



Hub Summary

Southern Hub

Overview of the Region

The Southern Hub is the largest hub in the region, encompassing the city of Flagstaff and surrounding communities. At 6,815 children ages birth through five in the hub, it is home to 65% of the youngest children in the Coconino Region.¹ In 2010, half of children ages birth to five in the hub were White, 30% were Hispanic or Latino, and 14% were American Indian.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 five in Arizona are living in poverty.¹

- Approximately one in four children ages birth through five in Flagstaff (22%) and Williams (28%) were living in poverty as compared to Coconino County as a whole at 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 and reduced price meals at school.

- Williams School District had 66% of students eligible for free and reduced priced meals, followed by Maine School District at 48%, and Flagstaff School District at 43% 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.

- » The Southern Hub houses the majority (81%) of child care spaces in the Coconino Region. There were a total of 63 child care programs in the Southern Hub, including licensed centers, public schools, small group homes, and child care homes. There were approximately 3,644 licensed child care spaces in 2011. 13 of the programs were Quality First programs that had an approved capacity for 456 children.⁴
- » The Southern Hub had 403 Head Start enrollment slots and 46 Early Head Start enrollment slots during the 2009/10 school year.⁵

School Readiness

Research shows that children who have the early learning skills that allow them to be prepared for kindergarten perform better on standardized tests in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The DIBELS and the AIMSweb assessments are two methods to measure children's readiness for kindergarten. In the 2010/11 school year, there were 864 kindergarten students in Flagstaff School District, 36 in Williams School District, and 19 in Maine School District.⁶

- » According to DIBELS assessments, 24% of kindergarten students were at grade level in the Williams School District in 2010/11. 6% were at grade level in the Maine School District in 2009/10 (the most recent data available).⁷
- » 52% of kindergarten students were at grade level in Flagstaff School District in 2010/11, according to AIMSweb assessments.⁷

School Success

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

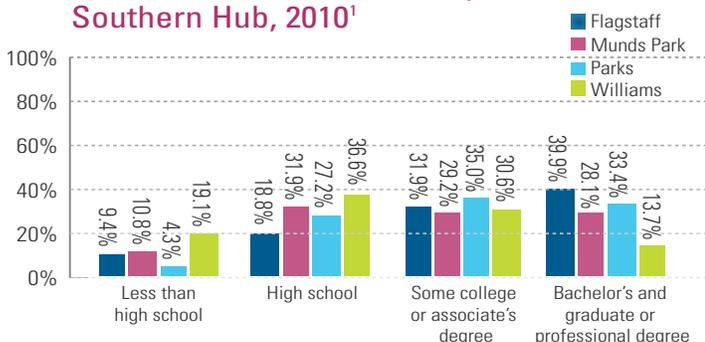
- » 88% of 3rd grade students met or exceeded AIMS reading standards in the Maine School District, followed by 75% in the Flagstaff School District, and 64% in the Williams School District in 2011.⁸

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.

- » 81% of students in Flagstaff School District graduated from high school as compared to 77% in the Williams School District in 2010.⁹
- » 19% of the population 25 years and older in Williams had not completed high school, compared to less than 10% in Flagstaff and 4% in Parks.¹

Educational Attainment, 25 years and older, Southern Hub, 2010¹





Special Needs

Developmental screenings including vision, cognitive, and hearing screenings are an important practice to ensure children’s optimal growth. 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. The Southern Hub houses the majority of Special Needs service providers in the region.

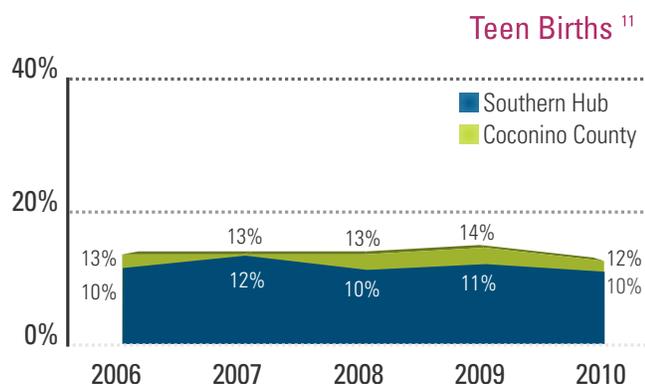
- 8% of parent survey respondents in the Southern Hub reported having a child with a special need in 2010.¹⁰
- There were nearly 100 children enrolled in preschool with a disability in the Flagstaff School District and 9 enrolled in Williams School District in 2010/11.⁷

The Health of Mothers and Babies

In the Coconino Region overall and in the Southern Hub, the number of births has decreased steadily since a peak birth rate in 2007. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings impact both fertility and birth outcomes. There were 1,136 children born to mothers in the Southern Hub in 2010, representing nearly 70% of all births in the Coconino Region.

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.

- 90% of mothers in the Southern Hub received prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy in 2010, which is higher than the Coconino Region overall (85%).¹¹
- 9% of mothers had babies born at less than 5.5 pounds in the Southern Hub in 2010.¹¹



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.

- 10% of births in the Southern Hub were to teen mothers under the age of 20, which was lower than the Coconino Region overall.¹¹

Summary

In general, children and families in the Southern Hub appear to be struggling in regards to income, early childhood, and school readiness. Thankfully, the Southern Hub has many of the resources and supports the Coconino Region has to offer, with a higher number of child care and health service providers. However, the discrepancies in available resources between urban and rural areas of the hub demand greater recognition and outreach efforts to support those who may be unable to access those services.

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 NACOG Head Start, 2011 Correspondence with NACOG Council Representative.
- ⁶ Arizona Department of Education, 2011 Research and Evaluation Section.
- ⁷ First Things First Coconino Region School Districts, 2011 Correspondence with District Representatives.
- ⁸ Arizona Department of Education, 2011 School Report Cards.
- ⁹ Arizona Department of Education, 2012 Graduation Rates.
- ¹⁰ Applied Survey Research, 2010 First Things First Coconino Region: Survey for Parents With Children Ages Birth Through Five.
- ¹¹ Arizona Department of Health Services, 2011 Health Status and Vital Statistics.

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