



Hub Summary *Northern Hub*

Overview of the Region

The northern area of the Coconino Region makes up the Northern Hub, which includes the towns of Page and Fredonia, and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indian Reservation. With 1,282 children ages birth through five in the hub, it is home to 12% of the youngest children in the Coconino Region.¹ In 2010, 51% of children ages birth through five in the hub were American Indian, 35% were White and 7% were Hispanic or Latino.²

The Neighborhood Economy

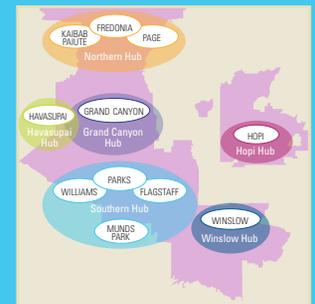
Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and lack basic health care. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment. Approximately 24% of children under the age of six in Arizona are living in poverty.¹

- Approximately one in three children ages birth through five (31%) in Page were living in poverty. This was higher than Coconino County as a whole (23%).¹

Food Insecurity

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

- Fredonia-Moccasin School District had 80% of its children eligible for free or reduced priced meals in 2011, the highest percentage of any school district in the Coconino Region. Page Unified School District had 67% of children eligible for free or reduced priced meals in 2011.³



FIRST THINGS FIRST COCONINO REGION

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

Child Care

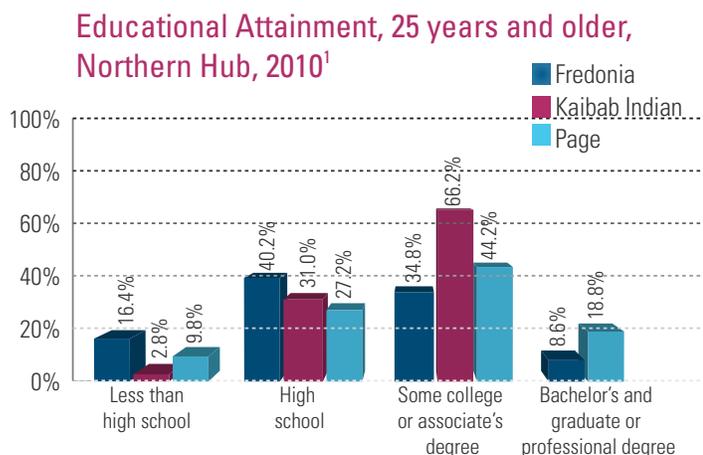
The first five years of a child's life are the most important years for a child's brain development. Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success. Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, also provides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

- » There were a total of 6 child care programs in the Northern Hub, including licensed centers, public schools, small group homes, and child care homes. There were approximately 352 licensed child care spaces in 2011. This includes one Quality First program that had an approved capacity for 49 children.⁴

School Readiness

Research shows children who have the early learning skills that allow them to be prepared to enter kindergarten, perform better on standardized tests in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The AIMSWeb assessment is one method used to measure children's readiness for kindergarten. There were 19 children enrolled in kindergarten in the Fredonia-Moccasin Unified School District, and 140 children enrolled in kindergarten in the Page Unified School District during the 2010/11 school year.⁵

- » In the Fredonia-Moccasin Unified School District, 75% of children entered kindergarten at grade level in 2010/11, according to the AIMSWeb assessment.⁶



School Success

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

- » 70% of 3rd grade students met or exceeded the standards on the AIMS reading assessment in the Fredonia-Moccasin School District, followed by 57% of 3rd grade students in the Page Unified School District in 2011.⁷

Educational Attainment

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

- » 91% of students in Fredonia-Moccasin Unified School District graduated from high school compared to 65% in the Page Unified School District in 2010.⁸
- » 16% of the population 25 years and older in Fredonia had not completed high school, compared to less than 3% on the Kaibab Indian Reservation and 10% of the population in Page.¹



Special Needs

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

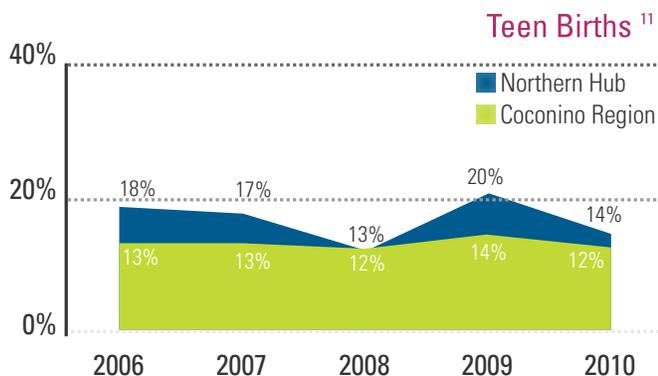
- In 2010, 4% of parent survey respondents in the Northern Hub reported having a child with a special need.⁹
- There were 88 children enrolled in preschool with a disability in the Page Unified School District in 2010/11.⁶

The Health of Mothers and Babies

In the Coconino Region, the number of births has decreased steadily since a peak birth rate in 2007. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings, have been correlated with both fertility and birth outcomes. There were 168 children born to mothers in the Northern Hub in 2010, a slight decrease from previous years, representing 10% of all births in the Coconino Region.⁴

Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds), and have lower survival rates, than those whose mothers received prenatal care. Low birth weight is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.

- 86% of mothers in the Northern Hub received prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy in 2010, which was consistent with the Coconino Region overall (85%).¹⁰
- 5% of mothers had babies born at less than 5.5 pounds in the Northern Hub in 2010, which was lower than the Coconino Region (8%).¹⁰



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

- 14% of births in the Northern Hub were to mothers under 20, higher than the Coconino Region (12%).¹⁰

Summary

In general, children and families in the Northern Hub appear to be meeting many of the day to day challenges. Yet, many families are struggling to meet some of the economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to income and educational attainment. There are profound discrepancies between different populations within the Northern Hub and increased outreach and support is needed to address these differences.

SOURCES

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

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



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

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



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