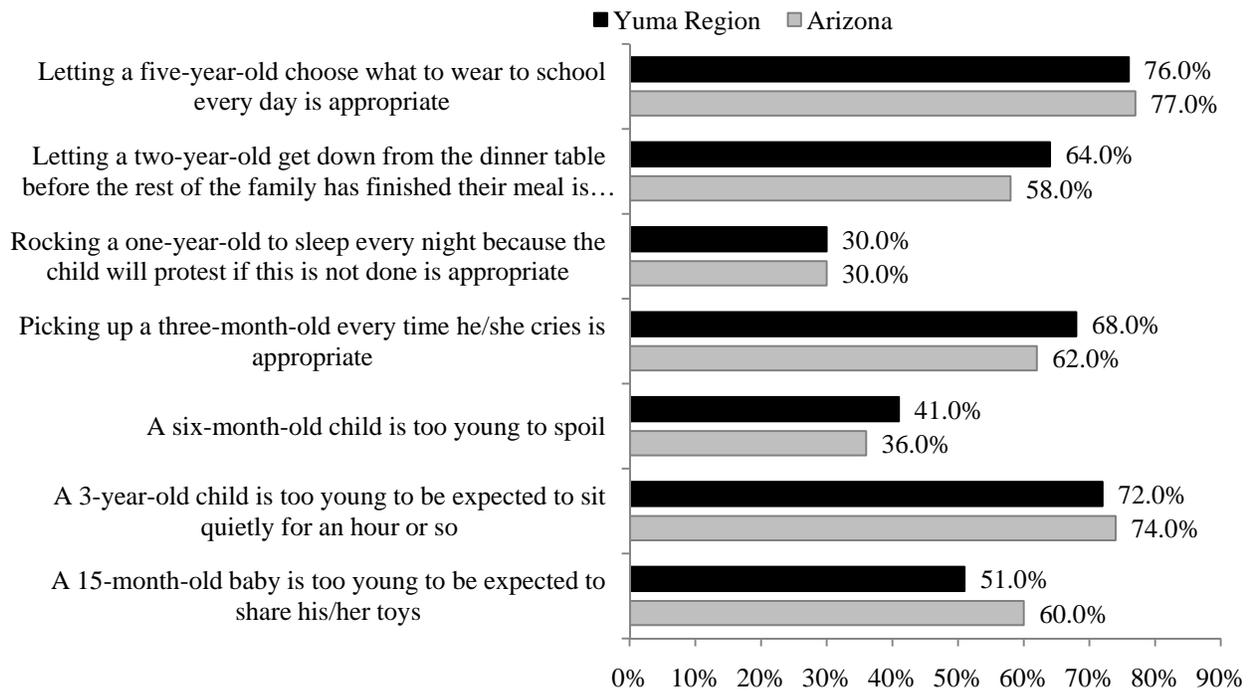
Parent Understanding of Child’s Cognitive Development, 2008



Source: Arizona First Things First, *Regional Profile*, Received 2010.

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

Parent Understanding of Child’s Social and Emotional Development, 2008



Source: First Things First, *Regional Profile*, Received 2010.

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

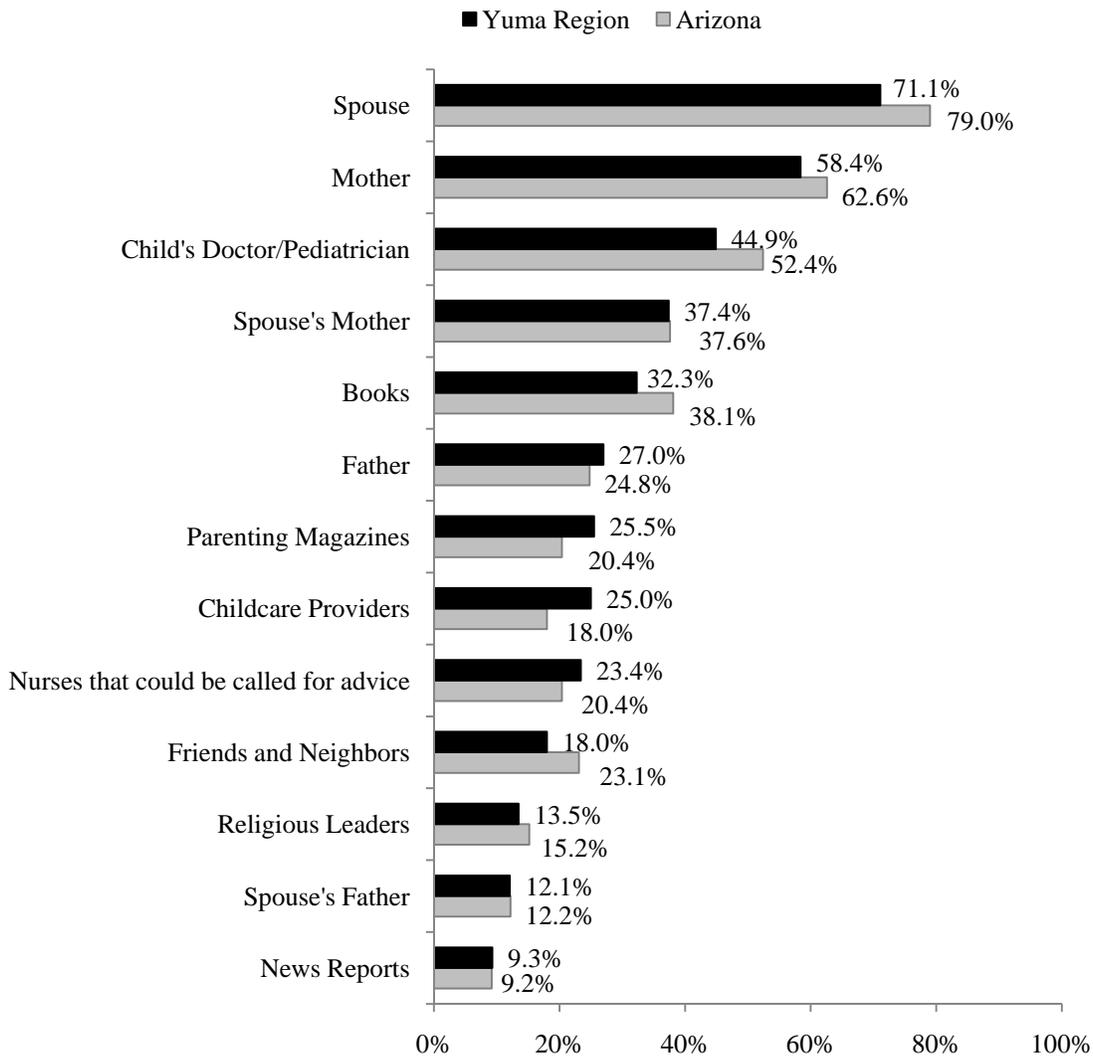
Family and Community Supports

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources. People rely on different community members to provide different kinds of information and support. According to the 2008 First Things First Family and Community Survey, parents in the Yuma Region frequently relied on support from many different sources, primarily spouses, mothers, and pediatricians. However, Yuma parents were less likely to frequently rely on these supports than Arizona parents in general. Yuma parents were least likely to frequently rely on news reports (only 9%) or the father of a spouse (12%).

While parents have many different family and community supports, they also feel confident in their parenting abilities. According to parent survey respondents, two-thirds of parents said it was “definitely true” that they felt confident in their ability to help their child grow and develop; cope with day-to-day demands of parenting; and when they are angry, making sure to calm down before dealing with their child. Though parents felt confident about their parenting abilities, they also saw needs for community support services in the Yuma Region. For children under the age of six, 46% of parents identified child care as a need in the region. Parenting classes/parent education, housing assistance, services for children with special needs, immunizations, food assistance, and transportation services were also identified as areas needing additional services.

Child care providers in the Yuma Region are working to address parental needs. Provider survey respondents indicated that the majority (73%) offered information to parents about where they can get counseling or support. They provided lists of websites or books with parenting information, offered on-site support groups for parents, and provided parent education workshops throughout the course of the year. Providers also indicated that they gave parents information specific to kindergarten to help ensure school readiness.

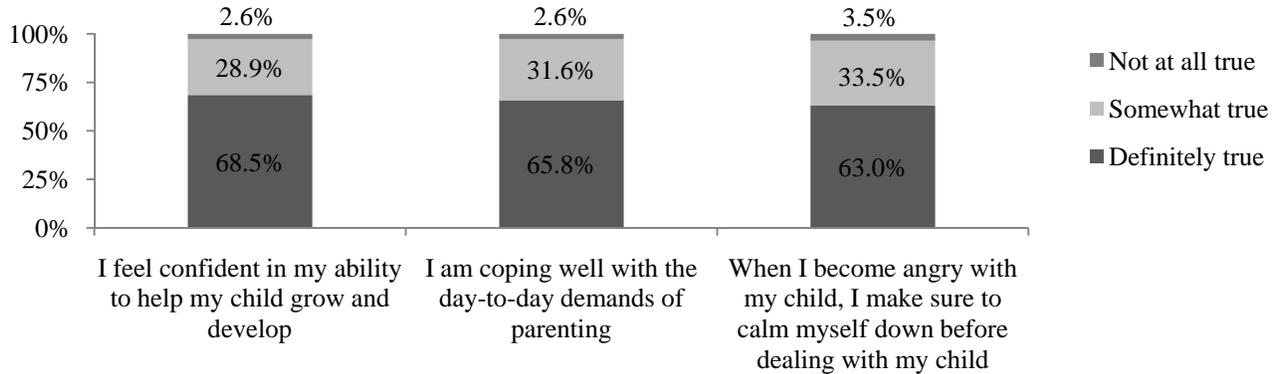
Parents who Report that they “Frequently” Rely on Family and Community Members, 2008



N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

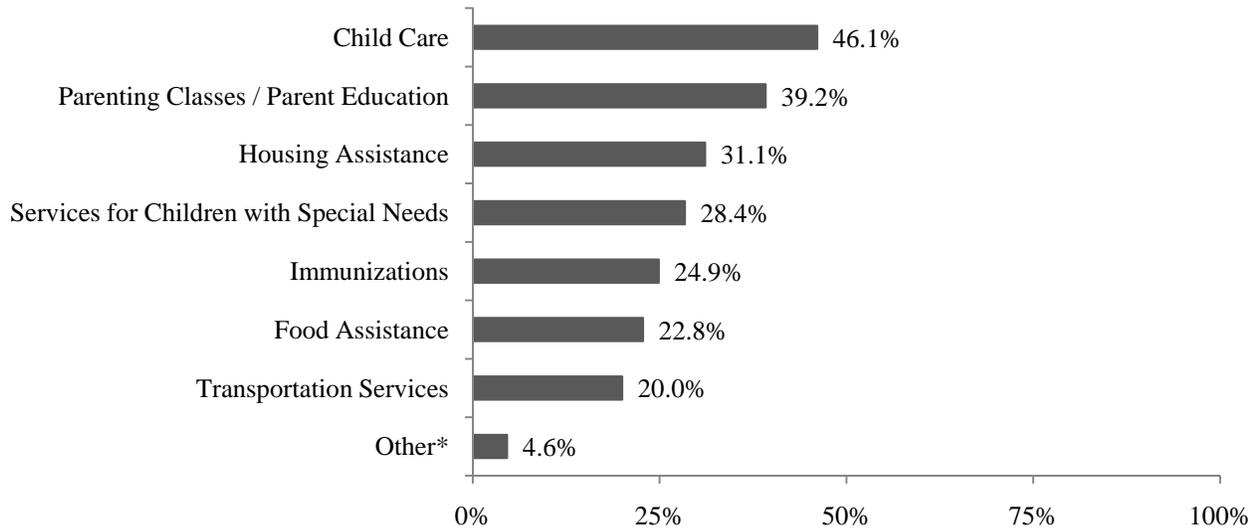
Parents Who Felt that the Following Statements about Parenting Are “Definitely True,” “Somewhat True,” or “Not at all True” for Them



N=578 for “Confident in ability to help child grow and develop;” N=573 for “Coping well with day-to-day demands of parenting;” N=571 for “Calm myself down before dealing with child.”

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Parents Who Felt that the Following Services for Children Ages Birth Through Five and Their Families Are Most Needed in Yuma

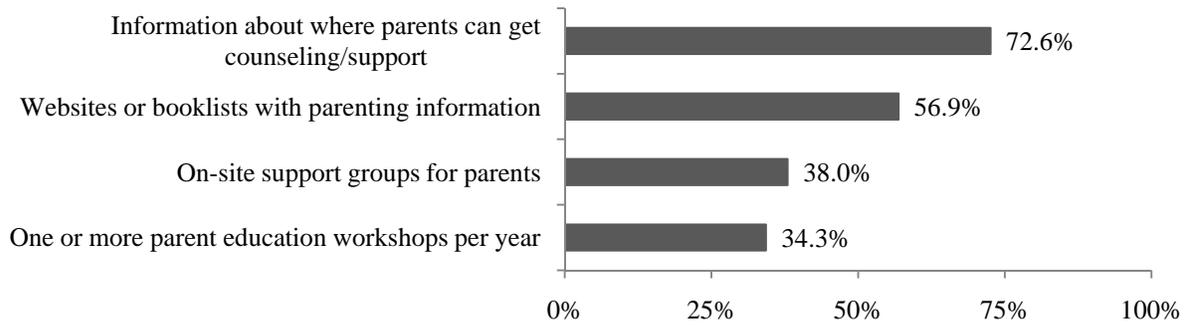


Multiple response question with 566 respondents offering 1,229 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

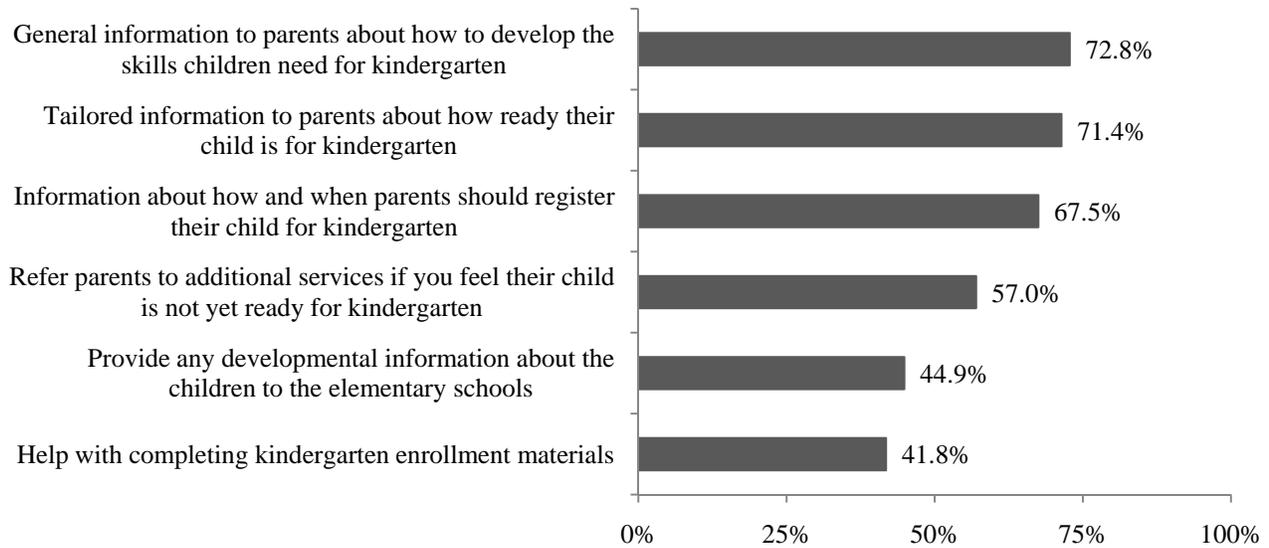
* Other responses included: “Better insurance,” “Counseling for children/families,” “Health insurance, Health care” (3), “Urgent care,” “Jobs,” “More services for single working moms,” “More preschool programs” (10), “Private preschools,” “Affordable pre-school.”

•• Child Care Providers Who Indicated that They Offer the Following Resources to Parents



Information about where to get counseling or support N=106; Lists of websites or booklists N=102; On-site support groups N=100; One or more workshops N=102.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

•• Child Care Providers Who Indicated that They Offer the Following Supports for Students Approaching Kindergarten



N=114 for “General information about how to develop skills;” N=112 for “Tailored information about how ready child is;” N=114 for “Information about how and when to register;” N=107 for “Refer to additional services;” N=107 for “Provide any developmental information;” N=110 for “Help with enrollment materials.”
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Family Literacy

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.³²

Reading to children is important, yet 42% of parent survey respondents said that they or another adult in the home read to or shared books with their child two times or less in the past week. About one-quarter of respondents reported reading to their child five to seven times in the last week. Only 5% of parents said they read or shared books with their child more than seven times in the past week. Of parents who did read or share a book with their child in the past week, over half exposed their child to new words in books, asked their child to talk about the pictures, and read their child's favorite book again and again when asked.

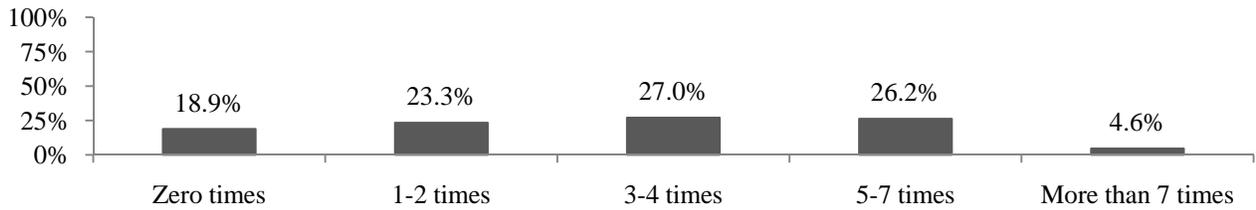
The Yuma County Library District is a great resource for parents in the Yuma Region. There are eight library branches in the county, in Dateland, Roll, San Luis, Somerton, Wellton, and the Foothills, Heritage, and main branches in Yuma. Each branch offers at least one StoryTime a week for preschoolers, toddlers, and babies. At the main branch in Yuma, there is a Family StoryTime for all ages, Preschool StoryTime for children ages two to four, and BabyTime for infants ages birth through 24 months. The library also offers a summer reading program for children designed to promote a love of reading.

In addition to the resources available through the libraries, the Somerton Family Literacy Program works to enhance early literacy skills and parent understanding of the importance of reading and early learning. The program, operated by the Somerton Elementary School District, is provided at no cost to parents of children in preschool through third grade. Preschool-aged children attend a preschool class specifically for families in the family literacy program. Parenting classes are held during the daytime while children are in school. The participating parents attend classes for adult education, English as a second language, GED preparation, citizenship preparation, and parenting. For the English as a second language course, parents follow the same curriculum as the preschool children so that they become familiarized with the topics their child is learning and can continue working with their child after school. Further, every day includes Parent and Child Together time, in which the parent and child work together in the classroom for an hour and eat lunch together. The program continues during the summer through collaboration with library events and home visits; families also receive packages with materials to continue working with their children. Participating families must be low-income; legal citizenship is not required. The program is grant-based and currently funded by state and federal Even Start monies. However, Arizona did not approve additional funding for the upcoming year. Unless more money can be identified, there will likely be cuts to services. Currently the program serves about 20 families during the year.

The national Reach Out and Read program also 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 to use the pediatric medical setting as the primary point of contact with children and families. Reach Out and Read operates one site in the Yuma Region at the San Luis Walk-in Clinic.

³² 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.

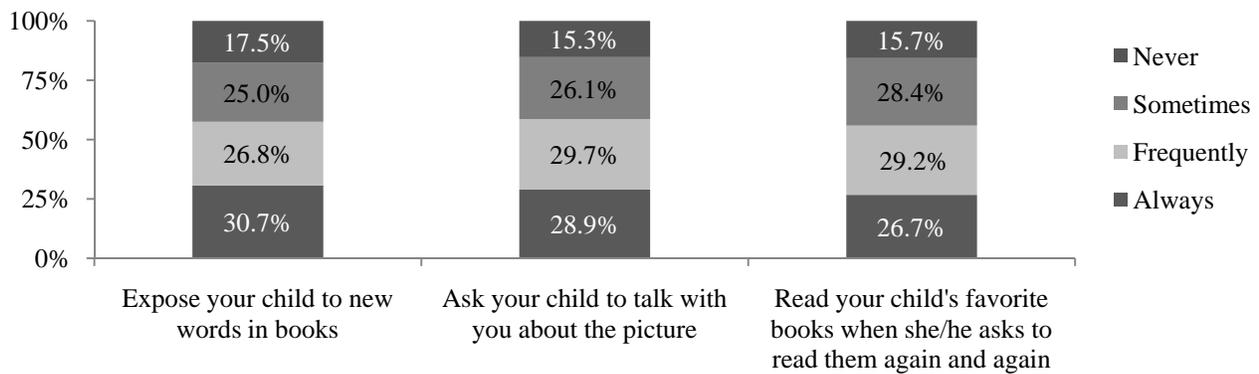
Number of Times in the Last Week Parents or Another Adult in the Home Spent Time Reading or Sharing Books with Their Child



N=549.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Frequency that Parents Did the Following Activities When They Looked at or Read a Book to Their Child in the Last Week



N=527 for “Expose child to new words;” N=529 for “Ask child to talk about picture;” N=528 for “Read child’s favorite book when asked to read them again and again.”

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Child Abuse

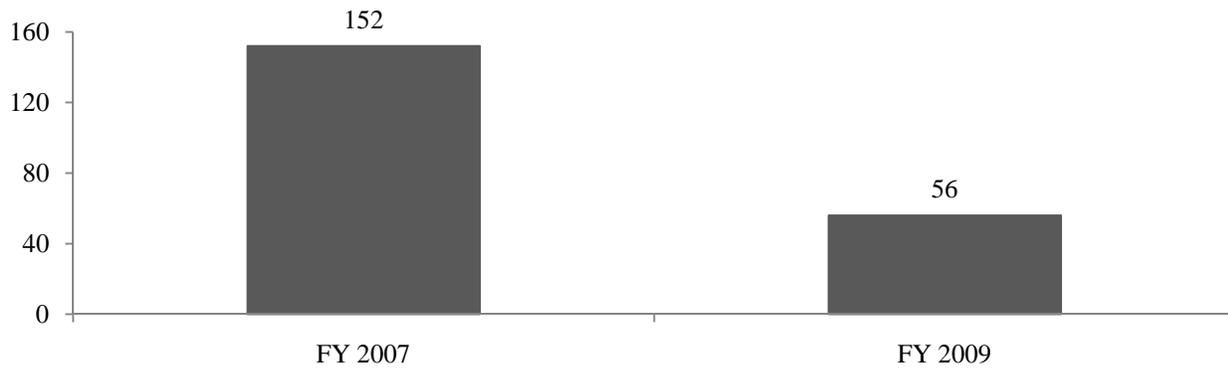
Child abuse and neglect is found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all risk factors that may contribute to child abuse.³³ Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children.³⁴ It is therefore essential that communities work to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.

In the Yuma Region, the number of children removed from home by Child Protective Services (CPS) decreased considerably from 152 in 2007 to 56 in 2009. The number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect also decreased from 2006 to 2009. Neglect continues to be the primary type of substantiated child abuse in the Yuma Region.

³³ 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>

³⁴ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims*, 11, 113-128; and Child abuse: The hidden bruises. (2008, May). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Retrieved June 2010 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruises

Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), Yuma County



Source: Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009) *Child Protective Services*, (Unpublished Data).Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Yuma County

Type of Maltreatment	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Emotional Abuse	1	0	0	0
Neglect	48	28	17	17
Physical Abuse	21	27	16	5
Sexual Abuse	2	6	3	2
Total	72	61	36	24

Source: Department of Economic Security, *Child Protective Profiles*, Received 2010.

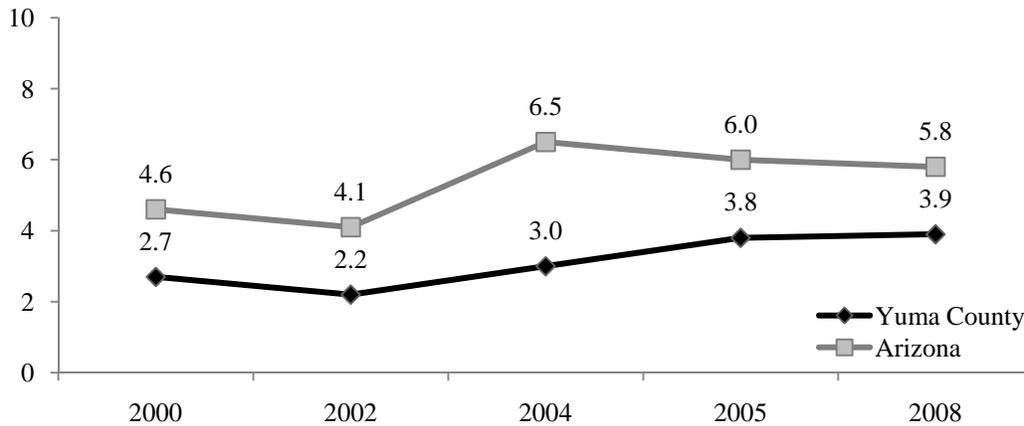
Foster Care

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is for children ages 0 to 17 who are removed from their parents’ or guardians’ homes 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 remaining with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues of abuse and neglect in the home so that the child may reunite with their family.³⁵

The rate of children in out-of-home care in the Yuma Region increased between 2000 and 2008, but consistently remained lower than the rate in Arizona.

³⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Family Preservation Services*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>

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



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

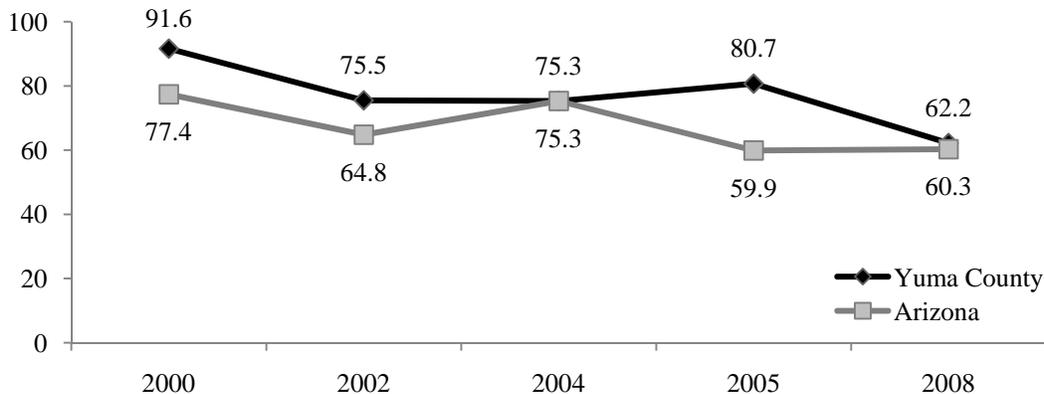
Note: Rate per 1,000 children. Data represent the number of children in substitute care arrangements on June 30 of the specified year. Substitute care arrangements can include shelters, homes with foster parents or relatives, group homes, residential treatment centers, and other locations.

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety. It is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.³⁶ 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.

Yuma County and Arizona have seen a decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests between 2000 and 2008. The rate in Yuma County (62 arrests per 1,000 for youth ages 8 to 17 in 2008) has decreased to a rate similar to that of Arizona (60 arrests per 1,000 youth). The arrest rate for violent crimes stayed relatively constant in both Yuma County and Arizona, though Yuma County saw a slight spike in 2004. Yuma County had a slightly lower juvenile arrest rate for drug crimes compared to Arizona in 2008.

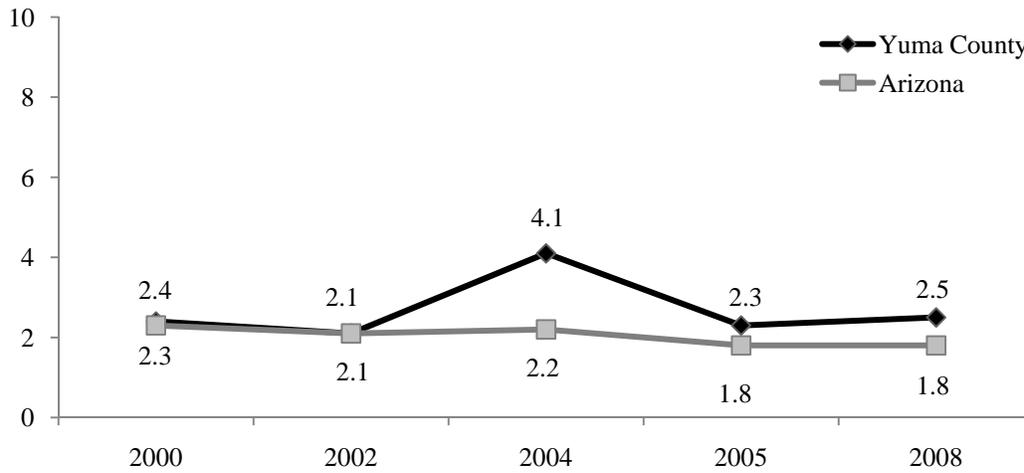
Juvenile Arrests Ages 8 to 17, (Rate per 1,000 Youth)



Source: Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

³⁶ Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs, *Harvard Education Review*. 65, 189-212. .

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



Source: Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Juvenile Arrests for Drug Crimes Ages 8 to 17, 2008

	Yuma County	Arizona
Number of Arrests for Drug Crimes	157	5,440
Rate per 1,000 of Arrests for Drug Crimes	5.4	6.0

Source: Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Arizona has the highest rate of incarceration nationally. There are an estimated 95,669 minor children in Arizona who experience the hardships of parental incarceration, and an additional 80,398 children have at least one parent on probation. Overall, it is estimated that on any given day, 176,067 children have a parent involved in the Arizona criminal justice system.³⁷ In Yuma County, more than 900 children had a parent in the county jail and nearly 2,700 children had a parent in the Yuma County Probation system in 2007. About 22% of these children were under age four.

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability. They 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.³⁸ These children may need additional supports from the community to encourage their healthy growth and development.

³⁷ Prima Prevention Partnership. (2007, December). *Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents* Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2010 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf.

³⁸ Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). *Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers* (New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2009). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf

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

	Number of Minor Children*	Children Under the Age of 4
Correctional System		
Yuma County Jail	935	206
Federal Prison System in Arizona	5,681	1,250
Arizona State Prison	63,050	13,871
Arizona Correctional System Total	95,669	21,047
Probation Department		
Yuma County Probation	2,678	589
Federal Probation	8,500	1,870
Arizona State Probation Total	80,398	17,688

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

* On average, every inmate in Arizona has 1.7 minor children.

Health

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development and helps children to become successful, healthy, and thriving adults.

The health status of children and families in the Yuma Region is maintained through efforts by the Regional Center for Border Health Inc., the Yuma County Public Health Services District, Yuma Regional Medical Center, Campesinos Sin Fronteras, and many other health organizations and health professionals.

The Regional Center for Border Health (RCBH), Inc. is a nonprofit organization in Western Arizona that seeks to improve the availability and accessibility of medical services to residents in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region. The main components of the RCBH include providing primary care, community outreach, and health education. The San Luis Walk-In Clinic offers cost-effective quality health care services to the San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and Yuma communities. The clinic, open from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Thursday, offers a variety of health and educational services, including immunizations, physical exams, primary health care, laboratory services, women's health, diabetes prevention, breast cancer support groups, and more. They also run a mobile health unit that serves the rural communities and other areas throughout Western Arizona where health care is limited because of issues of distance and lack of transportation. The San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc. Medical Mobile Unit provides medical exams in the Nutrition Center in Yuma County and sponsors health fairs, immunization campaigns, health career promotion, and asthma camps. The Urgent Care and Family Center in Somerton offers similar services and is open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care for pregnant women, including screening and treatment for medical conditions and identification and interventions for behavioral risk factors like tobacco, alcohol, and substance abuse that are associated with poor birth outcomes. Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes, such as full term births and babies born weighing more than 5.5 pounds. 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, than those whose mothers received prenatal care.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰

It is essential for women to receive prenatal care early in their pregnancy (first trimester) and to have regular prenatal visits throughout the pregnancy (nine or more visits). Timely and regular visits allow for the identification of medical problems, provide pregnancy and delivery education and service referrals, and prevent maternal deaths.⁴¹

More than half of women in the Yuma Region received the recommended prenatal care during pregnancy. Between 2004 and 2008, the percentage of women who began prenatal care in the first trimester increased from 58% to 68%. However, in 2008, the level was still less than Arizona as a whole. Healthy People 2010 set a target for 90% of pregnant women to receive prenatal care in the first trimester.⁴² In 2008, 70% of women in the Yuma Region had nine or more prenatal visits. Ideally, more women in the Yuma Region should be receiving prenatal care during the first trimester and having an adequate number of prenatal visits. In 2008, only 4% did not receive any prenatal care during pregnancy.

One goal area of the Yuma Region First Things First is to increase the number of women in the eastern and southern parts of Yuma County who receive prenatal care early in the first trimester of their pregnancy. The program hopes to serve 380 families during 2010/11 the fiscal year.

Within the community, the Yuma County Public Health District Maternal and Child Health Program offers free prenatal classes and home visits, funded by First Things First, to pregnant women in Yuma County. Classes are offered in both Spanish and English at the San Luis, Heritage, Somerton, and Foothills libraries, and at the Sunset Community Health Center – Wellton Clinic. Topics include nutrition, stress reduction, breastfeeding, the importance of prenatal care, and a tour of the Labor and Delivery Unit at the hospital. Women who are unable to attend the scheduled classes can arrange for individual classes.

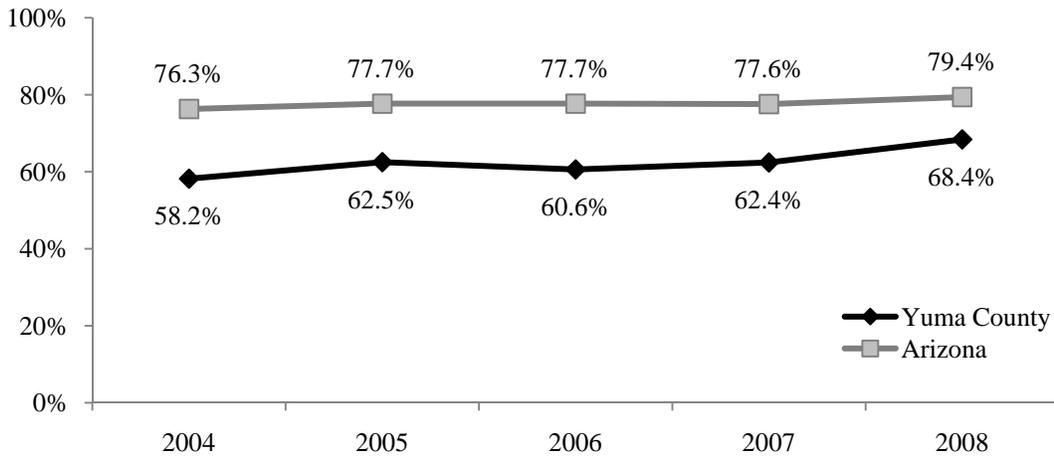
³⁹ U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) *A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born*. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>

⁴⁰ 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

⁴¹ Kotelchuck, M. (1994). An Evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a Proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index. *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 84, No. 9, 1414-1420. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/84/9/1414.pdf>

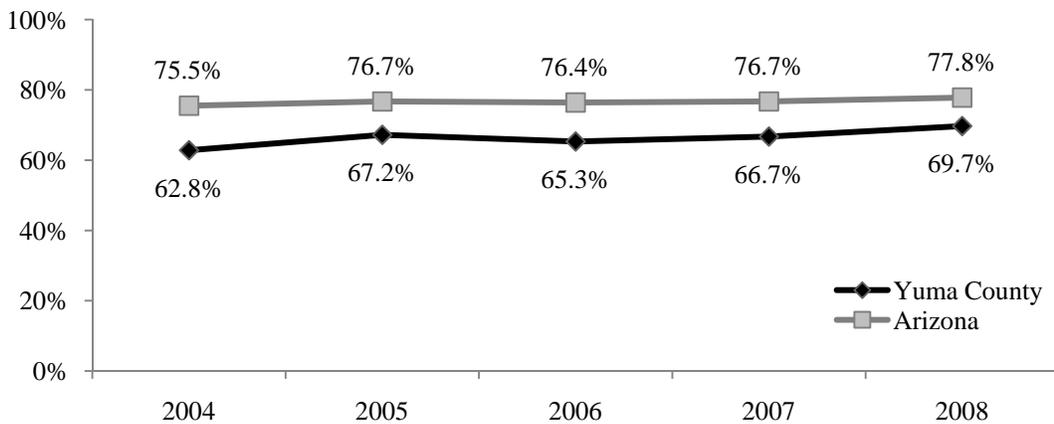
⁴² The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Mothers who Received Early Prenatal Care*, Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org/>

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



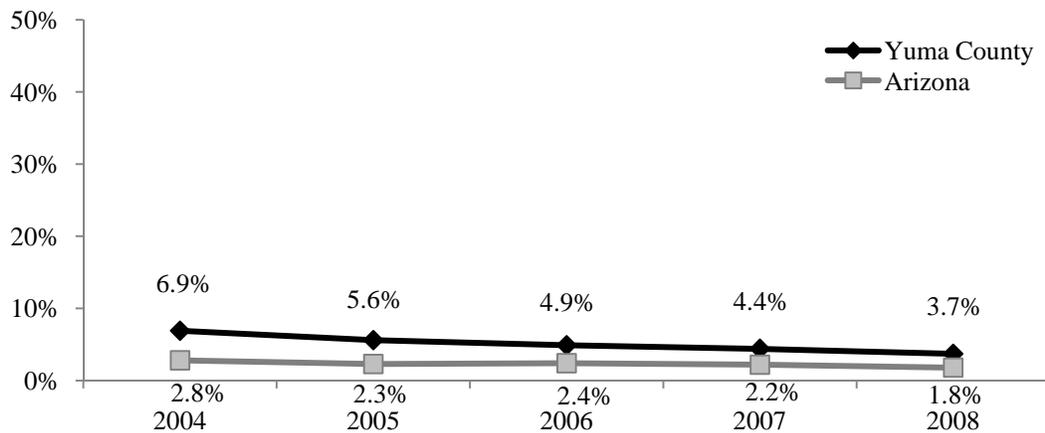
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Women Who Had Nine or More Prenatal Visits



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

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



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

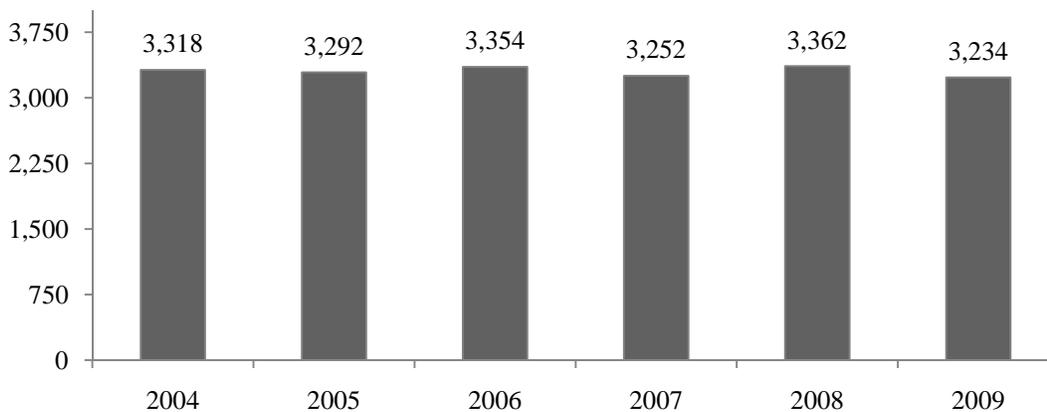
Birth Characteristics

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.⁴³ 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.⁴⁴

In Yuma County, there were between 3,234 and 3,362 births from 2004 to 2009. Between 6% and 7% of babies were born with a low birth weight in the region which is slightly higher than the Healthy People 2010 target of no more than 5% of babies born at low birth weight.⁴⁵ Approximately 8% of babies in Yuma County were born pre-term. Both the rates of low birth weight and pre-term births were slightly lower than the rates in Arizona. In 2008, complications of labor and delivery occurred with about 23% of births in Yuma County, and only 6% of births had medical risk factors. Between 2004 and 2008, only about 1% of births each year were to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy, which is lower than the rate in Arizona. Similarly, less than 1% of births were to mothers who used alcohol during pregnancy. Nearly two-thirds (61%) of the births in 2008 were paid for by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCS), while private insurance covered 35%.

It is important for a family to be prepared for the birth of a child. In addition to adequate prenatal care, parents can gain essential information from books or classes in the community. In the Yuma Region, the Yuma Regional Medical Center holds a variety of classes related to childbirth. These include childbirth preparation, breastfeeding, newborn care, and a class for siblings. They cost between \$20 and \$60. The childbirth preparation class is also held in Spanish.

Total Births, Yuma County



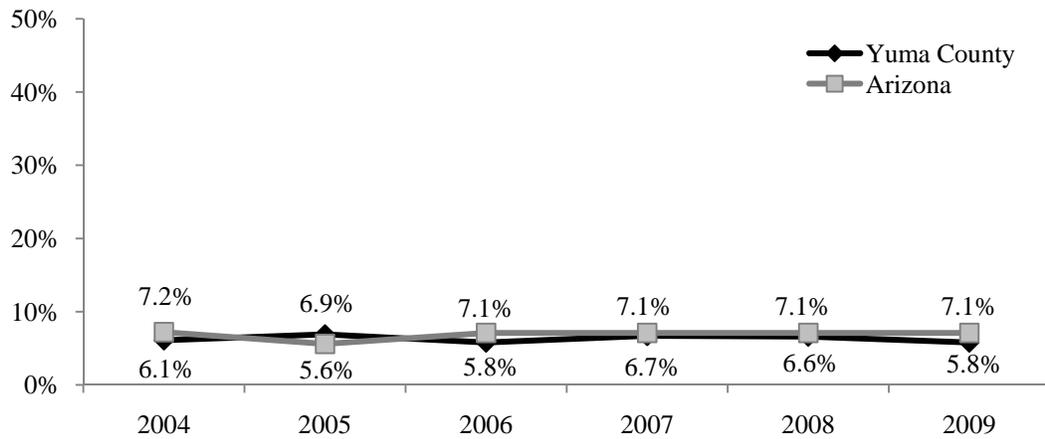
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Community Vital Statistics*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/cvs/index.htm>.

⁴³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). *Child health USA 2008-2009*. Retrieved from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

⁴⁴ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). *Preterm Births*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4

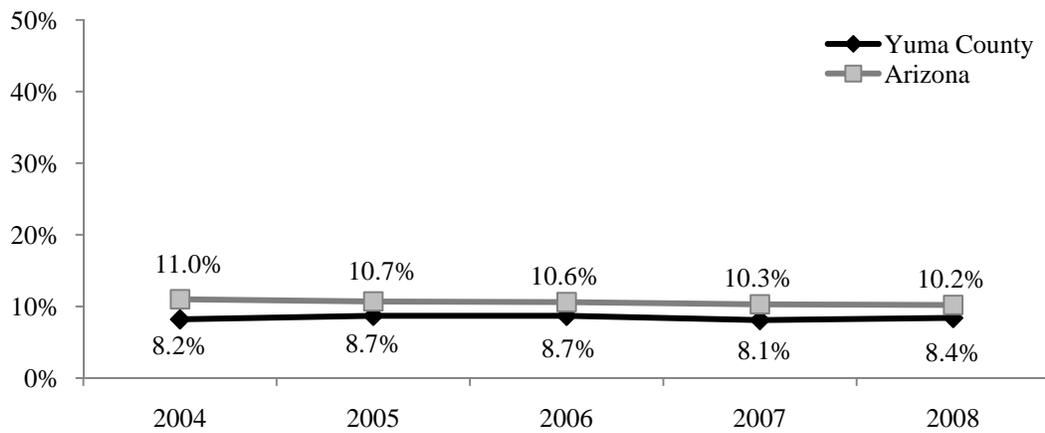
⁴⁵ The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Babies with Low Birth Weight*. Retrieved 2010 <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org>.

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



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

Preterm Births (Gestational Age of Less Than 37 Weeks)



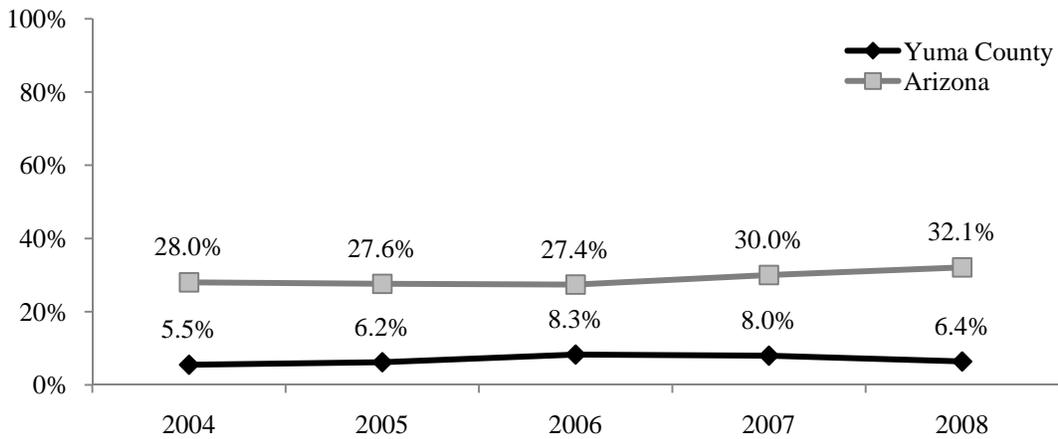
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Births with Complications of Labor and Delivery



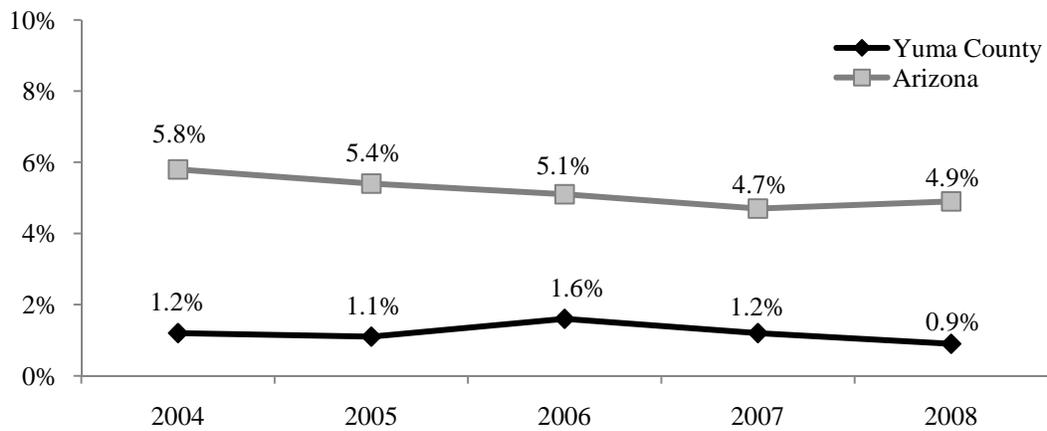
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Births with Medical Risk Factors



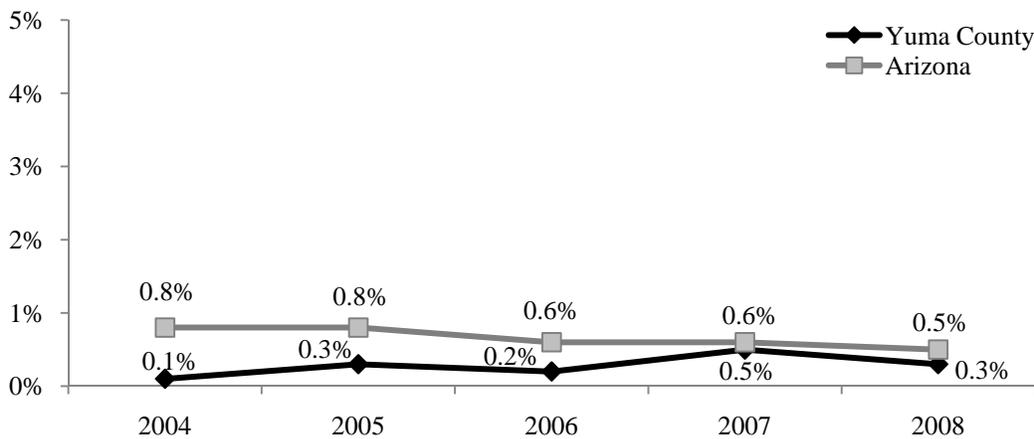
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Births To Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



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

Births To Mothers Who Used Alcohol During Pregnancy



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

Source of Payment for Labor and Delivery

Payee	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
AHCCCS					
Yuma County	64.3%	62.2%	63.0%	61.0%	61.0%
Arizona	51.2%	52.6%	52.1%	52.2%	52.5%
Indian Health Service					
Yuma County	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Arizona	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%
Private Insurance					
Yuma County	29.7%	31.9%	31.7%	33.3%	34.5%
Arizona	42.7%	41.6%	42.3%	42.0%	42.0%
Self					
Yuma County	5.2%	5.3%	5.0%	4.4%	4.0%
Arizona	2.4%	2.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%
Unknown					
Yuma County	0.7%	0.4%	0.1%	1.0%	0.5%
Arizona	1.8%	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%

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

Teen Births

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 parenthood. Teen mothers, many of whom are single, often have more difficulty providing the economic and emotional support and nurturing that promote a child’s emotional and social development.⁴⁶ Additionally, research from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy links teen pregnancy to premature births and low birth weight, and indicates that 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.⁴⁷

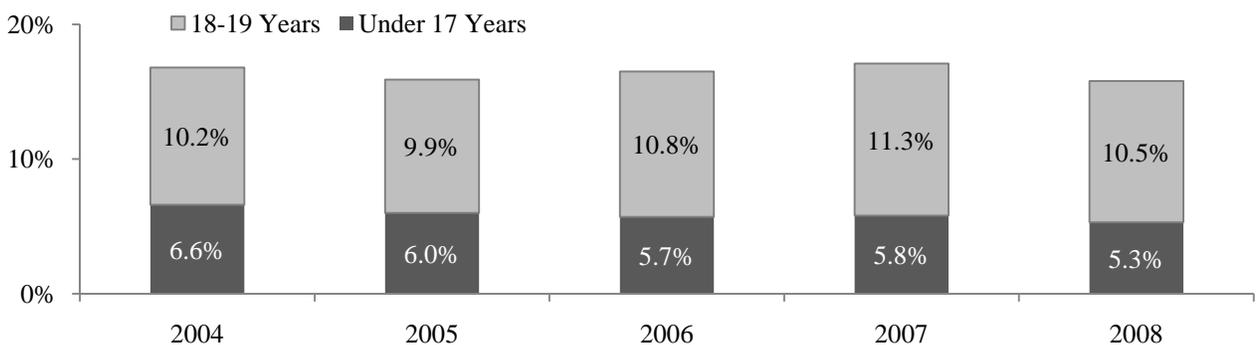
The teen birth rate in Yuma County was higher than Arizona as a whole, with 16% of the total births in 2008 to teen mothers. However, there was variability between communities in the region. The teen birth rate in Wellton declined since 2004, while San Luis remained constant near 20% each year between 2004 and 2008. Most births to teens in Yuma County in 2008 were to mothers ages 18 to 19 years.

Births to Teen Mothers (19 Years or Younger) By Community

Place	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
San Luis	20.2%	19.1%	21.2%	18.3%	20.1%
Somerton	20.2%	17.5%	17.9%	18.5%	15.5%
Wellton	25.6%	21.3%	17.1%	10.3%	11.1%
Yuma City	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	17.0%	14.6%
Yuma County	16.7%	15.8%	16.5%	17.2%	15.8%
Arizona	12.7%	12.5%	12.7%	12.6%	12.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). Health and Vital Statistics, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.
 Note: Only communities with more than 30 total births are presented.

Births to Teen Mothers by Age, Yuma County



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

⁴⁶ Klein, J.D., & the Committee on Adolescence. (2005). Adolescent pregnancy: Current trends and issues. *Pediatrics*, 116(1), 281-286. doi:10.1542/peds.2005-0999.

⁴⁷ 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>.

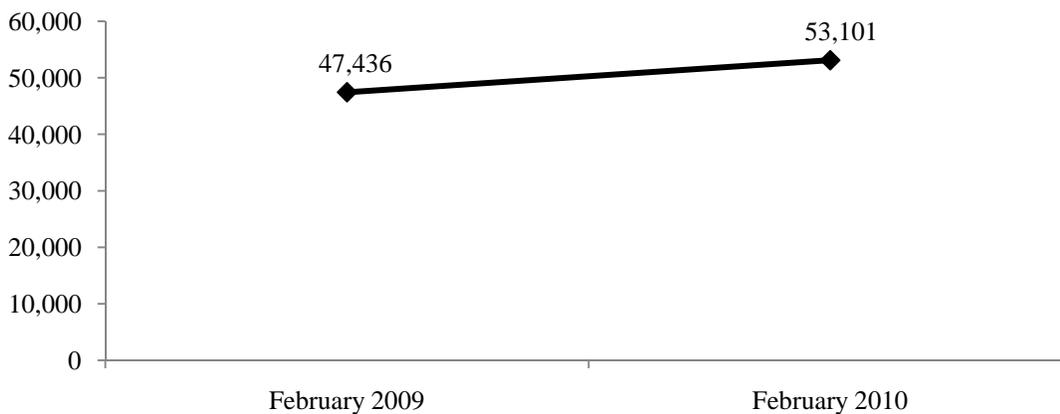
Health Insurance

A key measure of access to the health care system is whether a child has health insurance. Research has shown that children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹

In 2000, over 25% of children ages 18 and younger in Yuma County had no health insurance, a rate 10% higher than Arizona as a whole (16%). In February of 2010, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) provided health insurance coverage to 53,101 people in Yuma County. Slightly more than 1,800 children were insured through KidsCare, fewer than in previous years, a decline likely caused by reduced funding, and recent changes to state legislation. In December 2009, Governor Brewer put a freeze on new enrollment for children into KidsCare, and in March 2010, a state budget law was passed to completely eliminate KidsCare by June 15, 2010. However, lawmakers later learned that the new federal health reform law removes \$7 billion in federal funds from Arizona's health care system each year if they were to cut back on KidsCare coverage after the date the law was signed, so the Arizona Legislature and Governor Brewer passed new legislation in April 2010 that restores KidsCare statutory provisions and appropriates \$9 million to keep covering the children who are currently enrolled.⁵⁰ Since January 1, AHCCCS has established a waiting list for all new eligible applicants for KidsCare. Should children currently covered lose that coverage for any reason, they will not be reinstated but instead be added to the wait list. The implications are that families may need information and referral to sources of free or reduced cost care for their children such as through the community health centers.

According to parent survey respondents, 79% said that their child had health insurance coverage, with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) being the most common type of coverage.

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



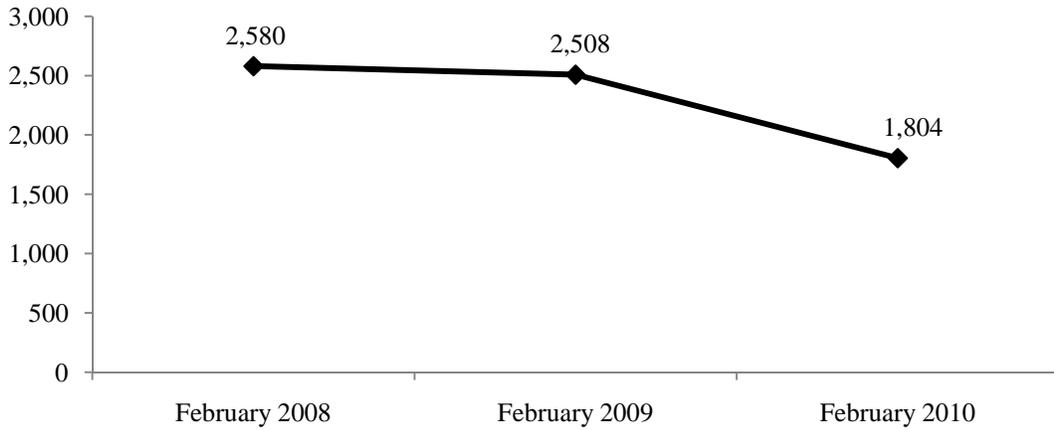
Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, *AHCCCS Population by County*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

⁴⁸ Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004) Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative • *In Brief Number 4*, Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHIimproves.pdf>

⁴⁹ American Academy of Pediatrics. (n.d.). *MediKids Fact Sheet*, Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>,

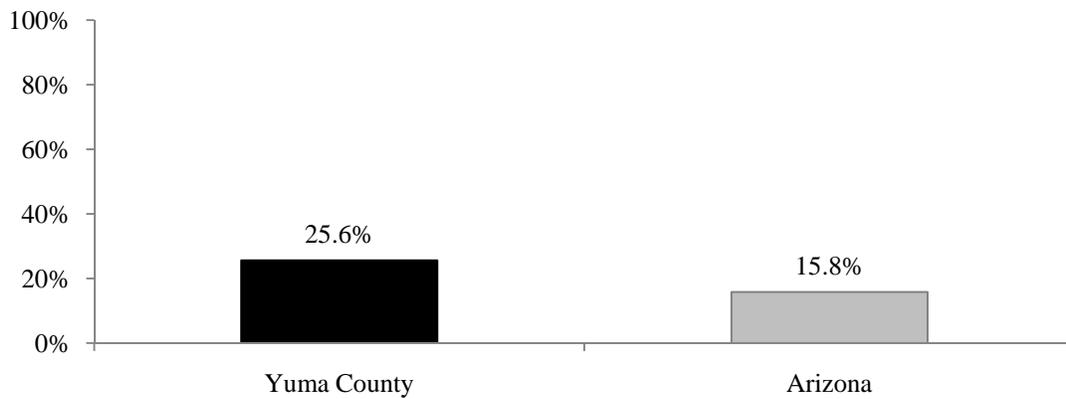
⁵⁰ Bring back KidsCare. (n.d.). Retrieved from the Children's Action Alliance (CAA): http://action.voices.org/site/PageNavigator/Bring_Back_KidsCare

KidsCare Enrollment, Yuma County



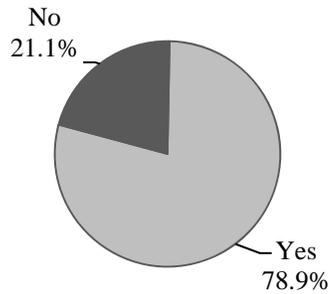
Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2010). *KidsCare Enrollment*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

Children Under 18 Years Without Health Insurance Coverage



Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Small Area Health Insurance Estimates*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

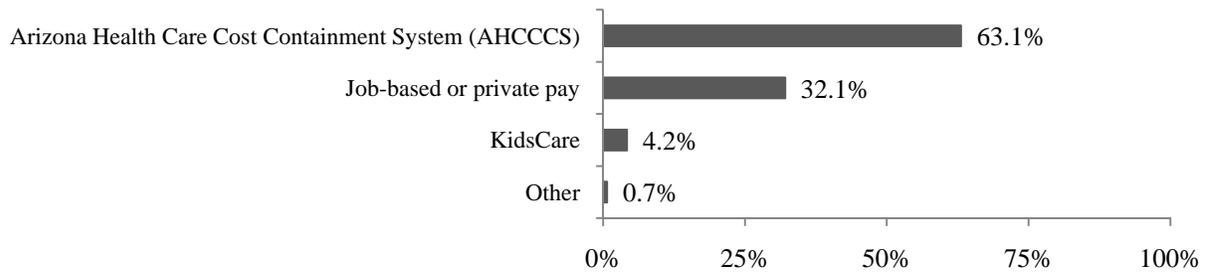
Parents Who Indicated that Their Child Has Health Insurance



N=578.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Type of Child's Health Insurance Reported by Parents



N=455.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Health Providers

Yuma County is classified by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area. These designations identify the region as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including provider to population ratio, the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rate, and unemployment.⁵¹

The Yuma Region is served by one general hospital - Yuma Regional Medical Center. In 2008, Yuma County had 134 primary care physicians, 1,040 registered nurses, and 57 dentists. There were nine mental health care physicians. In 2005, there were approximately 44 primary care physicians and 18 dentists per 100,000 people in Yuma County. This is much lower than the Arizona ratio of 61 primary care physicians and 44 dentists per 100,000 people, and the national ratio of 69 primary care physicians and 64 dentists per 100,000 people in 2000.⁵²

Promotoras and health outreach workers are vital components of the health workforce in Yuma County. Promotoras are members of local communities who act as liaisons between the community and health, human, and social service organizations; they help to bring positive change to the community through culturally competent and familiar methods. They provide an important means of access to underserved populations, and work for a variety of different organizations and centers. In Yuma County, promotoras from the Western Arizona Health Education Center are especially effective in reaching out to border communities, where many residents do not have access to or do not have knowledge about the services that are available in the area. They offer a range of services from conducting breast cancer awareness sessions to door-to-door sign-ups for children who are eligible to apply for KidsCare low-cost health insurance plan.

The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. holds an annual National Promotoras and Community Health Outreach Workforce Conference. This conference provides promotoras and community health outreach workers a forum to network, support, discuss, and enhance knowledge and efforts regarding health care promotion within communities.

⁵¹ Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health. (2010). *Arizona Medically Underserved Areas*. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm>.

⁵² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. (2010). *The Arizona Health Workforce: Highlights from the Health Workforce Profile*. Retrieved from <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/statesummaries/arizona.htm>

Type of Health Care Providers, Yuma County, 2008

Type of Provider	Number
Personnel	
Primary Care Physicians (MDs and DOs)	134
Physician Assistants	152
Nurse Practitioners	45
Registered Nurses	1,040
Dentists	57
Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives	8
Mental Health Care Physicians	9
Emergency Medical Transport Personnel	486
Clinics and Hospitals	
General Hospitals	1
Sliding Fee Scale Clinics	8
School Based Clinics	5

Source: Arizona First Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2010.

Provider to Population Rates, Yuma County

Type of Provider	2005
Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 population	43.6
Dentists per 100,000 population	17.7

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Community Health Status Indicators*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.communityhealth.hhs.gov/homepage.aspx?j=1>.

Health Care Need and Access

Parents in the Yuma Region seek health care for their children for a variety of different health conditions and problems. According to parent survey respondents, nearly 25% said their child had a health problem in the last 12 months, with asthma and frequent ear infections being the most common types of health conditions. Of parents who reported that their child had health problems in the past year, over half reported that their child's condition was expected to last at least one year.

The ability to access health care when needed is critical to the well-being of individuals and communities. Of the 368 parents who indicated that their child needed medical care in the last 12 months, only 60% said that their child was always able to receive medical care when needed. For children who were never or only some of the time able to receive care, having no insurance was the reason cited by more than half of parents, and 18% said it was due to their inability to afford the co-payment.

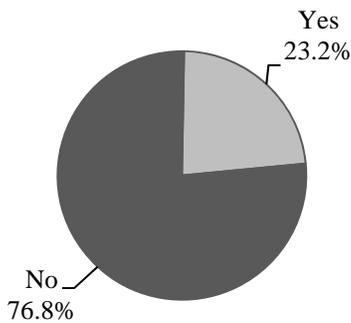
The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. (RCBH) sponsors several programs that enable people to access necessary health care. In particular, CAPAZ-MEX, or the Community Access Program of

Arizona and Mexico, is a discount network that helps to provide primary and preventive health care to residents of Yuma County at reduced prices. Individuals qualify for the program if they earn between 100% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. Additional, specialized health care is also available at discounted rates with participating specialists.

RCBH conducts an annual door-to-door outreach campaign to identify and collect information from underserved/disadvantaged families in the border communities of San Luis, Somerton, Gadsden, and Yuma. This program, Nuestros Niños, targets children in need of health care coverage, children in need of immunizations, pregnant women needing prenatal care, and migrant families without health insurance. The campaign has been conducted annually since 1998, and in 2009, 974 homes were visited; 463 children and 606 adults were identified as in need of assistance with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and KidsCare enrollment processes.

In addition, the RCBH applied for and received a mobile unit in 2002 that sponsors health fairs, immunization campaigns, and health career promotion throughout rural communities in western Arizona. This mobile unit is an important asset as it enables health care access for people who may face barriers of distance and lack of transportation.

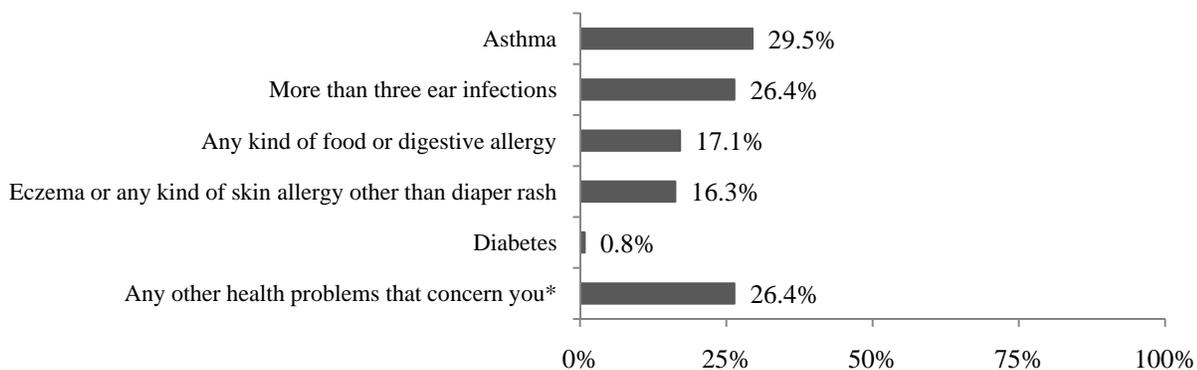
Parents Who Indicated that Their Child Had a Health Problem in the Last 12 Months



N=565.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Type of Child’s Health Condition in the Last 12 Months Reported by Parents

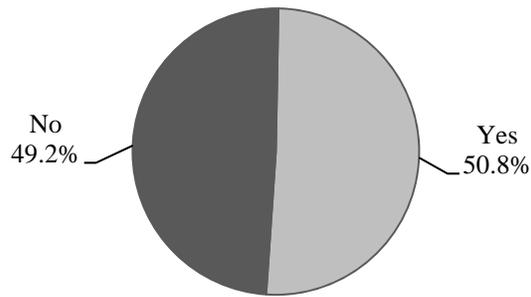


Multiple response question with 129 respondents offering 150 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

* Other responses included: “Allergies” (5), “Bronchitis” (6), “Malformation of the head,” “Fever/vomiting,” “Fever,” “Gripe” (3), “High fever, blisters in mouth,” “Infections,” “Pneumonia,” “Poison oak or ivy,” “Tonsillitis,” “Eye infection.”

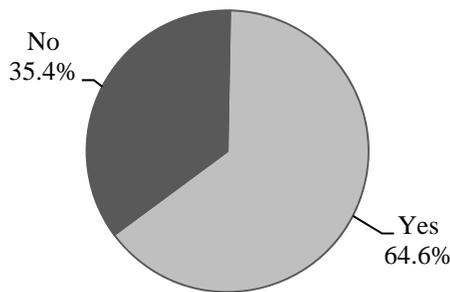
👤👤👤 Of Parents Who Reported that Their Child Had Health Problems in the Past Year, Percent Who Reported that Any of Their Conditions Had or Was Expected to Last for at Least One Year



N=130.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

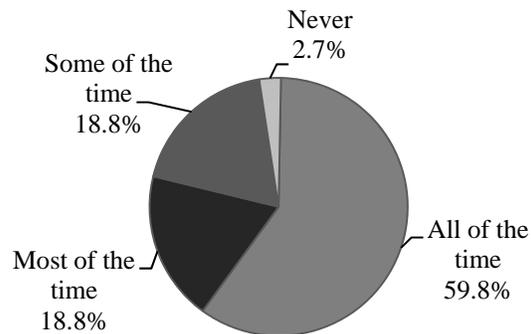
👤👤👤 Parents Who Indicated that Their Child Needed Medical Care



N=570.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

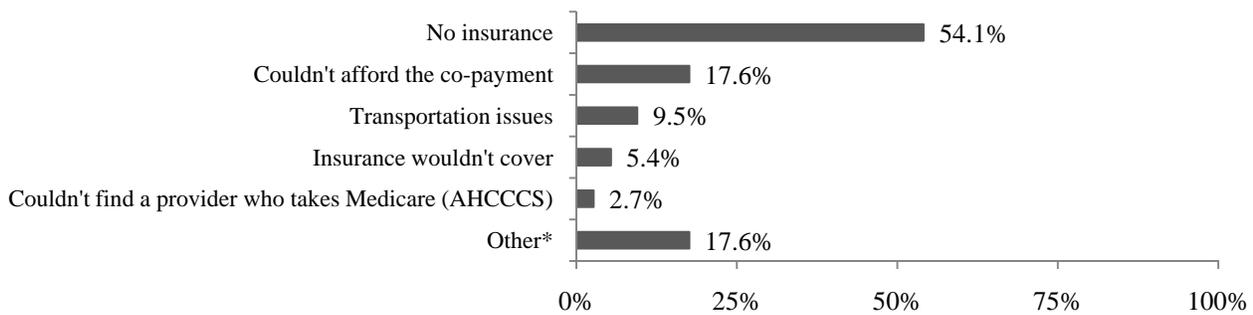
👤👤👤 Frequency of Child's Ability to Receive Medical Care When Needed



N=368.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Reason Child was Unable to Receive Needed Care Some of the Time or Never



Multiple response question with 74 respondents offering 79 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

* Other responses included: “Appointment not available” (5).

Primary Care

Access to health care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation and proximity, language, and education.⁵³ Children’s access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more severe health problems.

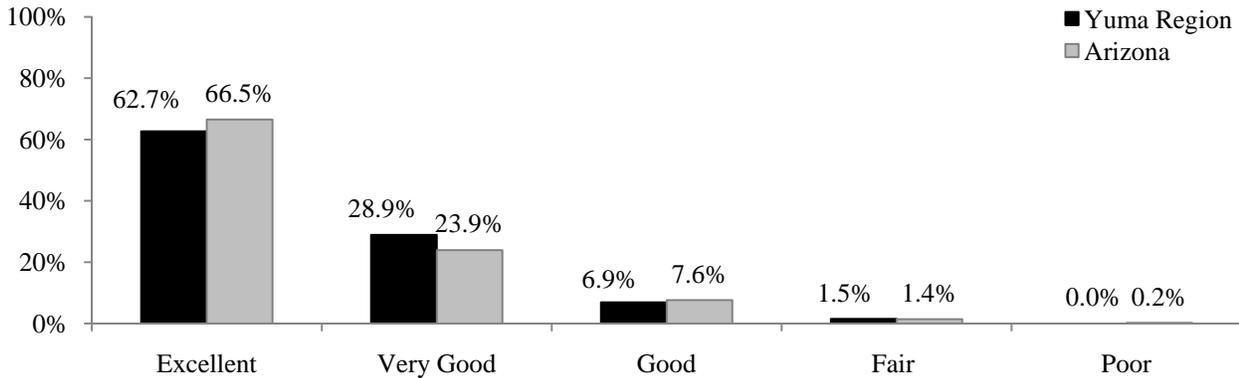
According to the Arizona First Things First Family and Community Survey in 2008, most parents reported that their children were in good health and that they had medical providers who knew their families and would help them make healthy decision. Nearly all (94%) of parents “somewhat” or “strongly” agreed that their child saw the same doctor regularly.

However, according to the parent survey, children’s usual source of health care was somewhat varied. Almost half (46%) of parent survey respondents indicated that their child’s usual source of health care was a private doctor or medical clinic, 22% said a neighborhood or community health clinic, and 21% said a facility in Mexico. Nearly 10% of parents said that their child’s usual source of health care was the emergency room or hospital.

The Yuma Regional Medical Center Foundation supports many community programs that promote health and encourage primary care. One particular program is the School Health Care Program, which provides comprehensive community-based primary care services to elementary school students through four programs at six school districts in Yuma County. A pediatrician or nurse practitioner is based at Rancho Viejo, Pecan Grove, Wellton, and Rio Colorado Elementary Schools and provides diagnosis, treatment, referral and follow-up, immunizations, nutrition and exercise counseling, and consultation with parents and school staff.

⁵³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003) *National Healthcare Disparities Report 2003*, Rockville, MD. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>

Parent Perceptions of the Statement “Compared with Other Children Age 5 and Under, Would You Say that Your Child’s Health Is...,” 2008

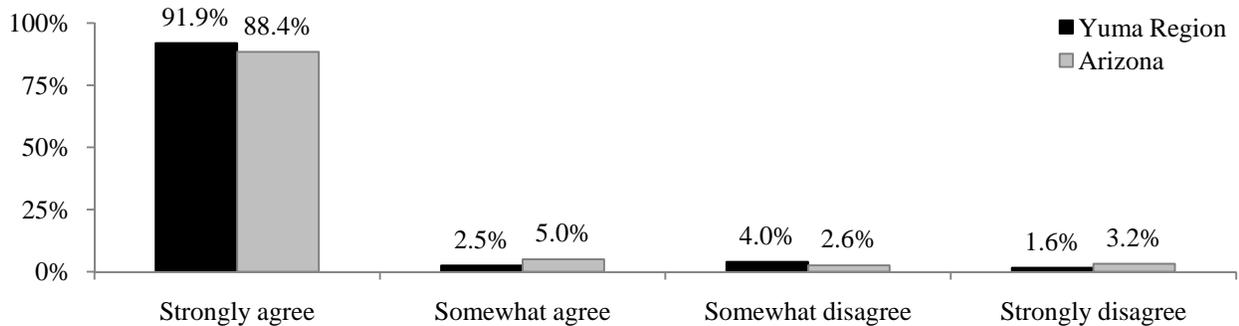


N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

.Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or “declining to respond.”

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

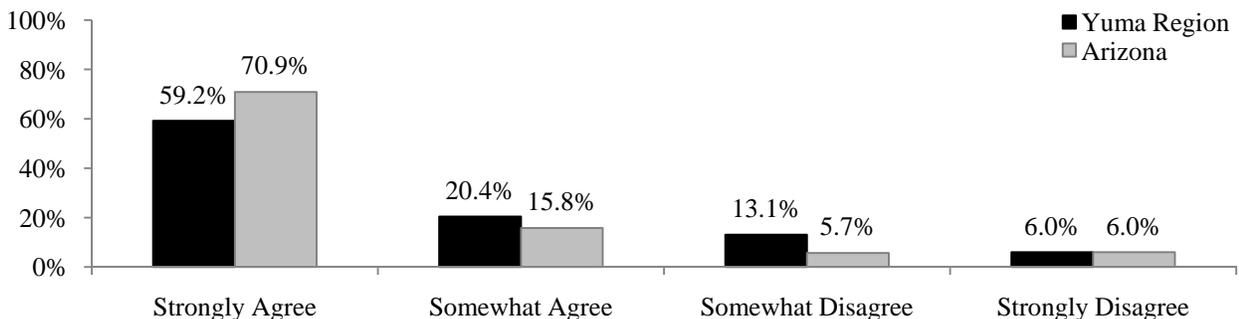


N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “not sure” or refusing to answer.

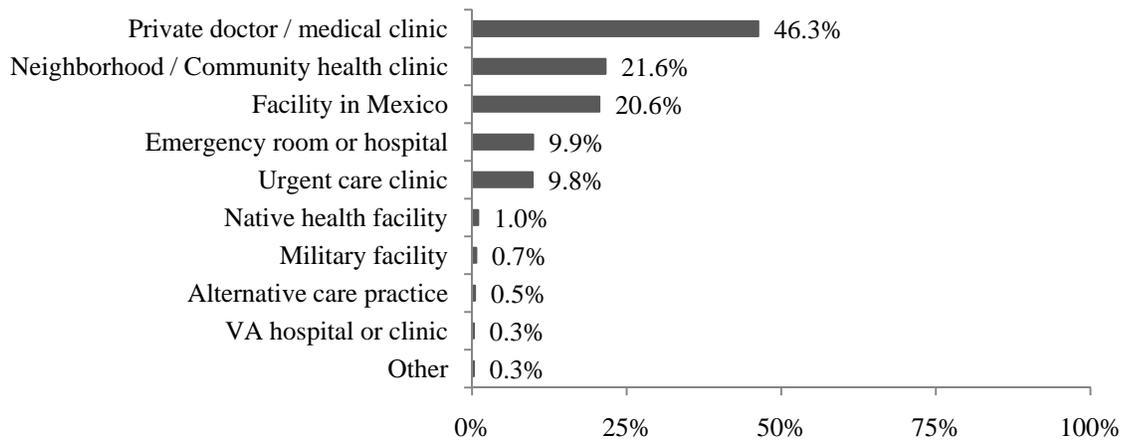
Parent Responses to the Statement “My Regular Medical Provider Knows my Family Well and Helps Us Make Healthy Decisions.” Yuma Region



N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: Arizona First Things First, 2008 Family and Community Survey, Received 2010.

Child's Usual Source of Health Care



Multiple response question with 574 respondents offering 638 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Oral Health

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem among low-income children. Dental and gum problems can be minimized through regular preventive dental services. Experts therefore recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for evidence of developing early childhood dental caries, the most common form of childhood oral disease.⁵⁴ In addition to providing an opportunity for early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of oral disease, regular dental visits can develop oral health knowledge and healthy dental practice habits for parents and children.

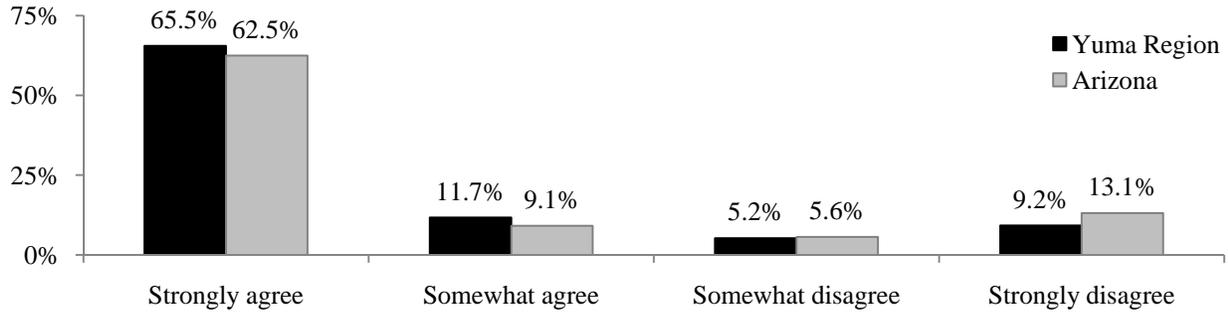
According to the First Things First Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood, two-thirds (66%) of parents in Yuma County strongly agreed that their children have regular dental visits with the same dental provider; this was about in line with the 63% of Arizona respondents in 2008. According to parent survey respondents, 51% reported that their child had seen a dentist in the past six months, but 12% said that their child had never seen a dentist.

According to 2003 data from Arizona's Department for Health Services for Yuma County, 65% of children between the ages of six and eight had experienced tooth decay. Among those children who had experienced tooth decay, there were on average, five teeth with fillings and six untreated teeth which still needed fillings. This high level of untreated decay may relate to the distance parents must travel to receive care for their children, as nearly 30% of parent survey respondents reported traveling more than 10 miles for their children's dental care.

The Yuma First Things First Regional Partnership Council is implementing a new program to address the limited access to preventive oral health care for children. The early childhood oral health program will provide parent and staff education, dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and improve dental providers' ability to serve young children and children with special needs.

⁵⁴ 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

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

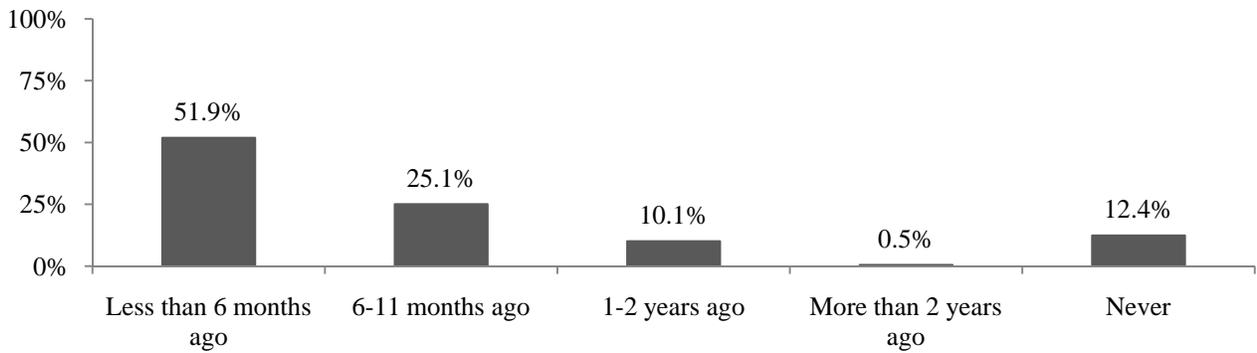


N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “not sure.”

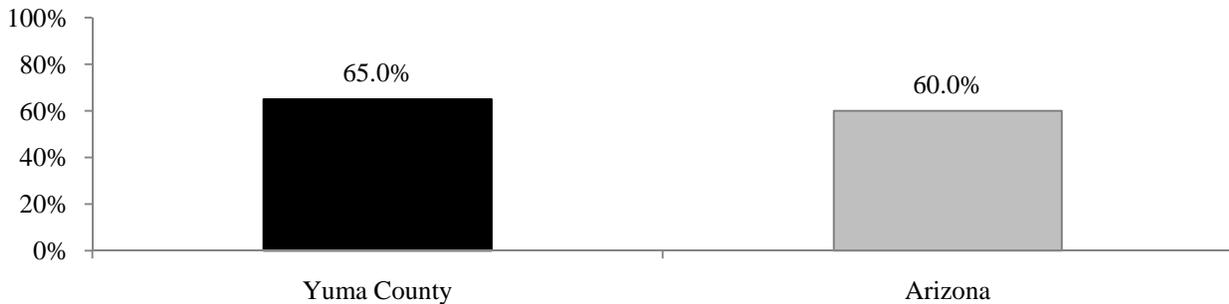
Length of Time Since Child Last Saw a Dentist or Dental Hygienist for Dental Care (of Children Over 2 Years)



N=387.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Children Ages 6 to 8 Who Have Experienced Tooth Decay, 2003



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, *Children’s Oral Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/cfhs/ooh/pdf/childrensoralhealthinaz.pdf>.

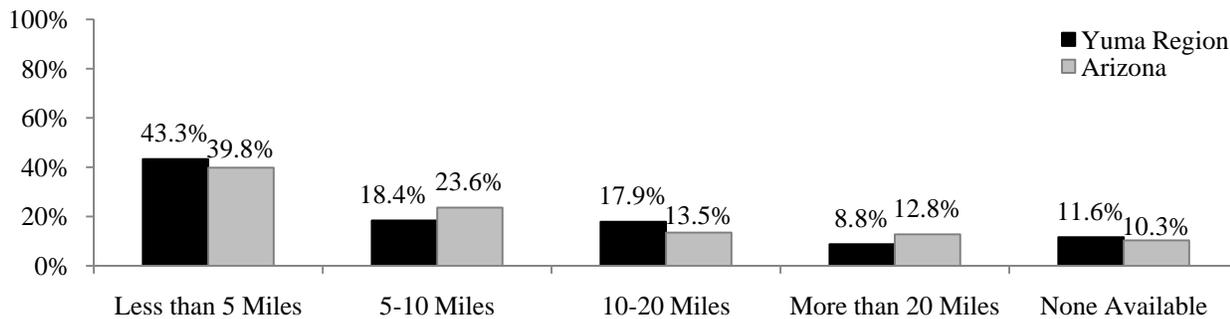
Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Teeth with fillings and Cavities Needing Filling Among Children Ages 6 to 8 Who Have Experienced Tooth Decay, 2003

	Yuma County	Arizona
Average number of fillings, among children who have experienced tooth decay	4.71	4.80
Average number of cavities needing filling, among children who have experienced decay	5.64	NA

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *The Severity of Tooth Decay in Arizona's Children*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/cfhs/oooh/pdf/severitytoothdecay.pdf>.

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



N: Yuma Region=192; Arizona=5,193.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Immunizations

Immunization requirements help to prevent a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care. The required vaccinations protect against hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox). Most require multiple doses to be administered between birth and kindergarten. Healthy People 2010 set a target for 95% of kindergarteners to be fully vaccinated.⁵⁵ In the 2007/08 school year, 98% of kindergarten aged children were up-to-date on their vaccinations in Yuma County. This is comparable to all kindergarten aged children in Arizona.

Another standard measure of childhood vaccination completion, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.⁵⁶ This set of vaccinations is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule. Just under half (49%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had

⁵⁵ The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Kindergarteners with Required Immunizations*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org>.

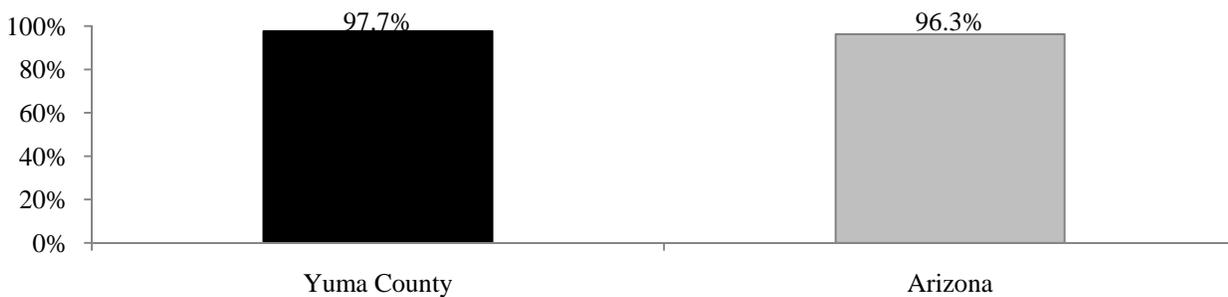
⁵⁶ U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (n.d.). *National Immunization Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>.

received the recommended vaccinations in Yuma County in 2009, a decrease from 65% in 2007. In comparison, National Immunization Survey results from 2007/08 indicated that 73% of Arizona children had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.⁵⁷

For parents looking to immunize their children, the Yuma County Public Health Services District provides vaccinations to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8 am to 11:30 am and 1 pm to 4 pm at the main Public Health Services District building in Yuma. Vaccinations for children 18 years and younger are free except for a \$10 visit fee.

Additionally, in conjunction with the summer Nuestros Niños campaign, the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc., sponsors a Health Fair and Free Immunization Clinic in San Luis, Somerton, and Yuma. The fair and clinic provide families with information about resources in the community, assist with enrollment into public assistance programs, and provide free vaccinations to children. At two immunization clinics in 2009, 202 children attended and 149 children were vaccinated.

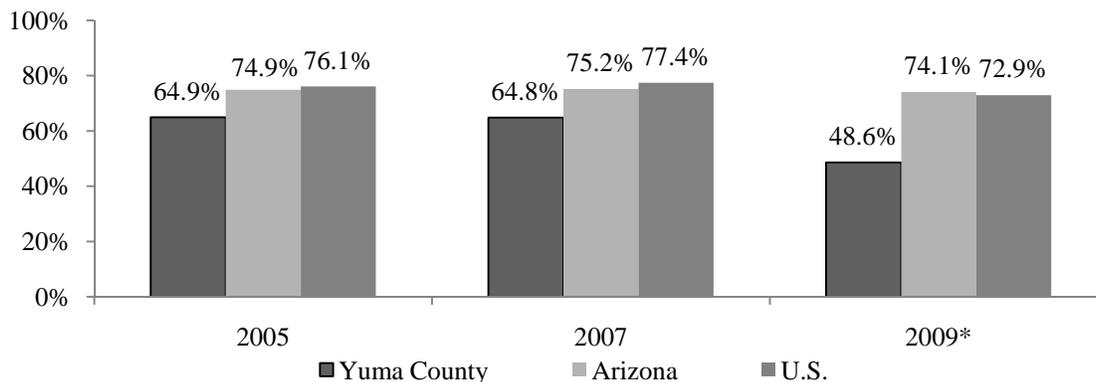
Kindergarteners with All Required Immunizations, 2007/08 School Year



Source: The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Kindergartners with Required Immunizations*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=NS-Indicator&file=indicator&iid=6948>.

Note: Required immunizations include 4+ DTP, 3+ Polio, 2+ MMR, 3+ Hep B, and 1+ Var or physician documented varicella disease.

Children Ages 19 to 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule, Yuma County



Source: For Yuma County: Arizona Department of Health Services (2005, 2007, 2009). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIS) data pulled on May 4, 2010 (Unpublished Data). For Arizona and U.S.: Center for Disease Control, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, (July 2008-June 2009, 2007, 2005). U.S. National Immunization Survey, *Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by State*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#chart>

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.

*2009 data for Arizona and the U.S. actually reflects data from Q3 2008 to Q2 2009.

⁵⁷ Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Immunizations: A Publication of the Arizona Immunization Program Office*, Summer 2009.

Asthma

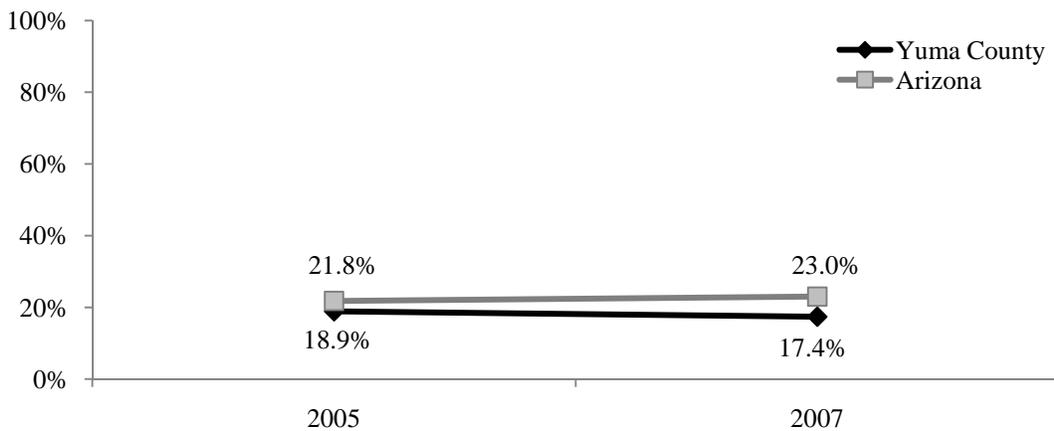
In the United States, about 20 million people have asthma; nearly 9 million of them are children. Children have smaller airways than adults, which makes asthma especially serious for them. There are many causes of asthma, including allergens - mold, pollen, animals, irritants (cigarette smoke, air pollution), weather (cold air, changes in weather), exercise and infections, including the flu and the common cold.⁵⁸

Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.⁵⁹ Even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care and accommodations in the home to minimize the conditions that bring on asthmatic reactions. Well-controlled asthma allows for less symptoms and decreases interference with normal activities, including sleep, work and school.⁶⁰

Less than one-fifth (17%) of all high school students in Yuma County in 2007 had been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma, similar to 2005. This was slightly lower than the rate for Arizona as a whole (23%). The number of children ages birth through five discharged from the hospital with asthma as a diagnosis has remained fairly constant from 2005 to 2008, while the number of emergency room visits rose slightly during the same time period.

Additional resources for asthmatic children are provided by The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. that sponsors Camp Not-A-Choo, an overnight camp for children ages 8 to 11 who suffer from asthma. The goal of the camp is to teach children how to use self-management techniques to control their asthma. The cost of the camp varies from 5 to 70 dollars depending on how much parents can afford.

High School Students Who Have Ever Been Told by a Doctor or Nurse that They Had Asthma



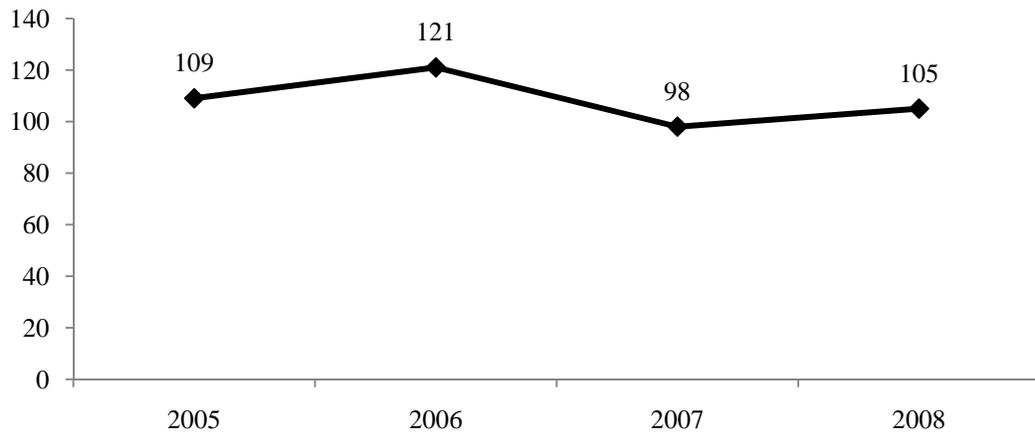
Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azed.gov/health-safety/cnp/healthieraz/2007StepsTarget/>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/cdpc/steps/reports.htm>.

⁵⁸National Institute of Health. (2010). *Asthma in Children*. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmainchildren.html>

⁵⁹ *ibid.*

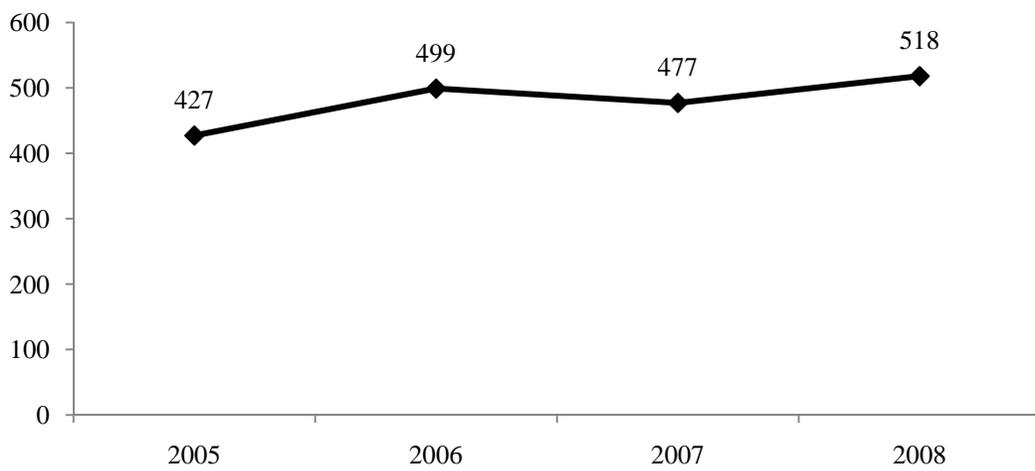
⁶⁰The Mayo Clinic (2010) *Asthma*. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2>.

Hospital Discharges of Inpatients Ages Birth Through Five with Asthma, Yuma County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>.
 Note: Includes all mentioned asthma cases, not just first listed diagnosis.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>.
 Note: Includes all mentioned asthma cases, not just first listed diagnosis.

Obesity

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.⁶¹

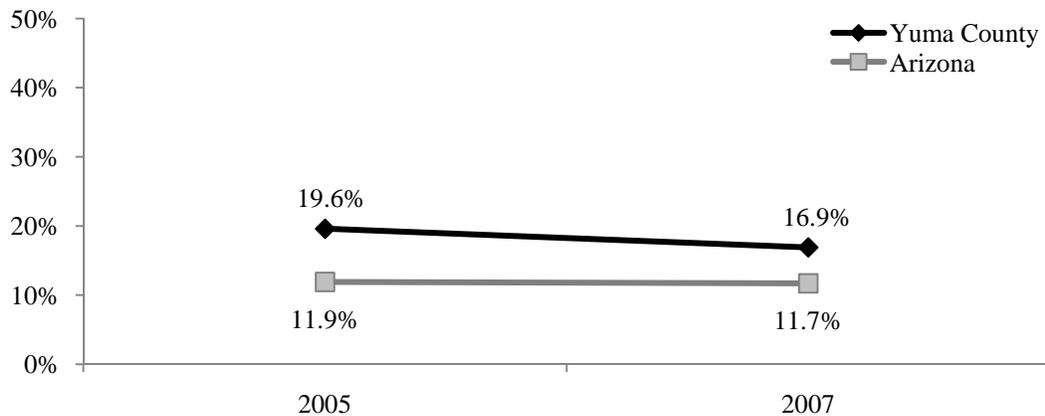
⁶¹ Goran, M. (2001). Metabolic precursors and effects of obesity in children: A decade of progress, 1990–1999. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 73(2), 158-171.

Obesity rates in Yuma County are lower than in Arizona as a whole. The percentage of overweight high school students in Yuma County decreased slightly from 20% in 2005 to 17% in 2007 yet remained higher than Arizona as a whole. It is estimated that over 25% of the adults ages 20 and older in Yuma County were obese in 2007. According to the 2007 to 2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 10% of infants and toddlers in the US were obese, 49% of children and adolescents aged 2 through 19 years were considered overweight or obese, and 60% of adults were obese or overweight.^{62 63 64}

There are several programs in the Yuma Region that seek to address the issue of obesity. One program in particular, Familias Sanas, is run by Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the southern region of Yuma County. This program works to reduce chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and childhood obesity among the Hispanic farmworker population and their families. Methods to reduce childhood obesity include involving children in healthy lifestyle education programs held at schools, community centers, boys and girls clubs, libraries, and churches.

Some of the lifestyle changes that help to maintain a healthy weight include exercising regularly and eating a healthy diet with fruits and vegetables. Among high school students in Yuma County, nearly two-thirds (62%) of high school students reported that they exercised for at least 20 minutes on three or more of the past seven days in 2007. However, less than 20% of high school students reported eating fruits and vegetables five or more times per day during the past seven days.

High School Students Who Were Overweight



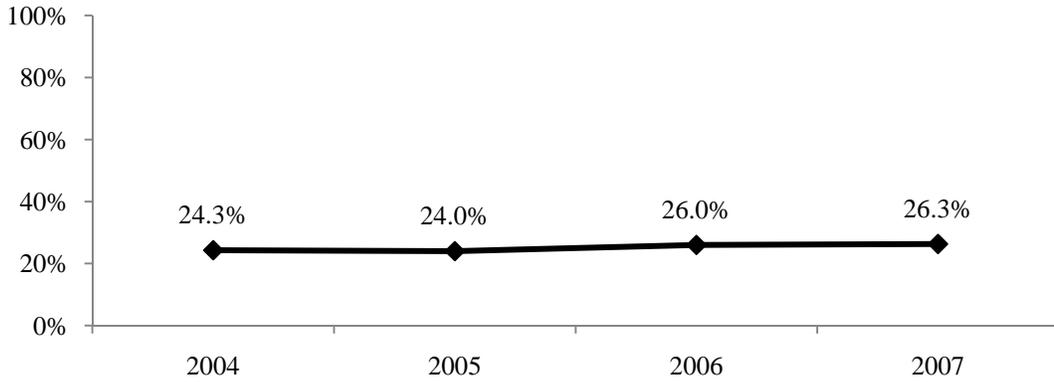
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *National Diabetes Surveillance System*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/unavailable.htm>.

⁶² Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in US children and adolescents 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.

⁶³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. (2010, March). *Health behaviors of adults: United States, 2005-2007. Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(245), 1-143. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_245.pdf

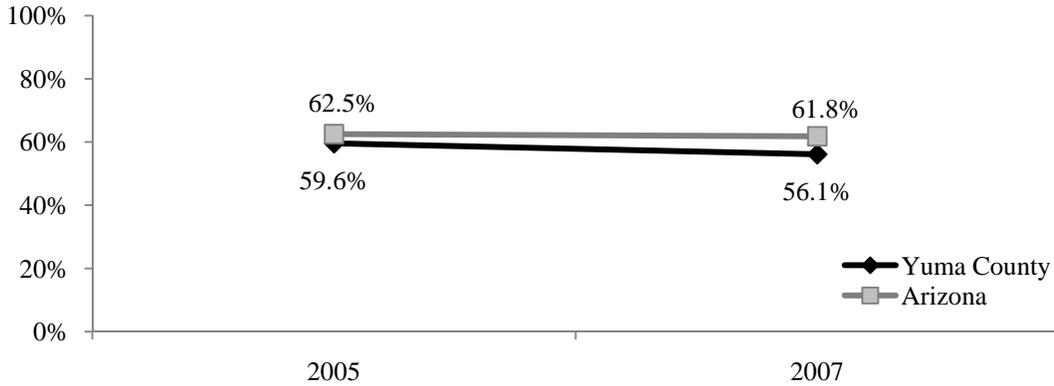
⁶⁴ Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in US children and adolescents 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.

Age-Adjusted Estimates of the Percentage of Adults who are Obese, Yuma County



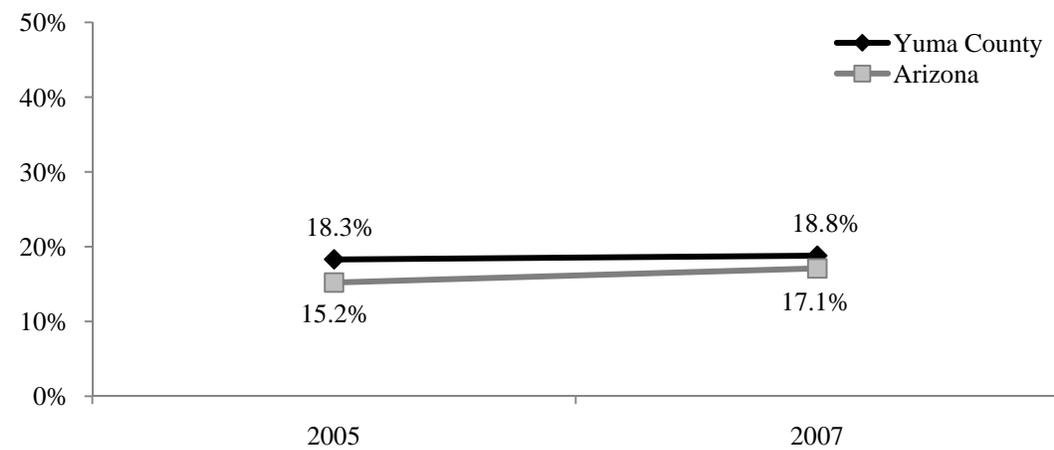
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *National Diabetes Surveillance System*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/unavailable.htm>.
 Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older.

High School Students Who Exercised or Participated in Physical Activity that Made them Sweat and Breathe Hard for at Least 20 Minutes on Three or More of the Past Seven Days



Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azed.gov/health-safety/cnp/healthieraz/2007StepsTarget/>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/cdpc/steps/reports.htm>.

High School Students Who Ate Fruits and Vegetables Five or More Times Per Day During the Past Seven Days



Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azed.gov/health-safety/cnp/healthieraz/2007StepsTarget/>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/cdpc/steps/reports.htm>.

Diabetes

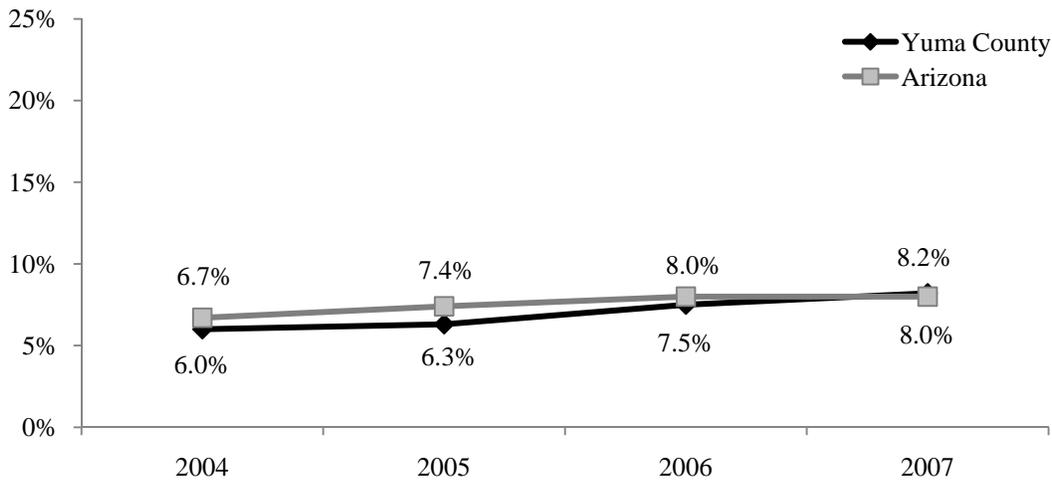
While type II diabetes is primarily associated with overweight adults over age 40, inactivity and increased obesity rates have led to greater incidence in children. Children with type II diabetes are at increased risk for the long-term complications of diabetes, including hypertension and cardiovascular 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.⁶⁵

There are no data available showing the percentage of children with diabetes in Yuma County. For adults ages 20 and older in Yuma County, the percentage with diagnosed diabetes in 2007 was 8%, which was the same as the rate for Arizona.

The Paso a Paso Program, run through the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc., helps prevent diabetes and cardiovascular disease among women in Yuma County. Nutrition classes and neighborhood walking clubs are offered at community centers, churches, schools, and other locations.

The Yuma Regional Medical Center also has a variety of resources for people with diabetes, housed at the Diabetes Education Center in Yuma. Available services include individual appointments, group classes in English and Spanish, diabetes self-management skills, insulin administration training, community screening education, and a diabetes support group. There is also a Pediatric Diabetes Education Program for children and parents that provides age-appropriate self-management techniques and works with the child’s physician to track disease status and progress. Another program is offered to assist women diagnosed with gestational diabetes during pregnancy.

Age-Adjusted Estimates of the Percentage of Adults with Diagnosed Diabetes



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). *National Diabetes Surveillance System*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics/index.htm>.

Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older

⁶⁵ National Diabetes Education Program (2008). *Overview of Diabetes in Children and Adolescents*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from www.yourdiabetesinfo.org

Hospital and Emergency Room Use

Yuma Regional Medical Center, with 333 beds, is the primary hospital for the Yuma Region. It operates the sole emergency department in the county.

In the 2009 fiscal year, there were 9,150 visits by children ages birth through five to the emergency department of Yuma Regional Medical Center. The majority of patients were treated as outpatients; only 4% of cases resulted in hospitalization.⁶⁶ The most common reason that patients ages birth through five visited the emergency department was for diseases of the respiratory system (29%), including pneumonia, asthma, and bronchitis. Injuries and poisoning was the second most common cause, resulting in 19% of visits.

Emergency Department Utilization for Children Ages Birth Through Five by Diagnosis Category, Yuma Regional Medical Center, 2009 Fiscal Year

Diagnosis	Number of Cases	Percent of Total Cases
Diseases of the Respiratory System (Includes Acute Respiratory Infections)	2,629	28.7%
Injuries and Poisoning	1,764	19.3%
Diseases of the Digestive System (Includes Dental Conditions)	956	10.4%
Ear Infections and Other Ear Complaints	885	9.7%
Unclassified Symptoms (Includes Fever)	850	9.3%
Infectious or Parasitic Disease	497	5.4%
Diseases of the Skin	421	4.6%
Routine or Scheduled Visits	253	2.8%
Examination with No Diagnosis	129	1.4%
Congenital Anomalies and Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	128	1.4%
Other	638	7.0%
Total	9,150	100.0%

Source: Yuma Regional Medical Center, *Fiscal Year 2009 Inpatient and Outpatient Emergency Department Visits Ages 0 to 5*, (Personal Communication, June 2010).

Injuries

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.

In Yuma County, the number of injury-related emergency department visits, inpatient hospitalizations, and deaths among children ages birth through 14 remained steady between 2007 and 2008. At Yuma

⁶⁶ Yuma Regional Medical Center. (2009). *Inpatient and Outpatient ER Visits Ages 0-5*. (Personal Communication, June 2010).

Regional Medical Center, wounds, lacerations, or contusions were the most common injury diagnoses for emergency department visits by children ages birth through five, representing 39% of all injury diagnoses in the 2009 fiscal year. Concussions and other head injuries (19%) were the next most common cause of injury to children in the emergency department.

The Yuma County SAFE KIDS Coalition works to reduce the number of unintentional injuries in children. The Coalition offers programs related to motor vehicle safety, bicycle safety, water safety, burn and fire prevention, child abduction, and falls and choking prevention. One notable achievement of the Coalition was the initiation of the City of Yuma’s bicycle helmet ordinance which requires all children under age 18 to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. The Coalition offers bike helmets to the public at the discounted cost of \$10.

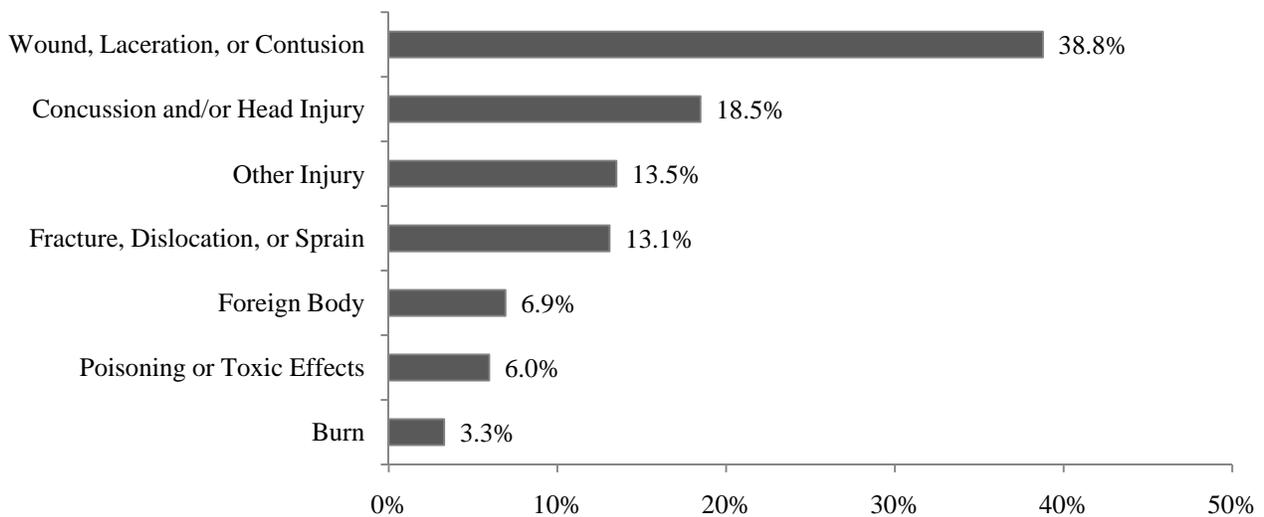
Additionally, the K.I.S.S. (Kids in Safety Seats) Program holds one hour trainings on the proper use and installation of infant and child safety seats at the Yuma County Public Health District, Yuma Regional Medical Center, and in Wellton.

Injury-Related Outcomes for Children Ages Birth Through 14, Yuma County

Injury-Related Outcome	2007	2008
Emergency Department Visits	2,718	2,793
Inpatient Hospitalizations	71	64
Deaths	9	6

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/publicat.htm>.

Cause of Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits for Children Ages Birth through five, Yuma Regional Medical Center, 2009 Fiscal Year



N=1,764.

Source: Yuma Regional Medical Center, *Fiscal Year 2009 Inpatient and Outpatient Emergency Department Visits Ages 0 to 5*, (Personal Communication, June 2010).

Leading Causes of Illness

Reporting cases of disease 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. In Yuma County, enteritides such as *E. coli*, salmonella, and cryptosporidia, were the most common type of notifiable diseases. There were also cases of hepatitis, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, or rubella. An awareness of prevalent diseases within the area can allow health care providers and families to take necessary precautions in order to protect their health and reduce the spread of illnesses.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Yuma County

Notifiable Disease	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Vaccine Preventable	0	18	1	2	1
Enteritides	76	54	70	81	110
Hepatitides	40	22	21	15	11
Tuberculosis	32	60	99	46	57

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

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 include cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

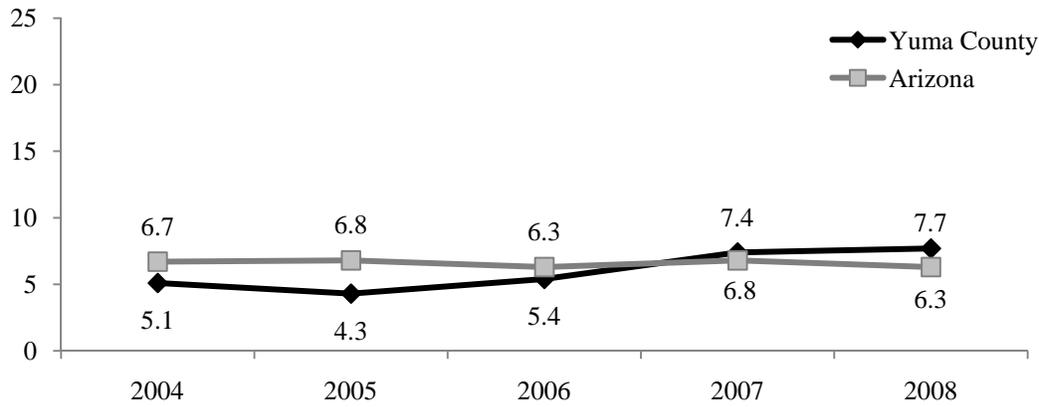
Leading Causes of Death

Infant mortality rates are an overall indicator of children's health and community development. Infant mortality rates measure deaths within the first year of age and are estimated per 1,000 live births. The national infant mortality rate in 2008 was 6.7 per 1,000 live births.⁶⁷ The infant mortality rate in Yuma increased between 2007 (5.1 per 1,000) and 2008 (7.7) and was greater than both Arizona and the nation as a whole. For children ages birth through four, there were a total of 29 deaths in 2008.

The leading causes of death for children ages birth through eighteen in Yuma County were short gestation, medical, and other injuries. The manner of death for this age group in Yuma County was primarily natural causes. However, between 2007 and 2008, rates of accidental death for children ages birth through eighteen ranged from 18% to 23% of all child deaths. This rate is slightly higher than the rate in Arizona as a whole.

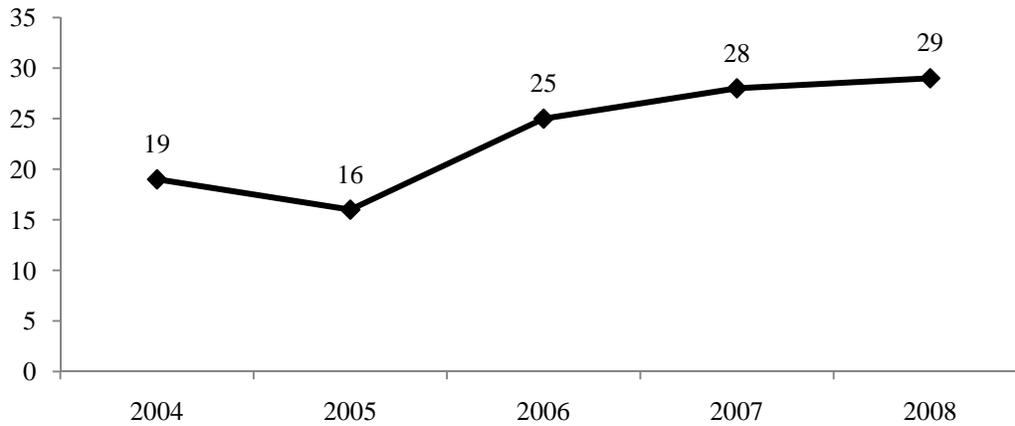
⁶⁷ The World Bank. (2010). *Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)*. Retrieved August 3, 2010 from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN>.

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)



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

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



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

Causes of Death for Children Ages Birth Through 18, Yuma County

Cause of Death	2007	2008
Prematurity	15	15
Medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS)	7	14
Motor Vehicle Crash	5	3
SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	3	1
Other Injury	3	5
Undetermined	2	1
Total Yuma County	35	39

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

Manner of Death for Children Under the Age of 18

Manner of Death	2007	2008
Accident		
Yuma County	23.0%	18.0%
Arizona (Excluding Yuma County)	18.0%	15.0%
Homicide		
Yuma County	0.0%	2.0%
Arizona (Excluding Yuma County)	6.0%	7.0%
Suicide		
Yuma County	0.0%	0.0%
Arizona (Excluding Yuma County)	3.0%	4.0%
Natural		
Yuma County	71.0%	77.0%
Arizona (Excluding Yuma County)	68.0%	68.0%
Undetermined		
Yuma County	6.0%	2.0%
Arizona (Excluding Yuma County)	5.0%	6.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Bureau of Women's and Children's Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/publicat.htm>.

¹ Data for 2005 and 2006 include La Paz and Yuma Counties.

Public Awareness and Collaboration

First Things First believes that “All Arizonans have a shared responsibility to help kids grow up healthy and ready to learn.” Awareness of community concerns and needs, as well as community assets, is essential in order to gain the necessary momentum to tackle community problems and form solutions. Effective collaboration among agencies helps families more easily access and receive services, and helps to ensure that services are more responsive to the specific needs of the families.

Methods of Accessing Information

Disseminating information to families is essential for programs and services to connect with and improve communities. For parents in Yuma County, family and friends are an important source of this information. Parent survey respondents indicated that the majority (69%) get important information about activities that are available for their child and family from friends and family. Newspapers, magazines, television, and the Internet were also important sources of information. Only 5% of parents said that parenting classes/groups and the mail were sources of important information.

👪 Where Parents Get Important Information about Activities and Services that Are Available for Their Child and Family

Response	Percent
Friends and family members	68.8%
Newspaper/magazines	42.2%
Television	38.7%
Internet/email	32.2%
Child’s teacher	21.6%
Radio	21.3%
Community agencies	16.7%
Doctors/clinics	16.4%
Child care worker	7.7%
Mail	4.9%
Parenting classes/groups	4.5%
Other*	1.7%

Multiple response question with 574 respondents offering 1,588 responses; these responses are not mutually exclusive.

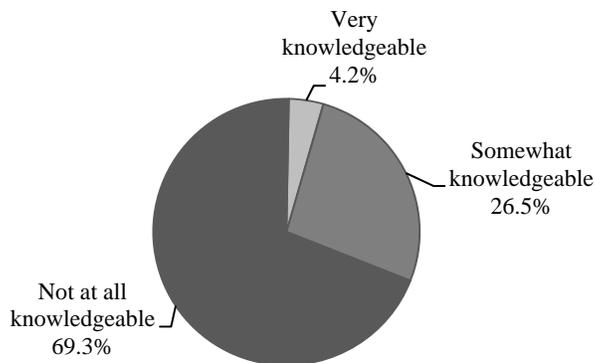
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

* Other” responses included: “Work” (2), “Military,” “Library.”

Awareness of Early Childhood Issues and First Things First

While First Things First (FTF) is working to make an impact on families with children under five, parents are not very aware of what FTF does in communities within the Yuma Region. More than two-thirds (69%) of parent survey respondents said they were “not at all knowledgeable” about what FTF does in the community, and only 4% said that they were “very knowledgeable.”

👪 Parents’ Level of Knowledge of What First Things First Does in Their Community



N=574.

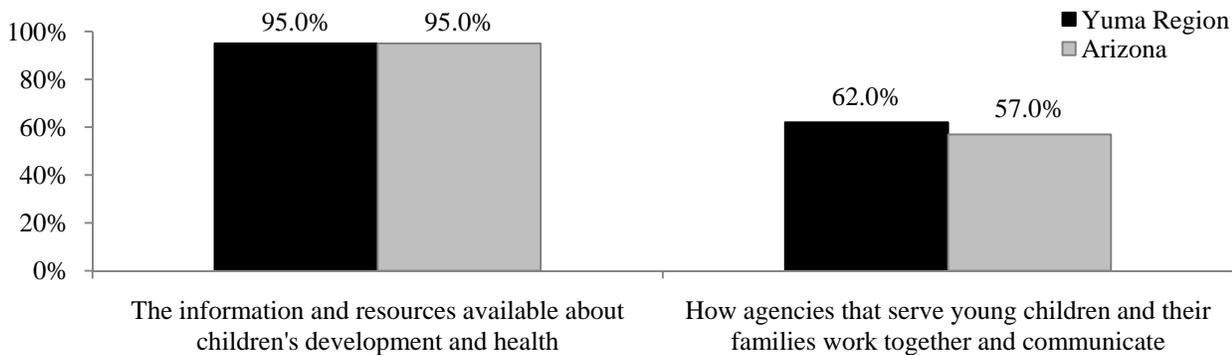
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Parent Satisfaction with Early Childhood Services

Parents were asked to provide their perspectives about the quality of and access to information and services provided by Arizona agencies that serve young children and their families. Nearly all (95%) of the parents surveyed in the Yuma Region were satisfied with the information and resources available to them regarding children’s development and health, but only 62% of parents were satisfied with the collaboration between agencies serving children and families.

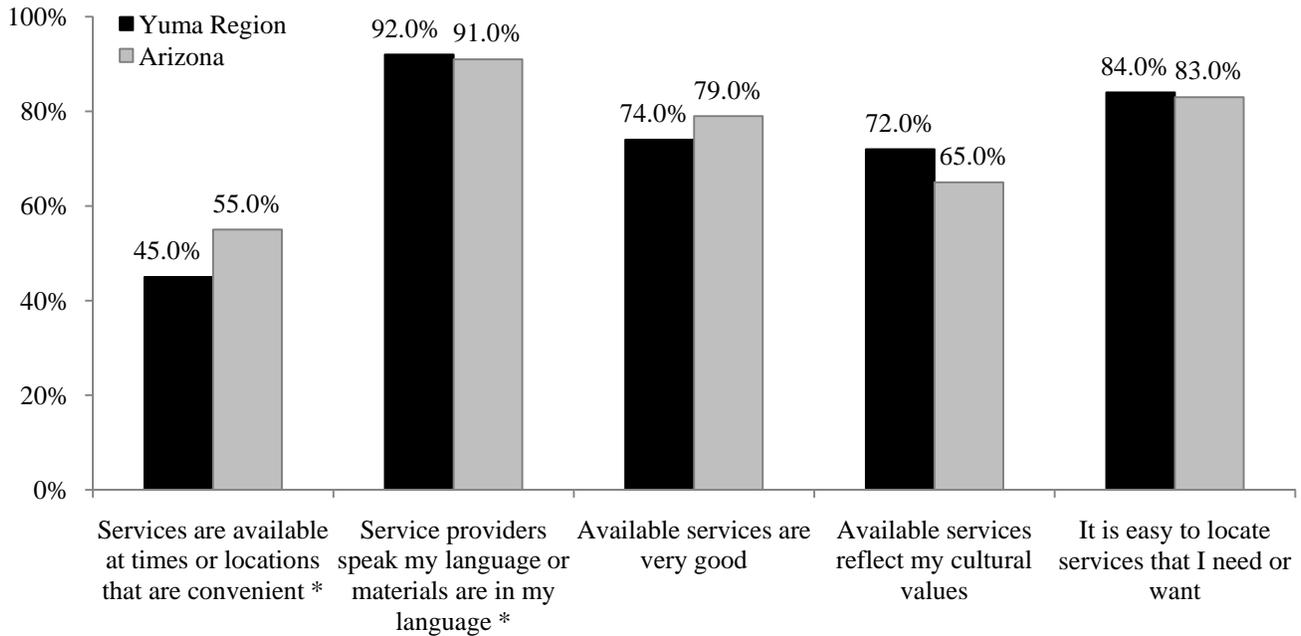
In general, parents in the Yuma Region did not feel that the services in their community were available at convenient times and locations – only 45% felt that the times and locations were convenient. However, parents were more satisfied with other dimensions of service. Most parents thought that providers spoke their language (92%), that services were very good (74%), that the services reflect their cultural values (72%), and that services were easy to locate (84%). Parents in the Yuma Region had similar perceptions to parents in Arizona as a whole. However, while most parents in the Yuma Region were able to access services and were satisfied with them, many still encountered difficulties. Over one-third (39%) felt services met some of their needs but not all, and almost one-third (29%) did not know if they were eligible to receive services.

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



Source: Arizona First Things First, *Regional Profile*, Received 2010.

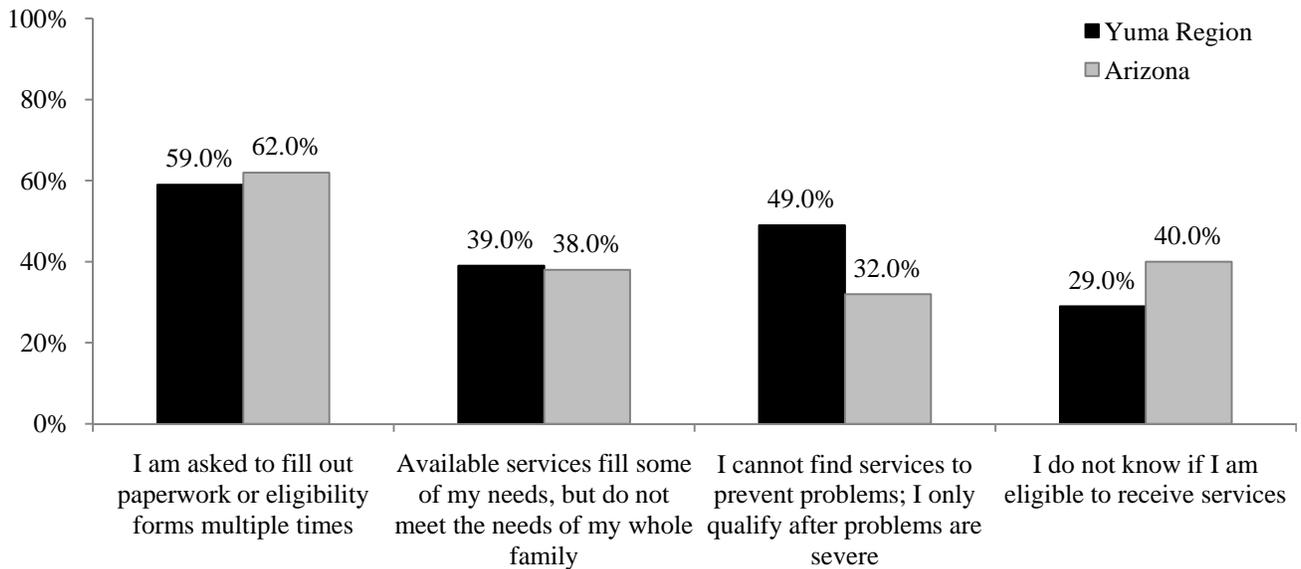
Early Childhood Services: Parents that “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



Source: Arizona First Things First, Regional Profile, Received 2010.

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

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



Source: Arizona First Things First, Regional Profile, Received 2010.

Conclusion

The Families and Children Living Within the Yuma First Things First Region

There were an estimated 194,322 people living in Yuma County in 2008, of which 21,180 were children ages birth through five. The population of Yuma County is primarily Hispanic or Latino. There are roughly equal numbers of Spanish-speakers and English-speakers. In 2008, nearly one-third of families were single-parent households.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the Yuma Region dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children birth through five and their families, particularly in the following areas:

- Better birth outcomes in Yuma County than in Arizona as a whole

Between 2004 and 2009, both the rates of low birth weight and pre-term births were slightly lower than the rates in Arizona. In this same time period, only about 1% of women used tobacco during their pregnancy, which was lower than the rate in Arizona. Similarly, less than 1% of women used alcohol during their pregnancy. Complications of labor and delivery occurred with about 23% of births in Yuma County, and 6% of births had medical risk factors.

- High levels of parent confidence in their parenting skills and ability to provide safe homes for children

Parent survey respondents reported high levels of confidence in their parenting abilities, and showed interest in increasing their skills through parental education programs. Two-thirds of parents said it was “definitely true” that they felt confident in their abilities to: help their child grow and develop; cope with day-to-day demands of parenting; and when they are angry, making sure to calm down before dealing with their child.

The number of children removed from home by Child Protective Services (CPS) decreased considerably between 2007 and 2009 in the Yuma Region, the number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect also decreased from 2006 to 2009.

Communities in the region offer many different supports for parents. The United Way of Yuma County and the Yuma County Library created Snap 211, a website which serves as a comprehensive list of programs, agencies, and opportunities that serve individuals and families in Yuma County. The Yuma County Public Health Services District runs a Parent Awareness Program that provides home visitations to deliver education, information and support to families in their homes. The Yuma County Public Health District and Child and Family Resources provide in-home and community forum trainings utilizing Arizona Parent Kits. These Parent Kits are also provided to new parents in hospitals, and beginning in September, 2010, these kits will be available in libraries. Additionally, Child Care Resource and Referral offers community trainings for providers and parents regarding child development and health.

- Increasing access to nutritious food and nutrition education

There are many different programs in Yuma County that offer food assistance and nutritional education support to families and their children. The Child and Adult Care Food Program has been implemented in 146 child care centers and homes throughout the region to provide nutrition training and reimbursement to child care providers who serve nutritious meals to children. The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council also allocated funding to provide emergency food boxes to 400 families with children ages birth through five to help during this time of economic recession. The efforts to provide food seem to be confirmed by the data from the parent survey. Parents who went without basic needs reported they went without child care, housing, or medical care more than often than food.

- Increasing professional development opportunities for early childhood education professionals

Child care providers reported fairly high levels of knowledge of the early childhood education field and reported “excellent” or “good” skills in areas such as engaging in positive interactions with the children at their sites, supporting families in promoting healthy child development, and designing early childhood education curriculum to enhance learning. First Things First has been making extensive efforts to provide professional development opportunities to ECE professionals. For example, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are available to help child care center teachers, directors, and providers to obtain ECE degrees and the Professional Career Pathway Project provides scholarships to students to obtain a child development Associate’s degree.

- High levels of parent satisfaction with child care provider and high levels of job satisfaction among child care providers

Overall, parents reported high levels of satisfaction with their child care experiences, with nearly 80% of respondents being “very satisfied” with the way that providers interacted with their children, with the experience level of the provider, with the way providers interacted with the parent/guardian, with the stability of the child care staff, with the hours of operation, and with the condition of the facility. Providers also indicated that they were satisfied with their jobs. Nearly all provider survey respondents (94%) reported that they were either “very” or “mostly satisfied” with how enjoyable their work was.

Community Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Despite the many concerted efforts of community organizations and individuals, there are areas affecting the health and well-being of Yuma Region children that need additional improvement.

- High levels of poverty and unemployment

Poverty is a serious problem for community members in the Yuma Region. In 2008 nearly 30% of children ages birth through five lived in poverty, a rate higher than Arizona as a whole. Nearly one-third of parent survey respondents stated that they had gone without basic needs (such as child care, housing, or medical care) in the past 12 months. In Yuma County, 21% of adults were unemployed, over two times the rate of Arizona as a whole (9%). The San Luis community had an alarmingly high unemployment rate of 43%. Additionally, only the median income for married-couple families was high enough to be considered self-sufficient.

While there are some resources for families and their children, such as TANF, WIC, and other food assistance programs, families and children still have many needs. Support for household costs aside from food, such as housing subsidization, economic supports for utilities and child care, and additional scholarships for higher education and job training programs to increase earning potential could be beneficial.

- Need for additional quality child care services

Considering the need for quality child care, the Yuma Region First Things First has taken steps to help increase child care capacity and help parents access quality early learning opportunities for their child. There are currently 26 Quality First programs in the region and First Things First is working to add an additional 13 providers during the 2010/11 fiscal year. First Things First is also planning to supply providers with technical assistance and training to increase the capacity to serve children with special needs. However, it was estimated (based on the number of parents in the work force) that there is still a need for over 6,000 child care slots. Almost 70% of parent survey respondents said that they utilized child care services when they went to school or work, and 64% of those parents said that their child spent more than 20 hours per week in child care. Considering this demand for early care and education, more quality centers and homes need to be established to meet the needs of the community.

- School readiness and educational attainment need improvement

Many children in the region are not ready for kindergarten. Over 40% of students in both Crane Elementary and Yuma Elementary School Districts began the 2009/10 school year with DIBELS scores indicating a need for substantial interventions. In the 3rd grade, only Mohawk and Wellton Elementary school students met or exceeded the AIMS standards for reading, writing, and math at rates that exceeded those for Arizona as a whole. In some schools, less than half of the students met or exceeded the standards. The high school graduation rate in both Antelope and Yuma Union High school districts decreased between 2004 and 2009. Additionally, over a quarter (29%) of the population ages 25 years and older in the Yuma Region had an education attainment level of “less than high school graduate.” First Things First has started to address issues of school readiness, but additional efforts to improve the educational system, beginning with early childhood education and continuing through higher education, are needed in Yuma County.

- Parents should read more frequently to their children

There are many different community resources to help improve the literacy of children and their parents. The Yuma County Library system offers a weekly story time program with a yearly bilingual summer reading program. The Somerton and San Luis Libraries also provide a Bilingual Family Literacy Program. Additionally, the Somerton Family Literacy Program provides free adult education and family activity opportunities to parents and their children. The national Reach Out and Read program partners with doctors at the San Luis Walk-in Clinic to give new books to children and educate parents about the importance of reading to children. Although there are many excellent programs to increase family literacy in Yuma County, nearly 20% of parents said that they did not read to their children in the previous week. Expanding access to free or reduced-price books and expanding the Reach Out and Read program might increase the number of parents who read to their children. Additional programming at local libraries and community centers, at times that do not conflict with parents’ work schedules and a public awareness campaign about the importance of reading to children could help increase knowledge

about the benefits of reading to children. Further, increasing adult education opportunities and educating parents on strategies they can use to read with their children regardless of whether they can read themselves could help build parents' capacity to enhance their child's early learning.

- A large number of children do not have health insurance

The health of children is critical to the well-being and future of the community. In Yuma County, over 25% of children under the age of eighteen do not have health insurance. Over half (54%) of parent survey respondents said that lack of insurance was a reason that their child was unable to receive needed medical care. Though the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), KidsCare, and CAPAZ-MEX are helping many children access health care, more eligible children need to be enrolled in the programs.

- Low rates of immunization for children ages 19 to 35 months

A standard measure of childhood vaccination completion is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.⁶⁸ This set of vaccinations is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule. About half (49%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had received the recommended vaccinations in Yuma County in 2009. In comparison, about three-quarters of children in both Arizona and the U.S. as a whole had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule. However, by kindergarten, most children were up to date on their immunizations. Increasing education among parents regarding the importance of staying on track with the recommended immunization schedule may help to increase immunization rates.

- Children with disabilities need more support services

While the percentage of children (ages birth to three) who were referred to Arizona Early Childhood Intervention Program (AzEIP) that had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed within 45 days increased from 54% in 2006/07 to 95% in 2007/08, there are many more children in Yuma County who still need disability services. There is only one speech therapist, one occupational therapist, and one physical therapist in all of Yuma County, and waitlists for these providers can be up to two or three years long. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of parent survey respondents who said that they had been referred to services to address their child's special need reported that the child was not receiving those services. More than half of parents (55%) indicated that their child was not receiving special services at the amount prescribed by their doctor.

First Things First has developed an Early Childhood Therapist Incentives Program to attract more providers to the area, which is an essential step to increasing the provider pool and thereby increasing access to services. However, it is also important that services are affordable and in convenient locations at convenient times, as many parents said that their child was not receiving recommended services because they did not have health insurance and could not afford them, and because the location or time was not convenient.

⁶⁸ U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (n.d.). *National Immunization Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>.

- Many women are not receiving the target rate of prenatal care

More women need to receive prenatal care during the first trimester to achieve the target rate (90%) set by Healthy People 2010. In 2008, only 68% of women began prenatal care during the first trimester and 70% were receiving the adequate number of prenatal visits (9 or more) during their pregnancy. Though there are many excellent organizations engaged in community outreach that work with pregnant women, such as Nuestros Niños, more work needs to be done to emphasize the importance of receiving care during the first trimester. Additionally, more programs, similar to CAPAZ-MEX, could work to ensure that women have access to affordable prenatal care, and that the care is available at convenient times and locations, particularly for working mothers.

- High rates of overweight and obese community members

Programs such as Paso a Paso and Familias Sanas are working to help educate families about nutrition, encourage physical activity, and decrease obesity. However, the percentage of overweight and obese community members is increasing. Raising public awareness about healthy eating and exercise through culturally appropriate public awareness campaigns and relevant venues could be one way to begin decreasing rates of obesity. Additionally, holding more farmers' markets, and allowing families to use food stamps or WIC vouchers at them would increase the number of families who could afford nutritious, fresh foods.

- Lack of awareness about First Things First services

Over two-thirds (69%) of parents indicated that they were “not at all knowledgeable” about what First Things First does in their community. Even though First Things First and many other organizations provide excellent community services, community members must be aware of the services in order to utilize them. While Snap 211 provides a single location to find services for families and children, it is unknown how many community members are aware of the site, and it is restricted to families that are able to access the Internet. Creating a directory of services, and making that information available at community centers, faith-based centers, supermarkets, and other venues within the communities might help put more families and their children in touch with needed resources.

The Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the Yuma Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, Yuma Region children and families appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to health insurance, education, and services for children with disabilities. Communities along the border with Mexico appear to be in particular need of additional support. (For more information, see Appendix A: Issues Related to Border Health). In light of these challenges in the Yuma Region, targeted efforts and continued collaboration are needed to help improve the situation of children and families. The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council is committed to working with the communities in the Yuma Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.

Appendix A: Issues Related to Border Health and Well-Being

Many children and families living in the First Things First Yuma Region appear to be struggling to meet the health, economic and social needs of their children. This appears to be particularly true of communities along the border with Mexico, which are in need of additional support and targeted services.

- Poverty

Nearly one-third (30%) of children ages birth through five in Yuma County lived below the poverty level in 2008, a higher percentage than statewide poverty rates (23%). A contributing factor to the high poverty rates may be the very high unemployment rates in Yuma County. The unemployment rate in 2009 in Yuma County was 21%, over two times the rate of Arizona as a whole at 9%. Communities very close to the border saw even higher rates of unemployment. The unemployment rate in San Luis was 43%, Somerton was 32%, and Gadsden was 31%, which are rates three to four times higher than the state as whole.⁶⁹ While there are public assistance programs to help families and their children (e.g., TANF, WIC, SNAP), eligibility is often restricted to U. S. citizens and many parents may be fearful to apply for services due to their own undocumented status, even if their children are U.S. citizens.

- Education

In 2008, approximately 20% of children entering kindergarten in the Crane and Yuma Elementary School Districts were performing at grade level, and a little over 40% needed substantial interventions to be at grade-level. Additionally, many children were not meeting the state standards for reading, writing, and math in 3rd grade. Specifically, Gadsden and Somerton Elementary School Districts (which include the border communities of Gadsden, Somerton, and San Luis) consistently had the lowest percentages of 3rd graders who met the reading, writing and math standards. The high school graduation rate in both Antelope and Yuma Union High school districts declined from 2004 to 2009. Additionally, as of 2008, only 13% of adults over the age of 25 had a Bachelor's Degree or other advanced degree in Yuma County, a rate lower than that for Arizona as a whole.

- Access to Safe and Adequate Water

According to the Annual Water Quality Reports from the border communities of San Luis, Somerton, and Yuma, all of these areas had reasonably safe drinking water, meaning no contaminants were detected, or they were found at very low levels.⁷⁰ While those who have running water in their homes appear to have access to safe drinking water, those who do not have running water, may be accessing natural water sources. The water directly from the Colorado River was determined to not be safe for drinking; it is unknown exactly how many people do not have access to safe drinking water.⁷¹

⁶⁹ Note: Sub-county figures are calculated using a census share methodology; by multiplying current estimates of county-wide employment and unemployment by the respective employment and unemployment shares (percentages) for each sub-county area at the time of the 2000 Census. This method assumes that the rates of change in employment and unemployment, since 2000, are exactly the same in each sub-county area as at the county level (i.e., that the shares are still accurate). If this assumption is not true for a specific sub-county area, then the estimates for that area may not be representative of the current economic conditions. Since this assumption is untested, caution should be employed when using these data.

⁷⁰ City of San Luis Department of Public Works. (2008). *Annual Water Quality Report*. Retrieved May 2010 from <http://www.cityofsanluis.org/>; City of Somerton Department of Public Works. (2008). *Annual Drinking Water Report for Public Water System: City of Somerton Municipal Water*. Retrieved May 4, 2010 from <http://www.cityofsomerton.com/publicworks.html>; City of Yuma.(2009). *Annual Water Quality Report*. Retrieved July 2010 from http://www.ci.yuma.az.us/Documents/COY_WaterQualityReport.pdf.

⁷¹ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. (November 2008). *Colorado and Lower Gila Watershed*. Retrieved May 4, 2010 from <http://www.azdeq.gov/>.

- Access to Sewage

In Yuma County in 2008, approximately 3% of housing units lacked complete plumbing facilities compared to 2% in Arizona as a whole.⁷² According to the American Community Survey definition, complete plumbing facilities include: (1) hot and cold running water, (2) a flush toilet, and (3) a bathtub or shower, and all three facilities must be located inside the house, apartment, or mobile home. Since these percentages are based on the number of housing units, not the percentage of people, a higher percentage of the population may be impacted by inadequate plumbing than suggested by merely the percentage of housing units without adequate plumbing. Specifically, homeless community members or community members with less stable housing would not be reflected in these numbers.

- Health Care Professionals

Yuma County is classified by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area. There is a shortage of nearly every type of health care professional. There are two main sources of health care in the border community region, the San Luis Walk-In Clinic and the Urgent Care and Family Center in Somerton. Promotoras and health outreach workers are also vital components of the health workforce in Yuma County. These services help to increase the awareness of services available and make services more accessible within the border areas. The program, Nuestros Niños, also serves the border community by targeting children in need of health care coverage, children in need of immunizations, pregnant women needing prenatal care, and migrant families without health insurance.

- Immunizations

In Yuma County, just under half (49%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had received the recommended vaccinations in Yuma County in 2009, compared to nearly 75% in Arizona. The Yuma County Public Health Services District and the Nuestros Niños program are working to provide vaccinations to the public, free of charge, except for a \$10 visit fee. At two immunization clinics in 2009, 202 children attended and 149 children were vaccinated.⁷³

- Asthma

Less than one-fifth (17%) of all high school students in Yuma County in 2007 had been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma. While this is lower than the rate for Arizona as a whole, during the time period of 2005 to 2007, the number of emergency room visits rose slightly, suggesting a potential need to more education about proper asthma-controlling behaviors. The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. sponsors Camp Not-A-Choo, an overnight camp for children ages 8 to 11 who suffer from asthma. The goal of the camp is to teach children how to use self-management techniques to control their asthma and the camp cost is on a sliding scale, dependent upon what parents can afford.

⁷² Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, ACS Plumbing Facilities for All Housing Units. Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=y&-context=dt&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_& mt_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G2000_B25047&-CONTEXT=dt&-tree_id=3308&-geo_id=05000US04027&-search_results=01000US&-format=&-lang=en

⁷³ Regional Center for Border Health. (2010). *Nuestros Ninos*. Retrieved July 20, 2010 from <http://www.rcfbh.org/programnuestrosninos.htm>

- Communicable Diseases

In Yuma County, enteritides such as *E. coli*, salmonella, and cryptosporidia, were the most common type of notifiable diseases. There were also cases of hepatitis, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, or rubella.

- Obesity

Overweight and obese conditions in children can lead to severe physical and emotional health effects, including greater risk of hospitalization, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, and depression. The percentage of overweight high school students in Yuma County decreased slightly from 20% in 2005 to 17% in 2007, yet remained higher than Arizona as a whole. It is estimated that over 25% of the adults ages 20 and older in Yuma County were obese in 2007. There are several programs in the Yuma Region that seek to address the issue of obesity in the border region. One program in particular, Familias Sanas, is run by Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the southern region of Yuma County. This program works to reduce chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and childhood obesity, among the Latino farmworker population and their families. Methods to reduce childhood obesity include involving children in healthy lifestyle education programs held at schools, community centers, boys and girls clubs, libraries, and churches.

Many Yuma County families residing along the Arizona Mexico border are struggling to meet the basic needs of their children. These needs include access to clean water, sanitation, and health care. These struggles have a lasting effect, as the basic health and well-being of children greatly affect their academic and economic success later in life. There are many programs and agencies working to meet the needs of children and families in the border communities. Additional data collection and study would help to inform further targeted outreach and additional services to support the success of children and families.

Appendix B: Data Development Agenda – What We Want to Know

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

- **Children with Disabilities** – The data available regarding the number of Head Start children receiving developmental screenings and the number of children referred to and receiving AzEIP and DDD services do not give a comprehensive picture of the children with disabilities in the Yuma Region. More cohesive data regarding the number of children by disability type would help to identify the level of need and which services are needed.
- **Obesity** – Obesity data are available for adults and high school students living in the Yuma Region. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are considered to be overweight or obese.
- **Asthma** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on hospital use for children with asthma. There are no specific data regarding the number of children actually diagnosed with asthma.
- **Oral Health Data** – The Arizona Department of Health Services conducted a study of children’s oral health in 2003. Although the data are useful, they are out of date. Therefore up-to-date data on the dental health of children in Yuma is needed.
- **Border Health Issues** – Identified as an area of particular interest for the Yuma Region, a lot of data regarding border health issues were available. The areas where more information is needed are obesity among children, communicable diseases among children, number of homes with children with running water, and families with access to safe drinking water.
- **Cultural Development** – Interest was expressed for future data collection efforts around the cultural development of children and families, such as participation in arts and crafts, museum visitation, and more. Additional questions included in the parent survey could provide these types of data.

Appendix C: Survey Demographics

Face-to-Face Parent Survey

The following table shows the basic demographics of the *Face-to-Face Parent Survey* respondents.

Respondent Demographics

Response	Percent
Age <i>N</i> =	565
Less than 18 years old	1.2%
18 – 24 years old	22.3%
25 – 34 years old	50.3%
35 – 44 years old	20.9%
45 – 54 years old	3.9%
55 years or older	1.4%
Residence <i>N</i> =	563
Yuma	43.5%
San Luis	38.2%
Somerton	12.6%
Gadsden	4.4%
Other areas	1.2%
Gender <i>N</i> =	517
Female	83.8%
Ethnicity* <i>N</i> =	572
Latino or Hispanic	82.3%
Caucasian or White	11.5%
Other	6.2%

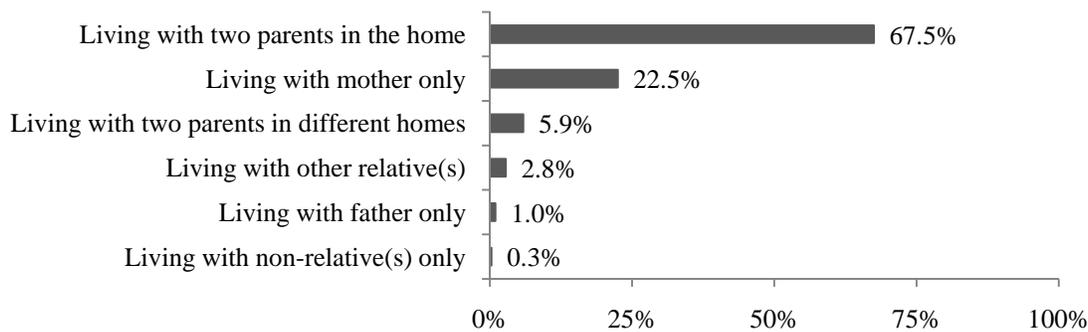
Response	Percent
Income <i>N</i> =	570
Less than \$10,000 per year	18.8%
\$10,000 to \$14,999 per year	16.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999 per year	24.4%
\$25,000 to \$34,999 per year	14.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999 per year	12.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999 per year	8.6%
\$75,000 or more per year	5.6%
Employment Status <i>N</i> =	579
Employed full-time	37.1%
Unemployed	18.0%
Homemaker	17.1%
Employed part-time	14.7%
Seasonal worker	6.4%
Student	3.8%
Self-employed	2.1%
Retired	0.9%
Education Attainment <i>N</i> =	580
Less than 9 th grade	11.0%
9 th grade to 12 th grade (no diploma)	19.5%
High school diploma (includes GED or equivalent)	24.3%
Some college, no degree	24.0%
Associate’s degree	11.2%
Bachelor’s degree	6.9%
Graduate or professional degree	3.1%

Response	Percent
Survey Respondents' Relationship to the Child <i>N =</i>	572
Parent	92.5%
Grandparent (primary caregiver for grandchild)	3.5%
Other family member (primary caregiver for child)	1.4%
Legal guardian	1.4%
Foster parent	0.3%
Other	0.9%
Age of Child for Whom Parents Filled Out the Survey <i>N =</i>	564
Less than 1 year	12.2%
1 year	15.8%
2 years	14.7%
3 years	18.3%
4 years	16.8%
5 years	22.2%

Response	Percent
Age of Children <i>N =</i>	581
Birth through 2 years old	55.2%
3 – 5 years old	67.5%
Over 5 years old	37.3%
Number of Children <i>N =</i>	581
1 child	44.1%
2 children	28.4%
3 children	17.6%
4 children	5.9%
5 children	3.4%
More than 5 children	0.7%
Average number of children	1.99

* When the 5 American Indian parents were asked if they were currently an enrolled member, all (100%) of them indicated that they were.
 o 3 respondents reported being an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Tribe, while 2 respondents were enrolled members of the Cocopah Tribe.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Birth through 5] (Unpublished raw data).

👪 Child's Current Living Arrangement



N=579.
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Parents with Children Ages Birth Through Five]. (Unpublished raw data).

Face-to-Face Provider Survey

The following table shows the basic demographics of these survey respondents.

Response	Percent
Center or Home <i>N =</i>	118
Child Care Center	58.5%
Child Care Home	41.5%
Type of Child Care Facility	
Quality First center or home (N=53)	62.3%
Non-profit organization (N=45)	22.2%
Program at a public elementary school (N=55)	7.3%
Location of Center/Home <i>N =</i>	124
Yuma	77.4%
San Luis	9.7%
Somerton	9.7%
Wellton	1.6%
Other areas	1.6%

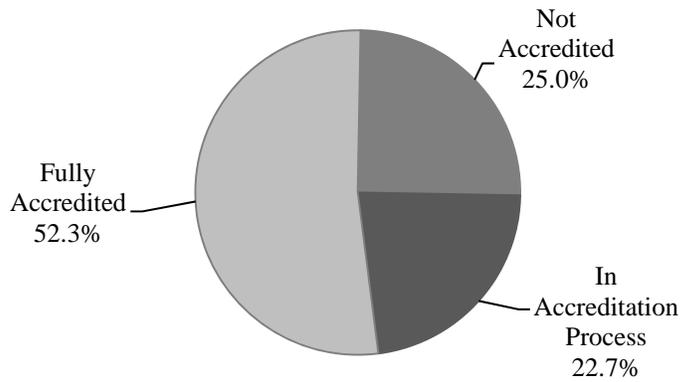
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

Response	Percent
Gender <i>N</i> =	116
Female	98.3%
Ethnicity <i>N</i> =	122
Latino or Hispanic	77.0%
Caucasian or White	8.2%
Black or African American	6.6%
Other	8.2%
Education Attainment <i>N</i> =	116
Less than 9 th grade	4.3%
9 th grade to 12 th grade (no diploma)	12.9%
High school diploma (includes GED or equivalent)	31.0%
Some college, no degree	33.6%
Associate's degree	10.3%
Bachelor's degree	5.2%
Graduate or professional degree	2.6%
Number of ECE Units Completed <i>N</i> =	19
Less than 9 units	21.1%
10 to 19 units	31.6%
20 to 40 units	21.1%
More than 40 units	26.3%

Response	Percent
Length of Time at Current Position <i>N</i> =	120
Less than 6 months	11.7%
6 months to 1 year	9.2%
1 to 2 years	12.5%
2 to 5 years	29.2%
More than 5 years	37.5%
Length of Time in ECE Field <i>N</i> =	115
Less than 6 months	8.7%
6 months to 1 year	7.0%
1 to 2 years	9.6%
2 to 5 years	27.0%
More than 5 years	47.8%
Center Directors or Home Child Care Provider or Director <i>N</i> =	125
Directors	45.6%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

• • Accreditation Status of Child Care Centers and Homes (Reported by Child Care Center Directors/Home Child Care Providers or Directors)



N=44.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data). Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).

• • Number of Children Enrolled and Waitlisted at Child Care Centers and Homes by Age

	Enrolled	Waitlist
Children Less Than 3 Years		
Number of Child Care Directors or Home Child Care Directors	52	16
Number of children	303	137
Children Ages 3 to 5		
Number of Child Care Directors or Home Child Care Directors	53	15
Number of children	407	76
Children Over 5 Years		
Number of Child Care Directors or Home Child Care Directors	53	15
Number of children	218	54

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2010). [First Things First – Yuma Region: Survey for Child Care Providers]. (Unpublished raw data).