



2012

**NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT**

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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July 29, 2012

The past two years have continued to be rewarding for the First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council as we have 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 through the implementation of Quality First, the early childhood literacy project, therapist incentives, home visitation, food security, oral health, and child care scholarships.

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities for family support, health and early learning.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Graham/Greenlee Region in 2008, 2010 and the new 2012 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 Graham/Greenlee Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets Vendor, LeCroy & Milligan Associates, for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Graham/Greenlee Region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families with the Graham/Greenlee Region.

Going forward, the First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council is committed to meeting the needs of young children by providing essential services and advocating for 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 throughout the state of Arizona.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Laurie Smith, Chair

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

**Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council**



# GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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# INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The way in which children develop from infancy to well-functioning members of society will always be an important focus of public policy. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development, which is, in turn, fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities and the state as a whole.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council provides clear data that help us to understand the region's early childhood resources and resource gaps and, moreover, points to ways in which young children and families can be further supported. The needs young children and families face in the Graham/Greenlee Region include: insufficient family support services; a lack of licensed child care facilities in some areas; geographically dispersed high rates of poverty; a shortage of preventive services; and cuts in child care assistance subsidies.

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee 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. Council strategies over the past year have included: home visitation support; provision of Quality First! child care scholarships; sponsorship of child literacy promotion projects; distribution of emergency food boxes; and community outreach.

## **Acknowledgments:**

Special thanks are due to the current and past members of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council and the Regional Director, all of whose dedication, commitment, and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Their work has contributed to the building of a truly comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire state.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council wants to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Arizona Department of Education, and the Arizona Department of Health Services for supplying a substantial portion of the data presented in this report. In particular, appreciation goes to the Arizona Department of Health Services' Health Status and Vital Statistics, which provided a broad range of important community and county level data on the health of children and mothers.



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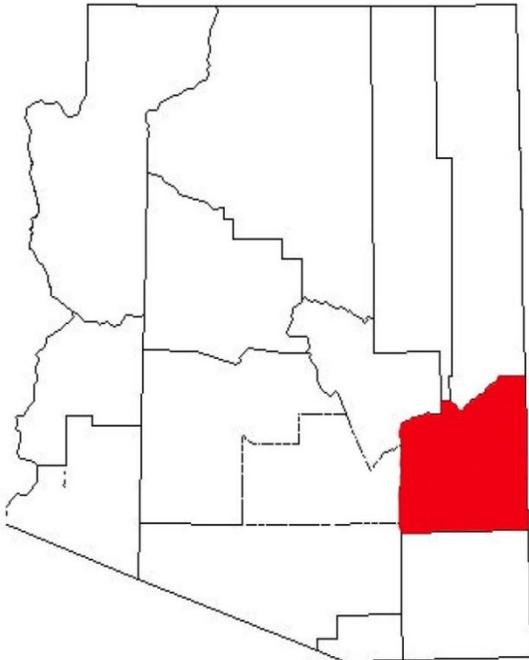
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details findings from the third Needs and Assets Assessment completed in 2012 for the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council. This assessment will be used to help guide strategic planning and funding decisions of the Regional Council for the next year. This report also includes pertinent comparisons with data from previous years to provide additional perspectives and background information on this region.

## **Region Description**

Graham and Greenlee Counties cover 6,467 square miles of south-east Arizona. Graham County is located in the Upper Gila River Valley where the San Simon River and the Gila River meet. It is located approximately 160 highway miles east of Phoenix and 125 miles northeast of Tucson. The cities of Graham County include Safford, Thatcher, Pima, and smaller surrounding communities such as Bryce, Klondyke, Solomon, Ft. Thomas, and Bonita. Greenlee County is located directly east of Graham County and includes the cities of Clifton, Morenci, and Duncan. Exhibit 1 shows the location of Graham and Greenlee Counties in the state.

*Exhibit 1. Location of Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council*



## Demographics

Graham and Greenlee Counties have a combined population of 46,657 people, with the majority (37,220) of them residing in Graham County. Approximately 5% of the population of Graham County and 8% of the population of Greenlee County is 0-5 years of age. The regions are ethnically and racially diverse, with approximately 29% of births in Graham County and 47% of births in Greenlee County to Hispanic/Latino mothers. Of the births in 2010 in Graham County, 15% were to mothers who were American Indian or Alaskan Native compared to 2% in Greenlee County. Just over half (52%) of the families in Graham County self-identify as white/Non-Hispanic, while in Greenlee County nearly half (49%) self-identify in this way. The families who make up this region are also diverse in composition. Families include a significant number of teen parents, making up 18% of births in Graham County and 16% in Greenlee County in 2010; both rates are well above the state average of 11%. In Graham County, 9% of family households are female-headed, exceeding the 7% average of the state as a whole.

## Economic Circumstances

In regard to economic circumstances, 16% of families in Graham County lived below the federal poverty line in 2010 and this percent increases to 22% for families with children under the age of 5 and 49% for single-parent, female-headed households with children under the age of 5. This suggests that female-headed households with children, particularly young children, constitute a high need population in the region. Graham and Greenlee County School Districts also show wide variability in the prevalence of poverty. It is estimated that 26% of children under 18 years of age in Graham County and 17% in Greenlee County live in poverty. The median gross annual income in Graham County was \$49,694, which is a 44% increase from 2000 to 2010. However, this number is still approximately 15% below the statewide median income of \$58,277. Data for Greenlee County, suggests that this county has a higher average income than Graham County.

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. The nation is in recovery from one of the worst economic recessions in recent history and families and children nationwide continue to be impacted. The families in Graham and Greenlee Counties are no exception. In 2007, most Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less. However, the county's overall unemployment rate rose to a high of 14.7% in 2009 before moderating to 13.5% in 2010 and 11.1% in 2011.

Slightly lower rates observed since June 2011 suggest that unemployment may be starting to moderate in Graham County. In Greenlee County, the rates rose from 3.2% in 2007 to 18.5% in 2008, but decreased in the last two years. The 2011 rate of 8.6% remains well above the 2007 pre-recession rate but is less compared to 9.1% in 2009.

The rates for the last seven months of 2011 suggest that unemployment rates in Graham and Greenlee Counties are gradually easing, although they still remain high. Unemployment rates in these counties as of December 2011 were 10.0% and 8.2%, respectively.



Net job flow data emphasizes the challenges that many families in the region are facing. In Graham County, from the fourth quarter of 2009 through the third quarter of 2010, there was a net increase of 1,784 jobs that followed three quarters of net job losses. In Greenlee County, there was a net increase of 509 jobs across the four quarters of 2010 that followed five quarters of net job losses.

Many families rely on benefits to help them survive unemployment or low income. The number of families with children ages 0-5 receiving SNAP benefits increased by 51% in Graham County and 78% in Greenlee County from January 2007 to July 2011. In most of the region's communities, 45% or more of school children are enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program. In addition, the number of children enrolled in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program increased in June 2011 in a majority of the region's communities, after showing a decrease in January 2010.

### **Educational Indicators**

Research suggests that a mother's education level can have important implications for the educational progress of their youth. From 2006 to 2010, the educational level of mothers in Graham and Greenlee Counties has mostly followed a positive trend. The percentage of mothers in Graham County with 1-4 years of college has increased from 25% in 2007 to 34% in 2010 and the percentage of mothers with at least one year of college increased dramatically from 18% in 2009 to 29% in 2010. However, the fact that 21% of mothers in both counties did not have a high school diploma in 2010 constitutes a reason for concern.

Other important educational indicators include assessments of kindergarten readiness, special education needs, standardized test scores, and graduation rates. Third grade AIMS scores reveal a great deal of variation in performance by school district, which suggests varying levels of school readiness and academic progress in these counties. As a whole, 69% of Graham County and 63% of Greenlee County students met or exceeded academic targets in math in 2011; further, 78% and 85%, respectively, met or exceeded targets in reading. Math scores for 2011 have dropped compared to 2009 figures, when 74% in Graham County and 81% in Greenlee County met or exceeded targets. On the other hand, reading scores in 2011 show improvement over 2009 scores when 77% and 76%, respectively, of students met or exceeded targets.

Two of the largest groups of students with special education needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Data shows that the highest concentration of children ages 3-5 years with an IEP is in Safford Unified School District. This school district also has the highest concentration of preschool and elementary ELL students.

High school graduation rates show longer term outcomes for students enrolled in these districts. The Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely over time, both within schools and across schools. From 2005 to 2010, a movement of 10% or more in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. For example, the rate at Clifton High School was 8% in 2009 and 38% in 2010. In a single year, 2009, high school graduation rates in Graham/Greenlee Region ranged from 47%



for Mt. Graham High School to 97% for Morenci Junior/Senior High School. However, for most of 2005 to 2010, Morenci Jr./Sr. H.S., Safford H.S., and Thatcher H.S. had a graduation rate of near or above 90%.

### **Early Care and Education**

A majority of children from birth to six years of age in the United States participate in regular, out of home child care, which highlights the importance of ensuring quality care for positive early childhood development and youth outcomes. There is one nationally accredited early care and education center in the Graham/Greenlee Region, the same number as in 2010 but down from two in 2008. There were also a total of 10 licensed child care facilities in the Graham/Greenlee Region, down from 12 in 2010. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 523 children. The largest percentage (51%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Morenci (19%), Duncan (12%), Pima (11%), and Clifton (7%). The data suggests that some areas in the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities and, therefore, efforts to promote increased licensure are warranted.

Examination of child care assistance data by Graham and Greenlee County zip codes reveals large decreases from 2010 levels in both numbers of families and children receiving child care assistance and percentages of eligible families and children that received assistance. In January 2011, 76 out of 97 eligible families (78%) and 108 out of 136 eligible children (79%) received child care assistance. In July 2011, the number of both eligible and receiving families further decreased, however a higher percentage of eligible families were receiving assistance. A total of 75 out of 79 eligible families (95%) and 110 out of 116 eligible children (95%) were receiving assistance as of July 2011. The State of Arizona started turning away eligible families and placing them on a waiting list in February 2009. Examination of 2010 and 2011 wait list data for child care assistance shows that the number of families and children on wait lists in Graham County was lower in January and July 2011 than the total in 2010. However, that number did not further decrease across the two 2011 time points.

### **Family Support Programs**

Family Support is a broad system of programs, services, and collaborations designed with the goal of helping families function to their potential. Family support programs and services approach this goal in a variety of ways.

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services currently available in the region and their knowledge of child development. Most (95%) of Graham and Greenlee region parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, approximately 43% of parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and families work together and communicate. A majority (75% or more) of parents surveyed in the region agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate the services they needed and that the services they received were very good. However, 30%-40% of parents did not feel the services met all their families' needs and felt that they only received services after their needs were qualified as severe.



Approximately 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services. While suggesting some concerns with service access and availability, most of these percentages are below the statewide figures. Larger percentages of the region's parents answered correctly on 11 of 22 questions concerning child development on the survey than did parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed in the Graham and Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development.

### *Child Abuse/Neglect, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice*

The number of reports and substantiations of child abuse can indicate an increased need for family support. The number of reports of child abuse in the Graham and Greenlee region fluctuated from October 2008 to October 2010, ranging from 86 to 98 reports for each six-month period in Graham County and 12 to 20 in Greenlee County. The number of new removals from the home ranged from one to eight for each six month period for Graham County, with the highest number being for the most recent period. For Greenlee County, the number of new removals for the five reported periods ranged from zero to three, with one occurring in the most recent 6-month period.

Foster care families and youth in the juvenile justice system may require specific services or support. According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's most recent report, no children in Graham County entered out-of-home care that had prior placements in the previous 12 months (a decrease a year earlier) and only two children entered out-of-home care who had a prior placement in the previous 12 to 24 months. For Greenlee County, no children entering out-of-home care were reported during this time frame. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 313 juveniles in Graham County and 82 juveniles in Greenlee County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2010. Of these youth, less than half (41%) received standard probation. Approximately 16% of cases were dismissed, one case received a penalty only, 7% entered Juvenile Intensive Probation Services, and 3% were committed to ADJC. The number of young people in a region's juvenile justice system may to some degree be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development and programs in a region.

### **Health Coverage and Utilization**

With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. The most critical factor affecting the number of children enrolled in KidsCare has been the statewide freeze on KidsCare enrollment, which was in effect from January 1, 2010 to May 1, 2012. No new applications for KidsCare were processed during that period; only renewals were accepted. Furthermore, eligible families that applied for KidsCare after the freeze were placed on a waiting list. Data show that from February 2008 to February 2012, KidsCare enrollment decreased by 78% in Graham County and 70% in Greenlee County. Arizona experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidsCare enrollment of 81%, from 63,580 children enrolled in 2008 to 12,147 enrolled in 2012. This drop in enrollment most likely reflects program cutbacks than a decreased need for services.



Renewed enrollment in KidsCare, now known as KidsCare2, began on May 1, 2012 as a result of new funding from three large Arizona hospitals. It is likely that some of the children on the waiting list who reside in this region will be enrolled in the program.

## Healthy Births

A mother's lifestyle while pregnant, as well as her access to and utilization of prenatal and perinatal care, have important short and long-term implications for the health of her child. It is recommended that a woman access monthly medical care from the beginning of her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2010 show that the region was below the state average in the percentage of women who received more than nine visits during pregnancy. However, slightly fewer women in these counties reported no prenatal visits, as compared to the statewide average.

Teen mothers often face added pre-natal and perinatal challenges. Teen birth rates are higher in Graham and Greenlee communities than state and national averages. Overall, there were 35 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in this region. Over half of these births were paid for by public health insurance.

Examining 2010 data on prenatal practices of pregnant women and characteristics of births, the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably to the state as a whole. More than twice as many women in the region use tobacco during pregnancy than the state as a whole. Births with abnormal conditions are almost three times more likely to occur in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in Arizona. However, the rate for infants admitted to newborn intensive care units was lower than the statewide rate in both counties.

Low birth-weight babies are at risk for serious health problems that may affect their life-long health. In 2010, the percentage of babies born in the region classified as low birth-weight newborns did not differ significantly from the state average of 7%. In Graham County, 5% of babies born in 2010 were classified as low birth-weight newborns and 10% of babies were classified as such in Greenlee County.

## Other Health Indicators

Immunizations are shown to be a health measure with the most important contributions to public health in the past century. For most immunizations of children ages 15-59 months, both Graham and Greenlee Counties are at or above state immunization rates. Data for children ages 12-24 months old who received the 3:2:2:2 vaccination series show there was large variation in completion, ranging from 49% in zip code 85540 (Morenci) to 100% in 85536 (Ft. Thomas). In a majority of zip codes, 61% to 76% of children ages 12-24 months received a complete series of vaccines.

Developmental screening is another family health practice that is essential to ensure that children grow and develop optimally. From 2008-2010, the percentage of infants and toddlers who received Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) was slightly higher in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in the rest of Arizona.



Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, however, many deaths still occur that are the result of preventable injuries. In Graham County, two child deaths were reported in 2010, the cause of one child death was a motor vehicle accident and a second due to accidental drowning or submersion. In Greenlee County, no deaths were reported in 2010 for children ages one to 14.

For the years of 2004 to 2010, the most common causes of childhood death in the region were motor vehicle accidents, accidental drowning or submersion, and congenital malformations.

Hospital admittance for asthma issues may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. In 2010, a total of 35 youth ages zero to 15 years old received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in the Graham/Greenlee Region.

In 2008, the First Things First Family and Community Survey asked parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties to report on the ways they keep up-to-date on their child's health. Parents in all localities most frequently reported keeping up to date through either scheduled immunizations or during a doctor's visit. Numerous parents in the region noted that they did not have health insurance and, therefore, primarily dealt with emergencies as they arose rather than seeking preventive care.



# DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF THE GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION

## I. General Population Trends

Prior to examining the well-being of children and families in the Graham/Greenlee Region, it is important to consider the demographic makeup of these populations. Demographic data offer descriptive information about a region that can help to inform an analysis of needs, assets, and trends. Important demographics to examine include: number of families and children living in the region; change in population over the last 10 years; and notable trends in specific sub-regions of the county. This information is provided in the following sections. Whenever possible, data are presented for children aged zero to five, the target population for the First Things First initiatives. All data presented are the most current and reliable information available at the time of this publication. For an assessment of population trends, data from the 2010 Needs and Assets report, as well as from previous years, is included as appropriate. In some instances, data from multiple sources is included, based on the years of data that are available from a given source, reliability of sources, and other considerations. Rationale for inclusion of multiple data sources is noted where applicable.

### Overall Population

In 2010, the total population estimate for all ages in Graham County was 37,220 people. Greenlee County had a significantly smaller population, with only 8,437 in 2010. Differences in population sizes suggest that specific needs and assets may exist for each county. For example, residents in less populated regions may be challenged by a limited number of services available within the community and a lack of public transportation. It will be important to consider the possibility of these regional differences throughout this Needs and Assets report.

*Exhibit 2. Population, All Ages, 2000-2010*

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	32,629	33,286	34,736	36,204	37,045	37,220
Greenlee County	7,292	7,465	7,760	8,058	8,041	8,437
Arizona	5,974,834	6,192,100	6,362,241	6,499,377	6,595,778	6,392,017
U.S.	295,753,151	298,593,212	301,579,895	304,374,846	307,006,550	308,745,538

*Note.* From *County population, population change and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009*; *Population, population change and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009*, U.S. Census Population Estimates Program; *Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1)*, United States Census Bureau.



### Overall Population Growth

As noted in Exhibit 3, from 2000 to 2010 Graham County experienced an estimated 11% increase in population. The population in Greenlee County is estimated to have declined by 1% during the same time frame. The population of the two counties together increased by 9%. This growth rate is slightly below the national average of 10% for 2000-2010. While figures are not yet available, it is likely that both Graham and Greenlee Counties have experienced population growth since 2010.

*Exhibit 3. Change in Population, All Ages, 2000-2010*

	2000	2010	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2010)
Graham County	33,489	37,220	+11%
Greenlee County	8,547	8,437	-1%
Arizona	5,130,632	6,392,017	+25%
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	+10%

*Note.* From County population, population change and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (CO-EST2009-alldata), United States Census Population Estimates; Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000 Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data and Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1), United States Census Bureau. 2000 and 2010 data are from the Decennial Census.

### Population Growth by Town

Towns for which data are available in Graham and Greenlee Counties had greatly varying rates of growth from 2000 to 2011. All towns in Graham County for which data are available showed an increase in population over the period, ranging from 5% for Safford to 23% for Thatcher. During the same 11-year span, Clifton, the largest town in Greenlee County, saw a 26% increase in population, while Duncan saw a 14% decrease. Morenci, for which only 2000 and 2010 data are available, showed a 21% decrease in population over the 10-year period. These findings suggest that while towns across Graham County have been steadily increasing in population, in Greenlee County only the town of Clifton has experienced an increase in population since 2000, while other towns saw a significant decrease in population.

*Exhibit 4. Change in Population by Locality*

	2000	2010	2011	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2011)	PERCENT CHANGE (2010-2011)
<b>Graham County</b>					
Pima	1,989	2,387	2,418	+22%	+1%
Safford	9,232	9,566	9,685	+5%	+1%
Thatcher	4,022	4,865	4,943	+23%	+2%
County Total	33,489	37,220	37,710	+13%	+1%



	2000	2010	2011	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2011)	PERCENT CHANGE (2010-2011)
<b>Greenlee County</b>					
Clifton	2,596	3,311	3,273	+26%	-1%
Duncan	812	696	699	-14%	+<1%
Morenci	1,879	1,489	NA	-21%*	NA
County Total	8,547	8,437	8,380	-2%	-<1%

Note. From *Incorporated place and minor civil division population dataset (SUB-EST2009\_AL\_MO)*, *United States Census Population Estimates Program; Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1)* and *Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000; Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data*, United States Census Bureau.

NA = not available \*This percentage is based on change from 2000 to 2010 rather than 2011. All 2011 data are estimates from the Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment and Population Statistics.

### Early Childhood Population and Population Growth

First Things First calculates estimates for the number of children ages 0 to 5 years in each region, primarily for the purpose of funding allocations. These numbers provide the most accurate estimate of young children living within the Graham and Greenlee Regional Partnership Council boundaries. Exhibit 5 shows that from 2000 to 2009 the Graham and Greenlee region saw an overall 7% increase in the number of children in this age group. Furthermore, this population increased in this region by 16% from 2008 to 2009.

#### *Exhibit 5. Change in Graham/Greenlee Population Ages 0-5, 2000-2009*

2000	2008	2009	NET CHANGE 2000-2009	NET CHANGE 2008-2009
3,372	3,107	3,614	+7%	+16%

Note. From *First Things First Fiscal Year 2010 Population and Potential Discretionary Allocations – Final; Final Board Approved – Table IV – Proposed FY 2011 Regional Allocations*, First Things First.

In addition to the regional under-5 population data supplied by First Things First, data regarding children ages 0-5 is available from other sources. Exhibit 6 shows that from 2000 to 2010, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 23% in Graham County and decreased by 7% in Greenlee County. During the same period, the population of children increased 19% statewide.



*Exhibit 6. Change in Population, Children Under 5 Years Old, 2000-2010*

	2000	2010	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2010)
Graham County	2,604	3,215	+23%
Greenlee County	708	655	-7%
Arizona	382,386	455,715	+19%
United States	19,175,798	20,201,362	+5%

*Note.* From *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (cc-est 2009-ageses-04)*; Table 2. *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Age for Arizona: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009(SC-EST2009-02-04[1])*; *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Groups for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (NC-EST2009-01)*, United States Census Population Estimates.

Children ages 0-5 as a percentage of the population varies across the region. However, as Exhibit 7 demonstrates, all of the region's larger towns showed positive growth within a 9% to 11% range.

*Exhibit 7. Under 5 Population by Locality, 2010*

	POPULATION	UNDER 5 POPULATION	UNDER 5 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION
<b>Graham County</b>			
Bryce	175	16	9%
Ft. Thomas	374	19	5%
Pima	2,387	261	11%
Safford	9,566	878	9%
Solomon	426	32	8%
Thatcher	4,865	425	9%
<b>Greenlee County</b>			
Clifton	3,311	317	10%
Duncan	696	35	5%
Morenci	1,489	130	9%

*Note.* From *Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1)*, United States Census Bureau.

*Other Information*

It is essential that the estimate of population size and growth in this region be considered within the context of the current economic conditions. The numbers presented in the section above include data through 2010, the most current year for which accurate information is available. This population data was collected in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns seen in the United States in recent history. Although the state is in a period of economic recovery, it is possible that dire economic conditions have and will continue to impact parts of this region. Economic indicators collected on a more frequent basis are reviewed later in this report.



## II. Additional Population Characteristics

Significant research has been done on child maltreatment, resilience, and wellness in an effort to understand what factors contribute to both positive and negative outcomes for youth. Most factors are categorized into societal, community, family/parent, and child specific risk and protective factors. Increasingly, research suggests that it is a complex inter-play of these factors that impacts early childhood outcomes (Braveman, Sadegh-Nobari, & Egerter, 2008; Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, 2005).

While no single factor has been found to predict poor outcomes, all of these factors are important to consider in assessing the needs and assets of a region.

Demographic data on family characteristics provides important contextual information about family factors that might impact early childhood outcomes. Thus, this section of the report includes additional information on the racial/ethnic makeup, immigrant and tribal status, family composition, language use, and other relevant characteristics of people in the Graham/Greenlee region.

While many family factors are not directly impacted by program efforts, they still inform specific risks or needs that exist in communities. For example, in some studies parent household structure has been correlated with the likelihood of child abuse in the household, with single parent household at an increased risk (Oliver, Kuhns, & Pomeranz, 2006; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003). This information may also help to inform the need to target programs and services to specific cultural groups or sub-populations. For example, a high percent of Hispanic families in a region might suggest the importance of offering a parenting program/curriculum to young mothers that uses culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and activities (Espinosa, 1995; Hyslop, 2000; Santos & Reese, 1999; Worthington et al., 2011). Whenever possible, data is included for children ages zero to five, as this is the target population for First Things First initiatives. The data presented is the most current and reliable information available at the time of this publication.

### Racial/Ethnic Group

Residents in the Graham/Greenlee Region are ethnically and racially diverse, although there are noticeable differences in the racial/ethnic breakdown between Graham County and Greenlee County and between both counties and the state. The 2010 U.S. Census found that 52% of the Graham County population was white, non-Hispanic and 30% was Hispanic. Graham County's percentage of Native Americans (14%) far surpassed the percentage of Native Americans statewide (4%). Greenlee County's population was largely split between white, non-Hispanic (48%) and Hispanics (48%). Greenlee's percentage of Hispanic exceeds that of Arizona by 18%.



*Exhibit 8. Race/Ethnicity, All Ages, 2010*

	AMER. INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE ALONE	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	WHITE, NOT HISPANIC
Graham	14%	<1%	2%	30%	<1%	<1%	1%	52%
Greenlee	2%	<1%	<1%	48%	<1%	0%	<1%	48%
Arizona	4%	3%	4%	30%	<1%	<1%	2%	58%
U.S.	<1%	5%	12%	16%	<1%	<1%	2%	64%

*Note.* From 2010 Census, *Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1)*, United States Census Bureau.

Approximately half of births in Graham and Greenlee Counties in 2010 were to mothers who identified as white, non-Hispanic; both counties had a higher percent of births to white, non-Hispanic mothers than the state of Arizona. In Graham County, 29% of 2010 births were to Hispanic/ Latina mothers, a slight decrease from 32% recorded in 2008. In contrast, 47% of births in 2010 in Greenlee County were to Hispanic/Latino mothers, as compared to 42% in 2008. In 2010, 15% of births were from mothers who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, a slight increase from the 13% recorded in 2008. These figures are much higher than the 2% reported for Greenlee County and 7% reported statewide.



*Exhibit 9. Race/Ethnicity of Mothers, 2008 and 2010*

	WHITE, NON-HISPANIC		HISPANIC OR LATINA		BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
Graham County	348 (54%)	287 (54%)	204 (32%)	156 (29%)	5 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Greenlee County	67 (51%)	51 (49%)	55 (42%)	49 (47%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Arizona	41,925 (42%)	38,777 (45%)	42,639 (43%)	34,333 (39%)	4,301 (4%)	4,328 (5%)
United States	2,273,220 (53%)	2,161,669 (54%)	1,038,933 (24%)	946,000 (24%)	625,314 (15%)	589,139 (15%)

	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE		ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER		OTHER / UNKNOWN	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
Graham County	84 (13%)	81 (15%)	2 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	NA
Greenlee County	4 (3%)	2 (2%)	3 (2%)	2 (2%)	1 (<1%)	NA
Arizona	6,362 (6%)	5,815 (7%)	3,425 (3%)	3,293 (4%)	563 (<1%)	507 (<1%)
United States	49,540 (1%)	46,760 (1%)	253,396 (6%)	246,915 (6%)	NA	NA

*Note.* From *Births by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Child's Gender and County of Residence, Arizona, 2009*, Arizona Department of Health Services, *Health Status and Vital Statistics*; Table 3. *Births, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2008*, Table 3. *Births, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2010*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A category for Other/Unknown data was not included in 2010.

### Immigrant Status

An immigrant family is defined as one in which at least one parent is foreign-born. Even though many of the children in immigrant families are citizens, these children face unique challenges compared to their peers. Research suggests that children from immigrant families are less likely to be prepared to start kindergarten (Glick & Hohmann Marriott, 2007; Han 2008; Reardon & Galindo, 2009; Crosnoe 2010). In addition, mothers of immigrant families may lack access to or feel uncomfortable, because of language barriers, accessing preventive health care (such as prenatal care), which has been shown to positively impact youth outcomes (Capps, Ku, & Fix, 2002; Regenstein, Cummings, & Huang, 2005; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012). Additionally, foreign-born individuals may not seek services for themselves or their children in fear of having their immigration status questioned, even if they are legal citizens.

Changes made to Arizona immigration laws in 2010 may have additional implications for service utilization by immigrant families. The Act entitled Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods (SB 1070), which is currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court, allows law enforcement officials to question individuals for whom they have reason to believe may be in the country illegally.



Some sources suggest that many individuals and families in Arizona are seeking services in other states or not accessing services because they are afraid of this legislation (González, 2011; Reese & Sakal, 2011; Tyler, 2010). The full implications of this law on service access, availability, and utilization is not yet known.

It is estimated that about 577,000 people in Arizona are foreign-born, non-U.S. citizens (American Community Survey, 2010). The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2008) estimated that Arizona ranked seventh in the nation for births to foreign-born mothers (29%). Further, the National Center for Children in Poverty (2009) projected that 73% of Arizona children from immigrant parents live in low-income families, as compared to 40% of children from native-born parents.

It is likely that these figures are under-estimated; immigrant families living illegally in the U.S. may avoid participation in the Census, limit their access to services where their information would be documented, and minimize their involvement in any system that could result in deportation.

The American Community Survey estimated average from 2008 to 2010 indicates that 96% of people in Graham County are native-born, U.S. Citizens; 1% are foreign-born, naturalized citizens; and 3% are foreign-born, non U.S. citizens. The percentage of Graham County residents that is native-born is larger than 86% statewide. These data are not available for Greenlee County.

*Exhibit 10. Population by Citizenship Status, 3 Year average 2008-2010*

	NATIVE-BORN, U.S. CITIZEN	FOREIGN-BORN, NATURALIZED CITIZEN	FOREIGN-BORN, NOT U.S. CITIZEN
Graham County	35,434 (96%)	509 (1%)	1,148 (3%)
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	5,472,752 (86%)	295,205 (5%)	577,794 (9%)
United States	267,399,163 (87%)	17,054,898 (6%)	22,284,372 (7%)

*Note. From Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates.*

### Family Composition

The structure of American families has changed over the past few decades. Many families no longer consist of a traditional mother/father household. Instead, many are single-parent households, teenage mothers caring for their children, or grandparents or other relative as caregivers (AARP, 2010; Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount Data Center, n.d.; Teachman, Tedrow, & Crowder, 2000). The full impact of different family arrangements on youth is not fully known. Some studies have shown that children of teenage mothers are at increased risk for physical and cognitive problems compared to children born to older mothers.



Higher poverty rates for single mothers are also well-documented and economic hardships is linked to limited access to educational resources, strained family relationships, and other factors associated with teen parents (Cornelius et al., 2009; Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, 2008).

The number of families for which grandparents are raising their grandchildren is also increasing. Grandparents as caregivers may require unique resources and face certain parenting challenges. One consideration is that youth often enter the care of their grandparent due to negative circumstances related to their biological parents, such as the death of a parent or drug and alcohol abuse. This situation, which may contribute to increased risk factors for youth under care by their grandparents (Williams, 2011).

The following section details the composition of families Graham and Greenlee Counties. The U.S. Census defines a household as including “all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.” A “family household” is composed of “a householder [i.e. “head of household”] and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.” Individuals living in a household who are not related to the householder are not counted as part of their family. Some family households have children, while others do not. It is important to consider specific support needs of different family types in order to help ensure positive outcomes for all youth. Exhibit 11 shows that 22% of family households in Graham County and 21% in Greenlee County were composed of married couples and their children. Female-headed households constituted 9% of family households in Graham County, somewhat higher than 7% statewide. Greenlee County’s percentage of female-headed households (5% each) is lower than both Graham County and statewide. Graham County’s higher concentration of female-headed households with children may require additional deployment of the region’s resources.

*Exhibit 11. Makeup of Family Households with Own Children Birth to 18 Years of Age, 2010*

	HUSBAND-WIFE HOUSEHOLDS	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD, NO HUSBAND PRESENT	MALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD, NO WIFE PRESENT
Graham County	2,483 (22%)	949 (9%)	373 (3%)
Greenlee County	671 (21%)	168 (5%)	169 (5%)
Arizona	465,120 (20%)	169,397 (7%)	71,914 (3%)
United States	23,588,268 (20%)	8,365,912 (7%)	2,789,424 (2%)

*Note.* From *Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1)*, United States Census Bureau. Percentages refer to total number of households, including households without children under 18 years of age. Percentages for each of the geographic divisions (i.e., Graham County, Greenlee County, Arizona, and the United States) do not add up to 100% because data are not included for family households without children under years of age present or for non-family households.



### Grandparents as Caregivers

Some grandparents serve as a primary caregiver for one or more grandchildren, meaning they are responsible for most of their basic needs. Exhibit 12 shows that 57% of Graham County grandparents and 76% of Greenlee County grandparents living with adult children and grandchildren have assumed primary caregiving responsibility for their grandchildren. These percentages exceed the statewide rate of 41%.

Moreover, of grandparents serving as primary caregivers 30% in Graham County and 35% in Greenlee County have been doing so for 5 or more years, far exceeding the statewide rate of 14% of grandparents as long-term primary caregivers.

Potential needs of grandparents acting as primary caregivers of their grandchildren are noteworthy of the Regional Council.

*Exhibit 12. Grandparents with Full Responsibility for Grandchildren, 5 Year Average 2005-2009*

	GRANDPARENTS LIVING WITH ADULT CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN	GRANDPARENTS LIVING WITH, RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN	YEARS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN			
			<1	1-2	3-4	5+
Graham County	1,292	737 (57%)	144 (11%)	81 (6%)	123 (10%)	389 (30%)
Greenlee County	124	94 (76%)	38 (31%)	0 (0%)	13 (11%)	43 (35%)
Arizona	144,237	59,231 (41%)	13,986 (10%)	13,455 (9%)	10,951 (8%)	20,839 (14%)

*Note.* From *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2005-2009, American Community Survey 2005-2009 5-Year Estimates*. Data regarding grandparents in Graham and Greenlee Counties who were responsible for their grandchildren were not available from the American Community Survey 2010 Estimates and 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates.

### Teen Parents

Exhibit 13 shows that the percentage of teen births has ranged from 15% to 21% in Graham County and 12% to 22% in Greenlee County from 2004 to 2010. In contrast, the percentage of teen births statewide has been gradually decreasing since 2007. As of 2010, 18% of births in Graham County and 16% in Greenlee County are from teenage mothers, far exceeding the 11% rate statewide.



**Exhibit 13. Number of Teen Births, 2004-2010**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	69 (15%)	67 (15%)	105 (19%)	122 (21%)	102 (16%)	110 (17%)	94 (18%)
Greenlee County	21 (21%)	18 (18%)	17 (15%)	16 (12%)	23 (18%)	29 (22%)	17 (16%)
Arizona	11,863 (12%)	11,933 (12%)	12,916 (13%)	12,972 (13%)	12,161 (12%)	10,952 (12%)	9,428 (11%)

Note. From *Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2000-2009*; *Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2010*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics.

As the table below shows, the majority of teen births in both counties from 2008-2010 were to 18-19 year olds, followed by 15-17 year olds, with few to no births for teens under 15 years old. However, in two of the three years reported, the percentage of births to 15-17 year olds in Greenlee County was at least twice that of the state. Additionally, in 2010 the percentage of births to 18-19 year olds in Graham County (13%) was almost double the statewide rate (7%). Increased outreach and/or prevention efforts targeting high school age teens could be a useful addition to county services.

**Exhibit 14. Number of Teen Births by Age Sub-group, 2008-2010**

	<15 YEARS OLD			15-17 YEARS OLD		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	0 (0%)	25 (4%)	31 (5%)	26 (5%)
Greenlee County	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	10 (8%)	8 (6%)	8 (8%)
Arizona	161 (<1%)	132 (<1%)	106 (<1%)	4,151 (4%)	3,501 (4%)	2,921 (3%)
United States	5,764 (<1%)	5,029 (<1%)	4,500 (<1%)	135,664 (3%)	124,247 (3%)	109,193 (3%)
	18-19 YEARS OLD			TOTAL TEEN BIRTHS*		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	74 (11%)	76 (12%)	68 (13%)	102 (16%)	110 (17%)	94 (18%)
Greenlee County	13 (10%)	21 (16%)	8 (8%)	23 (18%)	29 (22%)	17 (16%)
Arizona	7,849 (8%)	7,309 (8%)	6,401 (7%)	12,161 (12%)	10,942 (12%)	9,428 (11%)
United States	299,094 (7%)	285,555 (7%)	258,559 (6%)	440,552 (10%)	414,831 (10%)	372,252 (9%)

Note. From *Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2000-2009*; *Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2010*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. Percentages are computed based on the total number of 1) 2008 births in Graham County (644), Greenlee County (131), Arizona (99,215), and the United States (4,251,095); 2009 births in Graham County (645), Greenlee County (130), Arizona (92,616), and the United States (4,130,665); 2010 births in Graham County (530), Greenlee County (105), Arizona (87,053), and the United States (4,000,279). Percentages are based on the total number births to women of all ages, not only births to teenage mothers.



## Language Usage

Aside from English, Spanish is the most commonly spoken language in Arizona because of the state's close proximity to the Mexican border and large Hispanic/Latino population. Other languages spoken in Arizona include several Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache. Studies suggest that Hispanics for whom English is their second language continue to lag behind those for whom English is their first language on several educational measures. One study found that Hispanic students who did not have a basic understanding and knowledge of oral English prior to entering kindergarten achieved lower marks in reading and math by the end of 5th grade (Reardon & Galindo, 2009).

Another study stressed the importance of proficiency in English on the development of reading skills by children from households that spoke a language other than English. Children proficient in English at entrance to kindergarten demonstrated greater success in reading skill development throughout elementary school, compared to their counterparts who had limited English proficiency (Kieffer, 2008).

A more recent case study utilized several tools to better support these students, including a thorough language skill assessment aligned with academic content standards, a "menu" of individualized program models, and referring families to support resources (Marietta & Brookover, 2011). These studies suggest that English language learners are in need of both high quality and individualized early childhood education to help them achieve to the same extent as native English speakers.

While data is not available for Greenlee County, 21% of the population 5 years of age and older in Graham County speak a language other than English at home, substantially lower than the statewide rate of 27%. Of those in Graham County who speak a language other than English at home, 7% reported speaking English "less than well," up from 5% reported in the American Community Survey's 2005-2008 3-Year Estimate.

*Exhibit 15. Language Spoken at Home, Population 5 Years of Age and Older, 3 Year Average 2008-2010*

	ONLY ENGLISH	LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	SPANISH	SPEAK ENGLISH "LESS THAN WELL" **
Graham County	79%	21%	15%*	7%
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	73%	27%	21%	11%
United States	80%	20%	13%	9%

*Note.* From *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States (DP02)*, American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates. Percentages are based on the following estimated 5 years of age and older populations: Graham County – 33,936; Arizona – 5,881,732; United States – 286,534,051. \* This percentage is included in the percentage reported for "Languages other than English." \*\*All individuals who reported speaking a language other than English (including Spanish) indicate their English-speaking ability based on one of the following categories: "Very well," "Well," "Not well," or "Not at all."



### III. Economic Circumstances

Recovery from the 2007 U.S. recession continues to be slow, especially in certain geographic areas. A high nationwide unemployment rate of 8.3% suggests that numerous families remain without the wages needed to support their families (U.S. Department of Labor, 2012). Moreover, the percentage of unemployed persons who have been looking for work for more than two years has increased so much that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has extended this indicator to five years.

The Bureau estimated that in the fourth quarter of 2010, 11% of unemployed people had been looking for work for more than two years (U.S. Department of Labor, 2010).

The effects of economic hardship can extend beyond a reduction in family household income to include complications to health and well-being. Some mental health professionals have reported a growing need for services (Collier, 2009). Likewise, doctors have reported more cases of alcohol abuse, drug overdose, mental health problems, and physical problems such as abdominal and chest pain associated with stress. Families may also avoid accessing services such as dental or eye care if they lack access to health insurance. Non-profit support service providers have also reported an increase in service-users that exhibit signs of anxiety and frustration from economic stress (Reardon, 2009). Another study also found that the academic performance of children can be negatively impacted by parental unemployment or unstable employment (Adrian & Contz, 2010).

Studies have also shown that household food insecurity rates have increased alongside economic hardship (Houshyar & McHugh, 2010; March, Cook & Ettinger de Cuba, 2009; Szabo, 2010). Houshyar and McHugh of the First Focus Foundation for Child Development reported that in 2008, one year into the recession, 21% of households with children were estimated to be food insecure, the highest percentage observed since 1995 when yearly measurement started. Additionally, the number of children living in food insecure households increased from 17% in 2007 to 23% in 2008, making it the most dramatic spike in food insecurity since the USDA began measuring in 1995.

Federal programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are in place to help families who are experiencing economic hardships. However, these programs cannot help struggling families meet all their needs as economic recovery slowly occurs. In addition, many local service providers who are typically able to step in and meet the needs of families in their areas are struggling to keep up with an increase in demand for services. A study by the Urban Institute (2010) found that as non-profits face a greater demand for services, they have also experienced a decrease in donations and increased difficulty in obtaining government funding, often resulting in staffing cuts. Both national and local economic climates have major implications for health, child care, and educational needs of families with young children and the availability of support resources.



This section of the Needs and Assets report highlights historical and recent economic circumstances in Graham and Greenlee Counties, examining key economic indicators including the percentage of the population living below the federal poverty line, median income, unemployment rates, and net job flows.

### Children and Families Living Below Federal Poverty Level

According to the 3-year estimates from 2008 to 2010, 16% of all families living in Graham County lived below the federal poverty line, compared to 12% of families statewide. Likewise, 31% of Graham County families with young children (< 5 years) are impoverished compared to 19% statewide.

Examining family household composition by economic standing, married families with and without children are faring better in comparison to female-headed households. Only 5% of married families in Graham County and 12% of those with children are below the federal poverty level. On the other hand, 42% of female-headed households and 84% of those with young children were living below the federal poverty level, compared to 29% and 42% statewide, respectively. This data indicates that female-headed households--particularly those with children under 5 years old-- are at heightened risk for poverty and potentially have the greatest need for assistance to meet their young children's health and early education needs.

*Exhibit 16. Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level, 3 Year Average 2008-2010*

	GRAHAM COUNTY	GREENLEE COUNTY	ARIZONA
All Families	16%	NA	12%
Families with Related Children < 5 Years	31%	NA	19%
Married Couple Families	5%	NA	7%
Married Couple Families with Related Children < 5 Years	12%	NA	9%
Female-Headed Household with no Husband Present	42%	NA	29%
Female-Headed Household with no Husband Present and Related Children < 5 Years	84%	NA	44%

*Note.* From *Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months of Families, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*, United States Census Bureau.

Additional community-level data regarding children living in poverty in the Graham/Greenlee Region is provided by the U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). SAIPE's 2010 county-level estimates show that 26% of children 0-18 years old in Graham County and 17% in Greenlee County were living in poverty.



*Exhibit 17. Estimated Number of Children Living in Poverty, 2010*

	ALL AGES	UNDER 18 YEARS OLD	UNDER 5 YEARS OLD
Graham County	7,185 (22%)	2,716 (26%)	NA
Greenlee County	1,052 (13%)	399 (17%)	NA
Arizona	1,105,075 (18%)	401,664 (25%)	129,973 (29%)
United States	46,215,956 (15%)	15,749,129 (22%)	4,961,524 (25%)

Note. From *Estimates for Arizona Counties, 2010, United States Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*. NA = Not Available

SAIPE estimates for school districts show the varying levels of poverty in the region. District poverty rates for children ages 5-17 shows a low of 10% in the Duncan Unified School District and a high of 38% in the Fort Thomas Unified School District. Six of the eight school districts surveyed by SAIPE have shown an increase in the percentage of children age 5-17 who live in poverty from 2008 to 2010. In four of these districts, 20% or more of these students lived in poverty in 2010.

*Exhibit 18. Estimated Poverty for Children Age 5-17 by School District, 2008 and 2010*

	TOTAL POPULATION OF DISTRICT		CHILDREN AGE 5-17		CHILDREN AGE 5-17 IN FAMILIES IN POVERTY	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
Clifton Unified District	2,003	2,804	359	554	41(11%)	93 (17%)
Duncan Unified District	2,860	2,627	528	528	111(21%)	54 (10%)
Fort Thomas Unified District	5,531	5,219	1,557	1,347	534 (34%)	512 (38%)
Morenci Unified District	3,078	2,848	720	709	33 (5%)	112 (16%)
Pima Unified District	3,539	3,736	733	882	132 (18%)	107 (12%)
Safford Unified District	16,415	16,628	2,826	3,201	558 (20%)	774 (24%)
Solomon Elementary District	2,938	2,874	202	373	43 (21%)	113 (30%)
Thatcher Unified District	6,878	7,394	1,351	1,462	190 (14%)	331 (23%)

Note. From *Table 1: 2008 School district estimates; Table 1: 2010 School district estimates, United States Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*. Estimates are available only for school districts identified in the U.S. Census Bureau's school district mapping project. The U.S. Census states that these estimates have a confidence interval of 90%, which means the actual number may be 5% higher or lower.

School district data on economically disadvantaged students for 2010 and 2011 (Arizona Department of Education) provides another picture of the economic situation for children in the Graham/Greenlee Region. These data show that in 2011, the percent of students with an economic disadvantage surpassed 50% for the majority of zip codes. In most zip codes, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students was consistent in 2010 and 2011. However, it is unclear why in some zip codes (85540, 85543, and 86646) show large changes from year to year.



*Exhibit 19. 2010/2011 Preschool and Elementary Economic Disadvantage, Graham and Greenlee Counties*

ZIP CODE	LOCALITY	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	COUNT OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE
85531	Central	2010	no data	no data	no data
		2011	no data	no data	no data
85533	Clifton	2010	63	43	68%
		2011	no data	no data	no data
85534	Duncan	2010	206	119	58%
		2011	196	116	59%
85535	Eden	2010	no data	no data	no data
		2011	no data	no data	no data
85536	Ft. Thomas	2010	294	294	100%
		2011	295	295	100%
85540	Morenci	2010	620	280	45%
		2011	641	236	37%
85543	Pima	2010	559	85	15%
		2011	571	328	57%
85546	Safford	2010	1896	737	39%
		2011	1934	1223	63%
85551	Solomon	2010	161	99	61%
		2011	164	99	60%
85552	Thatcher	2010	751	409	54%
		2011	787	398	51%
85922	Blue	2010	6	0	0
		2011	8	0	0
Region Total		2010	3661	1624	44%
		2011	3751	2343	62%

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Education data supplied by First Things First. The Arizona Department of Education uses eligibility for free and reduced lunches as its criterion for economic disadvantage. Although the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council officially includes zip code 85548, that zip code is limited to some post office boxes in Safford. For this reason, any data from this zip code are included in those for 85546 (also in Safford) in this table and all other report tables containing zip code level data.

### Household Income

Household income serves as another useful indicator for examining the economic status of the Graham/ Greenlee Region's families. According to an American Community Survey, the average annual gross median household income for 2008-2010 in Graham County was \$49,694, a 44% increase from 2000. This increase exceeds the 25% increase statewide and 24% national increase over the same period of time. Still, the 2006-2008 Graham County median household gross annual income of \$38,714 was approximately 15% below the \$58,277 reported for the state. In Greenlee County, the annual gross median household income in 2000 was \$43,523 (7% below that of Arizona), but estimates for the 2008-2010 time period were unavailable due to the county's smaller size.



*Exhibit 20. Median Family Gross Annual Income, 2000 and 2010*

	2000	2010	PERCENT CHANGE
Graham County	\$34,417	49,694	+44%
Greenlee County	\$43,523	NA	NA
Arizona	\$46,723	58,277	+25%
United States	\$50,046	62,112	+24%

Note. From *Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights, United States Census Bureau; Selected Economic Characteristics (DP-03), American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates*. 2000 Census are in 1999 dollars.

The data presented above show that median family income in the Graham/ Greenlee Region has been well below that of the state as a whole. Further examination of median family income reveals that there are major differences in median income for families based on family type. In the table below, U.S. Census data indicate that in 2010, the median income of families with children under 18 in Graham County was \$66,088 for married couples, \$44,655 for male-headed families, and \$20,049 for female-headed families. This means that the median income of female-headed families in just 30% of the median income of married couple families. In Greenlee County, the median income of families with children under 18 was \$66,920 for married couple families, \$50,683 for male-headed families and \$26,836 for female-headed families. In Greenlee County, the median income of female-headed families was 40% of the median income of married couple families. In both communities, the data suggest, as expected, that female-headed households with children constitute a significant group in need of assistance and that children living in such households would benefit from supplemental programs.

*Exhibit 21. 2000 and 2010 Median Income of Families with Children Under 18 by Family Type*

	FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES		MALE-HEADED FAMILIES		MARRIED COUPLES	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Graham County	\$13,352	\$20,049	\$19,563	\$44,655	\$43,066	\$66,088
Greenlee County	\$16,458	\$26,836	\$34,286	\$50,683	\$48,938	\$66,920
Arizona	\$21,517	\$26,377	\$28,171	\$38,509	\$53,815	\$72,316
United States	\$20,284	\$24,383	\$29,907	\$37,157	\$59,461	\$79,557

Note. From *2006-2010 American Community Survey, 2000 U.S. Census*, U.S. Census Bureau. Median income is for the past 12 months. 2000 data are in 1999 dollars; 2010 data is in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars.



## Employment and Unemployment

A region's unemployment rate may provide the most complete and up to date picture of its economic condition because it is an indicator that has been calculated monthly for many years and the latest data is no more than 1-2 months old. Moreover, it is calculated at the community level, allowing analysis of variation in economic conditions by locality.

Examination of the 2007-2011 unemployment rates for both Graham and Greenlee counties shows the impact of the recent recession and geographic variability. Both counties follow a similar trend with low unemployment rates in 2007, a peak in 2009 and slow decline through 2011. In 2007, most Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less, with rates rising by 2%-3% in 2008. In 2009, unemployment rates continued to rise across Graham County, ranging from 10% to 14%.

Unemployment rates slowly dropped from 2010 to 2011, but remain far above 2007 rates. Across the county as a whole, excluding Native American Reservations, the unemployment rate rose from 3.2% to a peak of 11.3% in 2009 and moderated to 8.3% in 2011.

In Greenlee County, the unemployment rates in 2007 ranged from a low of 1.7% in Morenci to a high of 4.7% in Clifton. In 2008, those rates rose by 1% to 3%. Rates in 2009 in Greenlee communities increased dramatically, in one case (Morenci) almost quadrupling from 2008. By 2011, rates varied by community, ranging from a low of 4.5% in Morenci to a high of 12.4% in Clifton. Unemployment data for the region reflect the fact that economic recovery is slow and varies in scope by community.

*Exhibit 22. Unemployment Rates for Graham County and Greenlee County Localities, 2007-2011*

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Graham County	Pima	3.3%	5.3%	11.7%	10.7%	8.6%
	Safford	2.8%	4.4%	10.0%	9.1%	7.2%
	Swift Trail Junction	4.0%	6.5%	14.2%	13.0%	10.5%
	Thatcher	2.8%	4.5%	10.0%	9.2%	7.3%
	Graham County less Native American Reservations	3.2%	5.1%	11.3%	10.4%	8.3%
	Graham County Average	4.2%	6.8%	14.7%	13.5%	10.9%
Greenlee County	Clifton	4.7%	7.5%	25.4%	15.8%	12.4%
	Duncan	3.5%	5.7%	20.1%	12.1%	9.6%
	Morenci	1.7%	2.6%	10.2%	5.9%	4.5%
	Greenlee County Average	3.2%	5.1%	18.5%	11.1%	8.6%
Arizona		3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.5%	9.2%
United States		4.6%	5.8%	9.3%	9.6%	8.9%

*Note.* From *Arizona Employment Statistics Program Special Unemployment Reports, 2007-2011*, Arizona Department of Commerce, Office of Employment and Population Statistics; *Annual average unemployment rate, civilian labor force 16 years and over (percent)*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted.



Monthly 2011 data provides an even more current and detailed snapshot of unemployment rates in Graham and Greenlee Counties. Exhibit 23 shows that the unemployment rate in Graham County fluctuated during the period, with the last few months being moderately lower than in January 2011, but still ranging near or above 10%. A similar pattern holds true for Greenlee County, although the county's rate both at the beginning and end of the period was approximately 2% lower than that of Graham County.

*Exhibit 23. Unemployment Rate for Graham County and Greenlee County, January-December 2011*

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Graham County	12.5%	11.5%	11.0%	10.4%	10.4%	11.6%	11.4%	11.1%	10.2%	10.4%	9.7%	10.0%
Greenlee County	10.2%	9.5%	9.1%	9.2%	8.5%	8.6%	8.7%	8.7%	7.8%	7.4%	7.7%	8.2%
Arizona	10.0%	9.5%	9.3%	8.9%	8.8%	9.9%	9.7%	9.4%	8.9%	8.9%	8.4%	8.7%
United States	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	8.5%

*Note.* From *Arizona Employment Statistics Program Special Unemployment Reports*, Arizona Department of Commerce, Office of Employment and Population Statistic; *Local Area unemployment Statistics and Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (age 16 and over)*, United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area unemployment Statistics

Additional employment indicators may create a more detailed image of the impact of the economic recession on families in the Graham/ Greenlee Region. Exhibit 24 shows that in Graham County average monthly earnings fluctuated within a \$380 range (\$2,614-\$2,994) from the beginning of 2008 through the first three quarters of 2010. Average new hire wages trended downward through 2008 and into the first quarter of 2009, somewhat recovering since then, but not to the level of the first quarter of 2008. Net job flow refers to the balance of jobs created and lost. Graham County's net job flow, which was mostly negative from the second quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009, has since then has been positive in all reported quarters except one (2010 Quarter 1). Total employment, which steadily decreased from 10,135 in the fourth quarter of 2008 to a low of 8,355 in the third quarter of 2009, has steadily grown since that time to 10,118 in the fourth quarter of 2010.

*Exhibit 24. Key Employment Indicators for Graham County*

	2008 Q 1	2008 Q 2	2008 Q 3	2008 Q 4	2009 Q 1	2009 Q 2	2009 Q 3	2009 Q 4	2010 Q 1	2010 Q 2	2010 Q 3	2010 Q 4
Average Monthly Earnings	\$2,761	\$2,912	\$2,750	\$2,837	\$2,614	\$2,943	\$2,707	\$2,994	\$2,678	\$2,946	\$2,790	NA
Average New Hire Earnings	\$2,314	\$2,214	\$2,115	\$1,964	\$1,421	\$1,853	\$1,822	\$1,884	\$1,374	\$1,750	\$1,890	NA
Job Creation	599	616	402	1,445	310	470	408	828	315	1,602	438	NA
Net Job flows	223	-187	-224	735	-827	-744	-8	542	-1	1,169	74	NA



	2008 Q 1	2008 Q 2	2008 Q 3	2008 Q 4	2009 Q 1	2009 Q 2	2009 Q 3	2009 Q 4	2010 Q 1	2010 Q 2	2010 Q 3	2010 Q 4
New Hires	1,798	1,839	1,690	2,723	1,018	1,185	1,135	1,103	833	1,426	1,418	1,164
Separations	1,874	2,364	2,112	2,423	2,157	2,199	1,944	1,272	1,056	1,637	1,581	NA
Total Employment	10,364	10,556	9,633	10,135	10,020	9,287	8,355	8,833	8,947	9,111	9,343	10,118
Turnover	10.7%	12.4%	10.5%	10.7%	9.9%	12.9%	8.5%	8.4%	8.9%	8.2%	11.8%	NA

Note. From U.S. Census Bureau, *Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), LEHD State of Arizona County Reports – Quarterly Workforce Indicators*. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The third quarter of 2010 is the last period for which a full set of data are available.

Exhibit 25 shows that in Greenlee County, average monthly earnings fluctuated within a \$1,040 range (\$3,777-\$4,817) from the beginning of 2008 through the first three quarters of 2010. Average wage rates for new hires fluctuated several times during the period. Greenlee County's net job flow was positive in the first three quarters of 2008, negative from the fourth quarter of 2008 through the fourth quarter of 2009, and positive again throughout 2010. Total employment, which varied within a narrow range (4,904-5,208) in 2008, showed a 14% decrease in the first quarter of 2009 and remained low (2,969-3,307) from the third quarter of 2009 through the second quarter of 2010. However, the third quarter of 2010 showed a dramatic increase of 55% over the previous quarter, and the fourth quarter of 2010 shows total employment in the sectors surveyed to be above the level found in the first quarter of 2008.

#### Exhibit 25. Key Employment Indicators for Greenlee County

	2008 Q 1	2008 Q 2	2008 Q 3	2008 Q 4	2009 Q 1	2009 Q 2	2009 Q 3	2009 Q 4	2010 Q 1	2010 Q 2	2010 Q 3	2010 Q 4
Average Monthly Earnings	\$4,814	\$4,312	\$4,363	\$4,464	\$3,939	\$4,306	\$3,777	\$4,755	\$4,812	\$4,453	\$4,578	\$4,071
Average New Hire Earnings	\$3,818	\$4,646	\$4,156	\$3,762	\$3,798	\$4,321	\$2,535	\$3,838	\$2,690	\$3,479	\$3,591	\$3,255
Job Creation	274	323	379	41	25	70	86	58	151	324	187	133
Net Job Flows	180	168	339	-545	-551	-865	-24	-27	119	261	92	37
New Hires	652	806	1,008	544	167	166	215	140	171	400	435	315
Separations	575	759	728	1,136	744	1,078	310	316	193	323	386	341
Total Employment	4,957	5,062	5,208	4,904	4,209	3,307	2,969	3,078	2,957	3,192	3,223	3,375
Turnover	8.0%	9.6%	8.4%	11.0%	9.8%	22.3%	5.0%	5.5%	4.5%	6.8%	7.8%	8.3%

Note. From *Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), LEHD State of Arizona County Reports – Quarterly Workforce Indicators*, U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The third quarter of 2010 is the last period for which a full set of data are available.



### Other Relevant Economic Indicators

A recent report prepared for the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona (Pearce, 2012) provides important context for understanding the economic data presented above. The report uses the Self Sufficiency Standard, developed with funding by the Ford Foundation, to calculate the levels of income an Arizona family needs to earn in order to meet basic needs, given their family composition and the county in which they reside. The Self-Sufficiency Standard contains several elements that make it distinct from other measures like the federal poverty level. Most importantly, it calculates the cost to meet individual basic needs at a "minimally adequate level," excluding public and private assistance.

The Standard attempts to capture a more realistic, accurate, and contemporary understanding of income needs by assuming all adults in a household are employed and that costs vary by geographic location and family composition. The Standard also includes tax costs & credits (e.g. sales tax, payroll tax, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, income tax, etc.)

The Standard is calculated based on the costs of six basic needs (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous expenses) plus taxes for each county in Arizona. Housing costs are calculated using the most recent Fair Market Rents (FMRs) determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to meet "basic standards of decency." Child care expenses are also part of the index since it is assumed that all adult care-takers are employed in a paid job. The Standard assumes that infants receive child care in a day care, preschoolers receive care in a child care center, and school-age children receive part-time care before and after school hours. Food expenses are calculated using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Low-Cost Food Plan, which was designed to meet minimum standards of nutrition for families assuming realistic food preparation and consumption patterns.

If "adequate" public transportation exists in a certain geographic area, the Standard assumes adults utilize this resource to get to and from work. Where private transportation is necessary, one car is assumed for a one-adult household and two cars are assumed for a two-adult household. Cost of car ownership is also added in these cases, including insurance, fees, gas, and maintenance. In calculating health care costs, the Standard assumes adults to have employee-sponsored health insurance and adds additional amounts to include insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs incurred. Miscellaneous costs are calculated by taking 10% of all other costs and cover all other expenses, excluding recreation, entertainment, savings, and debt repayment.

The Standard identifies 70 different family compositions based on the number and ages of adults and children in the household. Selections of those combinations are reproduced Exhibits 26 and 27 for Graham and Greenlee Counties.



*Exhibit 26. 2012 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Graham County*

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Infant	Adult + Infant + Pre-schooler	Adult + Pre-schooler + School-Age	Adult + School-age + Teenager	2 Adults + Infant	2 Adults + Infant + Pre-schooler	2 Adults + Pre-schooler + School-age
Housing	\$547	\$613	\$613	\$613	\$613	\$613	\$613	\$613
Child Care	\$0	\$558	\$1,156	\$966	\$368	\$558	\$1,156	\$966
Food	\$239	\$355	\$476	\$544	\$629	\$580	\$683	\$747
Transportation	\$271	\$279	\$279	\$279	\$279	\$529	\$529	\$529
Health Care	\$133	\$427	\$437	\$446	\$469	\$483	\$493	\$502
Miscellaneous	\$119	\$223	\$296	\$285	\$236	\$276	\$347	\$336
Taxes	\$196	\$334	\$512	\$458	\$268	\$404	\$552	\$485
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$83	\$0	-\$49	-\$232	-\$39	\$0	-\$5
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$68	-\$105	-\$110	-\$70	-\$55	-\$100	-\$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167	-\$167	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167
<b>Self-Sufficiency Wage</b>								
Hourly	\$8.55	\$14.52	\$19.87	\$18.55	\$13.59	\$9.27	\$11.66	\$11.10
Monthly	\$1,504	\$2,555	\$3,497	\$3,264	\$2,392	\$3,264	\$4,106	\$3,906
Annual	\$18,051	\$30,663	\$41,969	\$39,173	\$28,709	\$39,173	\$49,271	\$46,870

*Note. From How Much is Enough in Your County? The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona 2012, Pearce (for Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona).*



*Exhibit 27. 2012 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Greenlee County*

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Infant	Adult + Infant + Pre-schooler	Adult + Pre-schooler + School-Age	Adult + School-age + Teenager	2 Adults + Infant	2 Adults + Infant + Pre-schooler	2 Adults + Pre-schooler + School-age
Housing	\$651	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817
Child Care	\$0	\$558	\$1,156	\$966	\$368	\$558	\$1,156	\$966
Food	\$239	\$355	\$476	\$544	\$629	\$580	\$683	\$747
Transportation	\$271	\$279	\$279	\$279	\$279	\$529	\$529	\$529
Health Care	\$133	\$427	\$437	\$446	\$469	\$483	\$493	\$502
Miscellaneous	\$129	\$244	\$317	\$305	\$256	\$297	\$368	\$356
Taxes	\$233	\$430	\$590	\$553	\$351	\$486	\$630	\$592
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$21	\$0	\$0	-\$148	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$60	-\$100	-\$100	-\$63	-\$50	-\$100	-\$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167	-\$167	-\$83	-\$167	-\$167
<b>Self-Sufficiency Wage</b>								
Hourly	\$9.41	\$16.73	\$21.62	\$20.70	\$15.86	\$10.27	\$12.52	\$12.05
Monthly	\$1,655	\$2,945	\$3,805	\$3,643	\$2,792	\$3,616	\$4,409	\$4,242
Annual	\$19,865	\$35,340	\$45,662	\$43,714	\$33,503	\$43,391	\$52,905	\$50,901

*Note. From How Much is Enough in Your County? The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona 2012, Pearce (for Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona).*

Additional data are provided below on the mining industry in Graham and Greenlee Counties, due to its importance to their local economy. While data are not available consistently, it appears that in both counties the mining industry showed signs of positive growth in the first quarter of 2011 after some slowing in 2010. In Greenlee County, total mining employment for the first quarter of 2009 was 2,783, decreasing to 1,727 in the first quarter of 2010, but increasing to 2,150 in the first quarter of 2011. For Graham County, data are not available for 2010, but total employment in mining was almost the same in the first quarters of 2009 and 2011. Net flow of jobs and job creation data for the first quarter of 2011 and the later part of 2010 suggest modest recovery in the mining industry after previous job loss.



Exhibit 28. Key Mining Industry\* Indicators for Graham County, 2009-2010

	QUARTER 1, 2009	AVERAGE: QUARTERS 2, 3, 4 OF 2008, AND QUARTER 1, 2009	QUARTER 1, 2010	AVERAGE: QUARTERS 2, 3, 4 OF 2009, AND QUARTER 1, 2010	QUARTER 1, 2011	AVERAGE: QUARTERS 2, 3, 4 OF 2010, AND QUARTER 1, 2011
<b>Total Employment</b>						
Graham County	562	620	NA	NA	555	138
Greenlee County	2,783	3,218	1,727	1,826	2,150	1,044
Arizona	12,234	13,101	10,131	10,715	11,270	10,445
<b>Net Flow of Jobs</b>						
Graham County	-96	-9	NA	NA	+55	+13
Greenlee County	-396	-64	+59	-191	+44	+34
Arizona	-1,067	+14	+80	-282	+237	+164
<b>Job Creation</b>						
Graham County	NA	NA	NA	NA	+55	+13
Greenlee County	NA	NA	+59	+14	+44	+35
Arizona	119	645	308	211	+383	+399
<b>New Hires</b>						
Graham County	14	60	NA	NA	80	20
Greenlee County	12	270	8	8	138	73
Arizona	472	1,295	623	574	796	817
<b>Separations</b>						
Graham County	110	71	NA	NA	26	6
Greenlee County	412	350	42	242	98	41
Arizona	1,602	1,465	718	1,016	604	769
<b>Turnover</b>						
Graham County	12.7%	10.8%	1.9%	3.7%	3.9%	3.0%
Greenlee County	8.8%	7.4%	2.5%	9.2%	5.6%	5.1%
Arizona	8.5%	8.2%	4.8%	5.8%	5.1%	5.6%
<b>Average Monthly Earnings**</b>						
Graham County	\$4,059	\$4,654	\$3,354	\$4,445	\$7,187	\$4,571
Greenlee County	\$4,191	\$4,563	\$5,868	\$5,150	\$6,892	\$5,487
Arizona	\$5,071	\$5,148	\$6,428	\$5,396	\$7,704	\$5,839
<b>Average New Hire Earnings**</b>						
Graham County	\$4,139	\$4,474	NA	NA	\$5,466	\$1,367
Greenlee County	\$5,324	\$4,562	\$19,339***	\$9,869***	\$4,974	\$5,815
Arizona	\$4,444	\$4,592	\$4,663	\$4,598	\$5,406	\$4,862

Note. From Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), LEHD State of Arizona County Reports – Quarterly Workforce Indicators, U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The first quarter of 2011 is the last period for which a full set of data are available. U.S. Census Bureau at times slightly adjusts data for previous periods; some data downloaded in previous months and entered into this table may, therefore, be slightly different than what is currently found in the QWI database. \*Data provided also includes quarrying and oil and gas extraction companies. \*\*Average monthly earnings and average new hire earnings amounts are rounded off to the nearest dollar. \*\*\*No information was provided as to why the salary amounts are so much higher than earlier reported periods.



The poverty, median income, unemployment, and key employment data presented above provide a picture of recent economic conditions in the Graham/ Greenlee Region. Information about participation in state and federal benefit programs can further enhance understanding of the economic environment of a community.

The federal and state government offers a variety of assistance programs utilized by Graham/Greenlee Region residents. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program of the Office of Family Assistance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that funds state efforts to provide financial assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

Exhibit 29 provides information about TANF participation by families in Graham and Greenlee Counties. The number of families with children ages 0-5 receiving TANF benefits in Graham County gradually decreased from June 2007 to July 2010. However, the number of such families increased again in both January 2011 and July 2011. In Greenlee County, the number of families with children receiving TANF benefits fluctuated from January 2007 to July 2010, followed by a gradual decrease. Statewide, there were 41% fewer families with young children receiving TANF benefits in July 2011 than in January 2007. It is likely that a substantial proportion of the decrease in families in this region with children ages 0-5 that receive TANF benefits is the result of legislative action. The Arizona legislature reduced the lifetime benefit limit for TANF from 60 months to 36 months, effective July 1, 2010. This reduction resulted in the immediate removal of families that had already exceeded that time limit. The TANF lifetime benefit limit was further reduced to 24 months on August 1, 2011, leading to further reductions in families with children ages 0-5 covered by the program.

*Exhibit 29. Families with Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in TANF*

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Graham County	153	154	139	143	123	96	121	125
Greenlee County	14	20	14	18	15	16	12	8
Arizona	16,511	15,527	18,477	18,045	18,129	13,651	10,289	9,776

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years.

The zip code level data included in Exhibit 30 show a more geographically varied pattern of enrollment by families with children ages 0-5. In some zip codes (85533, 85534, and 85543), there has been a steady decrease in enrollment from January or June 2009 to July 2011. In other zip codes (85546 and 85552), the number of enrollees edged downward from June 2009 but grew again in July 2010 or January 2011. Other zip codes have fluctuated several times over the period covered in the table. It is likely that a substantial proportion of TANF decreases in 2010 and 2011 by zip code were caused by the changes in the TANF lifetime benefit limit described above.



*Exhibit 30. Families with Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in TANF, Graham/Greenlee Region by Zip Code, 2007-2010*

	LOCALITY	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
85531	Central	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	1
85533	Clifton	4	2	3	8	6	7	5	4
85534	Duncan	8	15	6	7	6	5	4	3
85535	Eden	no data							
85536	Ft. Thomas	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
85540	Morenci	2	3	5	3	3	4	3	1
85543	Pima	11	11	17	15	7	4	4	3
85546	Safford	70	72	57	55	48	23	38	33
85551	Solomon	5	7	0	3	1	3	1	1
85552	Thatcher	6	6	9	8	4	5	6	13
85922	Blue	no data							
	Region Total	110	119	98	102	76	52	64	59

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years.

Exhibit 31 shows that in several zip codes in the Graham/Greenlee Region (85531, 85533, 85551, and 85552), from January 2007 to July 2011 the number of children ages 0-5 enrolled in TANF fluctuated with no obvious pattern. A notable exception was zip code 85546 (Safford), where the number of young children enrolled in TANF decreased steadily from June 2007 to July 2010 before increasing in 2011.

*Exhibit 31. Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in TANF, Graham/Greenlee Region by Zip Code, 2007-2010*

	LOCALITY	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
85531	Central	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	1
85533	Clifton	4	3	4	9	8	9	5	4
85534	Duncan	10	19	8	10	8	7	4	3
85535	Eden	no data							
85536	Ft. Thomas	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
85540	Morenci	2	3	6	4	5	5	4	1
85543	Pima	14	15	22	16	9	4	5	4
85546	Safford	75	77	73	65	54	27	48	50
85551	Solomon	7	8	0	4	1	3	1	1
85552	Thatcher	8	6	12	8	5	7	9	20
85922	Blue	no data							
	Region Total	124	134	126	120	91	65	79	84

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years.

In contrast to the geographically varied data for the region, the data in Exhibit 32 show that TANF enrollment for children ages 0-5 increased from 111 in July 2010 to 164 in July 2011 in Graham County, while Greenlee County enrollment decreased from 21 to 8 over the same period. Increased enrollments in TANF for children ages 0-5 in Graham County for July 2010 to July 2011 goes against the statewide trend of a steady decrease over that same period.



**Exhibit 32. Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in TANF**

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Graham County	171	169	169	165	142	111	145	164
Greenlee County	16	25	18	23	21	21	13	8
Arizona	20,867	19,646	24,273	23,746	23,866	17,978	13,450	12,837

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years. No data was provided for 2008.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is another federal program utilized by families in Graham and Greenlee Counties. According to a 2010 study by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s Research Institute’s PolicyLab, “poor nutrition resulting from food insecurity has been linked to behavioral problems in preschoolers; lower educational performance among Kindergarteners; generally poorer cognitive and psychosocial development among children of various ages; and adverse health outcomes such as more frequent hospitalizations, particularly among young children” (Sell, Zlotnik, Noonan & Rubin, 2010). The results of studies by the United States Department of Agriculture (Children’s HealthWatch, 2011a; Nord & Prell, 2011) have both concluded that the 2009 across-the-board increase in SNAP benefits contributed to the health, well-being, and food security of young children during the recent recession.

However, a collaborative study by Children’s HealthWatch, Drexel University School of Public Health, and the Center for Hunger-free Communities (Children’s HealthWatch, 2011b) conducted in urban low-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia found that even the increased level of SNAP benefits achieved in 2009 left poor families with children far short of being able to afford a minimal healthy diet and that, in some locations, many of the foods needed for such a diet are not readily available. A recent analysis by Children’s HealthWatch found that children who received SNAP benefits were less likely to be underweight or at risk of developmental delays than children eligible for but not receiving such benefit (Children’s HealthWatch, 2012).

Data regarding the number of children 0-5 years old and families with children ages 0-5 who are SNAP recipients provide additional insight into the economic status of Graham/Greenlee Region families with young children. The table below shows that SNAP enrollment of Graham County families with children ages 0-5 has steadily increased by 51% from June 2007 to July 2011. In Greenlee County, enrollment increased at almost every reporting time, a cumulative 78% increase from January 2007 to July 2011.

**Exhibit 33. Families with Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in SNAP**

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Graham County	697	670	864	1,002	1,039	1,026	1,051	1,051
Greenlee County	76	72	84	132	142	132	135	135
Arizona	88,171	91,054	119,380	133,148	145,657	143,665	138,687	147,871

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years. No data was provided for 2008. \*In Arizona, SNAP is called Nutrition Assistance.



A zip code level breakdown of SNAP participation by families with children ages 0-5 shows a geographic variation in participation. Exhibit 34 shows that a majority of zip codes had a steady increase in SNAP enrollment from June 2007 to January 2010. Only a few zip codes showed a slight decrease in enrollment from June 2009 to January 2010. From July 2010 to July 2011, most zip codes continued to hover at or near highest recorded levels.

*Exhibit 34. Families with Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in SNAP\*, Graham/Greenlee Region by Zip Code, 2007-2010*

	LOCALITY	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
85531	Central	7	6	15	11	19	16	15	10
85533	Clifton	29	25	28	47	53	48	41	47
85534	Duncan	30	33	35	45	57	53	55	56
85535	Eden	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0
85536	Ft. Thomas	6	5	5	10	7	9	6	6
85540	Morenci	17	14	21	39	32	31	39	32
85543	Pima	81	74	104	120	119	115	120	124
85546	Safford	384	358	457	549	580	546	553	553
85551	Solomon	16	15	18	22	20	20	24	20
85552	Thatcher	75	80	121	146	136	149	156	154
85922	Blue	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Region Total	647	611	805	990	1,023	988	1,011	1,022

*Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years. \*In Arizona, SNAP is called Nutrition Assistance.*

Exhibit 35 below shows the zip code level distribution of children ages 0-5 receiving SNAP benefits in the Graham/Greenlee Region from January 2007 to July 2011. The largest concentration of young children receiving SNAP benefits were in zip codes 85546 (Safford), 85552 (Thatcher), and 85543 (Pima). No consistent patterns were noted across zip codes in the number of children ages 0-5 receiving these benefits. In some zip codes (85534, 85543, and 85552), the number of children enrolled in July 2011 equaled or nearly equaled the highest level reported over time. In other zip codes (85533 and 85540), the number of children enrolled moderately decreased by July 2011.

As SNAP benefits are based on income eligibility, large increases in the number of recipients suggest that many Graham County and Greenlee County families have experienced economic difficulties through 2011. Beyond being a sign of economic stress, the large increase in SNAP participation among children and families over the last three years suggests that many young children in the region may be dependent on government programs to fulfill their basic nutritional needs.



*Exhibit 35. Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in SNAP, Graham/Greenlee Region by Zip Code, 2007-2011*

	LOCALITY	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
85531	Central	13	9	25	18	30	25	22	15
85533	Clifton	41	41	48	76	85	80	63	63
85534	Duncan	43	49	54	65	83	79	77	82
85535	Eden	3	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
85536	Ft. Thomas	8	5	10	16	13	16	9	7
85540	Morenci	27	18	34	62	47	38	54	47
85543	Pima	131	125	163	188	183	172	186	189
85546	Safford	547	510	686	833	893	844	832	843
85551	Solomon	26	26	29	36	28	34	33	29
85552	Thatcher	106	111	176	215	209	236	235	225
85922	Blue	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Region Total	945	896	1,227	1,512	1,571	1,526	1,513	1,500

*Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years. \*In Arizona, SNAP is called Nutrition Assistance.*

School lunch programs have traditionally been another means by which low-income children receive nutritional supplementation. In 2010, in most of the region's school districts, 45% or more of school children were enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program, compared to 47% of children statewide. Program enrollment ranged from 9% in Pima Unified to 90% in Fort Thomas Unified.



**Exhibit 36. Percent of Children Enrolled in Free or Reduced School Lunch Program by School District, 2007-2010**

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bonita Elementary District	27%	45%	55%	46%
Clifton Unified School District	72%	27%	64%	51%
Duncan Unified School District	40%	40%	47%	50%
Fort Thomas Unified School District	99%	99%	59%	90%
Morenci Unified School District	25%	21%	22%	37%
Pima Unified School District	NA	NA	35%	9%
Safford Unified School District	NA	45%	48%	24%
Solomon Unified School District	54%	62%	37%	45%
Thatcher Unified School District	47%	42%	40%	46%
Arizona	41%	38%	47%	47%

*Note.* From *Federal Education Budget Project*, New America Foundation. The percentages reported reflect the number of students in the districts who are certified to receive free or reduced price lunches based on their family incomes or participation in SNAP or TANF. The New America Foundation obtained the data for analysis from the Common Core of Data at the National Center for Education Statistics. NA indicates no data was provided for the year.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides grants to states primarily for providing supplemental foods to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. To qualify for WIC benefits a family's income must fall at or below 185% of the federal poverty line. Some studies of WIC programs suggest that it has positive impacts on family well-being. For example, there is evidence that prenatal participation in WIC improves birth weight and fetal growth. Given the program's focus on low-income mothers and their young children, WIC participation numbers serve as another useful indicator of regional economic conditions.

According to WIC data from June 2010 to June 2011 there were 1,694 Graham County children and 349 Greenlee County children enrolled in the program.

**Exhibit 37. Unduplicated WIC Participation, June 2010 – June 2011**

	0+ TO <12 MO.	>12 MO. TO 24 MO.	>24 MO. TO 36 MO.	>36 MO. TO 48 MO.	>48 MO. TO 60 MO.	TOTAL
Graham	462	497	261	251	217	1,684
Greenlee	93	108	63	56	33	349
Arizona	65,519	69,838	36,480	33,268	29,360	234,461

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First).



Zip code level data shows the geographic variation of beneficiaries in June 2010 to June 2011. While no set pattern applies to all zip codes, in several zip codes (85535, 85546, and 85552) there was a modest decrease from June 2010 to January 2011, followed by a modest increase in June 2011. It is notable that almost two thirds (63%) of children ages 0-5 who received WIC benefits lived in the one of the two Safford zip codes. Also of interest was a 50% increase from January 2011 to June 2011 in the number of children in Eden that benefitted from WIC.

*Exhibit 38. Unduplicated WIC Participation by Children 0-5 by Graham/Greenlee Region Zip Code, June 2010 – June 2011*

	LOCALITY	JUNE 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
85531	Central	under 25	under 25	under 25
85533	Clifton	75	68	65
85534	Duncan	49	48	65
85535	Eden	29	28	42
85536	Ft. Thomas	under 25	under 25	under 25
85540	Morenci	67	59	60
85543	Pima	102	102	96
85546	Safford	617	555	604
85551	Solomon	under 25	under 25	under 25
85552	Thatcher	176	153	161
85922	Blue	0	0	0
	Region Total	1,158	1,051	1,135

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Excel database (provided by First Things First). In some cases, "under 25" has been used instead of actual numbers to protect confidentiality.

The SNAP and WIC participation data presented above show that many of the region's families with young children continue to be impacted by the economic downturn and depend on government programs to meet their nutritional needs. The Graham /Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has acknowledged this issue by adopting Food Security as one of its family support strategies. As of the end of June of 2012, grantees funded by the council had distributed to 607 food boxes, reaching a total of 791 young children.

Data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security show that in almost all of the region's zip codes, the number of residents receiving unemployment benefits increased in each consecutive reported period from January 2007 to June 2009, or in some cases, through January 2010. In many zip codes, the number of claimants grew by 7 to 10 times over that period of time. However, by January 2010 there was a notable decrease in the number of people receiving unemployment benefits; by June 2011, the number of unemployment insurance recipients in the region had almost dropped back to June 2007 levels.



*Exhibit 39. Unemployment Insurance Recipients, by Zip Code, 2007-2011*

	LOCALITY	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
85531	Central	1	no data	8	17	16	3	1
85533	Clifton	7	7	73	165	1	13	9
85534	Duncan	9	10	88	142	2	11	6
85535	Eden	no data	no data	2	2	1	0	0
85536	Ft. Thomas	2	2	4	10	13	2	0
85540	Morenci	4	6	44	160	3	12	8
85543	Pima	9	7	63	115	123	11	16
85546	Safford	58	88	410	752	795	68	59
85551	Solomon	4	5	28	36	46	3	4
85552	Thatcher	7	15	102	161	162	13	10
85922	Blue	no data	no data	no data	0	0	0	0
	Region Total	101	140	822	1,560	1,162	136	113

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years.

Families in the Graham/Greenlee Region have access to services for children with developmental disabilities from the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities. Exhibit 40 shows that from 2007 to 2010 there was a large decrease in the number of Graham County children ages 0 to 35 months receiving disability services.

While over the same period, the number of children ages 36 to 71 months increased slightly. Few children in Greenlee County received services for developmental disabilities across both age groups.

*Exhibit 40. Receiving Developmental Disability Services by Age: 2007, 2009, and 2010*

	2007		2009		2010	
	Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months	Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months	Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months
Graham County Total	26	9	17	10	13	12
Greenlee Total	4	1	2	2	2	3

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). DES provided July data for 2010 and 2011, rather than June data as was provided for earlier years.

Additional data regarding preschool special needs are presented in Exhibit 41. A total of 123 children ages 0-5 years had an IEP during the 2011-2012 school year. Thirty-seven children ages 0-3 in Graham County and 10 children ages 0-3 in Greenlee County had an IFSP during the same period of time, although information is not available by locality.

*Exhibit 41. Children Ages 3-5 with an IEP*

Locality	Number of Children
<b>Graham County</b>	
Graham County Special Services District	48
Safford Unified School District	58
Graham Total	106



**Greenlee County**

Clifton Unified School District	under 25
Duncan Unified School District	under 25
Morenci Unified School District	under 25
Greenlee Total	17

*Note.* From personal communication from Shari Elkins, Graham/Greenlee Regional Director, as obtained from the school districts. In some cases, “under 25” has been used instead of actual numbers to protect confidentiality.

**IV. Educational Indicators**

Research suggests that the educational attainment of mothers has implications for the educational progress of their youth. For example, some studies suggest that women with more education are more likely to place their children in child care environments that promote school readiness, compared to their less-educated peers. In addition, better educated mothers are likely to read to their children more often, which improves a child’s communication skills, school readiness, vocabulary, and IQ (Carneiro, Meghir & Parey, 2007; Liu, 2010; Magnuson & McGroder, 2002). While it is not clear how critically related maternal education is to overall youth academic attainment and well-being, these findings suggest that it is important to consider when assessing the needs and assets of a region.

*Educational Attainment*

From 2006 to 2010 the educational level of mothers in Graham County has mostly followed a positive trend. The percentage of mothers with 1-4 years of college has increased from 25% in 2007 to 34% in 2010. Moreover, the percentage of such mothers showed a notable 4% increase from 2009 to 2010. However, this percentage continues to lag behind the statewide rate. In Greenlee County, the educational level of mothers has fluctuated over the last five years. However, the percentage of mothers with at least one year of college increased from 18% in 2009 to 29% in 2010. In both counties, the decrease in the percentage of mothers with a high school diploma appears to be a reflection of the increase in mothers with some college education.

*Exhibit 42. Percentage of Live Births by Educational Attainment of Mother, 2005-2010*

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	No High School Diploma	24%	25%	22%	21%	21%
	High School Diploma	43%	48%	47%	46%	44%
	1-4 Years of College	30%	25%	29%	30%	34%
	> than 4 Years of College	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Unknown	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%
Greenlee County	No High School Diploma	16%	19%	24%	24%	21%
	High School Diploma	57%	57%	51%	53%	47%
	1-4 Years of College	22%	21%	20%	18%	29%
	> than 4 Years of College	5%	2%	4%	5%	4%
	Unknown	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%



		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Arizona	No High School Diploma	29%	28%	26%	24%	22%
	High School Diploma	30%	30%	30%	31%	31%
	1-4 Years of College	33%	33%	34%	36%	37%
	> than 4 Years of College	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%
	Unknown	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
United States	No High School Diploma	10%	12%	14%	14%	No data
	High School Diploma	15%	14%	17%	17%	No data
	1-4 Years of College	11%*	22%	27%	28%	No data
	> than 4 Years of College	14%*	4%	5%	6%	No data
	Unknown	50%	48%	37%	35%	No data

*Note.* From *Births by Mother's Education and County of Residence, Arizona, 2006-2010*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics. \*Categories for 2006 U.S. data is based on the categories 1-3 years of college and 4 or more years of college, unlike other years. Percents do not total to 100% due to rounding up. Data for 0-8 and 9-11 years of education have been added together for the category of "No High School Diploma." Data for 12 years of education is used for "High School Diploma." Data for 13-15 years is used for "1-4+ yrs. of College." No data was available for the U.S. for 2006 and 2007.

American Community Survey data on the educational attainment of adults 25 years old and older is available for Graham County but not for Greenlee County. Data shows that Graham County had a higher percentage of adults 25 years and older who were high school graduates or who had some college experience. However, the percentage of residents with a bachelor's or graduate degree lags behind both state and national data. The degree to which adults in a region complete higher education is an indicator of the region's capacity to provide high quality services during formative early childhood years.

*Exhibit 43. Educational Attainment, Adults 25 Years and Older, Three Year Average 2008-2010*

	NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE	ASSOCIATES DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROF. DEGREE
Graham County	16%	33%	31%	8%	6%	6%
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	15%	25%	26%	8%	17%	10%
United States	15%	28%	21%	8%	18%	10%

*Note.* From *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates*. Percentages are based on the following population estimates of people over 25 years of age: United States – 202,053,193; Arizona - 4,088,405; Graham County – 21,712. High school graduation rate included graduation equivalents. Percents do not total to 100% due to rounding off.



## Kindergarten Readiness and Literacy

While there is a national focus on assessing students' academic progress and quality of education provided, more attention has been placed on measuring children's school readiness levels. School readiness is defined as "a child's attainment of a certain set of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills needed to learn, work, and function successfully in school" (Rafoth, Buchenauer, Crissman & Halko, 2004).

Ongoing research confirms that children's readiness for school is multifaceted, encompassing a range of physical, social, emotional, language, and cognitive skills that children need to thrive (Center for Family Policy & Research, 2008). However, professionals struggle with ways to identify and measure school readiness.

Kindergarten readiness is important to consider as research studies have found that participation by low-income children in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten is related to improved school performance in the early years of education, particularly for disadvantaged children (Lee Lee, Brooks-Gunn, Shnur & Liaw, 1990; Ludwig & Phillips, 2007; Magnuson, Ruhm & Waldfogel, 2007; Temple & Reynolds, 2007). Long-term studies suggest that early childhood programs have positive impacts evident in the adolescent and adult years (Campbell, Pungello, Miller-Johnson, Burchinal & Ramey, 2001; Ludwig & Phillips, 2007; Temple & Reynolds, 2007). Scholars have also suggested that early childhood education enhances young children's social developmental outcomes such as peer relationships (Peisner-Feinberg et al., 2000).

A number of factors influence a child's school readiness level in the United States, including health, parental engagement, and language proficiency, which is a key predictor of school success. Early literacy skills (i.e. size of vocabulary, letter recognition, and comprehension of letter and sound relationships) at entry to kindergarten are good predictors of a child's reading ability *throughout* their educational career and that children from low-income families may be falling behind. Low-income children are more likely to start school with limited language skills, health problems, and social and emotional problems that interfere with learning.

To improve school readiness and academic success, in 2005 the State Board of Education adopted the Early Learning Standards, which are aligned with academic standards for kindergarten and Head Start. According to the Arizona Department of Education, developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers are planned to be finalized in 2012.

Many assessments have been developed to look at children's growth across developmental domains such as language, social-emotional and physical development, and behavior. Currently, such assessments only serve as proxy measures of school readiness. In school settings throughout Arizona, these assessments are often used to screen children for additional educational support needs, such as English Language Learners. Current research has confirmed the efficacy of using certain assessment methods in linguistically diverse settings, such as in Arizona (Berhenke, Miller, Brown, Seifer & Dickstein, 2011; Downer et al., 2011). Some school districts also use assessments at entry to preschool to determine a baseline of children's development



and better tailor programming and instruction. However, other research found that assessment of children's social and executive domain functioning at 54 months was only partially predictive of socio-emotional and achievement outcomes in the fifth grade (Sabol & Pianta, 2012).

Acknowledging the importance of kindergarten readiness and early childhood literacy, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has developed an Early Childhood Literacy Project as one of its strategies to address these areas. Through June 2012, the project has reached 7,616 adults through literacy activities/training sessions, far exceeding the target of 1,500 adults. With additional funding from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the project has distributed 17,308 books to families with children ranging in age from birth through four years. This figure amounts to 87% of the 20,000 books targeted for distribution in FY2012. A related early literacy strategy supported by the council is Reach Out and Read. This project, which enlists pediatricians to distribute books to the parents of young children, had distributed 1,022 books by the end of June 2012, with a target of distributing 1,402 books throughout the fiscal year.

### Standardized Test Scores

Two instruments that are used frequently across Arizona schools for formative (ongoing and used to guide instruction) assessment are the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). These assessments are often used to identify children's early literacy skills upon entry to school and need for interventions in reading throughout the year. At the Kindergarten level, DIBELS tests only a small set of skills around letter knowledge without assessing other areas of children's language and literacy development such as vocabulary and print awareness. Additionally, DIBELS does not measure other important skill sets around social emotional development, math, or science. While the results of the DIBELS and AIMS assessments do not reflect children's full range of skills and understanding in the area of language and literacy, they do provide a snapshot of children's learning as they enter and exit Kindergarten.

AIMS tests use a four-level scale to measure student performance: the lowest level of performance is termed *Falls Far Below (FFB)*, followed by *Approached (A)*, *Met (M)*, and *Exceeded (E)*. The categories of FFB and A represent failing scores, while M and E represent passing scores. Exhibit 44 shows that from 2009 to 2011, there was great variation across school districts in the performance of the region's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on AIMS mathematics, reading, and writing exams. For example, 87% of students in Thatcher Unified School District in 2011 passed the mathematics exam and 91% passed the reading exam. By contrast, in Morenci Unified District, 66% of students passed the mathematics exam and 73% passed the reading exam. Of the eight districts for which 2011 AIMS data are available, 30% or more of the students failed the mathematics exam in five districts and the reading exam in two districts. Additionally, there was some district level variation in student results across the three years. For example, in Fort Thomas, 54% of students passed the reading exam in 2009, while only 38% passed in 2011.



*Exhibit 44. Third Grade Students' AIMS Score Achievement Levels in Mathematics, Reading and Writing by School District, 2009 -2011*

		MATHEMATICS				READING				WRITING			
	YEAR	FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E
Blue Elementary District	2009	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2010	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Bonita Elementary District	2009	8%	17%	67%	8%	0%	17%	83%	0%	0%	17%	83%	0%
	2010	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	33%	56%	11%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	7%	50%	36%	7%	0%	43%	50%	7%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Discovery Plus Academy	2009	19%	13%	50%	19%	6%	38%	38%	19%	0%	38%	63%	0%
	2010	0%	31%	54%	15%	0%	23%	77%	0%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	11%	11%	44%	33%	0%	22%	78%	0%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Duncan Unified	2009	3%	19%	68%	10%	3%	19%	68%	10%	3%	19%	68%	10%
	2010	4%	24%	52%	20%	0%	20%	72%	8%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	17%	35%	26%	22%	4%	22%	65%	9%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Fort Thomas Unified	2009	4%	50%	35%	12%	8%	38%	50%	4%	8%	38%	50%	4%
	2010	25%	36%	30%	9%	11%	45%	34%	9%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	14%	43%	36%	7%	14%	48%	36%	2%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Morenci Unified	2009	1%	13%	58%	28%	2%	20%	60%	18%	2%	20%	60%	18%
	2010	3%	9%	46%	43%	0%	14%	67%	19%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	0%	32%	34%	34%	3%	24%	62%	11%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Pima Unified	2009	11%	28%	46%	15%	8%	24%	55%	12%	1%	27%	72%	0%
	2010	12%	20%	48%	20%	2%	20%	60%	18%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	12%	31%	35%	22%	4%	14%	71%	12%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Safford Unified	2009	5%	20%	62%	15%	3%	22%	64%	11%	3%	20%	66%	11%
	2010	8%	23%	45%	24%	3%	15%	67%	15%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	10%	24%	45%	21%	1%	20%	65%	13%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Solomon Elementary District	2009	0%	6%	65%	29%	0%	12%	76%	12%	0%	12%	76%	12%
	2010	0%	7%	36%	57%	0%	7%	57%	36%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	4%	25%	42%	29%	0%	9%	83%	9%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Thatcher Unified	2009	2%	11%	52%	35%	2%	11%	65%	22%	2%	11%	66%	22%
	2010	1%	11%	49%	40%	1%	7%	74%	18%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	5%	7%	36%	51%	1%	8%	61%	30%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Triumphant Learning Center	2009	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2010	0%	36%	36%	27%	0%	0%	73%	27%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	0%	25%	50%	25%	0%	17%	75%	8%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Graham County – All	2009	5%	21%	55%	19%	4%	19%	64%	13%	4%	19%	64%	13%
	2010	7%	22%	45%	27%	3%	16%	65%	16%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	9%	23%	42%	27%	2%	20%	63%	15%	No data	No data	No data	No data



	YEAR	MATHEMATICS				READING				WRITING			
		FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E
Greenlee County – All	2009	5%	14%	58%	23%	4%	20%	60%	16%	4%	20%	60%	16%
	2010	3%	12%	47%	38%	0%	15%	68%	17%	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	4%	32%	33%	30%	3%	23%	64%	10%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Arizona	2009	9%	18%	52%	20%	6%	22%	58%	14%	6%	22%	58%	14%
	2010	11%	25%	43%	22%	6%	21%	60%	13%	0%	44%	56%	0%
	2011	10%	22%	43%	24%	5%	19%	62%	13%	0%	100%	0%	0%

*Note.* From *AIMS Assessment Results, 2011 AIMS Results*, Arizona Department of Education, Research and Evaluation. FFB (Falls Far Below) and A (Approaches) both represent a failing score. M (Meets) and E (Exceeds) both indicate a passing score. \*Numbers provided in table indicate the percentage of students that scored at each AIMS achievement level. \*\*Indicates the number of students that took the AIMS test in a district was too low to allow for reporting while still maintaining confidentiality. Clifton Unified District was not listed in the ADE 2011 Excel database.

Two of the largest groups of students with special educational needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Schools are required to develop an IEP for students with disabilities who meet government requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The school district data presented in Exhibit 45 show that at least 10% of the students in six school districts are identified as having special needs.

*Exhibit 45. Percentage of Special Education Students, 2007-2010*

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bonita Elementary District	7%	9%	7%	7%
Clifton Unified School District	12%	7%	NA	NA
Duncan Unified School District	14%	13%	14%	19%
Fort Thomas Unified School District	17%	18%	16%	14%
Morenci Unified School District	10%	9%	9%	11%
Pima Unified School District	18%	12%	12%	13%
Safford Unified School District	12%	12%	12%	7%
Solomon Unified School District	10%	10%	7%	8%
Thatcher Unified School District	9%	9%	10%	10%
Arizona	12%	11%	11%	12%

*Note.* From *Federal Education Budget Project*, New America Foundation. The percentages reported reflect the number of students in the districts who have an Individualized Education Plans (IEP) under IDEA law. The New America Foundation obtained the data for analysis from the Common Core of Data at the National Center for Education Statistics. NA indicates no data was provided for the year.



Exhibit 46 shows a district-level breakdown of the number of preschool and elementary students in Special Education (SPED) and students identified as ELLs. In 2011, 560 preschool and elementary students in the Graham/Greenlee Region were enrolled in SPED, of whom 96 were ELL students. Districts with the most special education students in 2011 were Safford and Thatcher Unified Districts. The district with the most ELLs in 2011 was Safford Unified District.

*Exhibit 46. 2010/2011 Preschool and Elementary Needs by School District, Graham and Greenlee Counties*

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	COUNT OF STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)	COUNT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)
Blue Elementary District	2010	6	0	0
	2011	8	0	0
Bonita Elementary District	2010	70	4	2
	2011	79	6	8
Clifton Unified District	2010	63	0	0
	2011	No data	No data	No data
Discovery Plus Academy	2010	91	20	0
	2011	85	14	0
Duncan Unified District	2010	206	33	0
	2011	196	29	0
Ft. Thomas Unified District	2010	294	31	0
	2011	295	36	6
Graham County Special Services	2010	55	50	0
	2011	56	52	0
Morenci Unified District	2010	620	61	0
	2011	641	63	0
Pima Unified District	2010	413	46	0
	2011	430	51	29
Safford Unified District	2010	1,820	225	0
	2011	1,855	217	51
Solomon Elementary District	2010	161	14	0
	2011	164	10	0
Thatcher Unified District	2010	751	76	0
	2011	787	71	2
Triumphant Learning Center	2010	76	0	0
	2011	79	11	0
Region Total	2010	4,626	560	2
	2011	4,675	560	96

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Education database provided by First Things First. Homeless and migrant counts were excluded because counts across all districts were zero. Some Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council members perceived that these data under represents the number of English language learners in the school districts listed. The Regional Director's administrative assistant directly contacted school district staff in Clifton, Duncan, Ft. Thomas, Morenci, Pima, Safford, Solomon, and Thatcher to obtain data for the 2011-2012 school year. Those data have been entered as 2011 data above.



### Other Relevant Data

The completion of high school is a very important accomplishment in a young person's life. Students who stay in school and challenge themselves academically tend to continue their education, stay out of jail, and earn significantly higher wages later in life. Other research suggests that students who do not graduate have higher rates of unemployment and underemployment (U.S. Department of Labor, 2003).

Given the reality about the importance of graduation, the high school graduation rate in an area should be considered when looking at local needs and assets. High school completion rates allow for a retrospective look at all aspects of early childhood development, ranging from child care and health care services to the education system overall. Students who have the support, resources and care they need to be able to develop and eventually complete high school are then more likely to go on to have long-term positive life outcomes.

Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely over time, both within schools and across schools. From 2005 to 2010, a movement of 10% or more in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. For example, the rate at Clifton High School was 8% in 2009 and 38% in 2010.

In a single year, 2009, high school graduation rates in Graham/Greenlee Region ranged from 47% for Mt. Graham High School to 97% for Morenci Junior/Senior High School. Safford High School and Thatcher High School stand out from other schools for having a high graduation rate (approximately 90%) in each of the last 6 years. Morenci Jr./Sr. High School has had the highest graduation rates for the last two years. On the other hand, Mt. Graham High School is notable for having a graduation rate of less than 50% for the last 6 years.

#### *Exhibit 47. High School Graduation Rates, 2005-2010*

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Clifton High School	82%	No data	53%	0%	8%	38%
Duncan High School	87%	69%	91%	86%	84%	77%
Ft. Thomas High School*	85%	100%*	74%	74%	80%	74%
Mt. Graham High School**	39%	39%	47%	45%	47%	43%
Morenci Jr./Sr. High School	89%	85%	93%	82%	97%	95%
Pima High School	92%	86%	83%	76%	88%	82%
Safford High School	93%	87%	88%	89%	89%	88%
Thatcher High School	92%	92%	89%	90%	90%	90%

*Note.* From 2010 Four Year Grad Rate by School, Ethnicity, and Subgroup; 2009 Four Year Grad Rate by School and Subgroup; 2008 Four Year Grad Rate by School and Subgroup; 2007 Four Year Grad Rate by School, Subgroup and Ethnicity; 2006 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup; 2005 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup, Arizona Department of Education, Accountability Division, Research & Evaluation. \*ADA graduation data posted on the ADE website showed Ft. Thomas H.S. had a 0% graduation rate for 2006, which seems an anomaly when compared to data from all other years. A personal communication from staff in the ADE Research & Evaluation division agreed that this percentage was possibly incorrect. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Director was able to obtain correct data for the year directly from administrative staff at Ft. Thomas H.S. It should additionally be noted that the majority (80% in the 2011-12 school year) of students who attend Ft. Thomas H.S. are from Bylas, which is not within the Graham/Greenlee Region. \*\*Mt. Graham High School is an alternative high school serving students who have previously dropped out, are struggling academically, are pregnant or parenting, or who have been adjudicated. Graduation rate data are not available for the Gila Preparatory Academy, a charter school in Safford that serves students in grades 9-12.



# THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

## V. Early Care Education

There is a need for child care across the United States as a majority of children ages birth to six years participate in regular, out of home child care. In 2007, more than half of children ages 3-6 years who had not entered Kindergarten attended a child care center. For families with mothers who are employed, the need for child care is even higher. In 2010, during the time that mothers were at work, 48% of children ages 0-4 years were principally cared for by a relative; 24% attended a child care center (day care, Head Start, etc.); and 14% received home-based care by a non-relative. Families use many criteria to make decisions about care for their children. Some of the factors that are often important to parents include: cost; proximity to home or work; and recommendations from friends, family, or acquaintances. Parents may also assess the center or home's environment, interaction between children and staff, and perceived quality of learning environment (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, 2011). Researchers have also suggested that a mother's assessment of quality child care may be more stringent than that of an independent observer, valuing the extent to which her child's needs are met over other definitions of quality (Gordon et al., 2011).

A nationwide study by the National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) found that the cost of child care was one of parents' highest concerns and noted that parents frequently had to compromise on quality to be able to pay for care (Mohan, Reef & Sarkar, 2006). A 2011 NACCRRA report "revisiting" the cost of child care found that the 2010 average cost for center-based care for a 4-year old in Arizona was 40% of family income for those living at or below the poverty level and 20% of the income or families living at 200% or higher of the poverty level. For single mother families in Arizona, the cost for infant child care was 35% of median income for an infant, 28% of median income for a 4-year old, and 62% of median income for two children in care (NACCRRA, 2011). It is clear that choosing child care is not a simple decision for many families, and may or may not result in the placement of a child in the most ideal child care setting.

### **Access and Quality**

Early care and education programs are crucial to a thriving economy, not only because they allow parents to work, but because the child care sector is large and purchases numerous goods and services. New economic development strategies aimed at increasing child care access are also likely to improve the business financing and infrastructure associated with owning and operating a child care center. Additionally, a significant investment in children's well-being in the early years has enormous long-term payoffs. Parents of young children make up 27% of community college students; yet research shows that available child care only meets a tiny fraction of their needs (Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2010). Improving child care in a community is not only about improving access to sources of care and education outside the home, but also requires improving parents' economic ability to care for their own children.



Additionally, there has been little research into parents' perceptions of quality in child care. A recent study observed differences in quality ratings between mothers and independent observers (Gordon, Usdansky, Wang & Gluzman, 2011).

### Accredited Early Care and Education Centers/Homes

In Arizona, increased efforts have been undertaken to improve child care quality. The Board of First Things First approved funding in March 2008 for the development and implementation of a statewide quality improvement and rating system called Quality First. Effective in 2010, Quality First set the standards of quality child care centers in Arizona. This program utilizes scores from the Environmental Rating Scales, Quality First Points Scale, and Classroom Assessment Scoring System to rate the quality of participating providers. The five levels of a quality provider are: Rising Star, Progressing Star, Quality, Quality Plus, and Highest Quality. This rating system has become a statewide asset that regions can utilize when addressing local child care program quality. Exhibit 48 shows the estimated ratings of this regions' child care providers enrolled in Quality First. These ratings are estimates because they are based only on scores from the Environmental Rating Scales and Classroom Assessment Scoring System and may be revised once scores from Quality First Points Scale are incorporated.

#### *Exhibit 48. Estimated Ratings for Quality First Providers*

RISING STAR	PROGRESSING STAR	QUALITY	QUALITY PLUS	HIGHEST QUALITY
0	7	1	0	0

*Note.* From *Quality First Update – June 2012*, First Things First.

In addition to Quality First standards, accreditation from national early childhood education organizations is also available to the region's providers. In 2010 and 2011, one nationally accredited early care and education center was in operation in the Graham/Greenlee Region, which is a decrease from two centers in 2008. The accredited center represents 10% of the region's 10 licensed centers. The region's one accredited center is in Safford, the largest population center of the region. However, many parents in the region lack access to an accredited center.

#### *Exhibit 49. Number of Accredited Early Care and Education Centers*

	AMI/AMS	ASCI	NAC	NAEYC	NECPA	NAFCC*	NLSA
2008	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

*Note.* From accreditation lists on the websites of the Association Montessori Internationale [AMI], American Montessori Society (AMS), National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC); information from Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI) and National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) was obtained by phone.



According to the Arizona Department of Health Services' Division of Licensing, in October 2011 there were a total of 10 licensed child care facilities in Graham/Greenlee Region, down from 12 in 2010. Six of the licensed facilities were child care centers, with a capacity of 369 children. Four of the licensed facilities were child care centers located in public schools and together had a capacity of 154 children. No small group homes in the region were licensed. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 523 children. The largest percentage (51%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Morenci (19%), Duncan (12%), and Pima (11%), and Clifton (7%).

Capacity decreased by 75% in Clifton and 33% in Morenci since the last Needs and Assets report due to the closure of centers. The data suggests that some areas of the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities, and efforts to promote increased licensing are warranted.

*Exhibit 50. ADHS-Licensed Child Care Facilities by Zip Code, 2011*

Zip code	Locality	CHILD CARE CENTERS		CHILD CARE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS		SMALL GROUP HOMES	
		No. of Centers	Capacity	No. of Centers	Capacity	No. of Centers	Capacity
85531	Central	0	0	0	0	0	0
85533	Clifton	0	0	1	34	0	0
85534	Duncan	1	64	0	0	0	0
85535	Eden	0	0	0	0	0	0
85536	Ft. Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0
85540	Morenci	1	45	1	54	0	0
85543	Pima	1	59	0	0	0	0
85546	Safford	3	201	2	66	0	0
85551	Solomon	0	0	0	0	0	0
85552	Thatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0
85922	Blue	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Region Total	6	369	4	154	0	0

*Note.* From *CHILD CARE CENTERS and SMALL GROUP HOMES by ZIP CODE* Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Division of Licensing Services.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) groups Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties together in District VI of its statewide planning areas. Data on rates charged for full-time care in 2010 shows that 75% of facilities in District VI charged \$24 for full-time child care of school age children, \$26.80 for three to five year olds, \$28.83 for one and two year olds, and \$30 for children under one year. The "75% of facilities" rates were 27%-33% lower than statewide rates for all age groups of children.



*Exhibit 51. Rates Charged by Homes for Full-time (6 or More Hours) Child Care, District IV, 2010\**

	CHILDREN UNDER 1		1 AND 2 YEAR OLDS		3, 4, AND 5 YEAR OLDS		SCHOOL AGE	
	Dist. VI	State	Dist. VI	State	Dist. VI	State	Dist. VI	State
Median	\$29.40	\$38.75	\$25.00	\$34.80	\$23.95	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$27.00
75%**	\$30.00	\$46.00	\$28.83	\$42.00	\$26.80	\$36.95	\$24.00	\$34.00

*Note.* From *Child Care Market Rate Survey 2010*, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services, Child Care Administration. The state has designated 6 districts for the purpose of conducting a child care market rate survey that is required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. \*District VI is comprised of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties. Rates for children under 1 were based on data from 8 centers. Rates for 1 and 2 year olds were based on data from 20 centers. Rates for 3, 4, and 5 year olds were based on data from 29 centers. Rates for school age children were based on data from 15 centers. Rates were computed based on the average number of children receiving child care. Weekly rates were computed by the number of days care was provided; hourly rates were multiplied by 8. "State" indicates the statewide average. \*\*75% indicates the rate at which 75% of the market is at or below.

The Child Care Administration Office of the Arizona DES assists eligible families with child care costs. Eligibility is in part based on income and immediate assistance is available if the child is in Child Protective Services system, the family is receiving Cash Assistance, the family is eligible for transitional child care, or a parent is a JOBS participant. In other cases, families are placed on a waiting list.

The exhibit below shows that in the 2010 contract year, 150 (97%) out of the region's 155 eligible families received child care assistance. Of the 219 children eligible for assistance, 218 (almost 100%) received it. Data from January and July 2011 show a large decrease from the 2010 levels in both numbers of families and children receiving child care assistance and the percentages of eligible families and children that received assistance. In January 2011, 76 out of 97 eligible families (78%) and 108 out of 136 eligible children (79%) received child care assistance. In July 2011, the numbers had further decreased but the percentage receiving assistance had increased, as 75 of 79 eligible families (95%) and 110 of 116 eligible children (95%) received assistance. The percentage of eligible families and children that received child care assistance in individual zip codes largely mirrored the region's cumulative percentages, although in some zip codes with only a small number of eligible families and children, 100% received assistance in 2010 and 2011.

*Exhibit 52. Number of Families and Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance*

	CY 2010		JAN. 2011		JULY 2011	
	Number of Families Eligible/ Receiving	Number of Children Eligible/ Receiving	Number of Families Eligible/ Receiving	Number of Children Eligible/ Receiving	Number of Families Eligible/ Receiving	Number of Children Eligible/ Receiving
85531	2/2	2/2	2/1	2/1	1/1	1/1
85533	5/5	8/8	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1
85534	3/3	5/5	1/1	3/3	0/0	0/0
85535	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
85536	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
85540	6/6	13/13	4/2	8/4	1/1	2/2



85543	15/13	18/17	12/10	13/12	9/9	10/10
85546	92/88	133/132	52/41	77/64	47/45	75/71
85551	3/3	4/4	2/1	3/1	2/2	3/3
85552	29/30*	36/37*	22/18	28/21	18/16	24/22
85922	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Region Total	155/150	219/218	97/76	136/108	79/75	116/110

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First).  
CY = Contract Year \*The data supplied shows more families and children receiving child care assistance than were reported as being eligible.

Examination of 2010 and 2011 waitlist data for child care assistance shows that the number of families in Graham County on a waiting list decreased from 62 in 2010 to 32 in July 2011; the number of children on a wait list decreased from 78 in 2010 to 49 over the same period.

*Exhibit 53. Number of Families and Children on Child Care Assistance Waiting List, 2010 and January and July, 2011*

	CY 2010		JAN. 2011		JUL. 2011	
	Number of Families	Number of Children	Number of Families	Number of Children	Number of Families	Number of Children
Graham	62	78	28	47	32	49
Greenlee	5	5	2	3	5	6
Arizona	5257	6956	3396	4653	3223	4372

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First). CY = Contract Year

To improve accessibility to high quality child care, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has adopted the support strategy of awarding families Quality First scholarships. As of the end of June 2012, 26 children had received these scholarships, exceeding the FY2012 target of 19 children by 37%.

## Professional Development

Professional development and education levels of staff are important elements of child care quality. According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, teachers who have good preparation in early childhood education are: prepared to apply knowledge of child development; use appropriate teaching strategies; meet the social/emotional demands of young children; understand children's thinking; know how to build student learning over time; and understand language and literacy development. All of these elements are important, based on current research which emphasizes that the first years of life have a lasting impact on child development (National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, 2008). However, findings from the National Pre-Kindergarten Study (2005) show that more than one-fourth of teachers lacked a bachelor's degree and half of those teachers had no more than a high school diploma. Only 24% had a master's degree. Assistant teachers had even less education, with 59% having no more than a high school diploma. A 2010 report by the Pew Center on the States recommended that all Pre-K teachers have both a bachelor's degree and special training in early childhood education (Bueno, Darling-Hammond & Gonzales, 2010). Additionally, a report from the Brookings-Rockefeller Project



suggested that states should create innovative charter colleges to produce a well-trained professional early childhood workforce (Mead & Carey, 2011). The Pew Center on the States report further suggested that instituting such education requirements would support professionalization of the early childhood workforce, and lead to higher compensation, and thereby, easier recruitment and greater retention. Lacking such professionalization, salaries for early childhood teachers remain low. Bureau of Labor Statistic (2010) data for United States showed that pre-K teachers earned an average of \$29,200 and child care workers earned an average of \$21,110.

A 2011 study that ranked 200 occupations based on income potential, work environment, stress, physical demands, and hiring outlook put child care work at number 186 (CareerCast, 2011). Recent research has highlighted the importance of providing professional development opportunities to early childhood educators. One recent study found that children who kept the same early childhood teacher scored higher in a number of areas than children who changed teachers during a year.

These areas included fine motor, cognitive, and language skills as well as teacher and parent reports. The same study also found that boys were more negatively affected by a change in their teachers than girls (Tran & Winsler, 2011). The findings of other recent research suggest that professional development delivered via the internet may enhance the abilities of early childhood educators (Pianta, Mashburn, Downer, Hamre & Justice, 2008). Some early childhood experts have suggested that it is important to offer incentives for early childhood educators to gain bilingual skills, and moreover, that the professional development provided to bilingual staff should be sensitive to their language needs (Worthington et al., 2011).

First Things First statewide utilizes funded and unfunded approaches to improving the professional development of Arizona early childhood education providers. Several funded strategies that impact professional development are described below:

- Professional REWARDS: This program offers stipends to early childhood educators who advance their education or maintain a designated length of continuous employment. There are currently no REWARDS participants in the region.
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> Arizona Scholarships: FTF offers two AA scholarships to early childhood systems that enroll in the Quality First rating and improvement system. The Graham/Greenlee Region currently has 9 teachers studying through T.E.A.C.H. scholarships.
- Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) Service, Support and Incentive Package: In addition to the T.E.A.C.H. scholarships mentioned above, the TQRIS model includes the provision of individualized assets-based coaching.

In addition to the funded approaches above, FTF's strategic plan includes advocacy for increasing wage rates of the early childhood workforce and increasing systems coordination between community colleges and universities.



The Child Care Professional Training, funded by ADES is another child care worker professional development program. It provides a 60-hour comprehensive training program to individuals with minimal or no child care experience who seek entry level employment in the child care field. In Graham County and Greenlee County the trainings are delivered by instructors from Yavapai College and individuals who complete the course earn three college credits. Exhibit 54 shows the location, dates, and number of participants in trainings for the last four years.

*Exhibit 54. DES Child Care Professional Training in Graham/Greenlee Region, 2008-2011*

	LOCATION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING HOURS
7/11/2008-7/25/2008	Safford	10	NA
10/19/2009-12/16/2009	Safford	8	434
7/12/2010-7/23/2010	Safford	11	477
10/7/2011-11/17/2011	Safford	6	205

*Note.* From a personal communication from Tara O'Neill, DES/SEI Coordinator, Education Instructor, Yavapai College.

## VI. Supporting Families

### Family Support

In the early years of life, children's development rapidly progresses at a pace exceeding that of any subsequent stage of life. However, at this critical developmental stage many infants and toddlers live in vulnerable circumstances. One of the most consistent associations in developmental science is the association between economic hardship and compromised child development. Infants and toddlers in low-income families are at greater risk for developing learning disabilities, behavior problems, intellectual disability, developmental delays, and health impairments.

Child health and developmental outcomes depend to a large extent on the capabilities of families to provide a nurturing, safe environment for their infants and young children. Unfortunately, many families have insufficient knowledge about parenting skills and an inadequate support system of friends, extended family, or professionals to help or advise them on child rearing. Home-visiting programs offer a mechanism for ensuring that at-risk families have social support, linkage with public and private community services, and ongoing education on their child's health, development and safety. When home visitation services are integrated with pediatric medical care, this resource has the potential to mitigate health and developmental outcome disparities.

Home visitation programs offer a variety of family-focused services to pregnant women and families with infants and young children. Research demonstrates that well-designed and well-run programs are effective in improving parenting skills and the intellectual development of at-risk young children (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009), as well as reducing child abuse and maternal behavior problems that stem from drug and alcohol use (Zero to Three, 2007). Using home visiting programs as one strategy in the prenatal to pre-Kindergarten continuum can help prevent more long-term costs and



promote healthy social and emotional development in later years. These programs offer information, guidance, and support directly to families in their home environments, eliminating many of the scheduling, employment, and transportation barriers that might otherwise prevent families from taking advantage of necessary services. While home visiting programs vary in their goals and content of services, in general, they combine health care, parenting education, child abuse prevention, and early intervention services for infants and toddlers and, in some cases, older preschool-aged children.

Rural areas have more difficulty supporting their families with home visiting. The capacity of all health and child care services is strained in many rural areas. Travel is of great concern for home visits to remote areas, as poor weather and road conditions may delay or cancel a visit. The region's four home visiting programs have recently formed a collaboration. Collaborative efforts include monthly meetings of program supervisors to coordinate services and ensure families are placed in the most appropriate program as well as quarterly information sharing meetings of program staff.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has adopted home visitation as a central strategy, in acknowledgement of the positive impact such programs can have on young children and their families. Home visitation constituted the single largest funded strategy in FY 2012. As of June 2012, 107 families in the region had been served by home visitation programs, 97% of the 110 families targeted for service.

Exhibit 55 shows the home visitation programs implemented in the region and their geographic scope.

*Exhibit 55. Home Visiting Programs in the Graham/Greenlee Region*

PROGRAM / AGENCY	AREA(S) SERVED
Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)	Graham and Greenlee Counties
Building Bright Futures	Graham and Greenlee Counties
Early Head Start	Graham and Greenlee Counties
Healthy Families	Graham County

*Note.* From personal communication with Shari Elkins, Graham/Greenlee Regional Director.

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services available in the region and ways services might better fulfill their needs. Most (95%) of Graham and Greenlee County parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, approximately 43% of the parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate, suggesting room for improvement in this area.



*Exhibit 56. Family Satisfaction with Services in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 2008*

		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Some-what Satisfied	Very Satisfied
How satisfied are you with the information and resources available to you about children's development and health?	Region	1%	4%	39%	56%
	Arizona	8%	4%	42%	56%
How satisfied are you with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate?	Region	17%	26%	42%	15%
	Arizona	14%	29%	42%	15%

Note. From First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey.

A majority (75% or more) of parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate services they needed and that services received were very good. Over 65% of parents also agreed or strongly agreed that services reflected their cultural values and 91% said services and materials were offered in their language. However, 30%-40% of parents felt that services did not meet all their family's needs and they only received services after qualifying as having a severe need.

Forty-five percent of parents also felt that services were not available at convenient times or locations and 62% felt that there was a repetition in the paperwork required to obtain services. However, approximately 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services.

*Exhibit 57. Family Perceptions of Services in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 2008*

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is easy to locate services that I need or want.	Region	5%	13%	38%	45%
	Arizona	9%	19%	30%	43%
I do not know if I am eligible to receive services.	Region	43%	18%	22%	18%
	Arizona	24%	25%	42%	9%
I am asked to fill out paperwork or eligibility forms multiple times.	Region	20%	19%	31%	31%
	Arizona	17%	24%	26%	33%
Available services are very good.	Region	12%	10%	39%	40%
	Arizona	5%	0%	40%	55%
Available services reflect my cultural values.	Region	17%	18%	38%	27%
	Arizona	20%	21%	36%	23%



		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Service providers do not speak my language or materials are not in my language.	Region	82%	9%	3%	5%
	Arizona	71%	16%	4%	9%
Services are not available at times or locations that are convenient.	Region	32%	23%	28%	17%
	Arizona	24%	17%	28%	31%
Available services fill some of my needs, but do not meet the needs of my whole family.	Region	44%	18%	24%	14%
	Arizona	32%	27%	30%	11%
I cannot find services to prevent problems; I only qualify after problems are severe.	Region	44%	24%	15%	17%
	Arizona	30%	23%	20%	26%

*Note.* From First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey.

Additional information about parent perceptions of services in the Graham/Greenlee Region was collected by First Things First 2012 from parents participating in home visitation programs. Exhibit 58 shows that almost all parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with all statements regarding the quality of program delivery.



*Exhibit 58. Family Perceptions of Home Visitation Services in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 2012*

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Finding services was easy.	3%	3%	12%	82%
Were you satisfied with the service you received?	0%	0%	11%	89%
Did you receive services in a timely manner and were they easy to access?	0%	0%	15%	85%
Program services were scheduled at convenient times.	0%	0%	9%	91%
The program fit my family's beliefs, culture, and values.	0%	0%	9%	91%
My family's experience with the program was very good.	0%	0%	9%	91%
The program provided the help and services my family and I needed.	0%	0%	9%	91%
Were your special needs met, if applicable?	0%	0%	22%	78%
I received high quality services from my home visitor.	0%	0%	12%	88%
I felt comfortable discussing my concerns and acted on them.	0%	0%	12%	88%
Were you treated with respect?	0%	0%	12%	88%
The program staff listened to my concerns and acted on them.	0%	0%	12%	88%
My home visitor did a good job explaining things to me.	0%	0%	18%	82%
Were you (your family) given written information about your rights and responsibilities?	0%	0%	16%	84%
I am satisfied with the information I received.	0%	0%	9%	91%
Were you satisfied with the quality of the service environment?	0%	0%	15%	85%
As a result of the program, I can support my children better.	0%	0%	16%	84%
I would recommend this program to others.	0%	0%	15%	85%

*Note.* The survey was administered to parents at 3 months and 1 year after initiation of services. Some respondents included in the n may have taken the survey on both occasions.

An important factor that influences parents' access to services for children less than five years of age is their level of knowledge regarding child development. Exhibit 59 shows that a higher percentage of the region's parents who completed the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey correctly answered 11 out of 22 questions concerning child development, compared to parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that efforts are still needed in the Graham/Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development. Results of the FTF survey of parents' understanding of early childhood are presented in the following table.



*Exhibit 59. Parents' Understanding of Early Childhood in Graham and Greenlee Counties Compared to the State, 2008*

<p>When do you think a parent can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development?</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Prenatal/From Birth</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>92%</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	92%	78%
In Region	In Arizona				
92%	78%				
<p>At what age do you think an infant or young child begins to really take in and react to the world around them?</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Up to one month</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50%</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	50%	51%
In Region	In Arizona				
50%	51%				
<p>Which do you agree with more? a) First year has a little impact on school performance b) First year has a major impact on school performance</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>First year has a major impact on school performance</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>91%</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	91%	79%
In Region	In Arizona				
91%	79%				
<p>At what age do you think a baby or young child can begin to sense whether or not his parent is depressed or angry, and can be affected by his parent's mood?</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Up to two months</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64%</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	64%	57%
In Region	In Arizona				
64%	57%				
<p>Children's capacity for learning is pretty much set from birth and cannot be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Definitely false</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>72%</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	72%	78%
In Region	In Arizona				
72%	78%				
<p>In terms of learning about language, children get an equal benefit from hearing someone talk on TV versus hearing a person in the same room talking to them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Definitely false</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>58%</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	58%	53%
In Region	In Arizona				
58%	53%				
<p>Parents' emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence that child's intellectual development.</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Definitely true</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>87%</td> <td>89%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	87%	89%
In Region	In Arizona				
87%	89%				
<p>For a five-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Playing is crucial</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>91%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	91%	90%
In Region	In Arizona				
91%	90%				
<p>For a three-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?</p>	<p>Percent correctly responding: <i>Playing is crucial</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>In Region</td> <td>In Arizona</td> </tr> <tr> <td>93%</td> <td>92%</td> </tr> </table>	In Region	In Arizona	93%	92%
In Region	In Arizona				
93%	92%				



For a 10-month-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Playing is crucial*

In Region	In Arizona
78%	79%

If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child wants to get her parents' attention?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Not at all likely*

In Region	In Arizona
5%	14%

If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child enjoys learning about what happens when buttons are pressed?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Very likely*

In Region	In Arizona
76%	78%

If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child is angry at her parents for some reason or she is trying to get back at them?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Not at all likely*

In Region	In Arizona
82%	76%

In this case of turning the TV on and off, would you say that the child is misbehaving, or not?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Not misbehaving*

In Region	In Arizona
89%	92%

Should a 15-month-old baby be expected to share her toys with other children?

Percent correctly responding:  
*No, too young to share*

In Region	In Arizona
56%	60%

Should a 3-year-old child be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so?

Percent correctly responding:  
*A three-year-old should not be expected*

In Region	In Arizona
63%	74%

Can a six-month-old be spoiled? Or is he too young?

Percent correctly responding:  
*A six-month-old is too young to spoil*

In Region	In Arizona
38%	36%

Picking up a three-month-old every time she cries?

Percent correctly responding:  
*Appropriate*

In Region	In Arizona
74%	62%



Rocking a one-year-old to sleep every night because the child will protest if this is not done?	Percent correctly responding: <i>Appropriate</i>	
	In Region 34%	In Arizona 30%
Letting a two-year-old get down from the dinner table before the rest of the family has finished their meal?	Percent correctly responding: <i>Appropriate</i>	
	In Region 51%	In Arizona 58%
Letting a five-year-old choose what to wear to school every day?	Percent correctly responding: <i>Appropriate</i>	
	In Region 92%	In Arizona 77%

Note. From First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey

### Child Abuse/Neglect

Significant research has been conducted on child abuse and neglect, in efforts to understand factors related to positive and negative outcomes for youth. Societal, community, family/parental, and child-specific risk and protective factors have been identified as contributors. Increasingly, research suggests that it is a complex inter-play of these factors that impacts the likelihood of abuse and neglect (Peirson, Laurendeau & Chamberland, 2001). Recent analysis of data from three longitudinal studies of low-income families with young children suggests that a number of indicators related to economic hardship may predict subsequent neglect, including receipt of financial assistance from family, use of food pantry and utility shut-offs (Slack, Berger, DuMont, Yang, Kim, Ehrhard-Dietzel & Holl, 2011). Beyond impact on children's health and well-being, child abuse in the years prior to kindergarten was found to negatively impact early school success (Fantuzzo, Perlman & Dobbins, 2011).

The number of child abuse reports in the Graham/Greenlee Region fluctuated from October 2008 to March 2011, ranging from 86 to 98 for each six month period in Graham County and 12 to 20 in Greenlee County. The number of substantiated reports decreased noticeably in Graham County over the four reporting periods, from 6.7% in the first period to 0.1% in the last three periods. The substantiation rate for Greenlee County was 0% for three of the reporting periods and 0.1% for the last reporting period, which is a large decrease from the 15.4% rate reported from October 2008 to March 2009. Such a high substantiation rate for that period was in part because the number of child abuse cases reported in Greenlee County has historically been low. Consequently, a small number of substantiations will lead to a high substantiation rate when the total number of cases is low. It should be noted that the substantiation rate for Arizona for October 2010 through March 2011 was 8%.

The number of new removals from the home ranged from one to eight removals for each six month period for Graham County, with the highest number from the most recent period. For Greenlee County, the number of new removals for the five reported



periods ranged from zero to three, with one occurring in the most recent period. It is worth noting that a child abuse report is neither an indicator of risk nor does it lead to a child's removal from their home. Moreover, lack of substantiation is often due to a lack of resources in the child welfare system.

A statewide fiscal crisis has led to a decrease in the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) staff, resulting in an average caseload that is 67% above state and national standards. At the same time, the most recent state data show that CPS has a turnover rate of 26% for case managers and 10% for supervisors (Reinhart, 2012). It is likely that such CPS constraints have impacted the Graham/Greenlee Region.

*Exhibit 60. Child Abuse Reports, Substantiations, Removals, and Placements, 2007-2011*

		OCT. 2008 THROUGH MAR. 2009	APR. 2009 THROUGH SEPT. 2009	OCT. 2009 THROUGH MAR. 2010	APR. 2010 THROUGH SEPT. 2010	OCT. 2010 THROUGH MAR. 2011
Number of reports received	Graham County	90	97	86	91	98
	Greenlee County	13	16	12	20	17
Number of reports substantiated	Graham County	4	4	8	4	1
	Greenlee County	3	0	3	1	1
Substantiation rate	Graham County	6.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	Greenlee County	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Number of new removals	Graham County	6	3	3	1	8
	Greenlee County	2	0	3	0	1

*Note.* From *Child Welfare Report, Oct. 2008 – March, 2009; Apr. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2009; Oct. 1, 2009-Mar. 31, 2010; Apr. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011; Oct. 1 2011-Mar. 31, 2011.* - Tables 2,3,15, 16, 21, and 22, Arizona Department of Economic Security.\*\*"Reports received" includes data for reports characterized by the risk level high, moderate, low, and potential.\*\* Substantiation rates are computed based on the total number child abuse cases assigned for investigation whose risks levels were assessed as low, medium, or high risk. It excluded reports reported labeled in the Child Welfare Reports as "potential."

### Foster Care

The number of children in foster care in the United States has been steadily decreasing over the last seven years from 510,699 in 2005 to 408,425 in 2010. Over that same time period, the number of foster care children in Arizona has varied from a low of 9,099 in 2007 to a high of 9,930 in 2010 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011). Children are placed in foster care settings for a variety of reasons and few are reunified with their parents. Analysis of a sample drawn from a national longitudinal data set found that, on average, the duration of care was 48.6 months, suggesting that many youth in foster care (approximately 7 out of every 10) will age out of the welfare system



before they can be reunited with their biological families or adopted (Cheng, 2010). Youth who age out of foster care are at an increased risk for a range of poor outcomes related to employment, education, housing, criminal activity, physical and mental health, substance abuse, and child bearing (Stott & Gustavsson, 2010). Many of these risk factors hold true even for youth who are adopted or for whom permanent environments are established.

The stated policy of the Arizona Department of Economic Security is to avoid children's repeat entry into foster care, while ensuring the best interests of children and their families. According to the department's most recent reporting, no children in Graham County entered out-of-home care with prior placements in the previous 12 months (a decrease a year earlier) and only two children entered out-of-home care with a prior placement in the previous 12-24 months. No children entering out-of-home care were reported for Greenlee County during this time frame.

*Exhibit 61. Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care by Prior Placements, Oct. 1, 2009 – Mar. 31, 2010 and Oct. 1, 2010 – Mar. 31, 2011*

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN REMOVED		NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PRIOR REMOVAL IN LAST 12 MONTHS		PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH PRIOR REMOVAL IN LAST 12 MONTHS		NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A REMOVAL IN PRIOR 12 TO 24 MONTHS		PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH A PRIOR REMOVAL IN 12 TO 24 MONTHS	
	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010 - Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010 - Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010 - Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010 - Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010 - Mar. 2011
Graham County	19	27	3	0	15.8%	0%	0	2	0.0%	7.4%
Greenlee County	12	4	1	0	8.3%	0%	0	0	0.0%	0%
Arizona	3,936	3,978	384	367	9.8%	9.2%	130	171	3.3%	4.3%

*Note.* From *Child Welfare Report 1st Apr 2010 to 31st Sept 2010* (Table 32) and *Child Welfare Report 1st Oct 2010 to 31st Mar 2011* (Table 31), Arizona Department of Economic Security, Retrieved on Oct. 31, 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

### Juvenile Justice

When children enter the juvenile justice system it is often the culmination of a history of psychological and academic problems. A youth's entry, exit, and continued involvement in the juvenile justice system are influenced by a range of individual, social, and environmental factors. For example, race/ethnicity, gender, history of mental health, substance abuse, trauma, delinquency, family conflict, poverty, prior social service involvement, and geographic location may impact a youth's likelihood involvement in juvenile justice (Maschi, Hatcher, Schwalbe & Rosato, 2008). Thus, the number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development programs and services in a region. Nationwide, the number of children ages 7 to 12 referred to juvenile courts increased by 33% in the 1990s. Research has shown that children who become delinquents at an early age are



“two to three times more likely to become serious, violent, and chronic offenders than adolescents whose delinquent behavior begins in their teens” (Loeber, Farrington & Petechuk, 2003). Involvement in the juvenile justice system is of ongoing concern as, on average, over half of juvenile delinquents go on to become adult offenders (Eggleston & Laub, 2002).

The number of juvenile cases filed in Graham and Greenlee County Superior Courts in 2009 and 2010 is reported below. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 313 juveniles in Graham County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2010, a 19% decrease in referrals from 2009. Of the youths referred in 2010, 113 (36%) were detained, 25 (30%) were diverted to community service or other non-judicial alternatives, and 53 (65%) petitions were filed requesting the court assume jurisdiction. One hundred and sixty-eight (42%) of Graham County youth received standard probation and six (2%) of the referred cases were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

In Greenlee County, the number of juvenile cases referred to Superior Court increased by 26% from 65 in 2009 to 82 in 2010. Of the 82 youths referred in 2010, 16 (20%) were detained, 110 (35%) were diverted to community service or other non-judicial alternatives, and 198 (63%) petitions were filed requesting the court assume jurisdiction. Thirty-two (39%) of Graham County youth received standard probation and two (2%) referred cases were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.



*Exhibit 62. Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010*

		REFERRED	DETAINED	DIVERTED	PETITION FILED	DISMISSED
Graham County	2009	385	128	127	239	62
	2010	313	113	110	198	41
Greenlee County	2009	65	22	11	38	13
	2010	82	16	25	53	10
TOTAL	2009	450	150	138	277	75
	2010	395	129	135	251	51

		PENALTY ONLY	STANDARD PROBATION	JIPS	COMMITTED TO ADJC
Graham County	2009	8	168	14	8
	2010	1	131	21	6
Greenlee County	2009	0	30	13	0
	2010	0	32	6	2
TOTAL	2009	8	198	27	8
	2010	1	163	27	8

*Note.* From *Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, FY 2009; FY2010 Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System*, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division, Research and Information Unit. Data are reported for juveniles ages 8 through 17. Cases for juveniles below age 8 are handled through Child Protective Services or other agencies. Referred indicates juveniles for whom a report was submitted to the juvenile court alleging the youth committed a delinquent act or incorrigible behavior. Diverted denotes a process by which a juvenile is able to avoid formal court processing and to have the referral alleging an offense adjusted if the juvenile fulfills one or more conditions. Petitions Filed refers to legal documents filed in the juvenile court alleging that a referred youth is delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent and which requests the courts to assume jurisdiction over the youth. Dismissed denotes the number of youth with petitions against them that were dismissed. The dismissal of a petition may occur because of a lack of evidence, extension of unfulfilled diversion conditions, disposition of other charges, etc. JIPS = Juvenile Intensive Probation.

## VII. Health

The health and safety of children is of the utmost importance to parents. Parents want to live in communities where they know their children will receive health services and care needed to develop into healthy adults. Research suggests that poor health in childhood can have lasting and cumulative effects on overall health and well-being (Russ, Garro & Halfon, 2010), such as unaddressed physical, developmental, and mental health problems (Keating & Hertzman, 1999). Prenatal care for mothers is also crucial in preventing birth outcomes that may have lasting effects on children's health.

While the last 50 years have seen declines in child mortality, rates of acute illness, and pediatric hospitalizations, there appears to be an increase in chronic illness (Wise, 2007). The percentage of American children ages 2-19 who are obese has almost tripled over the last three decades and approximately 1 in 6 children and adolescents between the ages of 2 and 19 are obese (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.). Recent analysis of data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination



Survey found that the percentage of children ages 2-5 who are obese increased from 5.0% in 1976-1980 to 10.4% in 2007-2008 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2010). Furthermore, childhood obesity rates vary greatly based on demographic factors such as ethnicity and socioeconomic status. In 2007-2008, the obesity rate for Mexican American adolescent boys (26.8%) far exceeded the rate for white adolescent boys (16.7%) (National Center for Health Statistics, 2010). The 2008 obesity rate for low-income preschool-aged children was 14.6%, up from 12.4% in 1998 (Centers for Disease Control, 2009). If current trends continue, it is estimated that by 2030, 16%-18% of all health care expenditures in the U.S. will be attributable to overweight/obesity (Wang, Beydoun, Liang, Caballero & Kumanyika, 2008).

Another study found a high prevalence of obesity and other chronic conditions in three nationally representative cohorts of children, which was gradually increasing in each cohort. (Van Cleave, Gortmaker & Perrin, 2010). Experts have suggested that initiating strategies to prevent the onset of chronic diseases in childhood can help limit the onset of chronic diseases in adulthood (Halfon & Newacheck, 2010). The Committee on Obesity Prevention Policies for Young Children of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (2011) has determined goals and action steps to prevent obesity in young children. Goals include: assessing and monitor growth during early childhood; using social marketing to provide high quality information and strategies for the prevention; increasing the amount of physical activity engaged in by young children; and creating indoor and outdoor environments that promote physical activity.

In addition to obesity, significant health disparities exist for children in the U.S based on their socioeconomic status. Children who live in low-income households have been shown to have worse health outcomes than their peers from higher income households (Starfield, Robertson & Riley, 2002; Larson & Halfon, 2010). This study found that the child health outcomes were positively correlated to family income.

With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. The expansion of public insurance programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) has played an important role in expanding health care access to children. The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) found that the rate of uninsured children decreased from 14% in 1997 to 7% in the first quarter of 2011.

Over that same period, the percentage of children covered by public insurance dramatically increased from 20% to 40%, while usage of private coverage fell. Children from lower socioeconomic strata of society particularly benefit from public insurance programs. The early 2011 NHIS survey reported that 84% of poor children and 61% of near poor children were covered by such program (Cohen & Martinez, 2011).

Many families, however, are uninsured or underinsured. One study of 43,509 children ages 2-17 (living with at least one parent) found that 74% of both children and parents were insured, 8% were both uninsured, and 19% had discordant patterns of coverage. Overall, about 12%, or roughly 7.4 million U.S. children each year, are uninsured (DeVoe, Tillotson, & Wallace, 2009).



In general, access to health insurance is associated with increased utilization of health services (Seldon & Hudson, 2006) as well as fewer unmet health needs (Kenney, 2007). The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities suggested that public health insurance may offer better access to health care at a lower cost than private health insurance (Ku, 2007). A large number of children are expected to benefit from implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Provisions of the act that benefit children include: funding for maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs; eliminating the denial of care due to a pre-existing condition; and a 2-year extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Act through the end of the 2015 (Voices for America's Children, n.d.).

Children's healthy development benefits from access to comprehensive preventive and primary health services that include screening and early identification for developmental milestones, vision, hearing, oral health, nutrition and exercise, and social-emotional health (Bruner, 2009). The following sections detail a variety of health indicators for the Graham/Greenlee Region including: health insurance coverage and access, prenatal care and healthy births, access and utilization of a range of other health programs/services, immunization rates, and child mortality and morbidity, among other indicators.

### Health Insurance Coverage and Utilization

The most critical factor affecting the number of children enrolled in KidsCare has been the statewide freeze on KidsCare enrollment that was in effect from January 1, 2010 to May 1, 2012. No new applications for KidsCare were processed during that period; only renewals were accepted. Eligible families that applied after the freeze were placed on a waiting list. Although county level wait list data are not available, as of February 15, 2012 there were 136,843 eligible children on the list statewide. Although renewals were accepted during the freeze period, the number of renewals decreased compared to past figures. This drop may have been the result of families not being able to pay monthly premiums. AHCCCS data show that 1,805 children were discontinued from KidsCare and Child Medicaid because their parents or guardians failed to pay required premiums (AHCCCS, n.d.).

Renewed enrollment in KidsCare began on May 1, 2012 as a result of new funding from three large Arizona hospitals. The program, now known as KidsCare2, will run until January 1, 2014 and will provide health insurance coverage to up to 22,000 children. To be eligible for coverage, a child must come from a family that is qualified as living at or below 175% of the federal poverty level and be on the KidsCare waiting list.

Given the backdrop of this information, data show that from February 2008 to February 2012, KidsCare enrollment decreased by 78% in Graham County and 70% in Greenlee County. Arizona as a whole experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidsCare enrollment during this time period, dropping 81% from 63,580 children enrolled to 12,147 enrolled in 2012. County-level data are not yet available for enrollment in KidCare2.



*Exhibit 63. KidsCare Enrollment, 2008-2012*

	FEBRUARY 2008	FEBRUARY 2009	FEBRUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2011	FEBRUARY 2012	PERCENT CHANGE (2008 TO 2012)
Graham County	257	217	205	100	56	-78%
Greenlee County	33	37	33	22	10	-70%
Arizona	63,580	59,574	42,162	22,153	12,147	-81%

Note. From *KidsCare Enrollment*, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

Monthly data from February 2011 to February 2012 show there was a steady month-by-month decrease of 44% in KidsCare enrollment in Graham County from January 2011 to January 2012. In Greenlee County, the decrease from January 2011 to January 2012 was somewhat more paced, with an overall decrease in enrollment of 55%.

*Exhibit 64. KidsCare Enrollment, February 2011 – January 2012*

	FEB. 2011	MAR. 2011	APR. 2011	MAY 2011	JUNE 2011	JULY 2011	
Graham County	100	97	94	86	85	82	
Greenlee County	22	16	16	16	16	15	
Arizona	22,153	21,053	20,198	19,170	18,466	17,642	
	AUG. 2011	SEPT. 2011	OCT. 2011	NOV. 2011	DEC. 2011	JAN. 2012	FEB. 2012
Graham County	75	70	68	66	66	64	56
Greenlee County	15	15	13	13	10	10	10
Arizona	16,649	15,734	14,953	14,225	13,531	12,837	12,147

Note. From *Kids Care Enrollment*, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

*Healthy Births*

A women's utilization of pre and perinatal care have important short and long-term implications for child health (Mayor, 2005; Baily, McCook, Hodge, & McGrady, 2012; Cogan, Josberger, Gesten, & Roohan, 2012; Subramanian, Katz, Rodan, Gantz, El-Khorazaty; Johnson, & Joseph, 2012). It is recommended that a woman have monthly medical visits throughout her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2010 shows that the region was below the state average in the percentage of women who received nine or more visits during pregnancy.

However, in Graham County, the percent of mothers with nine or more prenatal visits increased in 2009 and 2010. In Greenlee County, the percentage of mothers who had 9-12 prenatal visits showed a large increase in 2009, but a moderate decrease in 2010.



*Exhibit 65. Births by Number of Prenatal Visits, 2006 -2008*

	NUMBER OF VISITS	% OF MOTHERS 2006	% OF MOTHERS 2007	% OF MOTHERS 2008	% OF MOTHERS 2009	% OF MOTHERS 2010
Graham County	No visits	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
	1-4 visits	9%	12%	20%	13%	11%
	5-8 visits	36%	37%	41%	38%	35%
	9-12 visits	43%	38%	32%	40%	43%
	13+ visits	9%	9%	6%	8%	10%
Greenlee County	No visits	0%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
	1-4 visits	10%	21%	18%	9%	16%
	5-8 visits	40%	46%	48%	43%	36%
	9-12 visits	43%	27%	30%	45%	40%
	13+ visits	7%	7%	4%	2%	8%
Arizona	No visits	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	1-4 visits	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%
	5-8 visits	17%	17%	17%	16%	14%
	9-12 visits	49%	47%	48%	49%	49%
	13+ visits	28%	30%	30%	30%	32%

*Note.* From *2006-2010 Births by Number of Prenatal Visits and County of Residence*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. 2010 data from a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics, prior to publication. Percents do not total to 100% because of rounding. In 2010, the number of prenatal visits was unknown for only 0.3% of births for Graham County and 0.0% of births for Greenlee County, as compared to the statewide rate of 0.2%.

Low birth weight babies are at risk for serious health problems as newborns that may affect their health throughout their lives. The low birth weight ratio has fluctuated up and down, sometimes significantly, in both Graham and Greenlee Counties between 2006 and 2010. In Graham County, the low birth weight ratio went from 71.3 per 1,000 live births in 2009 to 50.9 per 1,000 live births in 2010. In Greenlee County, the low birth weight ratio went from 53.8 in 2009 to 95.2 in 2010. It is unclear why the low birth weight ratio increased so dramatically from 2009 to 2010 in Graham County, which had 530 births in 2010.

*Exhibit 66. Low Birth Weight Ratio, 2006-2010*

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Graham County	85.2	82.5	103.3	71.3	50.9
Greenlee County	45.5	94.2	96.3	53.8	95.2
Arizona	71.2	70.9	70.8	71.0	70.7
United States	83.0	82.0	82.0	NA	NA

*Note:* From *Low-Birthweight Birth Ratios In The United States And In Urban And Rural Counties Of Arizona, 2000-2010*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. Data for 2010 were received in a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services prior to publication. Low birth weight means less than 5.8 pounds at birth. The data provided are per 1,000 live births. NA indicates no data are available.



There were a total of 29 newborns admitted to intensive care units in Graham and Greenlee Counties in 2010, of which 20 (69%) were preterm. Sixty-nine percent of preterm babies admitted to intensive care units had a low birth weight. Details are not available on the reasons why the remaining nine babies were admitted.

*Exhibit 67. Newborns Admitted to Intensive Care Units, 2010*

	TOTAL	PRETERM	<2,500 GRAMS
Graham County	23	17	16
Greenlee County	6	3	4
Arizona	5,354	3,106	2,524

*Note.* From *Newborns Admitted To Newborn Intensive Care Units By Gestational Age, Birthweight And Mother's County Of Residence, Arizona, 2010* received in a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics, prior to publication. Less than 2,500 grams is considered low birth weight. Arizona data does not include one pre-term and two full-term births for which weight data is not known.

Exhibit 68 shows statistics on characteristics of newborns and activities of expectant mothers for the region and statewide in 2010. Data from 2010 for the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably to the state. The rate of tobacco usage by women in Graham County during pregnancy (7.7 per 100) is 64% higher than the statewide rate (4.7 per 100). The Greenlee County rate for tobacco use by pregnant women was even higher at 20.0 per 100 women. Births in the region are also more likely to have complications with labor and/or delivery, with rates of 51.5 and 49.5 in Graham and Greenlee Counties respectively, compared to 29.0 for Arizona overall. Births with abnormal conditions reported are almost three times more likely to occur in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in Arizona. The rate for births with abnormal conditions was 20.4 per 100 in Graham County, 22.9 in Greenlee County, and 7.8 in Arizona overall. Greenlee County's rate for pre-term births (11.4) and primary and repeat caesarean births (36.2) are both higher than the state rates. However, the rate for infants admitted to newborn intensive care units was lower than the statewide rate in both counties.



*Exhibit 68. Rates of Occurrence of Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers Giving Birth, 2010*

	GRAHAM COUNTY	GREENLEE COUNTY	ARIZONA
Preterm Births (gestational age <37 weeks)	9.2	11.4	9.6
Births with complications of labor and/or delivery reported	51.5	49.5	29.0
Births with abnormal conditions reported	20.4	22.9	7.8
Births with medical risk factors reported	29.1	34.3	34.6
Primary and repeat caesarean births	27.4	36.2	27.6
Infants admitted to newborn intensive care units	4.3	5.7	6.2
Tobacco used during pregnancy	7.7	20.0	4.7
Alcohol use during pregnancy	0.6	1.0	0.5

*Note.* From *Rates of Occurrence for Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers Giving Birth by County of Residence, Arizona, 2010* received in a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics, prior to publication. Rate is per 100 births. Less than 2,500 grams is considered low birth weight. Arizona data does not include one pre-term and two full-term births for which weight data is not known.

Exhibit 69 presents select characteristics of births across communities in the Graham and Greenlee region. In Graham County, the percentage of teenage mothers in 2010 ranged from 0% in three communities (Central, Fort Thomas, and Solomon) to 39% in one community (Bylas), with 18% county-wide. The percentage of unwed mothers varies greatly by community from none in Central to 81% in Bylas. Because of this variance, the county-wide rate of unwed mothers was 47%. At least 50% of mothers in all communities received prenatal care in their first trimester and only two communities had a very low number of women who did not receive prenatal care. Four of the eight communities reported low weight births, ranging from 3% of births in Pima to 9% of births in Bylas. Between 98% and 100% of births in three communities were paid for by public funds, while between 25% and 56% of births in the five remaining communities were paid with public funds. In Graham County, the percentage of teenage mothers in 2010 ranged from 11% to 29% for the three communities and 16% county-wide. Further, between 41% and 57% of mothers were not married. Half to three quarters of women received prenatal care in their first trimester and no women lacked all prenatal care. Low birth weight babies occurred in all three communities, ranging from 4% to 11% of total births. The percentage of births paid for with public funds ranged greatly, from 28% to 75% across the County communities.



*Exhibit 69. Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers by Graham and Greenlee County Community, 2010*

COMMUNITY	TOTAL BIRTHS	MOTHER <19 YRS	PRENATAL CARE IN 1 <sup>ST</sup> TRIMESTER	NO PRENATAL CARE	PUBLIC PAYEE FOR BIRTH	LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT NEWBORN	UNWED MOTHER
<b>Graham County</b>							
Bylas	54	39%	59%	4%	98%	9%	81%
Central	8	0%	88%	0%	25%	0%	0%
Fort Thomas	4	0%	100%	0%	25%	0%	25%
Pima	70	19%	80%	0%	56%	3%	33%
Safford	273	19%	76%	1%	54%	5%	49%
San Carlos	4	25%	50%	0%	100%	0%	50%
Solomon	3	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	67%
Thatcher	94	5%	81%	0%	56%	6%	26%
County Total	<b>530</b>	18%	75%	1%	61%	5%	47%
<b>Greenlee County</b>							
Clifton	28	29%	54%	0%	75%	11%	57%
Duncan	29	14%	76%	0%	66%	10%	48%
Morenci	46	11%	78%	0%	28%	4%	41%
County Total	<b>105</b>	16%	71%	0%	52%	10%	47%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>87,053</b>	11%	82%	2%	55%	7%	45%

*Note.* From *Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers by Community, Arizona, 2010* received in a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics, prior to publication. Greenlee County had two births in the following categories for which community was not known: prenatal care in the first trimester, public payee for birth, and low birth weight newborn.

As shown in the table above, up to a third of births region wide are to teen mothers. Likewise, in 2010 there were 26 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in Graham County and 9 in Greenlee County. Of these, 19 in Graham County and 3 in Greenlee County had private insurance or self-paid for their birth. The remainder was covered by either AHCCCS or IHS.



**Exhibit 70. Teen Births by Marital Status and Payee for Birth, 2010**

		MARITAL STATUS		PAYEE FOR BIRTH			
		Married	Unmarried	AHCCS	IHS	Private Insurance	Self
Graham County	< 15 years	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	15-17 years	0	26	13	4	8	11
	18-19 years	9	58	44	15	9	0
Greenlee County	< 15 years	0	1	1	0	0	0
	15-17 years	0	8	5	0	3	0
	18-19 years	2	6	4	0	4	0

*Note.* From *Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Women Giving Birth, Graham County, Arizona, 2010*,; *Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Women Giving Birth, Graham County, Arizona, 2010*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. The payee for one Graham County 15-17-year-old's birth is unknown. No information was reported for Graham County girls under 15 years of age.

### Immunizations

The importance of immunizations for young children cannot be over-emphasized. Immunizations have been shown to be a health measure that has made one of the most important contributions to public health in the past century (Pruitt, Kline & Kovaz, 1995). According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), if an unvaccinated child is exposed to a disease, the child's system may not be strong enough to fight off the disease. The CDC also notes that immunizing children helps protect the health of the community, particularly others who are not immunized, including those who are too young or have medical reasons preventing them from being immunized. Immunization also helps to slow or stop disease outbreaks when they occur (Centers for Disease Control, n.d.). Despite the recognized importance of early childhood immunizations, a 2011 analysis of national data found that an increasing percentage of parents are refusing to have their children vaccinated (Stobbe, 2010). Such decreased levels of immunization have been linked to recent increases in cases of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, whooping cough, and Haemophilus influenzae (Hib) (Purlain, 2011).

Important indicators of child health are the percentage of children ages 15-59 months who are immunized and the percentage immunized by the time they enter Kindergarten (see Exhibit 71). For most immunizations of children ages 15-59 months, the rates in both counties vary only slightly from state rates. However, county rates are considerably lower only for the Hep A immunization compared to the statewide rate.



### Exhibit 71. Child Care Immunization Coverage Levels, Children 15-59 Months of Age

	NUMBER ENROLLED	4+ DTAP	3+ POLIO	1+ MMR	3+ HIB	2 HEP A	3+ HEP B	1+ VARICELLA OR HX	RELIGIOUS/ MEDICAL EXEMPT
Graham	246	96.3%	97.6%	98%	93.5%	61.0%	98.4%	98%	2.0% / 0%
Greenlee	140	98.6%	100%	100%	98.6%	67.1%	100%	100%	0.7% / 0%
Arizona	76,659	94.7%	96.5%	96.4%	94.4%	81.8%	95.7%	96.2%	3.4% / 0.6%

Note. From Arizona Immunization Program Office Activities, Assessments, Childcare Coverage 2010-2011, Kindergarten Coverage 2010-2011, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Immunization Program Office. The Arizona Department of Health Services collects the data from child care centers. Data are not rounded off as in other tables to allow better comparisons.

County immunization rates for kindergarteners vary slightly from the statewide rate for DTAP, polio, MMR, and Hepatitis B. Greenlee County is well below the state's immunization rate for Varicella, yet above for Varicella or HX. Greenlee County also has a higher personal exception rate of 6% compared to Graham County at 2.1% and 3.2% statewide.

### Exhibit 72. Kindergarten Immunization Coverage Level, 2010-2011 School Year

	NUMBER ENROLLED	4+ DTAP	3+ POLIO	2+ MMR	3+ HEP B	2 VARICELLA	1 VARICELLA OR HX	PERSONAL EXEMPT	MEDICAL EXEMPT
Graham	574	94.8%	95.5%	94.4%	96.5%	86.8%	11.7%	2.1%	0.2%
Greenlee	35	91.4%	94.3%	94.3%	94.3%	54.3%	40.0%	6.0%	0%
Arizona	83,348	95.6%	95.6%	95.3%	96.6%	81.2%	16.1%	3.2%	0.3%

Note. From Arizona Immunization Program Office Activities, Assessments, Childcare Coverage 2010-2011, Kindergarten Coverage 2010-2011, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Immunization Program Office. The Arizona Department of Health Services collects the data in immunization reports from schools. Data are not rounded off as in other tables to allow better comparisons.

Additional data on children who completed various vaccine series in 2010 were available by zip code from the ADHS. Data for children ages 12-24 months who received the 3:2:2:2 vaccination series show a large variation in completion, ranging from 49% in zip code 85540 (Morenci) to 100% in 85536 (Ft. Thomas). In a majority of zip codes, 61% to 76% of children ages 12-24 months received a complete series of vaccines.

### Exhibit 73. Children Ages 12-24 Months Receiving 3222 Vaccination Series in 2010 by Zip Code

ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING VACCINES	COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 3	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 2
85531	13	7(54%)	7	8	9	8
85533	43	28(65%)	28	30	29	30
85534	55	40 (73%)	40	41	41	43
85535	0	0 (0%)	0	0	0	0
85536	2	2 (100%)	2	2	2	2
85540	55	27 (49%)	28	32	31	34
85543	132	100 (76%)	101	110	110	115
85546	316	195 (62%)	196	211	210	221



ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING VACCINES	COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 3	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 2
85551	13	8 (62%)	8	9	9	10
85552	101	66 (65%)	66	70	70	75
85922	0	0 (0%)	0	0	0	0
Region Total	730	473 (65%)	476	510	481	538

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Excel database (provided by First Things First). All percentages are rounded off.

Data for children ages 19-35 months who received the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 vaccination series also show a large variation in completion, ranging from 39% in zip code 85548 (Safford) to 57% in 85531 (Central) and 85534 (Duncan) (excluding the 100% rate for one child in Eden). In a majority of zip codes, less than half of children ages 19-35 months have received a complete series of vaccines.

*Exhibit 74. Children Ages 19-35 Months Receiving 431331 Vaccination Series in 2010 by Zip Code*

ZIP CODE	COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 4	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 3	RECEIVED MMR VACCINES	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED VAR VACCINES
85531	12 (57%)	13	14	13	14	16	14
85533	29 (44%)	29	40	43	43	45	43
85534	55 (57%)	60	72	72	70	77	69
85535	1 (100%)	1	1	1	1	1	1
85536	2 (50%)	2	4	3	3	4	3
85540	45 (47%)	47	55	56	53	55	56
85543	43 (49%)	50	55	53	52	60	53
85546	254 (48%)	277	344	322	333	357	322
85551	11 (44%)	11	14	15	14	16	15
85552	91 (54%)	96	114	106	111	120	104
Region Total	543 (50%)	586	713	684	694	751	680

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Excel database (provided by First Things First). All percentages are rounded off.

*Developmental Screening*

Developmental screening is another family health practice essential for ensuring children grow and develop optimally. The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children receive a developmental screening at nine, 18, and 30 (or 24) months with a valid and reliable screening instrument. Research has documented that early identification through developmental screening can lead to enhanced developmental outcomes and reduced developmental problems for children who have special needs. Providing children at risk for developmental delays with the supports and services they need early in life leads to better health and educational



outcomes into adulthood. There are several elements of developmental screening that are reported by the Arizona Department of Health Services. These include Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), evaluation/assessment, and in-home or out-of-home services or programs. Arizona Early Intervention Program (DES/AzEIP) is the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is Arizona's statewide, interagency system of supports and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Exhibit 75 summarizes the degree to which AzEIP met its goals with regard to serving families with young children in need of Part C early intervention services. Of primary concern, is the lag time from when a family is referred to early intervention services and when an IFSP is developed, which informs service coordination and initiates services. Part C Early Intervention mandates a lag of no longer than 45 days from when a family consents to receive services and an IFSP is developed. It follows, therefore, that in order to be in full compliance, the state's goal is to have 100% of IFSPs in place for families within 45 days. District VI was far closer to attaining this goal at 82% of families compared to 72% statewide.

*Exhibit 75. Performance Indicators for Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Region 6\*, 2008-2009\*\**

	REGION 6 ACTUAL	ARIZONA ACTUAL	ARIZONA TARGET
Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children	97%	76%	90%
Percent of infants 0-1 year of age with IFSPs	60%	56%	74%
Percent of infants 0-3 years of age with IFSPs	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%
Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who received evaluation/ assessment and IFSP within 45 days of referral	82%	72%	100%

*Note. From Public Report of Early Intervention Services Programs, 2010, Arizona Department of Economic Security. \*Region 6 consists of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee Counties. \*\*The reporting periods for these indicators was July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009.*

Zip code-level data were available regarding children referred to and receiving AzEIP services from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (See Exhibit 76). These data show that most referrals occurred in three of the district's zip codes, 85543 (Pima), 85546 (Safford), and 85552 (Thatcher). Of referred families, 87% of Pima, 55% of Safford and 43% of Thatcher families received services. The number of cases serviced is worthy of further analysis to determine whether the differences by zip code is due to population size, developmental services' locations, changes in the level of need, or another factor.



*Exhibit 76. Children Referred to and Receiving Services for AzEIP July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, by Zip Code*

	REFERRED FOR AZEIP SERVICES	RECEIVING AZEIP SERVICES
85531	0	under 25
85533	under 25	under 25
85534	under 25	under 25
85535	0	0
85536	0	0
85540	under 25	under 25
85543	under 25	under 25
85546	48	27
85551	0	0
85552	under 25	under 25
85922	0	0
Total	91	62

*Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Excel database (provided by First Things First).

### Injuries

One measure of child well-being is the number of severe injuries sustained in childhood. While some injuries are expected, an uncharacteristically high number can indicate homes that lack a safe environment for raising a child or dangers within the community. It may also indicate whether parents are following safe parenting practices for handling newborns.

The number of Graham County youth under 19 years of age with in-patient discharges for injury and poisoning as a first-listed diagnosis increased from 79 in 2007 to 98 in 2008, but decreased to 85 in 2009. In 2007, more youth under 15 years of age received inpatient treatment for injury or poisoning compared to youths ages 15 to 19 years. However, figures for younger children are comparatively lower in 2008 and 2009. In Greenlee County, the number of youth under 19 years with in-patient discharges for injury and poisoning as a first-listed diagnosis showed a similar trend of an increase from 11 in 2007 to 13 in 2008 and subsequent decrease to 5 in 2009. For both age groups over time, males had a higher number of discharges for injury and/or poisoning compared to females. This data suggest that public health campaigns addressing injury and poisoning prevention should target families with boys age 19 or under.



*Exhibit 77. Number of Inpatient Discharges with Injury and Poisoning as First-Listed Diagnosis for Children, 2007-2009*

	2007		2008		2009	
	Children Under 15 y.o.	Adolescents 15-19 y.o.	Children Under 15 y.o.	Adolescents 15-19 y.o.	Children Under 15 y.o.	Adolescents 15-19 y.o.
<b>Graham County</b>						
Females	18	9	17	17	17	13
Males	27	25	24	40	24	31
Graham County Total	45	34	41	57	41	44
<b>Greenlee County</b>						
Females	2	3	0	2	2	1
Males	2	4	6	5	2	0
Greenlee County Total	4	7	6	7	4	1

*Note.* From *Characteristics of ER visits and inpatient discharges with the diagnosis of injury and poisoning as first-listed diagnosis by age group, gender, race/ethnicity and county of residence, Arizona (2007-2009)*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics.

### Child Mortality and Morbidity

Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, likely attributed to fewer infectious diseases, improved living conditions, and advances in medical technology. However, many deaths still occur that could be prevented. Moreover, the child mortality rate in the United States is almost twice that of the rate in the United Kingdom (Land 2009).

The leading causes of death among children ages 1-14 years in the Graham/Greenlee Region from 2004-2010 are displayed in the table below. Three causes that stand out are motor vehicle accidents, accidental drowning and submersion, and congenital malformations. Most of the deaths reported for these categories occurred in Graham County. It is possible that some of these conditions may be addressed by the expansion of programs targeting motor vehicle safety, drowning prevention, and perinatal health care.



*Exhibit 78. Leading Causes of Death Among Children Ages 1-14, 2004-2010*

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Motor Vehicle Accident	Graham	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Accidental Drowning and Submersion	Graham	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Other Unintentional Injury	Graham	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasms	Graham	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Assault (homicide)	Graham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Congenital Malformation	Graham	0	1	2	0	2	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0
Intentional Self-harm (suicide)	Graham	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0

Note. From *Leading Cause of Death Among Children (1-14 years) by County of Residence, Arizona*, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. In some years, there were other deaths with unspecified causes not included in this table. Greenlee data for child death was not reported by ADHS prior to 2007. NA indicates the category was not included on the table for that year.

### Other Relevant Data

In 2008, 35 youth under 19 years of age received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in Graham and Greenlee Counties. It is worth noting that all of these cases were for children under age 15. Hospital admittance for asthma issues may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. Public health efforts might usefully target families with children under 15 years of age who suffer from asthma issues.

*Exhibit 79. Number of Inpatient Discharges with Asthma as First-listed Diagnosis, 2010*

		CHILDREN 0-15 YEARS OLD	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 YEARS OLD
Graham County	Female	9	0
	Male	24	0
Greenlee County	Female	0	0
	Male	2	0

Note. From *Number of inpatient discharges with asthma as first-listed diagnosis by age group, gender, race/ethnicity and county of residence, Arizona, 2010*, Arizona of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics.

It should also be noted that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has adopted and funded an oral health strategy with a FY target of 525 oral health screenings of young children. However, the longer than expected time required to finalize a contract and hire and train staff delayed project implementation. Through June 2012 no children had been screened.



## VIII. Public Awareness & Collaboration

Any successful initiative aimed at effectively impacting early childhood development must be designed and implemented in an environment that includes both public awareness and collaboration (Boocock, 1995). For example, researchers found that the incorporation of a neighborhood into a wellness strategy for children and adolescents was an effective approach due to elements such as support, awareness, buy-in, and collaboration (Aber & Nieto, 2000). At the national level, the BUILD Initiative is an organization at the forefront of collaborating with partners in a number of states in early childhood systems development (BUILD Initiative, n.d.)

### Public Information and Awareness

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has placed a priority on increasing community awareness of available services and the importance of early childhood development and health as part of its SFY 2012-2015 regional funding plan. To fulfill this priority, the Regional Council's FY2013-2015 funding plan allocates \$7,320 annually for community awareness efforts, such purchasing educational reinforcement and Born Learning materials.

The region's FY2013 funding plan also includes \$13,680 for community outreach to support the Community Outreach Coordinator position. The 2013 regional funding plan requires that programs develop and disseminate information about program content. Moreover, FTF will collaborate with regional grantees to ensure that FTF-produced community awareness materials are useful locally. Further community outreach efforts will be conducted by the Regional Director in collaboration with the Community Awareness Coordinator.

Information on recent efforts to increase community awareness of available services and the importance of early childhood development and health are detailed below. In addition, while current data regarding community awareness will not be available until completion of the 2012 First Things First Family and Community Survey, some of the findings of the 2008 Family and Community Survey are useful.

#### Public Awareness of Early Childhood Issues

According to the 2008 FTF Survey, 95% of respondents indicated that they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the information and resources available to them about children's development and health. Second, a review of the percentage of Graham/Greenlee Region parents that correctly responded to questions on parental understanding of early childhood indicates a strong level of knowledge. For 11 of the 22 questions on knowledge of childhood development, the percentage of Graham/Greenlee parents with correct responses was equal or higher than the State average. These findings reflect some level of public awareness of early childhood issues and a need for heightened awareness.



### Availability and Use of Sources Related to Early Childhood

LeCroy & Milligan Associates developed a Community Services Survey to gather data for the 2010 Graham/Greenlee Needs and Assets Report about how the region's residents use services for families and children. Of the 131 completed surveys collected, 122 were completed at venues such as health fairs, Head Starts, school district preschools, WIC offices, and child care centers; 9 surveys were completed on-line. Respondents were asked their level of agreement with several statements about their knowledge of services and how to procure them in the Graham/Greenlee Region. Approximately 88% of the respondents agreed that they knew where to find services for their family, 79% knew who to contact to find services, and 78% were confident they could find services if they really needed them.

The services most commonly used by respondents were health care (76.3%), children's health insurance (56.5%), dental care (55.0%); preschool (50.4%), public library (50.4%), food/nutrition assistance (45.8%), and vision care (40.5%).

### Importance of Public Awareness and Support for Early Childhood Programs in the Region

Research demonstrates that investing in early childhood development provides significant benefits to children, families, and communities. But in times of economic hardship, when resources are at a minimum and competition for those resources is high, it is particularly important that public awareness of long range benefits of early childhood programs is cultivated. According to Lynch (2007):

*Children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten programs require less special education and are less likely to repeat a grade or need child welfare services. Once these children enter the labor force, their incomes are higher, along with the taxes they will pay back to society. Both as juveniles and as adults, these children are less likely to engage in criminal activity thereby reducing criminality overall in society. High-quality prekindergarten benefits government budgets by saving government spending on K-12 education, child welfare, and the criminal justice system, and by increasing tax revenues. Thus, investment in high-quality prekindergarten has significant implications for future government budgets, both at the national and the state and local levels, for the economy, and for crime.*

Outreach efforts to raise public awareness and support for early childhood programs are primarily conducted by a Community Outreach Coordinator. From February 2011 through February 2012, the region's Community Outreach Coordinator made 71 outreach presentations to various groups, reaching 1,087 individuals. The organizations and groups in attendance included: Safe House domestic violence program; Graham County Health Fair; an Early Childhood Special Education class at Eastern Arizona College; Methodist Women; Graham County Networking; Presbyterian Women; Open Book Club; Duncan Women's Club; and American Association of University Women. Cumulatively, from August 2010 through February 2012 the Community Outreach Coordinator had the following achievements:



- 159 “champions” (individuals who agree to spread the word about the work of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, or who invite the Community Outreach Coordinator to do a presentation at their organization or group)
- 10 story banks
- 22 media activities (1 radio, and 1 e-mail newsletter, 13 newspaper, and 7 newsletter stories)
- 100 presentations to 1,676 people

Exhibit 80 shows the number of presentations or other outreach events conducted by the Community Outreach Coordinator and the number of participants at events.

*Exhibit 80. Community Outreach Events, February 2011 – February 2012*

	FEB 2011	MAR 2011	APR 2011	MAY 2011	JUNE 2011	JULY 2011	AUG 2011	SEPT 2011	OCT 2011	NOV 2011	DEC 2011	JAN 2012	FEB 2012
Number of events	8	5	2	4	3	2	4	6	4	11	6	6	10
Number of Participants	354	21	4	41	121	23	24	47	7	159	144	10	132

*Note. Data were taken from unpublished monthly community outreach activity reports completed by the Community Outreach Coordinator that are submitted to the Regional Director.*

Efforts to raise public awareness and support for early childhood programs are crucial in the Graham/Greenlee Region and statewide. The recent threat to the stability of First Things First funding, in the form of a Fall 2010 voter referendum to determine the continuation of the program, made the need to publicize FTF efforts and services of paramount importance. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has publicized their efforts and many community members are aware of the importance and impact of their FTF supported work. Still, the lack of clarity that several community members expressed during surveys and phone interviews for the 2010 Need and Assets Report warrants additional efforts to highlight FTF funded services and raise awareness of their long range benefits.

### **System Coordination**

Researchers have identified that inter-agency collaboration and system coordination are major contributing factors to successful programs. (Sanders, 1999; Selden, Sowa & Sandfort, 2006). In order to promote system coordination it is important to first identify the services available, assess the level of inter-service awareness, and identify strategies to increase coordination and cohesiveness. These elements are discussed below.



### Services Provided

An “inventory of services” list provided by the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was reviewed and combined with other family service information available in secondary sources to produce a Table of Regional Assets in the 2010 Needs and Assets Report. That list has been reviewed and updated, and is included in Appendix B of this document. Because of Graham/Greenlee’s relatively small population, tracking available services should prove manageable. Given the slow and geographically uneven economic recovery and significant decreases in available government and private funding, smaller providers and services may continue to be threatened. Changes in informal networks of service may also be difficult to track.

### Awareness of Services

There seems to be a fairly high level of awareness of available services in the region, as evidenced by the FTF 2008 survey results. Eighty-two percent of respondents from the Graham/Greenlee Region agreed that it is easy for them to locate needed or desired services, which suggests a level of awareness. Respondents to the 2010 Community Survey also indicated their need for additional services (including child care, healthcare, and others). Exhibit 81 shows the types of services that respondents reported needing.

*Exhibit 81. Services Needed by 2010 Community Survey Respondents*

SERVICE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SAMPLE COMMENTS
Preschools/ Head Starts / Early Education	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Preschool be available to all children ages 3-5.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continued quality preschool for children who are not special needs or low income.</i></li> <li>• <i>Preschool enrichment at little or no cost.</i></li> </ul>
Food / WIC / Nutrition	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>WIC: mentioned alone 11 times.</i></li> <li>• <i>Cooking classes using WIC commodities / homemade food.</i></li> <li>• <i>The summer food program is great.</i></li> <li>• <i>WIC program be available to all families with underage children not just low income families.</i></li> </ul>
Medical Services	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An urgent care facility so as not to burden local hospitals with minor issues that arise after doctors’ office hours.</i></li> <li>• <i>Decent medical services and costs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Immunization clinics.</i></li> <li>• <i>Clinics. I’m new in town and I still haven’t found a doctor who will take us and our insurance. They say they’re too full.</i></li> <li>• <i>More medical doctors who accept AHCCCS. All doctors in valley are full and not accepting more patients.</i></li> <li>• <i>Pediatricians (mentioned 5 times)</i></li> </ul>
Other Medical	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dental care (mentioned 8 times)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Children friendly dentist</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Vision care (mentioned 7 times)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Pediatric ophthalmologist</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Hearing services (mentioned 2 times)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mental health (mentioned once)</i></li> <li>• <i>Speech Therapists (mentioned once)</i></li> </ul>



SERVICE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SAMPLE COMMENTS
Child care / Day care / babysitters	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Child care (mentioned 8 times)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Child care that is efficient and low cost.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Day care (mentioned 4 times)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Affordable daycare for those parents that need to work.</i></li> <li>◦ <i>Better daycare facilities.</i></li> <li>◦ <i>More day cares.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Babysitters lists (certified, available, parent thoughts)</i></li> </ul>
Health Insurance	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>AHCCCS (mentioned 5 times)</i></li> <li>• <i>Immediate health insurance when emergency situations arise like sudden loss of a job.</i></li> <li>• <i>Insurance of all kinds.</i></li> <li>• <i>Full medical coverage.</i></li> </ul>
Activities	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any or all educational events for family fun and learning.</i></li> <li>• <i>Learning and kid friendly services / environment.</i></li> <li>• <i>More activities to keep kids interested in school and to stay off the streets.</i></li> <li>• <i>Parent as teacher connection helping parents/kids to connect on an educational/family level.</i></li> <li>• <i>Activities for young kids.</i></li> </ul>
Library	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>More programs like library fun.</i></li> <li>• <i>Library services.</i></li> </ul>
Economic/ finance / utilities	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources for help with financial difficulties.</i></li> <li>• <i>Easier to qualify for rental / utility assistance when needed and to offer more of these services to help when needed.</i></li> <li>• <i>Adequate heating / cooling.</i></li> </ul>
Literacy	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I think early literacy is a good thing to have.</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading programs.</i></li> </ul>
Early Intervention	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>More early intervention workers. There are a large number of children in our community.</i></li> </ul>
Language	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For foreign residents like us. We just need that the school offer a program to develop English proficiency/capability for our children.</i></li> </ul>
Other	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Help with teaching how to treat others and their properties.</i></li> <li>• <i>Need to not cut the programs we have.</i></li> </ul>

Note. From data collected in the 2010 Community Survey conducted by LeCroy & Milligan Associates.



### Coordination and Cohesiveness of Early Childhood Resources

FTF continues to coordinate the regional efforts of early childhood resources. Both FTF staff and grantees participate in monthly Community Network Team (CNT) meetings in Graham County and Greenlee Counties. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's monthly meetings also present opportunities for current and continuing resource coordination and cohesiveness. In addition, the region's four home visiting programs (Early Head Start, Healthy Families, Building Bright Futures, and Arizona Early Intervention Program) formed a collaboration. Program supervisors meet monthly to coordinate services that ensure families are placed in the most appropriate program. Coordination of services is further facilitated through the sharing of information at quarterly meetings attended by staff from the four programs. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's 2013 funding plan further demonstrates a commitment to coordination and cohesiveness of early childhood resources by leveraging local funds with federal home visiting funding through the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program to bring a national, evidence-based home visiting model to the region.



# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This report details findings from the third Needs and Assets Assessment completed in 2012 for the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council. This assessment will be used to help guide strategic planning and funding decisions of the Regional Council for the next two years. While much of this report includes pertinent comparisons with data from previous years, the 2010 Needs and Assets Report for Graham/Greenlee can also be used to provide additional perspectives and background information on this region.

## **Summary**

### Regional Description

Graham and Greenlee Counties cover 6,467 square miles of south-east Arizona. Graham County is located in the Upper Gila River Valley where the San Simon River and the Gila River meet. It is located approximately 160 highway miles east of Phoenix and 125 miles northeast of Tucson. The cities of Graham County include Safford, Thatcher, Pima and smaller surrounding communities such as Bryce, Klondyke, Solomon, Ft. Thomas, and Bonita. Greenlee County is located directly east of Graham County and includes the cities of Clifton, Morenci, and Duncan.

### Demographics

Graham and Greenlee Counties have a combined population of 46,657 people, with the majority of them residing in Graham County (37,220). The regions are ethnically and racially diverse, with approximately 29% of births in Graham County and 47% of births in Greenlee County to Hispanic/Latina mothers. Of the births in 2010 in Graham County, 15% were to mothers who were American Indian or Alaskan Native compared to 2% in Greenlee County. Just over half (52%) of families in Graham County and nearly half (49%) in Greenlee County self-identify as white/non-Hispanic. Families in this region are also diverse in composition, with 18% of births in Graham County in 2010 and 16% in Greenlee County from teen parents; both rates are well above the state average of 11%. In addition, 57% of Graham County grandparents and 76% of Greenlee County grandparents have assumed primary caregiving responsibility for their grandchildren.

### Economic Circumstances

In regard to economic circumstances, 16% of families in Graham County lived below the poverty line in 2010. This percentage increases to 22% for families with children under the age of five and 49% for single-parent, female-headed households with children under the age of five. This data suggests that female-headed households with children, particularly young children, constitute a high need population in the region.

Graham and Greenlee County School Districts also show wide variability in the prevalence of poverty in the region. It is estimated that 26% of the children under 18 years of age in Graham County and 17% of children in Greenlee County live in poverty.



The median gross annual income in Graham County was \$49,694, which is a 44% increase from 2000 to 2010. However, this number is still approximately 15% below the \$58,277 median income reported for the state. Greenlee County data, which is only available from 2000 (due to the smaller population size), suggest that this county has a higher average income than Graham County.

Unemployment data is an important indicator to understand the region's economic condition. In 2007, most Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less. However, the county's overall unemployment rate rose to a high of 14.7% in 2009 before moderating to 11.1% in 2011. In Greenlee County, rates rose from 3.2% in 2007 to 18.5% in 2008, but decreased to 8.6% in 2011.

Net job flow data emphasizes the challenges many families in the region face. In Graham County, from the fourth quarter of 2009 through the third quarter of 2010 there was a net increase of 1,784 jobs that followed three quarters of net job losses. In Greenlee County, there was a net increase of 509 jobs across the four quarters of 2010 that followed five quarters of net job losses.

Many families rely on benefits to help them survive unemployment or low income levels. The number of families with children ages 0-5 receiving SNAP benefits increased by 51% in Graham County and 78% in Greenlee County from January 2007 to July 2011. In most of the region's communities, 45% or more of school children are enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program. In addition, the number of children enrolled in the WIC program increased in June 2011 in a majority of the region's communities, after showing a decrease in January 2010.

### Educational Indicators

Research suggests that a mother's education level has important implications for the educational progress of her children. From 2006 to 2010, the educational level of mothers in Graham and Greenlee Counties has mostly followed a positive trend. The percentage of mothers in Graham County with 1-4 years of college has increased from 25% in 2007 to 34% in 2010 and the percentage of mothers with at least one year of college increased from 18% in 2009 to 29% in 2010. However, 21% of mothers in both counties in 2010 did not have a high school diploma, which is a reason for concern.

Other important educational indicators include assessments of kindergarten readiness, special education needs, standardized test scores, and graduation rates. Third grade AIMS scores reveal a great deal of variation in performance by school district. As a whole, 69% of Graham County students and 63% of Greenlee County students met or exceeded academic targets in math in 2011 and 78% and 85% respectively met or exceeded targets in reading. The 2011 math scores are down from 74% in Graham County and 81% in Greenlee County in 2009. Reading scores, however, show improvement from 77% and 76%, respectively, in 2009.

Two of the largest groups of students with special education needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Data shows that ELL and IEP kindergarten students are relatively dispersed throughout the region, though a higher concentration was noted in Duncan Unified District and Fort Thomas Unified District.



High school graduation rates show longer term outcomes for students enrolled in these districts. The Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely both longitudinally within schools and between schools. From 2004 to 2009, a movement of 10% in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. The majority of schools had graduation rates of 80% or better for most or all of the four years reported upon.

### Early Care and Education

A majority of children in the United States ages birth to six years participate in regular, out of home child care, which justifies the emphasis on quality care for healthy early childhood development. Quality of child care has been shown to affect many youth outcomes. There is one nationally accredited early care and education center in the Graham/Greenlee Region, a decrease from the two present in 2008. There were a total of 10 licensed child care facilities in Graham/Greenlee Region, also down from 12 in 2010. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 523 children. The largest percentage (51%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Morenci (19%), Duncan (12%), Pima (11%), and Clifton (7%). The data suggests that some areas in the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities and efforts to promote increased licensure are warranted.

Examination of child care assistance data by Graham and Greenlee County zip codes reveals a large drop in the number of families and children receiving child care assistance and percentage of eligible families and children that received assistance. In January 2011, 76 out of 97 eligible families (78%) and 108 out of 136 eligible children (79%) received child care assistance. In July 2011, the numbers had further decreased but the percentage receiving assistance increased, with 75 of 79 eligible families (95%) and 110 of 116 eligible children (95%) receiving assistance. The State of Arizona started turning away eligible families and placing them on a waiting list in February of 2009. Examination of 2010 and 2011 wait list data for child care assistance data for Graham County show that the number of families and children on wait lists were lower in both January and July 2011 than the 2010 cumulative total. However, that number did not further decrease across the two 2011 time points.

### Family Support Programs

Family Support is a broad system of programs, services, and collaborations designed with the goal of helping families function to their potential. Different family support programs and services approach this goal in a variety of ways. The region's four home visiting programs have recently formed a collaboration.

Collaborative efforts include monthly meetings of program supervisors to coordinate services and ensure families are placed in the most appropriate program as well as quarterly information sharing meetings of program staff.

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services currently available in the region and their knowledge of child development. Most (95%) of the Graham and Greenlee region parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health.



However, approximately 43% of the parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate. A majority (75% or more) of parents surveyed in the Graham and Greenlee County region agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate the services they needed and that services received were very good. However, 30%-40% of parents did not feel the services met all their families' needs and felt that they only received services after they qualified as severe. Additionally, 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services. While suggesting some concerns with service access and availability, most of these percentages are below state averages. A higher percentage of the region's parents correctly answered 11 out of 22 survey questions concerning child development compared to parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed in the Graham and Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development.

### *Child Abuse/Neglect, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice*

The number of child abuse reports in the Graham and Greenlee region fluctuated from October 2008 to October 2010, ranging from 86 to 98 for each six month period in Graham County and 12 to 20 in Greenlee County. The number of new removals from the home ranged from one to eight for each six month period in Graham County, with the highest number observed most recently. For Greenlee County, the number of new removals for the five reported periods ranged from zero to three, with one removal occurring in the most recent 6-month period.

Foster care families and youth in the juvenile justice system may require specific services or support. According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's most recent reporting, no children in Graham County entered out-of-home care that had prior placements in the previous 12 months (a decrease a year earlier) and only two children entered out-of-home care with prior placements in the previous 12-24 months. No children entering out-of-home care were reported for Greenlee County during this time frame.

According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 313 juveniles in Graham County and 82 juveniles in Greenlee County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2010. Of the 395 total juveniles referred, less than half (41%) of these youth received standard probation. Approximately 16% of cases were dismissed, one case received a penalty, 7% entered Juvenile Intensive Probation Services, and 3% were committed to ADJC. The number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may to some degree be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development and programs in a region.

### *Health Coverage and Utilization*

With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. The most critical factor affecting the number of children enrolled in KidsCare has been the statewide freeze on KidsCare enrollment that was in effect from January 1, 2010 to May 1, 2012.



No new applications for KidsCare were processed during that period; only renewals were accepted. Eligible families that applied after the freeze were placed on a waiting list. Data show that from February 2008 to February 2012, KidsCare enrollment decreased by 78% in Graham County and 70% in Greenlee County.

Arizona experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidsCare enrollment of 81% from 63,580 children enrolled in 2008 to 12,147 enrolled in 2012. This drop in enrollment most likely reflects program cutbacks than a decreased need for services.

Renewed enrollment in KidsCare, now known as KidsCare2, began on May 1, 2012 as a result of new funding from three large Arizona hospitals. It is likely that some of the children on the waiting list who reside in the region will be enrolled in the program; although it is too early to determine the effectiveness of this new enrollment initiative.

### Healthy Births

A woman's access and use of prenatal and perinatal care has important short and long-term implications for the health of her child. It is recommended that a woman access monthly medical care throughout her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2010 show that the region was below the state average in the percentage of women who received more than nine visits during pregnancy. However, slightly fewer women in these counties reported no prenatal visits, as compared to the statewide average.

Teen mothers often face added pre-natal and perinatal challenges. Teen birth rates are higher in Graham and Greenlee County communities than state and national averages. Overall, there were 35 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in the Graham/Greenlee Region. Over half of these births were paid for by public health insurance.

Looking at prenatal practices of pregnant women and characteristics of births, 2010 data from the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably with the state. More than twice as many women in the region used tobacco during pregnancy than the state. Births with abnormal conditions reported were almost three times more likely to occur in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in Arizona. However, the rate for infants admitted to newborn intensive care units was lower than the statewide rate in both counties.

Low birth-weight babies are at risk for serious health problems that may affect their lifelong health. In 2010, the percentage of babies born in the region classified as of a low birth-weight did not differ significantly from the state average of 7%. In Graham County, 5% of babies born and 10% in Greenlee County in 2010 were classified as low birth-weight newborns.



### Other Health Indicators

Immunizations are preventative measures that have made a significant contribution to public health in the past century. For most immunizations of children ages 15-59 months, Graham and Greenlee Counties are at or above state immunization rates. Data for children ages 12-24 months who received the 3:2:2:2 vaccination series show there was large variation in completion, ranging from 49% to 100% across zip codes. However, 61% to 76% of children ages 12-24 months received a complete series of vaccines in the majority of zip codes.

Developmental screening is another essential family health practice to ensure that children grow and develop optimally. The percentage of infants and toddlers who received Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) was slightly higher in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in the rest of Arizona from 2008-2010.

Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, however, many deaths still occur that are the result of preventable injuries. In Graham County, two child deaths were reported in 2010, one by a motor vehicle accident and one by accidental drowning or submersion. In Greenlee County, no child deaths were reported for children ages 1-14 in 2010. From 2004-2010, the most common causes of childhood death in the region were motor vehicle accidents, accidental drowning or submersion, and congenital malformations. Additionally, a total of 35 youth ages 0-15 years old received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in the Graham/Greenlee Region in 2010.

The 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey asked parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties to report on the ways in which they keep up-to-date with their child's health. Parents in all localities most frequently reported keeping up to date through either scheduled immunizations or doctor's visits when a child was sick. Numerous parents in the region noted that they did not have health insurance and primarily dealt with emergencies as they arose rather than seeking preventive care.

### Current Support Strategies

The Graham/Greenlee Partnership Council's 2012 funding plan includes a number of strategies to improve the circumstances for young children and their families. To improve access to quality early child care and education programs, the region is providing scholarships to low-income children. The FTF Quality First initiative is being implemented in some of the region's child care centers to improve access and quality of care provided.

Providing professional development opportunities to early care and education professionals through TEACH scholarships is another strategy being used to improve the services offered to children and families.

Several of the Regional Partnership Council's strategies target improving children's health. The 2012 plan includes financial incentives for needed health professionals who relocate to the region.



Another strategy targets improved health and safety of children by making consultations with health care professionals available to child care providers. An oral health initiative has also been launched that includes oral health screenings and fluoride varnish treatments for children as well as oral health training to families and outreach to dentists.

Funding for family support strategies makes up more than half of the region's allocations in 2012. The largest portion (70%) of allocations fund home visitation services for infants, children, and their families. Another family support strategy provides early literacy information and training to families. A second early literacy strategy, Reach Out and Read, involves pediatricians in promoting early literacy practices with families served. The region also distributes free books to families with children from birth to four years of age in a project partly funded by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The region's family support strategies also include the distribution of food boxes to needy families with children ages 0-5 years.

Data-driven decision-making is another strategy utilized by the Graham/Greenlee Partnership Council. Every two years the council funds a regional Needs and Assets Report and utilizes the findings to guide its decision-making. Data from statewide FTF research and evaluation also enable the Council to make prudent decisions that benefit young children and their families.

Strategies to increase community awareness of the Regional Partnership Council's work and goals have been implemented. The Council funds a Community Outreach Coordinator to inform and engage the community in early childhood issues. The Council also sponsors a variety of community-based activities and distributes printed materials to further inform the public about FTF activities.

## **Next Steps**

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has implemented a variety of strategies to address the needs of young children and their families. These strategies aim to improve: 1) the health, safety, and school readiness of children; 2) the parenting knowledge and skills of caregivers; and 3) the quality of the early child care and education services provided. Many of the Council's strategies are evidence-based and all appear to be appropriate for meeting the needs of the region's young children and their families. Findings that demonstrate the regions slow economic recovery supports the Council's plan of providing programs such as scholarships and family food boxes. Some useful next steps for the Council can also be identified by data that was not available for inclusion in this report. Data such as DIBELS scores or the oral health status of the region's 0-5 population was unavailable at the time of publication. It would be beneficial for the Council to institute a process of identifying community level data not currently available (e.g., oral health) strategize how this data may be obtained, and in some cases set up procedures to obtain this data. In this way, additional useful and current data may be more frequently obtained for inclusion in future Needs and Assets Reports to help guide the Council's decisions and measure progress towards goals.



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# APPENDIX B: TABLE OF REGIONAL ASSETS

PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE					
PROVIDER NAME	CONTACT	SERVICE	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Brighter Day Preschool*	Lisa James	Preschool/Child Care	Graham	P.O. Box 488, Pima, AZ 85543	928-485-2759 ljames@gcss.k12.az.us
Bulldog Boulevard*	Christie Rivera	Child Care	Graham	1400 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-7050 crivera@saffordusd.k12.az.us
Busy Bee	Susan Norton	Preschool	Graham	3544 W. Main Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-8707 nortoncrew@cableone.net
Dorothy Stinson Preschool	Joy Roshon	Preschool/Child Care	Graham	2013 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-7010 jroshon@saffordusd.k12.az.us
Fairbanks Learning Connections	Cathy Benevidez	Child Care	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1060, Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-3501 cbenevidez@morenci.k12.az.us
First United Methodist Preschool/Child Care*	Corrina Gonzalez	Preschool	Graham	1020 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1167 sfumcdaycare@yahoo.com
Mt. Graham Child Care Center*	Billie Huff	Preschool	Graham	300 Discovery Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546.	928-348-7087 bhuff@saffordusd.k12.az.us
Jump Start to Kindergarten	Chantel Allen	Preschool	Graham	677 N. College Avenue, Thatcher, AZ 85552	480-252-6767 chantel.allen@hotmail.com
Little Learners	Stacy Morris	Preschool	Graham	708 N. Alice Lane, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-6927 stacy6927@hotmail.com
Palomita Children's Center*	Dena Barentine	Preschool	Graham	250 W. 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0363 dbarentine@blakefoundation.org
Safford Christian	Lolene Brandau	Preschool	Graham	P.O. Box 1074, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4234
Shepherd of the Hills Preschool	Cori Easley	Preschool/Child Care	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1212, Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-4650
Shining Stars	Aubrey Larson	Preschool	Graham	3178 W. First Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-348-0143 volleybob10@yahoo.com
Solomon Preschool	Marie Rhodes	Preschool/Child Care	Graham	P.O. Box 167, Solomon, AZ 85551	928-428-0477 gloria@solomon.k12.az.us

\*Indicates the provider is DHS-licensed



## HEAD START

PROVIDER NAME	CONTACT	SERVICE	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Early Head Start	Angy Andazola	Preschool	Graham	250 W. 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-8825 aandazola@blakefoundation.org
Palomita Children's Center	Dena Barentine	Preschool/Child Care	Graham	250 W. 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0363 dbarentine@blakefoundation.org
Pima Head Start	Janie Aguilar	Preschool	Graham	P.O. Box 1083, Pima, AZ 85543	928-485-3024 pima@childparentcenters.org
Sierra Bonita Head Start	Yvonne Hornelaz	Preschool	Graham	P.O. Box A, Safford, AZ 85548	928-428-0455 sierrabonita@childparentcenters.org
Duncan Head Start	Nat Navarette	Preschool	Greenlee	P.O. Box 860, Duncan, AZ 85534	928-359-2872 duncan@childparentcenters.org

## INDIVIDUAL CHILD CARE

PROVIDER NAME	CITY	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Leonard, Teresa*	Clifton	Greenlee	108 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street., Clifton, AZ 85533	
Yanez, Rocio*	Clifton	Greenlee	113 Sage Lane, Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-2704
Johnston, Peggy	Pima	Graham	3956 W. Lee Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-651-4866
Woods, Jonnet	Pima	Graham	3934 W. Anderson Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-965-5889
DES Child Care Administration – Alexis Rios-Hanson	Safford	Graham/Greenlee	1938 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-3405
DES Child Care Administration – Kenneth Powell	Safford	Graham/Greenlee	1938 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-3405
Acosta, Tammy*	Safford	Graham	3119 E High Mesa Road, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-3328
Aranda, Belinda	Safford	Graham	258 E Solomon Road, Safford, AZ 85546	928-651-2536
Dominguez, Alejandrina*	Safford	Graham	2525 Safford-Bryce Road, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-2074
Granados, Diana	Safford	Graham	3896 E Windstar Road, Safford, AZ 85546	928-432-3663
Henry, Brittney	Safford	Graham	1805 S 14th Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-651-0879
Hilliard, Maria*	Safford	Graham	733 Keisha Lane, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1177
Hootman, Marian	Safford	Graham	995 W. Cottontail Lane, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-7132
Jurado, Rebekah	Safford	Graham	3655 E. Night Star Lane, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-7583



## INDIVIDUAL CHILD CARE

PROVIDER NAME	CITY	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Kerby, Wadene*	Safford	Graham	900 E. Hollywood Road. #153, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4715
Martinez, Jo Ann*	Safford	Graham	1023 Yuma Circle, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-0454
Miller, Kimberley*	Safford	Graham	627 W. Spur Drive, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-9168
Ornelas, Martha*	Safford	Graham	715 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-5076
Ramirez, Alicia*	Safford	Graham	290 E. Cherry Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-5045
Romero, Mary*	Safford	Graham	1464 W. Powerline Road, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4570
Sanchez, Danial*	Safford	Graham	2007 S. 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-322-6356
Sanchez, Janie*	Safford	Graham	1609 S. Montierth Lane, Safford, AZ 85546	928-965-2823
Sonive, Mary*	Safford	Graham	115 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1739
Tovar, Ann*	Safford	Graham	2303 S. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-8178
Ajeman, Mandy*	Thatcher	Graham	3881 W. Fuller Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-6151
Campos, Michelle*	Thatcher	Graham	3956 W. Lee Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-651-4866
Hallford, Mary Helen*	Thatcher	Graham	3916 W. Lee Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-348-0477
Rietz, Patricia*	Thatcher	Graham	3934 W. Anderson Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-965-5889

\*Indicates the provider is DES-licensed

## HEALTHCARE

PROVIDER	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
<b>Family Medical Center</b> Clinton Damron, D.O. Wright, Joel, M.D. Ray Tuttle, PA-C	Graham	1492 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-2151
<b>Gila Valley Clinic</b> Michael Evans, PA-C Richard Keith, M.D. Gail Guerrero, M.D. Kathryn Gradin, PA-C Susan Jones, M.D. Shirley Rheinfelder, M.D. Catherine Romero, M.D.	Graham	1680 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	(928) 428-1377



## HEALTHCARE

PROVIDER	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
<b><u>Mt. Graham Family Practice</u></b> Drew Christensen, M.D. Brian Kartchner, M.D. Samuel Crandell, PA-C Carolyn McCormies, FNP-BC Bradford Montierth, M.D. Trent Batty, M.D. Sue McNamara, PA-C Lynn Smith, M.D.	Graham	2250 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-3122
<b><u>Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center</u></b> Darlene Horst	Graham	1600 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-8777, darleneh@mtgraham.org
<b><u>Mt. Graham Community Hospital</u></b> Rajen Desai, M.D. Lou Lancero, M.D. Marius Wagner, M.D. Reuben Wagelie, M.D.	Graham	1600 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-4295
Safford Community Health Center - Angel Saiz	Graham	618 S. Central Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1500
Valley First Care (Urgent Care)	Graham	2081 Highway 70, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-348-0000
Rex Bryce, M.D.	Graham	2270 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-3703
Paul McMaster, D.P.M.	Graham	2270 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-3700
Gary Muncy, M.D.	Graham	2241 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-1600
Alkesh Patel, M.D.	Graham	1600 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-3801
Gregg Standage, PhD, M.D.	Graham	1515 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-1370
Duncan Valley Medical Clinic	Greenlee	227 Main Street, Duncan, AZ 85534	928-359-1380
Gila Health Resources - Vicki Chelini	Greenlee	401 Burro Alley, P.O. Box 218, Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-9184
Duncan Community Health Center – Angel Saiz	Greenlee	227 Main St., Duncan, AZ 85534-9790	928-359-1380

## DENTAL

PROVIDER	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Joseph Bull and Associates DDS	Graham	1517 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-9181
Bushman Dental Care	Graham	400 E. US Highway 70, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-8884
Central Dentistry	Graham	1807 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Suite 2, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-2750
Scott Lee DDS	Graham	813 W. Court Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7095



## DENTAL

PROVIDER	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Brad Smith DDS	Graham	1455 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-5555
Kirk Lundell DDS, (Dr. Weech - Pediatric Dentist), Mark Palmer DDS	Graham	810 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-6161
Mt. Graham Dental Associates	Graham	1530 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-5331
Steven Owens DDS	Graham	602 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-3355
Pima Dental	Graham	10190 Cottonwood Wash Road, Pima, AZ 85543	928-485-9223
Canyonlands – Ben Gardea DDS	Graham	618 South Central Avenue Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1500
Safford Dental Care	Graham	102 W. Main Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4255
Lynn Skinner DDS	Graham	610 S. 6th Ave., Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0550
Glade Smith DDS	Graham	1475 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-1617
Gila Dental	Greenlee	1 N. Coronado Boulevard, Clifton, AZ 85533	928-865-2780
Morenci Dental Clinic	Greenlee	Morenci Shopping Center., Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-2332

## VISION CARE

PROVIDER	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center	Graham	825 S. 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-6930
Family Eye Center	Graham	1502 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 8, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4360
Charles Ferrin	Graham	1124 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0500
Walmart Vision Center	Graham	755 S. 20th Ave., Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7990
Southwestern Eye Center	Graham	2242 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0068
Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center	Greenlee	244858 Highway 191, Clifton, AZ 85533	928-865-4191



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PROVIDER NAME	CONTACT	SERVICE	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Arizona's Children Association	Debbie Heaton	Other	Graham	203 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-0711 dheaton@arizonaschildren.org
Boys and Girls Club of Gila Valley	Laurie Armstrong	Other	Graham	805 S. 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-7922 larmstrong@ci.safford.az.us
CHAP Ministries	Greg & Carol St. Hilaire	Other	Graham	2417 E. Highway 70, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7852 homelessproject@aol.com
Child and Family Resources	Louise Welker - Healthy Families	Other	Graham	301-B E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7231 calva@cfraz.org
DES - Child Care	Genevieve Ortega	Other	Graham	1938 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-3405 genevieveortega@azdes.gov
Eastern Arizona College	JoAnn Morales - Early Childhood	Other	Graham	615 N. Stadium Avenue, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-8919 joann.morales@eac.edu
Eastern Arizona Courier	Aimee Staten	Other	Graham	301 E. Highway 70, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-2560 aimee@eacourier.com
Easter Seals Blake Foundation	Loni Sanders - AZEIP	Other	Graham	250 W. 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-8825 lsanders@blake.easterseals.com
Ft. Thomas Schools	Leon Ben	School	Graham	P.O. Box 28, Ft. Thomas, AZ 85536	928-485-9423
Graham County Chamber of Commerce	Marie Freestone	Other	Graham	1111 Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-2511
Graham County Health Dept.	Rochelle Figueroa	Other	Graham	820 W. Main Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7690 rfigueroa@graham.az.gov
Graham County School Superintendent	Donna McGaughey	Other	Graham	921 Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-2880 dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov
Graham County Special Services	Lisa James	Other	Graham	P.O. Box 488, Pima, AZ 85543	928-485-2759 ljames@gcss.k12.az.us
Graham County WIC Dept.	Rochelle Figueroa	Other	Graham	820 W. Main Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-7690
Mt. Graham Safe House	Desiree Pena	Other	Graham	1519 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-9104 mgsh@vtc.net
Thatcher Schools	Paul Nelson	School	Graham	3625 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-348-7200
Pima Schools	Sean Rickert	Other	Graham	P.O. Box 429, Pima, AZ 85543	928-387-8000



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PROVIDER NAME	CONTACT	SERVICE	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Safford Unified Schools	Mark Tregaskes	School	Graham	734 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-7000
Solomon School District	Kevin England	School	Graham	2250 S. Stevens Avenue, Solomon, AZ 85551	928-428-0397 gloria@solomon.k12.az.us
Morenci Public Schools	Duane Howard	Other	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1060, Morenci, AZ 85540	928-865-2081
Duncan Unified School District	Eldon Merrell	School	Greenlee	P.O. Box 710, Duncan, AZ 85534	928-359-2473
Clifton Public Schools	Dr. Terry Bentley	School	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1567, Clifton, AZ 85533	928-865-2752 sredde@clifton.k12.az.us
Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services (SEABHS)	Cathy Grimes	Other	Graham	620 S. Central Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-428-4550 joan_crockett@SEABHSolutions.org
Arizona Counseling & Treatment Services	Jessica Johnston	Other	Graham	301-A E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Safford, AZ 85546	866-966-0220 jjohnston@actsyuma.net
United Way of Graham County	John Bonefas	Other	Graham	P.O. Box 811, Safford, AZ 85548	928-428-0275 jbonefas@cableone.net
Greenlee County Health Dept. (Clifton)	Steven Rutherford	Other	Greenlee	Courthouse, 5th and Leonard, Clifton, AZ 85533	928-865-2601
Greenlee County Health Dept. (Duncan)	Steven Rutherford	Other	Greenlee	P.O. Box 153, Duncan, AZ 85534	928-359-2866 dheaton@arizonaschildren.org

## LIBRARY

BRANCH NAME	CONTACT	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Pima Library	Bonnie Morris	Graham	50 S. 200 West, Pima, AZ 85543	928-485-2822 librarian@pimalibrary.org
Safford Library	Jan Elliott	Graham	808 S. 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-3202 jelliott@ci.safford.az.us
Clifton Library	Noreen Lawrence	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1226, Clifton, AZ 85533	928-865-2461 nolaw_1@hotmail.com
Duncan Library	Barbara Blackburn	Greenlee	P.O. Box 115, Duncan, AZ 85534	928-865-2461 duncanpublib@aznexus.net
Greenlee County Library System	Alice Webb	Greenlee	P.O. Box 908, Clifton, AZ 85533	575-590-0457 director@greenleelibraries.org
Morenci Library	David Gonzales	Greenlee	P.O. Box 1060, Morenci, AZ 85540	morencilibrary@aznexus.net



## COLLEGES

BRANCH NAME	COUNTY	ADDRESS	PHONE/E-MAIL
Eastern Arizona College	Graham	615 N. Stadium Ave., Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-8472
Northern Arizona University Thatcher Campus	Graham	615 N. Stadium Ave. Thatcher, AZ 85552	928-428-8344 thatcher@nau.edu

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

PROVIDER	COUNTY	PHONE/E-MAIL
Chris Gibbs - Safford Mayor	Graham	mayorgibbs@ci.safford.az.us
Bob Rivera - Thatcher Mayor	Graham	928-428-2290
George Lemen - Pima Mayor	Graham	928-485-9230
John Decker - Clifton Mayor	Greenlee	928-865-4146
M.C.Holliday - Duncan Mayor	Greenlee	928-359-2791
Tom Powers - School Supt.	Greenlee	tpowers@co.greenlee.az.us
Steve Tucker - Sheriff	Greenlee	stucker@co.greenlee.az.us
Ron Campbell – Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Greenlee	rcampbell@co.greenlee.az.us
David Gomez – Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Greenlee	dgomez@greenlee.az.gov
Richard Lunt - Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Greenlee	rlunt@greenlee.az.gov
Mark Herrington - Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Graham	mherrington@graham.az.gov
James Palmer - Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Graham	jpalmer@graham.az.gov
Drew John - Member of Bd. of Supervisors	Graham	djohn@graham.az.gov
Terry Cooper - County Manager	Graham	tcooper@graham.az.gov
Donna McGaughey - School Superintendent	Graham	dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov
Jean Reynolds - Treasurer	Graham	jreynolds@graham.az.gov
Darlene Alder - Assessor	Graham	dalder@graham.az.gov
Wendy John - Recorder	Graham	wjohn@graham.az.gov
P.J .Allred - Sherriff	Graham	pallred@graham.az.gov
Chester Crandell, Member of Arizona House of Representatives	District 5	jbrown@azleg.gov
Sylvia Allen, Member of Arizona Senate	District 5	sallen@azleg.gov
Brenda Barton, Member of Arizona House of Representatives	Graham	bbarton@azleg.gov



## APPENDIX C: TABLE OF REGIONAL NEEDS

Area	Need
Teen Births	The region's percentage of teen births greatly exceeds that of the state as a whole. Because the children of teen parents face greater health risks and more commonly live in poverty, programs to reduce teen pregnancy would benefit the children of the region.
Grandparents as Caregivers	A notable percentage of grandparents have assumed full caregiving responsibility for their grandchildren and may require special assistance.
Poverty: Female-headed Single Parent Households with Children under 5 years Old Living below the Poverty Level	The rate of poverty of these households is extremely high (84%) and nearly double the statewide rate. Any programs that increase the economic resiliency of such households would have a positive effect on the lives of children.
Poverty: for Children Age 5-17 by School District	The percentage of children living in poverty varies greatly by school district in the region. Free school lunch data support this view. This implies a geographic variation in need for programs to economically assist poor parents.
Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in SNAP	The number of children ages 0-5 increased dramatically from January 2007 to June 2009 and remained at that high level through July 2011. It appears that programs such as food boxes for poor families are still vital to ensure the health of young children in the region.
Educational Attainment of Mothers	The percentage of mothers who lack a high school diploma (21%) remains well above the U.S, average (14%). This may be tied to the high number of teen births in the region. This suggests the need for programs that promote delaying starting a family at least until the completion of high school.



Area	Need
Standardized Test Scores	<p>The region lacks early literacy skills data. The council would benefit from obtaining DIBELS scores for the region's school districts on an annual basis.</p> <p>There is great variation amongst the region's school districts in AIMS scores for reading and math. Such geographic variation should be considered in allocation of early literacy resources.</p>
Special Education	<p>As with some other areas, there is great variation by school district in the percentage of special needs students. This suggests a need to consider geographic variation in the allocation of resources for special needs students.</p>
Early Care Education: Access and Quality	<p>Currently, there is only 1 nationally accredited early care and education center in the region. The region's Quality First ratings would benefit from more centers achieving national accreditation. Higher Quality First ratings will lead to additional child care scholarships.</p> <p>The number of ADHS-licensed child care facilities and the number of children serviced by those facilities has decreased since the 2010 report, while the population of children ages 0-5 has grown. There is a need for more licensed facilities in the region.</p>
Professional Development	<p>There is no region-specific data about early care and education professionals' educational attainment. Market rate reports groups Graham and Greenlee Counties with other counties. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the region's level of professional development need.</p>
Family Support	<p>There is currently a lack of current information regarding parents' perceptions of services. The council will benefit from review of soon to be released data from the 2012 FTF Family and Community Survey.</p>



Area	Need
Health Insurance Coverage and Utilization	<p>There was a large and steady decrease in KidsCare enrollment from 2008 to 2012. There is a significant unmet need for health insurance coverage for children in the region.</p>
Prenatal Visits	<p>The region's mothers lag behind statewide averages in the number of prenatal visits. There is a need for further programmatic action to promote prenatal visits from the beginning of pregnancy.</p>
Injuries and Poisonings	<p>The number of inpatient discharges with injury and poisoning as first-listed diagnosis was much higher for males than females under 15 years of age. It would be worthwhile to address this gender difference in injury and poison prevention programs for children.</p>
Oral Health	<p>Region-specific data about children is needed regarding oral health.</p>



# APPENDIX D: DATA COLLECTION

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to prepare the Graham/Greenlee Regional Needs and Assets Report is described in this section. The focus of this report is the compilation and meaningful analysis of data collected across multiple sources, with particular emphasis on the region's organizations, agencies and programs, and the services available to the citizens of the region.

The associates worked with First Things First, Arizona state agencies, and federal data sources for indicators in the Graham/Greenlee Regional Needs and Assets Report. First Things First requested much of the state-level data on behalf of the vendors producing the regional reports. The majority of the data were collected electronically.

State sources included in the report:

- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Immunization Program Office
- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
- Arizona Department of Commerce
- Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division
- Arizona Community Survey

Federal sources included in the report:

- American Community Survey data
- United States Census Bureau
- United States Centers for Disease Control
- United States Department of Health and Human Services
- United States Department of Labor
- United States Department of Environmental Quality

