



2012

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families by increasing access to quality child care, healthcare, and family support services.

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities for the expansion of the number of children who have access to high quality child care, including learning materials that are developmentally appropriate, a curriculum focused on early literacy and teachers trained to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Pat VanMaanen, RN, BS, MS, Chair
Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council



INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INTRODUCTION

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

This Needs and Assets Report for the Northeast Maricopa Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face in the Northeast Maricopa Region include lack of support and services for families, limited access to high quality, affordable early care and education, lack of quality child care programs, lack of support to meet the needs of children with developmental /social-emotional issues, and Lack of access to preventive oral health care, to name but a few.

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. A strong focus throughout the Northeast Maricopa Region, in the past year was to improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings, establish a comprehensive system to support families in obtaining the health, developmental and educational supports for children to be healthy and ready to learn, expand the number of early care and education centers/homes participating in Quality First, build the capacity of early care and education providers to nurture the social-emotional development of young children, and increases children's access to preventive dental care in the region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations; while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

School Readiness Indicators

In August 2011, the First Things First Board approved a set of indicators that provide a composite measure for young children as they prepare to enter Kindergarten. The intent of the indicators is to provide an opportunity to achieve measureable and real long-term results for children. Each region was asked to select four of the ten indicators to prioritize within their region. The indicators selected by the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region are listed below.

- # and % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being
- # and % of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the developmental domains of social emotional, language and literacy, cognitive and motor and physical



- # and % of children with untreated tooth decay
- # and % of children enrolled in an early care and education programs with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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

A special thank you to all of the local agencies who contributed data for this report including but not limited to Maricopa County Head Start, Scottsdale Public Library, PV Health Solutions, and Paiute Neighborhood Center. The Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council also want to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Region and the People

The Northeast Maricopa First Things First Region includes highly populated cities, tribal land, small rural towns and wilderness preserves. The area stretches over 40 miles from north to south and 30 miles from east to west. The region includes the following communities: Carefree, Cave Creek, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley, Rio Verde, and Scottsdale. The region also includes recreation areas such as the Phoenix Mountain Preserve and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve—the largest urban wilderness area in the United States.

There were more than 330,000 people in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2010. The population of children birth through five living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has declined with an estimated 20,064 children in 2000 and 17,258 in 2010, a 16% decrease. In the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, a large majority (73%) of children birth through five were White, followed by 15% Hispanic or Latino, 5% Asian, 2% Black or African American and 1% American Indian. The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (85%) in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.

The Face of Poverty

Income

Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and lack basic health care. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment. Arizona had the fifth highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010, with 1 out of 4 children living in poverty.

What does the economy look like for local children and their families?

- In the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, more than 1 out of 10 children (11%) were living in poverty according to the 2006-2010 Census Estimates.
- There is wide income inequality within the Northeast Maricopa Region. For example, the median income for a married couple in the Cave Creek Unified school district was \$140,094, compared with \$43,315 for a female headed household with no husband present in the Scottsdale Unified school district.
- Median married-couple family income overall in the County was \$78,241 in 2010.



Unemployment

The unemployment rate as defined by the International Labour Organization measures the number of people who are without jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks.¹ The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. While the unemployment rate provides some measure of a community's economic well-being, it does not capture those who have stopped looking for work, who are underemployed, or struggling to make ends meet.

Do parents have jobs?

- Unemployment was at 6.6% in the region in 2010, and recently dropped slightly to 5.9% in 2011. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for the state of Arizona was 9.3% in 2011.

Economic Supports

Going without basic needs such as food, housing, child care, health care, or clothing can have short and long-term consequences to residents' health and well-being. When children suffer from lack of food, it can lead to poor physical and mental health, difficulty learning, increased school absences, and lower test scores.

Can families meet their basic needs?

- The number of families with children birth through five living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region receiving food stamps increased 58% between January 2007 and 2011. In January 2011, there were 1,666 children ages birth through five who received food stamps.
- The number of families with children birth through five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) remained steady from January 2007 (123) to 2010 (124), but dropped in half (58) in 2011.

Are families losing their houses to foreclosure?

- Foreclosure rates varied within the region from a high of one in every 278 homes in Cave Creek to a low of one in 662 in Scottsdale's 85258 zip code.

¹International Labour Organization. (1982). Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statistics. Thirteenth International Conference on Labour Statistics.



Early Care and Education

The Early Childhood System

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

Do parents have access to child care?

- Only about 4 out of every 10 children (44%) with working parents in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region had access to licensed child care in 2010.
- There was a 43% decrease in the number of families that were eligible for child care subsidies between January 2009 and January 2010, and a corresponding 46% decrease in the number of families receiving subsidies during this time. Approximately a quarter (25%) of the region's children who are eligible for subsidies do not actually receive them.
- The median daily cost of full-time child care is as high as \$41 per day or about \$10,660 per year. This is 14% of the Maricopa County median married couple income—and over a third (36%) of a single mother's income.

School Readiness and Success

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

Are children succeeding in school?

- Paradise Valley Unified School District had the largest percentage of children with 3rd grade reading scores that fell “far below” the AIMS reading proficiency standards (5% in 2011).
- There was variation in the percentage of 3rd graders passing the AIMS 3rd grade reading standard, with 93% of Cave Creek Unified School District 3rd graders, and 82% of Fountain Hills Unified School District 3rd graders passing the standard.
- Graduation rates varied in the region with 94% of Cave Creek Unified School District students graduating from high school in 2010, 93% in Fountain Hills Unified School District, 91% in Scottsdale School District, and 90% in Paradise Valley Unified School District.



Children with Special Needs

It's crucial to have early identification of children's special needs so that children can get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.² Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth.

Are children receiving services for their special needs?

- Some communities in the region have no professionals or services for particular speech language needs. For example, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills and Carefree have no hearing aid dispensaries, Carefree has no audiologists, and Paradise Valley and Fountain Hills have no speech language assistants. The vast majority of all speech language and hearing professionals and services are located in Scottsdale.

Health

Access to Health Care and Health Insurance

Children with a regular source of primary health care and health insurance have better health, receive more preventative care, and have lower rates of hospitalization in large part because they get treated for conditions before they become too serious.

Do children have health insurance in the region?

- About 13% of children and youth (ages 19 and younger) in Maricopa County and Arizona did not have health insurance in 2009.
- KidsCare enrollment decreased 44% with 13,669 children enrolled in February 2011, and 7,631 in February 2012 in Maricopa County.

How do parents perceive their children's health status?

- Parents of children birth through five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were more likely to say that they thought their child's health was "excellent" compared to Arizona parents, according to the 2008 Family and Community Survey.

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



Healthy Births

Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes. Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds), and five times more likely to die.

Are babies born healthy?

- There were 2,619 total births in the region in 2010.
- Approximately 8% of babies were born at low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) in the region compared to 7% in Arizona in 2010.

Teen Births

Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely, have babies born at low birth weights, are less likely to complete high school, and have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers. Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.

Do teenagers have high rates of giving birth?

- 4% of births in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were to teen mothers. The highest percentage of teen births were on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (13%), followed by Fountain Hills (4%) and Scottsdale (4%) in 2010.

Immunizations

Immunization requirements help to prevent against a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care.

Are children being immunized?

- Only one-third (33%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had received the recommended vaccinations in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2010. In comparison, over 50% of children in Arizona had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule in 2010.



Asthma

Many things can cause asthma, including allergens (mold, pollen, animals) and irritants (cigarette smoke and air pollution) as well as infections. Children have smaller airways than adults, which makes asthma especially serious for them. However, even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care.

Are children visiting the emergency room for asthma?

- In Maricopa County, emergency room visits for children birth through five due to asthma increased 9% from 7,505 cases in 2005 to 8,189 cases in 2010.

Supporting Families

Child Abuse

Child abuse and neglect are found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all factors that can lead to adults abusing children. Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children.

Are children experiencing abuse and neglect?

- There was a 17% increase in substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect across Maricopa County in the past five years, with 2,070 cases in 2010.
- Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, there were 2,682 children removed from homes in Maricopa County, the highest number report since October 1st, 2008. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, 7% of those children had a prior removal in the 12 months previous.

Family and Community Supports

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources to help raise their children.

Do families feel they have someone to turn to when they need support?

- Parents in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region reported most often relying on their spouse (75%), their child's doctor or pediatrician (62%), and their mother (55%) for support in 2008.



Coordination of Services

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

What is the availability and quality of services and information?

- 98% of the region's parents were "somewhat or very satisfied" with the information and resources available about children's development and health in 2008.
- 91% of parent respondents reported that they "somewhat or strongly agreed" that it is easy to locate services that they need or want in 2008.
- Parents struggled with knowing whether they were eligible for services (55%), finding services to meet the needs of the whole family (31%), and finding preventive services (27%) in 2008.



DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: WHO ARE THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE NORTHEAST MARICOPA REGION?



About the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region includes highly populated cities, tribal land, small rural towns and wilderness preserves. The area stretches over 40 miles from north to south and 30 miles from east to west.

Carefree and Cave Creek are recreational-resort communities within the Arizona desert foothills, directly north of Scottsdale and approximately 15 miles from Phoenix. Tourism contributes largely to the area economy, with nearby lakes for recreation and the Tonto National Forest.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is approximately 23 miles northeast of Phoenix, covering 24,680 acres and including the beautiful Verde River. Large local employers include the Fort McDowell Gaming Center, the tribal farm, and a sand and gravel operation.

Fountain Hills has a low population density and has been recognized for residents' high quality of life. This community spans nearly 13,000 acres of land. It is surrounded by the McDowell Mountains and Scottsdale on the west, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation on the east, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community on the south and the McDowell Mountain Regional Park on the north.

Paradise Valley is a wealthy residential community with the highest median income and largest percentage of college graduates in the area. It is located ten miles from the city of Phoenix.

Rio Verde is a small, rural town neighboring the city of Scottsdale. It is an age restricted community and home of the Rio Verde Country Club.

Scottsdale is bordered by Phoenix to the west and the McDowell Mountains on the east. This highly populated city has a large downtown center with many businesses and a variety of neighborhoods within its boundaries.

The region also includes recreation areas such as the **Phoenix Mountain Preserve** and the **McDowell Sonoran Preserve**—the largest urban wilderness area in the United States.



BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

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



Population

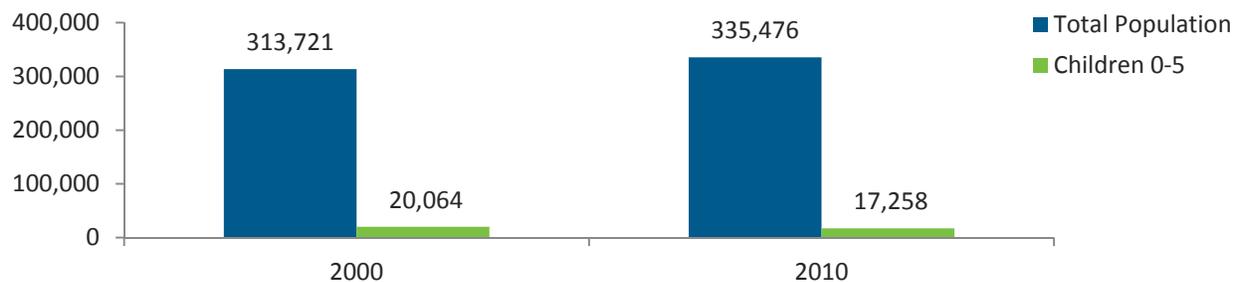
Why It Is Important

Since the 2010 First Things First Needs and Assets Report, the U.S. Census Bureau released a number of new data. Demographics of the region rely heavily on these data. However, it is important to recognize the limitations of these data as they are self-reported and rely on the Bureau's ability to reach and build trust with local community members.

What the Data Tell Us

There were more than 330,000 people in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2010. The region had grown by more than 20,000 people since 2000. During the same time period, there was a decline in the number of children ages birth through five living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region with an estimated 20,064 children in 2000 and 17,258 in 2010, a 16% decrease.

Total Population Estimates, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Census 2010, Table PCT-12: Sex by Age. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Note: Data from 2000 does not include the following zip codes: 85252, 85261, 85266, 85267, 85269, 85271, 85290, 85327, and 85377. Data from 2010 does not include the following zip codes: 85252, 85261, 85267, 85269, 85271, and 85290.

Sixty-five percent of the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region's population age birth through five resided in Scottsdale in 2010.

Population Ages Birth Through Five, 2010

COMMUNITY	POPULATION AGES BIRTH THROUGH FIVE	PERCENT OF TOTAL REGIONAL POPULATION AGES BIRTH THROUGH FIVE
Carefree Town	59	0.3%
Cave Creek Town	182	1.1%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	117	0.7%
Fountain Hills Town	827	4.8%
Paradise Valley Town	560	3.2%
Rio Verde CDP	0	0.0%
Scottsdale City	11,172	64.7%
Remainder of the Region	4,341	25.2%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	17,258	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Census 2010, Table PCT-14: Sex by Age for the Population Under 20 Years. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>



Family Types

Why It Is Important

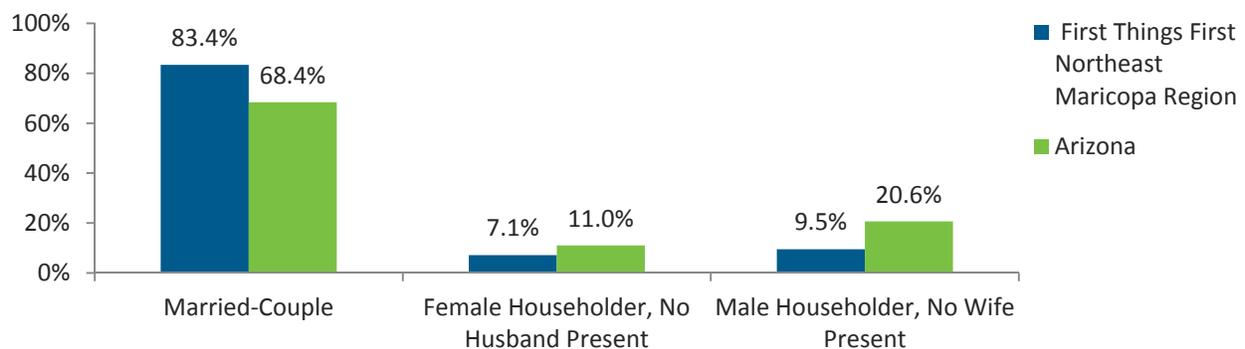
Family structure is an important factor in the health and development of young children. Household structures and family environments have been correlated with children's educational achievement and physical well-being.³ A 2008 study by McLanahan and Percheski suggest that there are links between family structure, income inequality and ethnicity that intersect and get compounded across generations. Income inequality may lead to increases in single motherhood; single motherhood decreases the economic mobility of children; and poverty exacerbates racial inequalities.⁴

The number of families in which grandparents are raising grandchildren is increasing. There are increased risk factors for youth in grandparent care, which may be linked to the factors that led to the parent's absence. These grandfamilies require unique programs and services targeted at bridging the generation gap.⁵

What the Data Tell Us

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has higher percentages of married-couple families and lower percentages of single mother or single father households than Arizona overall.

Types of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09002- Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Type and Age. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

³ Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). *Poverty, family structure, and child well-being: Indicators from the SIPP* (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23). Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>

⁴ McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008). *Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities*. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 34: 257 -276.

⁵ A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E.; *School Psychology Quarterly*, Vol 24(3), Sep 2009, 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226



Six percent of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region lived in a household with a grandparent householder in 2010, a lower percentage than Arizona (14%).

Grandchildren Ages Birth through Five Living with a Grandparent Householder

	2010
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	
Number of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	1,035
Percent of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	6.0%
Arizona	
Number of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	74,193
Percent of Children 0-5 Living with a Grandparent Householder	13.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P41- Age of Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent Householder. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P14- Sex by Age for the Population Under 20 Years. Retrieved June 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Race/Ethnic Distribution

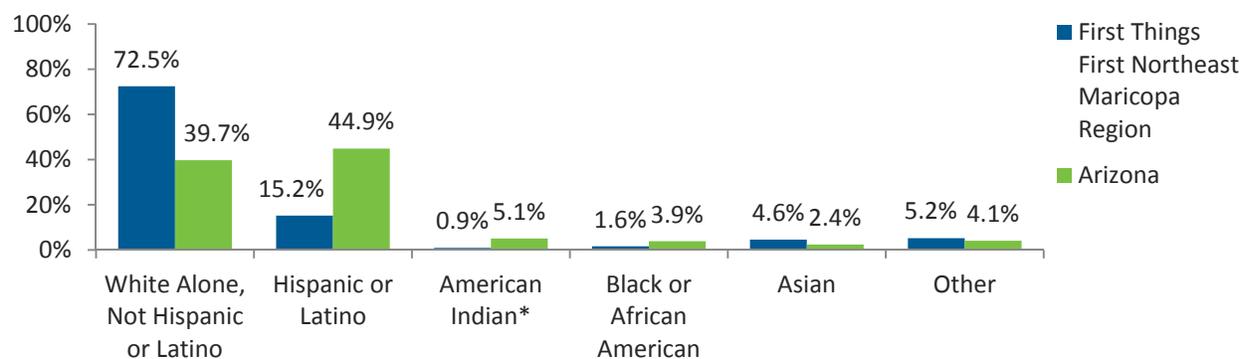
Why It Is Important

Arizona is a very ethnically diverse state with large percentages of Whites, Latinos, and American Indians. Understanding racial and ethnic diversity within the region allows First Things First to provide culturally appropriate services to families of different backgrounds.

What the Data Tell Us

In the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, a large majority (73%) of children birth through five were White, followed by 15% Hispanic or Latino. Nearly 5% of children ages birth through five identified as Asian, 2% Black, and 1% American Indian. In comparison to the state of Arizona, the region was less ethnically diverse, with fewer children identified as Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Black/African American or Asian.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages Birth through Five, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Census 2010, Table PCT-12: Sex by Age. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Note: Based on federal mandates, the U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) as separate and distinct concepts. Therefore, a respondent may indicate that they are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and then identify their ethnicity. For the purposes of this report, all other ethnicities presented are those who reported the "not Hispanic or Latino."

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



The race/ethnicity of children ages birth through five varied slightly between communities in the region. Scottsdale had the greatest racial/ethnic diversity, with 69% of children identified as White, 18% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Black and 4% Asian.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Birth through Five, 2010

COMMUNITY	WHITE	HISPANIC OR LATINO	AMERICAN INDIAN*	BLACK	ASIAN	OTHER**
Carefree Town	83.1%	11.9%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	3.4%
Cave Creek Town	76.9%	18.7%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	2.2%
Fountain Hills Town	82.0%	9.6%	0.2%	1.5%	2.2%	4.6%
Paradise Valley Town	84.1%	9.1%	0.0%	0.7%	3.2%	2.9%
Scottsdale City	68.7%	18.2%	1.1%	1.9%	4.3%	5.7%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	72.5%	15.2%	0.9%	1.6%	4.6%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Census 2010, Table PCT-12: Sex by Age. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Note: Based on federal mandates, the U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) as separate and distinct concepts. Therefore, a respondent may indicate that they are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and then identify their ethnicity. For the purposes of this report, all other ethnicities presented are those who reported the "not Hispanic or Latino."

Note: Data from Rio Verde is not presented as the U.S. Census Bureau reports there are no children under the age of 6 in the CDP.

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

** Other includes Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 2 or More races or Some Other Race Alone.

Language Characteristics

Why It Is Important

In Arizona, English is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Spanish and Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache.⁶ Non-English speakers tend to be less likely to access health care, preventive care, and prenatal care unless services are in their own language and culturally sensitive.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- Rio Salado College Scottsdale Adult Learning Center** offers free in-person classes for legal residents seeking to improve their English skills. English Language Acquisition for Adults (ELAA, also known as ESOL or ESL) classes help individuals develop and strengthen their English language listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. The program has six different levels of instruction and requires no prior English instruction or testing.

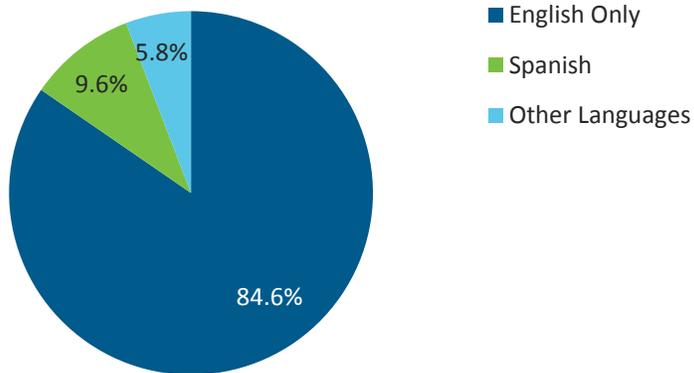
⁶ The Center for Public Education. (2000). Top Five Languages by State. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>.



What the Data Tell Us

The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (85%) in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.

Language Spoken at Home, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Summary File 3, Table QT-P16*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.
Note: Data presented are for the population 5 years and over.



ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

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



Income

Why It Is Important

Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the well-being of its residents.

What the Data Tell Us

Median family income means that half of the families earn more than the median family income, and half of them earn less.

There is income inequality within the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region by area, marital status, gender, and type of household. Income inequality in the region can be quite striking. For example, the median income for a married couple family living within the Cave Creek Unified School District was \$140,094—compared with \$96,068 for a married family living within the Paradise Valley Unified School District.

Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months with Own Children under 18, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates

SCHOOL DISTRICT	MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY	MALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO WIFE PRESENT	FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO HUSBAND PRESENT
Cave Creek Unified	\$140,094	\$107,148	\$41,293
Fountain Hills Unified	\$106,620	\$70,227	\$30,000
Paradise Valley Unified	\$96,068	\$49,178	\$38,976
Scottsdale Unified	\$125,142	\$62,361	\$43,315
Scottsdale City	\$127,828	\$66,364	\$45,956
Maricopa County	\$78,241	\$41,227	\$29,390
Arizona	\$72,316	\$38,509	\$26,377

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B19126- Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

While the median family income of families in the First Things First Maricopa Region varied by region and household type, the diversity in income distribution was even greater. In Paradise Valley for example, 37% of the population reported an annual income of \$200,000 or more while 5% of the town reported an income of less than \$15,000. One in ten households in both Cave Creek and Carefree reported an annual income less than \$15,000.



Household Income in the Past 12 Months, Families, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates

INCOME	CAREFREE TOWN	CAVE CREEK	FOUNTAIN HILLS	PARADISE VALLEY	SCOTTSDALE
Less than \$10,000	5.5%	3.8%	1.7%	3.8%	4.8%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.5%	6.0%	3.8%	1.3%	3.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4.2%	5.6%	7.1%	5.4%	7.7%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9.3%	4.7%	6.9%	4.3%	7.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7.1%	8.1%	10.4%	3.4%	11.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.2%	12.6%	20.0%	10.6%	17.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.2%	11.7%	13.0%	9.8%	12.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	24.4%	14.6%	17.2%	15.0%	15.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3.3%	13.7%	10.3%	9.0%	7.7%
\$200,000 or more	17.3%	19.3%	9.5%	37.4%	12.5%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1901: Income in the Past 12 months (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

The Self-Sufficiency Standard can be used as an indicator of how much income is needed for a family to meet its minimal basic needs without the need for public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard provides a more comprehensive measure than Federal Poverty Thresholds (levels) by taking into account the age of the children, housing, child care, health care, transportation, food, taxes and miscellaneous costs, as well as economic differences between regions. A self-sufficiency wage in Scottsdale for 2 adults and a preschooler was \$11.92 for each parent an hour in 2012. Minimum wage in Arizona as of July 2012 was \$7.65.

Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Maricopa County, 2012

MONTHLY EXPENSE	FAMILY TYPE			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School age	2 Adults + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School age
Housing	\$871	\$871	\$871	\$871
Child Care	\$861	\$1,319	\$861	\$1,319
Food	\$388	\$582	\$628	\$799
Transportation	\$295	\$295	\$561	\$561
Health Care	\$394	\$417	\$450	\$472
Miscellaneous	\$281	\$348	\$337	\$402
Taxes	\$563	\$695	\$619	\$742
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$53	-\$100	-\$50	-\$100
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$83	-\$167	-\$83	-\$167
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly ¹	\$19.99	\$24.20	\$11.92 ¹	\$13.92 ¹
Monthly	\$3,518	\$4,260	\$4,194	\$4,900
Annual	\$42,214	\$51,115	\$50,333	\$58,798

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2012). *Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona*. Retrieved December 2012 from <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/pubs.html>.

¹ Hourly wage for two-adult households are per adult (e.g., \$11.92 for each adult in family with two adults and a preschooler).



Unemployment

Why It Is Important

People need an adequate supply of jobs that generate enough income to pay for basic needs. The unemployment rate shows whether or not a community is achieving this goal. However, the unemployment rate does not capture data about individuals that are underemployed or have stopped searching for work. Arizona has added jobs at a slower rate than the U.S. as a whole for the past three years (2010 to 2012).⁷

Snapshot of Community Assets

Job growth is projected to continue to increase in the city of Scottsdale according to the Arizona Workforce Informer. The largest industry in the city is expected to be professional and business services followed by finance, insurance, and real estate.⁸

- **Scottsdale Healthcare**, the **Mayo Clinic**, the **Scottsdale Airpark**, and **General Dynamics** are the largest private employers in Scottsdale.⁹
- **Most Paradise Valley residents commute** to jobs in metropolitan Phoenix, but they may also be employed in the electronic plants along Black Canyon Freeway, at businesses in Scottsdale Air Park, and in retail areas such as the Paradise Valley Mall.
- **The One Stop Career Center of Vista del Camino** provides job readiness assistance to individuals seeking employment—including career guidance, career assessments, Internet access, and workshops on resume writing, job searching, and interviewing. For more information: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/assistance/jobprep>
 - **Vista del Camino's Career Closet** provides free professional attire for job seekers with interviews or individuals who need updated professional clothes for a new job.
- **The Goodwill Career Center** in Scottsdale offers weekly job search workshops, keyboarding and other tutorials, career assessments, computers and other equipment, job banks, resume design, and a full-time staff that supports job seekers in their search process.

⁷ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org

⁸ Gruen Gruen & Associates (March 2009). *Analysis and Forecast of Employment and Building Space Demand and Strategic Policy Recommendations for Greater Airpark Study Area*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Assets/Public+Website/economics/Airpark+Land+Use+Abridged.pdf>

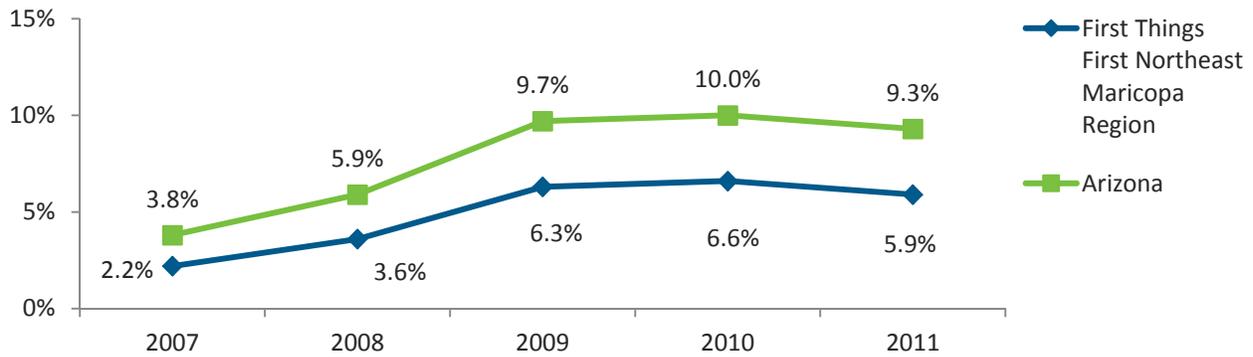
⁹ City of Scottsdale, Economic Vitality Department. (2009). Largest Employers in Scottsdale. October 2009 Economic Trends for the City of Scottsdale.



What the Data Tell Us

Unemployment has recently dropped slightly in the region (from 7% in 2010 to 6% in 2011) and in the state (from 10% in 2010 to 9% in 2011). The unemployment rate for the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region is lower than the state of Arizona by nearly 4%.

Unemployment Rate, Yearly Averages



Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2011). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation had the highest rate of unemployment at 25%, exceeding all other region communities by at least 15%.

Unemployment Rate, Yearly Averages

CITIES	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
Carefree	1.1%	1.8%	3.2%	3.2%	3.0%
Cave Creek	1.4%	2.3%	4.2%	4.3%	3.9%
Fountain Hills	1.5%	2.5%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%
Paradise Valley	1.5%	2.4%	4.2%	4.3%	3.9%
Rio Verde	3.5%	5.6%	10.0%	10.0%	9.3%
Scottsdale	2.4%	3.8%	6.7%	6.8%	6.2%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	11.1%	16.9%	26.8%	27.2%	25.4%
Maricopa County	3.2%	5.1%	8.9%	9.1%	8.4%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	2.2%	3.6%	6.3%	6.6%	5.9%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.0%	9.3%

Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2011). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

*Average annual as of October 2011.



Poverty

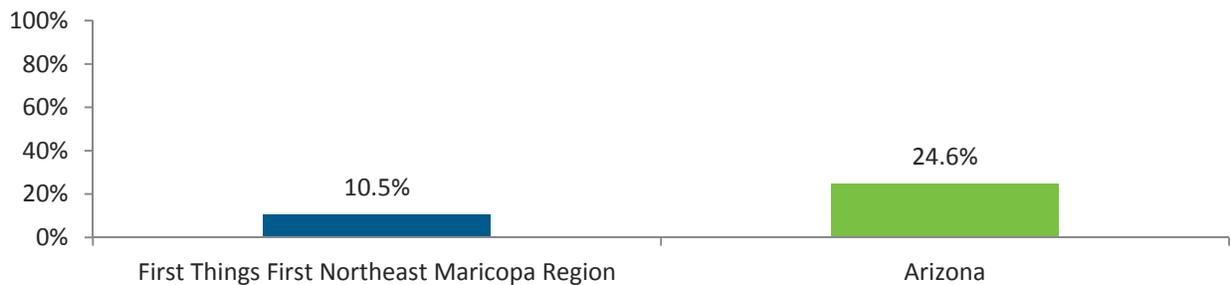
Why It Is Important

With one in four children ages birth through five living in poverty, Arizona had the fifth highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010.¹⁰ Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and have poorer health than those who do not live in poverty. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, and lower levels of literacy.¹¹

What the Data Tell Us

More than one in ten children (11%) ages birth through four living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were living in poverty, according to the 2006-2010 Census estimates. This is compared to the state where 25% of children ages birth through four were living in poverty.

Children Ages Birth Through Four Living Below Poverty Level, 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B17001- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

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

¹⁰ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from [Arizonaindicators.org](http://arizonaindicators.org)

¹¹ Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.

¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). Poverty Guidelines and Poverty Measurement. Retrieved January 5, 2011 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.



In 2011, to be at 100% Federal Poverty Status and qualify for many social subsidies and supports, a single mother with one child must make less than \$14,710. This is \$17,000 less than 2012 Self-Sufficiency Standards for the region.

Federal Poverty Guidelines by Family Size

FAMILY SIZE	2001	2003	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	\$8,590	\$8,980	\$9,570	\$10,210	\$10,400	\$10,830	\$10,830	\$10,890
2	\$11,610	\$12,120	\$12,830	\$13,690	\$14,000	\$14,570	\$14,570	\$14,710
3	\$14,630	\$15,260	\$16,090	\$17,170	\$17,600	\$18,310	\$18,310	\$18,530
4	\$17,650	\$18,400	\$19,350	\$20,650	\$21,200	\$22,050	\$22,050	\$22,350
5	\$20,670	\$21,540	\$22,610	\$24,130	\$24,800	\$25,790	\$25,790	\$26,170
6	\$23,690	\$24,680	\$25,870	\$27,610	\$28,400	\$29,530	\$29,530	\$29,990
7	\$26,710	\$27,820	\$29,130	\$31,090	\$32,000	\$33,270	\$33,270	\$33,810
8	\$29,730	\$30,960	\$32,390	\$34,570	\$35,600	\$37,010	\$37,010	\$37,630

Source: Department of Health and Human Services (2011). 2001-2011 *Federal Register*.

Economic Supports

Why It Is Important

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center** serves many families in the Cave Creek, Carefree, North Scottsdale, Rio Verde and other North Valley areas who are overcoming financial challenges. They provide food, referral information, and financial assistance to individuals and families in the foothills area who are in crisis situations and also help to coordinate housing and job services. For more information: <http://www.foothillsfoodbank.com/about-us/>
- **Vista del Camino in Scottsdale** offers emergency food boxes, rental assistance to prevent eviction, emergency utility assistance, other emergency financial assistance, needs assessment, and information and referral.

What the Community Is Saying

- Arizona's anti-immigration law (SB 1070) has created a barrier for immigrants that previously received economic support services due to fear of deportation.
- According to a local health representative, local social service agencies have seen an increased need in services from families, but are without funding to provide them. Due to the increase in requests for social supports they have begun wait listing families.



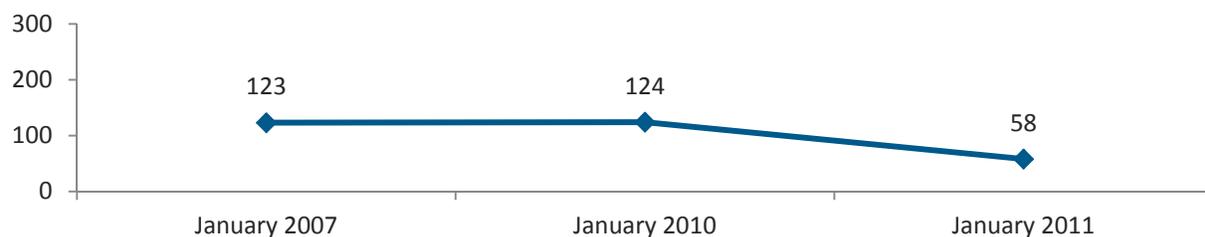
- According to a local health representative, the city of Scottsdale in conjunction with social services agencies and the main hospital system have done a good job of identifying families' needs and providing services.

What the Data Tell Us

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides some temporary cash assistance for struggling families with children, while the parent/parents are trying to return to work.¹³ The federal TANF law allows states to offer a maximum of 60 months of assistance within one's lifetime. Effective July 1, 2010, the Lifetime Benefits Limit for TANF in Arizona was reduced from 60 to 36 months. All families that had received TANF from 37 to 60 months were immediately removed from the TANF roles. Effective August 1, 2011, the Lifetime Benefits Limit for TANF in Arizona was reduced again from 36 to 24 months. All families that had received TANF for more than 24 months were immediately removed.

The number of families with children birth through five receiving TANF dropped over 50% from January 2007 to 2011.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Retrieved 2012 from First Things First. Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region is the combination of all zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

Food Insecurity

Why It Is Important

Approximately 16 million children lived in households without enough nutritious food in the U.S. in 2010. Arizona was among the top 5 states with the highest rate of food insecure children under 18.¹⁴

The lack of nutritious food is harmful to any individual, but food insecurity is particularly devastating to children and can have long-term consequences. Chronic under-nutrition, food insecurity, unhealthy foods, and hunger can lead to poorer physical and mental health, difficulty learning,

¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2008). About TANF. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html>.

¹⁴ Feeding America. (2012). *Child Hunger Facts*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.feedingamerica.org>.



lower test scores, increased school absences, tardiness, and suspensions.¹⁵ This makes children more likely to suffer from poverty when they become adults.

For families who earn above 185% of the poverty level (where WIC and SNAP end) but are still unable to afford food, charitable services and programs become their safety net.¹⁶

Snapshot of Community Assets

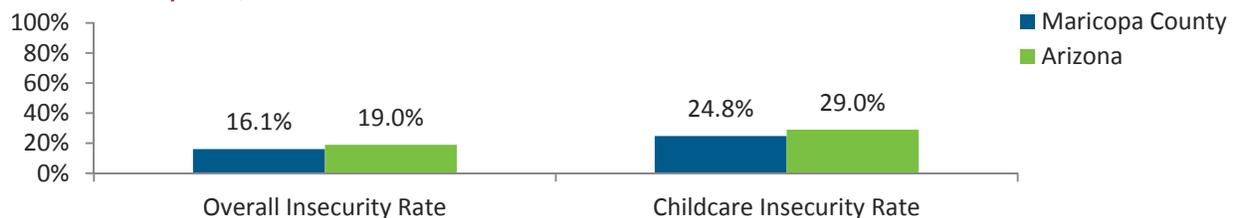
- **The Valley of the Sun United Way** invests in the local food bank system to meet the demand for food and enroll eligible people in nutrition programs. The Valley of the Sun United Way partners with programs such as the Senior Services of Fountain Hills, AZ., Inc, which delivers meals to elderly and disabled persons all year long and the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB), which gathers, transports, and distributes food to three food banks in Maricopa County. For more information: <http://fhseniorservices.org/> or <http://www.azfoodbanks.org/>
- **The Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce** held a “Christmas in July” food drive and collected more than 520 pounds of food, 25 cases of water, and over \$750 in donations for fiscal year 2011.
- **WIC services** are offered in more than 30 clinics across Maricopa County. Many of these clinics are within five to ten miles of the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region and serve those within the region.

What the Data Tell Us

Households are classified as food insecure if their reported conditions suggest that one or more household members was hungry at some time during the year because the household could not afford enough food. Households with children are further classified by whether any children were hungry at any time during the year because of the household's lack of money and other resources for food.

One-quarter (25%) of children in Maricopa County lived in food insecure households without enough food in 2010.

Food Insecurity Rate, 2010



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

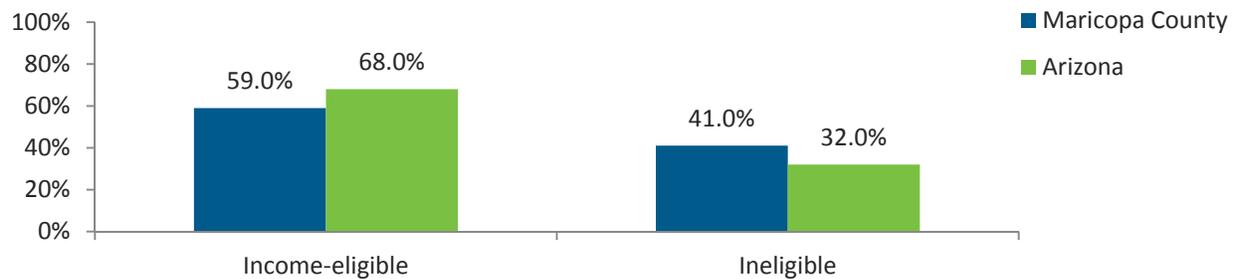
¹⁵ Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management. (2002, June). *The Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children, Evidence from Recent Scientific Studies*. Massachusetts: Brandeis University.

¹⁶ *Map the Meal Gap*. (2011). Child Food Insecurity. Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Feeding America.



Forty-one percent of Maricopa County's food-insecure households had incomes that were not eligible for supplemental food services like WIC and SNAP in 2010. An additional \$253,248,780 was needed in 2010 to meet Maricopa County's food needs.

Supplemental Food Program Eligibility, 2010



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

The National School Lunch Program provides children whose families are at or below 130% of the poverty level with free meals, while those children with families living between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, receive reduced-cost meals.¹⁷ During the 2010 federal fiscal year, 20.6 million low income children received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. Unfortunately, just 2.3 million of these same income eligible children across the nation participated in the summer food program, leaving a several month gap where they were without a reliable source of food.¹⁸

The school districts with the highest number of children receiving free and reduced price meals in 2011 were Fountain Hills Unified School District (35%) and Paradise Valley Unified School District (35%). This means that approximately one-third of children in these districts received school lunch or breakfast due to low income status.

Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cave Creek Unified School District	6.1%	5.3%	5.9%	10.4%	11.2%	12.5%
Fountain Hills Unified School District	11.8%	9.8%	13.3%	9.3%	36.4%	35.2%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	27.6%	27.9%	29.9%	32.6%	32.8%	34.9%
Scottsdale Unified School District	18.6%	20.2%	21.2%	24.5%	26.6%	26.2%

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

Note: The counts for free or reduced price meals are conducted in October of each year presented.

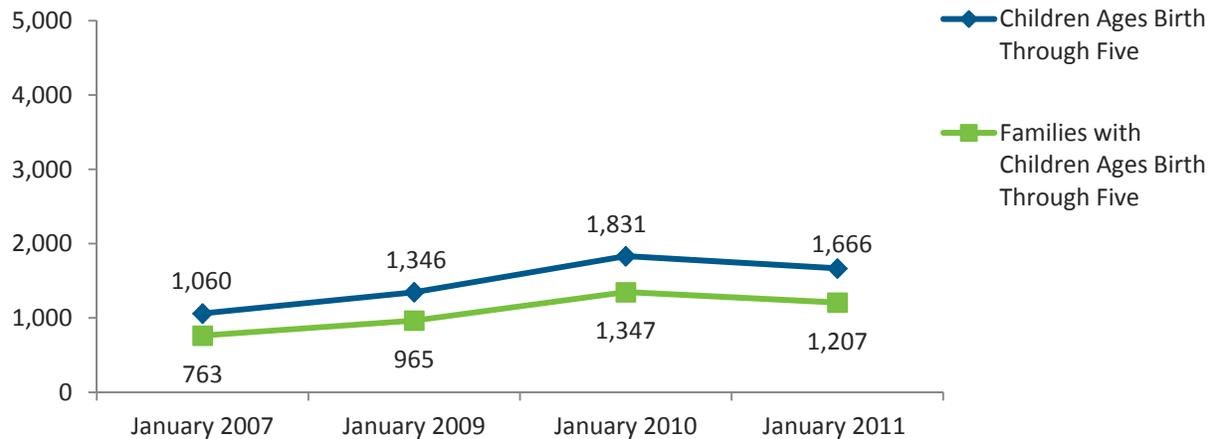
¹⁷ United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009). National School Lunch Fact Sheets. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/AboutLunch/NSLPFactSheet.pdf>

¹⁸ Map the Meal Gap. (2011). *Child Food Insecurity*. Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Feeding America.



In 2009, 48% of all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants were children in the United States. The average SNAP (food stamp) benefit is \$29/week for a qualifying individual.¹⁹ There were 1,831 children ages birth through five who received SNAP benefits in 2010. The number of families with children birth through five receiving SNAP benefits increased 58% between January 2007 and 2011.

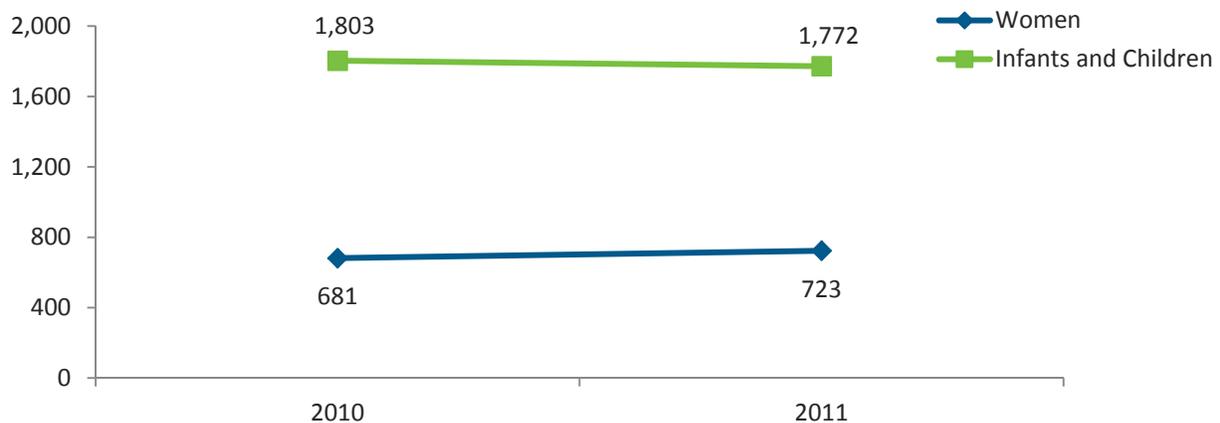
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) Recipients, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Retrieved 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was formerly the Food Stamp Program.
 Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region data are the combination of all zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

Participants in the WIC program receive nutritious supplemental foods, health screenings, age-appropriate nutrition information, and referrals to health and human services. In 2011, 723 children and 1,772 women in the region received WIC benefits. This number has remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2011.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Recipients, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Retrieved 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region data are the combination of zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes). Data shown for First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region only includes ZIP codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them. The following zip codes were excluded: 85252, 85253, 85255, 85258, 85259, 85261, 85262, 85263, 85266, 85267, 85269, 85271, 85290, 85327, 85377.

¹⁹ Map the Meal Gap. (2011). *Child Food Insecurity*. Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. Feeding America.



Homelessness

Why It Is Important

Homelessness among young children, and the high mobility often associated with homelessness, can lead to behavior problems and reduced academic success in school.²⁰ The McKinney-Vento Act ensures homeless children transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless) regardless of what district the family resides in. It requires schools to register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.^{21, 22}

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

1. Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing
2. Children living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
3. Children living in emergency or transitional shelters
4. Children awaiting foster care placement
5. Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
6. Children living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, a bus or train station

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Homeward Bound's Scattered Family Sites program*** is funded by the City of Scottsdale. It provides homeless adults and children with transitional housing, comprehensive social services, and employment services.
- ***La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter*** is funded by the City of Scottsdale. It provides beds at night, case management, food, and basic needs to approximately 15 Scottsdale homeless individuals.

²⁰ Zeger, S. (2004, February). Health care for homeless Native Americans. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/FINALHnNativeHealth.pdf>

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

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



- **Family Promise of Greater Phoenix** located in Scottsdale provides two programs to help homeless and low-income families with children:
 - Their **Emergency Shelter** program focuses on resolving immediate crisis, providing safe shelter, food, clothing and assistance in finding daycare, schools, employment and social services.
 - Families that find a job while in the Emergency Shelter program can apply to rent a unit in the **Transitional Housing** program, where they receive an hour of case management per week and may stay for up to six months. For more information: <http://familypromiseaz.org/>.
- **Chrysalis Transitional Housing** with confidential locations in Scottsdale and Phoenix, offers apartment living for single women and men and adults with children who have successfully completed a domestic violence program, are employed or enrolled in an educational/vocational program, and are in need of additional time to secure their future. This program provides related supportive counseling and case management. For more information: <http://www.noabuse.org/prog-housing.htm>.
- **Vista del Camino** provides a variety of services to Scottsdale residents to prevent homelessness, meet the basic needs of individuals and families in crisis, relieve economic and emotional stress and assist individuals to maintain self-sufficiency.

What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County has seen a 61% increase between 2007 and 2010 in the number of students identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento definition. The largest rise was among the youngest students, which increased three times to 172 in 2010. In 2010, there were 18,625 homeless children in the county.

Number of McKinney-Vento Eligible Students, Maricopa County

GRADE	HOMELESS CHILDREN			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pre-Kindergarten	55	88	134	172
Kindergarten	1,234	1,334	1,387	1,645
Grades 1-6	5,684	6,198	6,547	7,953
Grades 7-12	4,582	5,885	7,052	8,855
Maricopa County	11,555	13,505	15,120	18,625

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). Homelessness in Arizona: Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness. *2010 Annual Report*. Retrieved 2012 from https://www.azdes.gov/InternetFiles/Reports/pdf/2010_homelessness_report.pdf.



There were an estimated 9,000 homeless students in January 2010 during the point-in-time homeless count, with 79% living in doubled up homes.

Point-in-Time Homeless Count (January 26, 2010) of McKinney Vento Eligible Students by Local School Systems, Maricopa County

SHELTERED	UNSHelterED	DOUBLED UP	HOTEL/MOTEL	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
1,413	201	7,082	190	116	9,002

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). Homelessness in Arizona: Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness. *2010 Annual Report*. Retrieved 2012 from https://www.azdes.gov/InternetFiles/Reports/pdf/2010_homelessness_report.pdf.

The number of homeless children in Scottsdale elementary schools varied widely in 2010/11—from none at Coshise and Kiva, to 23 and 21 at Tavan and Navajo, respectively.

Most Scottsdale elementary schools (12 of 16) saw an increase in homeless children from 2007/08 to 2010/11. Increases or decreases year to year may be due in part to changes in measurement by school district administrative staff as well as changes in the number of homeless students.

Scottsdale Homeless Children, by Elementary School

SCHOOL NAME	FY 07/08	FY 08/09	FY 09/10	FY 10/11
Anasazi	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Cherokee	0	0	< 25	< 25
Cochise	0	< 25	< 25	0
DCES	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Hohokam	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Hopi	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Kiva	0	< 25	< 25	0
Laguna	0	0	< 25	< 25
Navajo	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Pima	< 25	< 25	36	< 25
Pueblo	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Redfield	0	< 25	< 25	< 25
Sequoia	0	0	< 25	< 25
Tavan	< 25	< 25	26	< 25
Tonalea	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Yavapai	< 25	< 25	31	< 25
Total	67	85	159	139

Source: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts. (2012). Personal Correspondence with District Representatives. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts.

Homeless Children Enrolled in Cave Creek Unified School District

GRADE LEVEL	2010	2011
Preschool ¹	0	0
Kindergarten	0	0
Cave Creek Unified School District Total	< 25	0

Source: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts. (2012). Personal Correspondence with District Representatives. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts.

¹ Preschool homeless children include only students attending preschools associated with public school districts.

Note: Data on homeless children were not available from Fountain Hills Unified School District and Paradise Valley Unified School District.



Foreclosure

Why It Is Important

Many families across the country have been harmed by the mortgage crisis. When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally. Children who frequently move tend to have lower performance in math and reading and more delinquent behaviors in the classroom. The mortgage crisis is projected to cause more than 86,000 foreclosures and affect more than 68,000 children in Arizona.²³

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Scottsdale Cares Program*** asks individuals to donate a dollar via their monthly water bill; the funds support a variety of human service programs for families in crisis.
- ***The Scottsdale Housing Agency*** helps to provide affordable and safe housing for lower income families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.
- ***The City of Scottsdale*** also offers foreclosure and housing resources and referrals to many statewide programs dedicated to helping Arizona families keep their homes.
- ***The First Time Homebuyers Program*** in Scottsdale offers foreclosure prevention assistance as well as a resource list for community members.
- Information about foreclosure resources in Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Cave Creek, Carefree, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Rio Verde were not readily available. It is unknown whether they provide services in these cities.

²³ Lovell, P. & Isaacs, J. (2008). *The Impact of the Mortgage Crisis on Children and Their Education*. First Focus, Brookings Institute. Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04_mortgage_crisis_isaacs.aspx



What the Data Tell Us

Foreclosure rates varied within the region from a high of one in every 278 homes in Cave Creek to a low of one in 662 in Scottsdale's 85258 zip code.

Foreclosure Rate by Community, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

PLACE (ZIP CODES)	MARCH 2012
Fountain Hills	
85268	1 in 289
Scottsdale	
85250	1 in 604
85251	1 in 356
85254	1 in 307
85255	1 in 355
85257	1 in 316
85258	1 in 662
85259	1 in 395
85260	1 in 348
85262	1 in 661
Overall	1 in 379
Paradise Valley	
85253	1 in 391
Cave Creek	
85331	1 in 278

Source: RealtyTrac. (2012). National Real Estate Trends. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.realtytrac.com/tendcenter/>.

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



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

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

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

SELECTED INDICATORS

Early Child Care & Education

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

Special Needs

- Children with Disabilities: Identification & Services

Education

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

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

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

²² Ibid.



Early Child Care and Development

Child Care Access and Enrollment

Why It Is Important

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

Family, friend and neighborhood child care programs (kith and kin) are a likely option for parents who cannot afford licensed child care centers. In Arizona, as many as 50% of children birth through five are being cared for by relatives or neighbors in settings which are exempt from regulations aimed at serving to protect and enrich these children. Family, Friend, and Neighbor programs are used to provide these relatives and neighbors with access to information and training on child development, health, and safety issues.²⁸

A nationwide survey of grandparents indicated that 40% were currently providing child care for their grandchildren. More than one-third (40%) of grandparents have changed their work schedules in order to provide care for their grandchildren to help parents with their work schedule and almost one-quarter (22%) changed their work schedule to spend more time with their grandchildren. This suggests that grandparents are an important population that Kith and Kin child care programs can attend to in the education of caregivers.

Pre-kindergarten expansion programs increase the number of high quality pre-kindergarten slots available for three, four, and five year olds. Many school districts in the state are taking advantage of these types of programs to ensure children are ready for kindergarten.

Quality First was started by First Things First in 2009 to increase the availability of quality early care and education in child care centers and homes. It is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for programs serving children ages birth through five. This system helps providers to develop lessons focused on early literacy; support teachers in becoming better trained to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers; and purchase age-appropriate learning materials. Approximately 36,000 Arizona children had access to a higher standard of child care through Quality First in 2010. The ratings of nearly 1,000 providers will be publicly advertised to parents across the state in 2012.²⁹

²⁷ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (n.d.). Link Between Child Care and Academic Achievement and Behavior Persists Into Adolescence. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>.

²⁸ First Things First. (2010). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_2011.pdf

²⁹ First Things First. (2011). Annual Report. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf



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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Quality First*** is a First Things First funded program. As of the third quarter of the FY 2012, 20 child care centers were being served.
- ***The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council*** funds the Child Health Care Consultation program. This program provides qualified health professionals to assist child care providers in achieving high health and safety standards for the children in their care.
- ***Scottsdale Healthcare's*** community health offerings include "All About Me," a service that provides free educational programs for child care agencies. Educational topics include dental health, plan and sun safety, importance of hand washing, emotions, and nutrition.
- ***Scottsdale Unified School District*** offers an Early Childhood Campus site to provide care and an early learning environment for children six weeks to three years old. There were nine locations for the 2011/12 school year.
- ***The Paradise Valley Unified School District's*** Community Education Department offers pre-school and early childhood programs.
- ***Cave Creek Unified School District*** offers Child's Play Learning Center, an early childhood program of Desert Foothills Community Education. The program is located at five locations within the Cave Creek Unified School District.
- ***Fountain Hills Unified School District*** offers a community preschool and a developmental preschool for students at least three years old.
- Information about early care access and enrollment resources in Carefree, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Rio Verde were not readily available. It is unknown whether they provide services in these cities or school districts.



What the Data Tell Us

Only about 4 out of every 10 children (44%) with working parents in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region have the option of licensed child care.

Estimated Child Care Need and Availability, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

CHILD CARE INDICATOR	2010
Estimated Number of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force ¹	27,240
Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces	11,971
Estimated Percent of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available	43.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B23008- Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

¹Percentage of children under 6 and children 6 to 17 living with both parents or a single parent in the labor force applied to the total number of children under 6 and 6 to 11 respectively.

School Readiness Indicator

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

There were 103 child care programs in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2011, including 66 licensed child care centers, 20 licensed public school child care programs, and 3 licensed child care small group homes.

Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, 2011

	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	APPROVED CAPACITY
ADHS Licensed Programs		
Child Care Centers	66	7,933
Child Care Public Schools	20	4,013
Child Care Small Group Homes	3	25
ADES Certified Programs		
Child Care Homes	1	NA
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)		
Unregulated Child Care Homes ¹	14	NA
Total Programs	104	-
Enrolled Quality First Programs	18 centers	-

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services, Child Care Centers and Small Groups Homes by Zip Code. Retrieved April, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/databases/index.htm>.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (2011). Northeast Maricopa Region CCR&R. Received 2011 from First Things First.

National Association for the Education of Young People. (2010). Accredited Program Search. Retrieved July 15, 2010 from <http://www.naeyc.org>.

National Association for Child Care Professionals. (2010). National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs. Retrieved April 16, 2010 from <http://www.naccp.org/>.

Note: Approved capacity includes slots for children ages birth through 12 years. Therefore, the capacity for children ages birth through five may be less than the values presented.

¹Providers registered with Child Care Resource and Referral are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receiving CPR and First Aid training.



Maricopa County has the second largest Head Start program in Arizona. Within the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, there is one Head Start center located in Scottsdale. The Maricopa County Head Start emphasizes pre-reading, language, math and other cognitive skills, while continuing to promote children's health and social and emotional competence as part of school readiness. Services to children are provided by qualified and well-trained teachers in a classroom setting with a low student to teacher ratio.

The Scottsdale Head Start programs had 37 children enrolled in 2010/11, representing about 1% of the total Maricopa County Head Start program's enrollment. At the Scottsdale Head Start program the children were between the ages of three and four, and primarily Hispanic or Latino.

Scottsdale Head Start Enrollment Demographics

	2010/11
Enrollment	
Enrollment Slots	34
Actual Enrollment	37
Age	
Less than 1 year old	0
1 year old	0
2 years old	0
3 years old	13
4 years old	24
Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	33
Race	
American Indian*	1
White	35
Eligibility	
Income Eligible	33
Receipt of Public Assistance	0
Foster Children	1
Homeless	0
Over Income	0
Primary Language	
English	4
Spanish	32
Other Languages	1

Source: Scottsdale Head Start. (2011). Correspondence with Scottsdale Head Start Representative. Received 2011 from Scottsdale Head Start.

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



Actual enrollment exceeded funding in Maricopa Head Start and Early Head Start in 2007/08 and 2009/10.

Head Start Enrollment, Maricopa Early Head Start and Head Start

	2007/08	2009/10
Enrollment		
Funded Enrollment	1,286	2,382
Actual Enrollment	1,461	2,943

Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Correspondence with Maricopa County Head Start Representative. Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

Eighty-one percent of Head Start and Early Head Start enrolled children were income eligible for Head Start child care.

The majority (61%) of enrolled children had a language other than English as their primary language. This pattern is different from language patterns overall in Arizona where English is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Spanish and Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache.³⁰

Head Start Demographics, Maricopa Early Head Start and Head Start

	2009/10
Age	
Under 1 year old	4%
1 year old	2%
2 years old	3%
3 years old	29%
4 years old	61%
Pregnant Women	1%
Eligibility	
Income Eligible	81%
Primary Language	
English	39%
Spanish	57%
Other Languages	4%

Source: Maricopa County Human Services Department. (2009). Head Start Zero-Five Program: A National Head Start Association Program of Excellence. FY 2009 Annual Public Report. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 Maricopa County Head Start.

Note: Data presented are for the Maricopa County Head Start region which includes East Valley: Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; and West Valley: Aguilar, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson, Tonopah, and Wickenburg.

³⁰ The Center for Public Education. (2000). Top Five Languages by State. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>



Cost of Child Care

Why It Is Important

Child care can be very costly for families. The cost of child care has grown twice as fast as the median income of families with children in the United States since 2000.³¹ For those who qualify, Head Start child care is provided at no cost to parents. Low-income parents who are working, in job training, or in school can receive child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council* funds Quality First Child Care Scholarships that enable children from low-income families to attend quality early care and education programs. As of the third quarter of the FY 2012, 190 children were receiving scholarships.

What the Data Tell Us

The median daily cost of part-time child care could be up to \$33 per day or about \$8,580 per year (260 days). This is approximately 11% of the Maricopa County median married-couple family income—and 29% of a single mother's income.

Median Daily Cost of Child Care: Part-Time, District 1 (Maricopa County)

AGE OF CHILD	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Children Under One					
Centers	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$31.00	\$33.00	\$33.00
Approved Homes	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$13.00
Certified Group Homes	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$20.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
1 and 2 Year Olds					
Centers	\$21.00	\$21.40	\$25.20	\$27.00	\$29.30
Approved Homes	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$12.50
Certified Group Homes	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$19.00	\$20.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds					
Centers	\$15.81	\$17.00	\$17.75	\$20.00	\$22.40
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$12.50
Certified Group Homes	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$19.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Market Rate Survey Data. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
Note: Part-time is fewer than 6 hours a day.

³¹ McSweeney, T. (January 29, 2010). Helping Middle Class Families with Soaring Child Care Costs. In the White House. Retrieved July 1, 2010, from www.thewhitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/29/helping-middle-class-families-with-soaring-child-care-costs.



The median daily cost of full-time child care is as high as \$41 per day or about \$10,660 per year (260 days). This is approximately 14% of the Maricopa County median married-couple family income—and 36% of a single mother’s income.

Median Daily Cost of Child Care: Full-Time, District 1 (Maricopa County)

AGE OF CHILD	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Children Under One					
Centers	\$31.40	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$38.00	\$40.80
Approved Homes	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Certified Group Homes	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$28.00
Unregulated Homes	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$30.00
1 and 2 Year Olds					
Centers	\$27.00	\$29.65	\$32.00	\$34.88	\$36.74
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Certified Group Homes	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Unregulated Homes	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$29.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds					
Centers	\$24.00	\$25.80	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Approved Homes	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$17.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Certified Group Homes	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Unregulated Homes	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Market Rate Survey Data (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First. Note: Full-time is 6 or more hours a day.

There was a 43% decrease in the number of families that were eligible for child care subsidies between January 2009 and January 2010, and a corresponding 46% decrease in the number of families receiving subsidies during this time. Approximately a quarter (25%) of the region’s children who are eligible for subsidies did not actually receive them.

Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

	JANUARY 2009	JANUARY 2010
Number of Families		
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	341	195
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	285	154
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	83.6%	79.0%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: <i>Arizona</i>	81.4%	82.2%
Number of Children		
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	434	262
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	345	197
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: <i>First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region</i>	79.5%	75.2%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: <i>Arizona</i>	76.3%	77.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Retrieved 2011 from First Things First. Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region data are the combination of all zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).



Child Care Providers

Why It Is Important

The preparation and ongoing professional development of early child care professionals is closely linked to increased student learning and development.³² 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 developments.

Research has shown that teachers' wages play a significant role in program quality. Higher wages enable centers to hire better-qualified teachers, which can contribute to both lower turnover rates and more secure attachments between children and teachers.³³

In addition, it is often too costly for those who want to seek further education in the area of child development to obtain advanced degrees. To address this barrier, First Things First offers TEACH scholarships to help child care center teachers, directors, and providers obtain their Early Childhood Associate's Degree or Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate by providing recipients with support for tuition, books, travel and paid release time. However, scholarships have been limited with recent budget cuts. The Association for Supportive Child Care also provides TEACH scholarships and community-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) training. Professional REWARD\$ was designed to help retain qualified teachers to care for and educate young children. It was launched in FY 2010 to offer financial incentives (from \$300 to \$2000) to early care and education professionals for education and commitment to continuous employment for at least a year.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **TEACH** is a First Things First funded program. The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council designated funding to support 20 TEACH scholars who work in non-Quality First early childhood programs in the region, with a goal of 60 professionals receiving scholarships by 2013.
- **Maricopa County Head Start** received additional funding in 2010 to increase salary to staff and restore teacher aide positions. Quality improvement funds were also used to hire additional classroom staff and family case specialists, provide professional development through college courses and on-the-job mentoring, provide incentives for teachers to earn increased college degrees, renovate a playground, and purchase classroom materials.

³² Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). *Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

³³ Phillips, D., Mekos, D., Scarr, S., McCartney, K., & Abbott-Shim, M. (2000). Within and beyond the classroom door: Assessing quality in child care centers. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(4), 475-496.

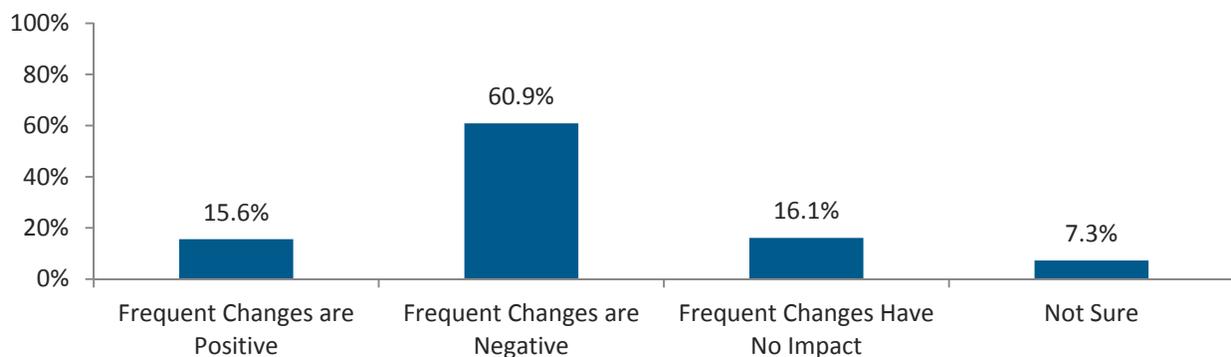


- **Maricopa County Head Start** is one of two programs in Arizona selected to participate in the Head Start National Family Literacy Institute's family literacy training program, SPARC. Program staff receive specialized training on how to promote family literacy within all program elements.
- **Maricopa County Head Start and Early Head Start**, in partnership with the **East Valley Institute of Technology**, operates a vocational training program for individuals studying to become early childhood professionals.
- **The Helios Professional Development Project** and **Valley of the Sun United Way** partner to increase the quality of child care by offering up to \$750 in tuition assistance, other incentives to offset some of the costs of mileage and child or elderly care, and professional and educational coaching.
- **The Arizona Kith and Kin Project** aims to improve the quality of care provided by friends and family; 19 community partners within Maricopa County provide support groups and meetings for local families.
- **The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council** funds mental health consultation for teachers and caregivers and tuition reimbursement to support professional development.

What the Data Tell Us

A majority (61%) of parents surveyed said that frequent changes in child care providers had a negative impact on their child's development in 2008.

Parent Perception of the Impact of Frequent Changes in Child Care Providers on Infant Development, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
Note: Most recent data available.



The ratio of Maricopa Early Head Start and Head Start staff to children has remained relatively constant between 2005 and 2008—there was one staff member for every four children in Early Head Start, and one staff member for every six or seven children in Head Start.

Classroom Staff to Child Ratio, Maricopa Early Head Start and Maricopa Head Start

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Early Head Start	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:4
Head Start	1:6	1:7	1:6	1:6

Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

Note: Most recent data available.

There are a range of professional development options available in the region. For example, Maricopa Community Colleges offers an Academic Certificate in Child and Family Professional Development in Scottsdale and a Certificate of Completion in Child Development Associate Preparation in Paradise Valley.

Many other colleges and universities offer online Child Development Associate certificates or Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree programs in which community hub residents interested in the early care and education field can enroll and pursue higher education from home.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Programs, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION	DEGREE	DEGREE NAME	LOCATION
Maricopa Community Colleges	Child and Family Professional Development	Academic Certificate	Scottsdale
	Child Development Associate Preparation	Certificate of Completion	Paradise Valley
Arizona State University	M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education	Online
Childcare Education Institute	C.D.A. Certificate	Child Development Associate	Online
Northern Arizona University	B.A.S. B.S. Ed. M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online
Prescott College	B.A.	Early Childhood Education	Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ
	B.A. Certificate	Early Childhood Special Education Early Childhood Education	Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ Online
Rio Salado College	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Learning and Development	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Administration and Management	Online
University of Phoenix	A.T.P.	Early Childhood Teacher Education	Online
	M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online

Source: College or Institution website searches. (2012).



One hundred percent of classroom teachers in Maricopa County Head Start held an early childhood education or related degree in 2007/08, compared with slightly less than three quarters (77%) for Arizona statewide. A minority of home visitors (36%) and hardly any assistant teachers (2%) held these degrees in Maricopa as compared to home visitors across Arizona (68%) and assistant teachers (12%) with these degrees.

The Scottsdale Head Start had two teachers with a Bachelor's degree and one assistant teacher with Child Development Credential (CDA) in 2012. They also had one family worker with a Bachelor's degree and one child development supervisor with a Bachelor's degree.

Head Start Professionals with an ECE or Related Degree¹

	2007/08
Maricopa County Head Start	
Classroom Teachers	100.0%
Home Visitors	36.4%
Assistant Teachers	1.9%
Arizona Head Start	
Classroom Teachers	77.3%
Home Visitors	67.8%
Assistant Teachers	11.8%

Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

¹ Associate, Baccalaureate, and Advanced Degrees are in Early Childhood Education or related fields.

Note: Data presented are for the Maricopa County Head Start region which includes East Valley: Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; and West Valley: Aguilar, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson, Tonopah, and Wickenburg.

Note: Most recent data available.

Seventy-nine percent of classroom teachers in Maricopa County Early Head Start held an early childhood education or related degree in 2007/08, compared with one hundred percent of home visitors in the area.

Early Head Start Professionals with an ECE or Related Degree¹

	2007/08
Maricopa County Early Head Start	
Classroom Teachers	79.0%
Home Visitors	100.0%
Arizona Early Head Start	
Classroom Teachers	95.9%
Home Visitors	75.9%

Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

¹ Associate, Baccalaureate, and Advanced Degrees are in Early Childhood Education or related fields.

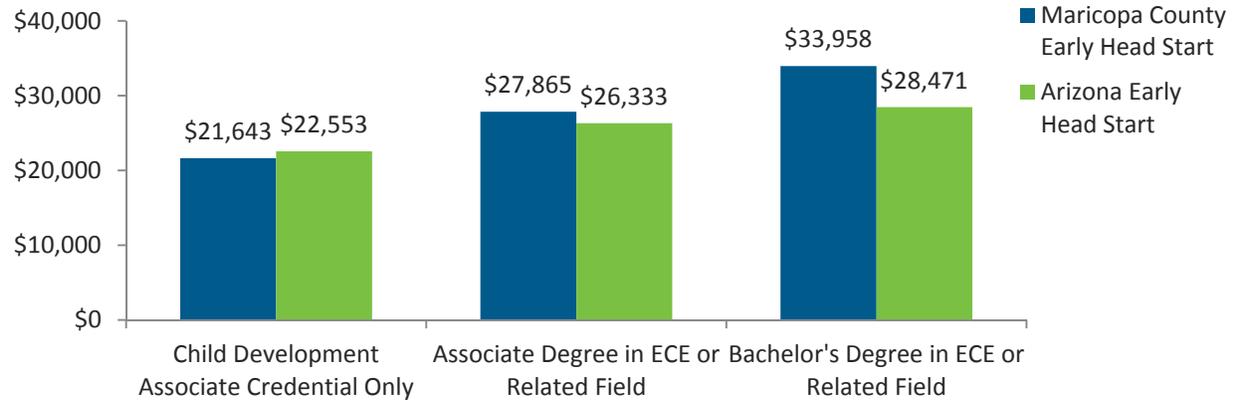
Note: Data presented are for the Maricopa County Head Start region which includes East Valley: Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; and West Valley: Aguilar, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson, Tonopah, and Wickenburg.

Note: Most recent data available.



Early Head Start early childhood education professionals' salaries in Maricopa and statewide vary by degree level. Professionals with Bachelor's degrees earned the highest salaries, followed by Associate degree holders, and those with an associate credential.

Average Salary of Early Head Start ECE Professionals, 2007/08



Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

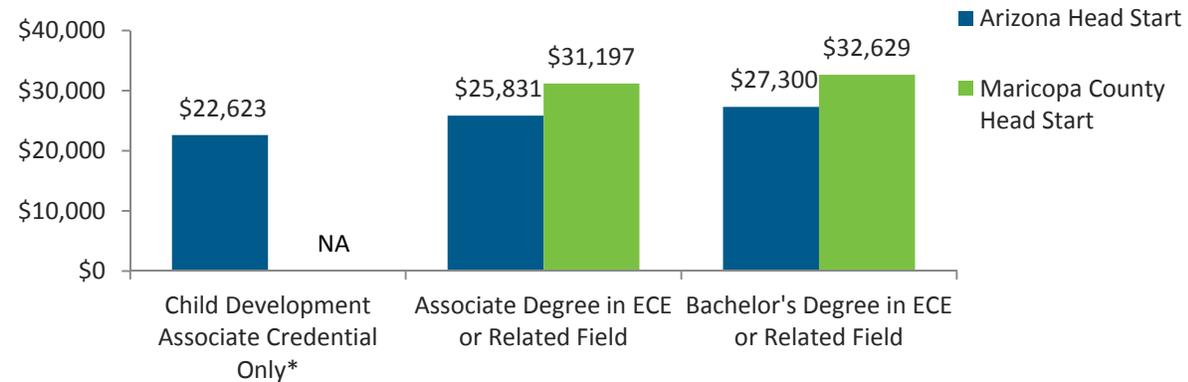
Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Correspondence with Head Start Representative. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

Note: Data presented are for the Maricopa County Head Start region which includes East Valley: Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; and West Valley: Aguilar, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson, Tonopah, and Wickenburg.

Note: Most recent data available.

As with Early Head Start salaries, Head Start salaries in Maricopa and statewide vary by degree level; individuals with Bachelor's degrees earned the most, followed by Associate degree holders, and those with an associate credential. In all degree categories, however, Head Start professionals in Maricopa County earned higher salaries than in the state as a whole.

Average Salary of Head Start ECE Professionals, 2007/08



Source: Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Head Start and Early Head Start Program Information. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

Maricopa County Head Start. (2011). Correspondence with Head Start Representative. (Unpublished Data). Received 2011 from Maricopa County Head Start.

*Maricopa County Early Head Start child development associate credential salary data not available.

Note: Data presented are for the Maricopa County Head Start region which includes East Valley: Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe; and West Valley: Aguilar, Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Tolleson, Tonopah, and Wickenburg.

Note: Most recent data available.



Parent Knowledge of Child Development

Why It Is Important

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.³⁴ The Arizona Parent Kit is offered to families statewide, including new parents in hospitals. It includes instructional DVDs, resource guides, helpline information, and a baby book to inform and empower new parents.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Maricopa County Head Start** provides communication and relationship skills training to parents in the program and others in the community that are eligible for Head Start.
- **The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council:**
 - Funds voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families. Service areas include the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and focus on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition.
 - Over 3,000 adults with children ages birth through five attended over 400 classes on parenting, child development, and problem-solving skills during the first three quarters of FY 2012, provided by Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services and the City of Scottsdale with funding from First Things First.
- **Maricopa County's Head Start Zero-Five Program** promotes school readiness through parent education and Spanish-language training for child care staff so that staff may have better, direct communication with parents.
- **Roots and Wings, Inc.** offers a variety of programs and free workshops, including "This Too Shall Pass: Parenting Skills Training." The program is designed for mothers and fathers of preschoolers, children ages 6 to 10 and "tweens" and is separated by specific age group. "This Too Shall Pass" encourages parents to bring their challenges and develop logical consequences. Topics include the difference between discipline (a positive tool) and punishment (from which little can be learned). Roots and Wings is a non-profit organization where, according to its website, "though donations are requested, no one truly motivated has been turned away for lack of funds."
- **Scottsdale Healthcare's** free educational offerings include "Mom's on the Move at Osborn," a weekly support group that provides practical information, support and social interaction for new parents. Participants share their experiences and gather parenting information.

³⁴The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>



What the Data Tell Us

Parents' knowledge of their child's cognitive development varied depending on the question. For example, a large majority (89%) of First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region respondents knew that parents can strongly influence their child's capacity for learning, while only a little over half (53%) of respondents knew that infants do not get an equal benefit from hearing someone talk on television versus hearing a person in the same room.

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

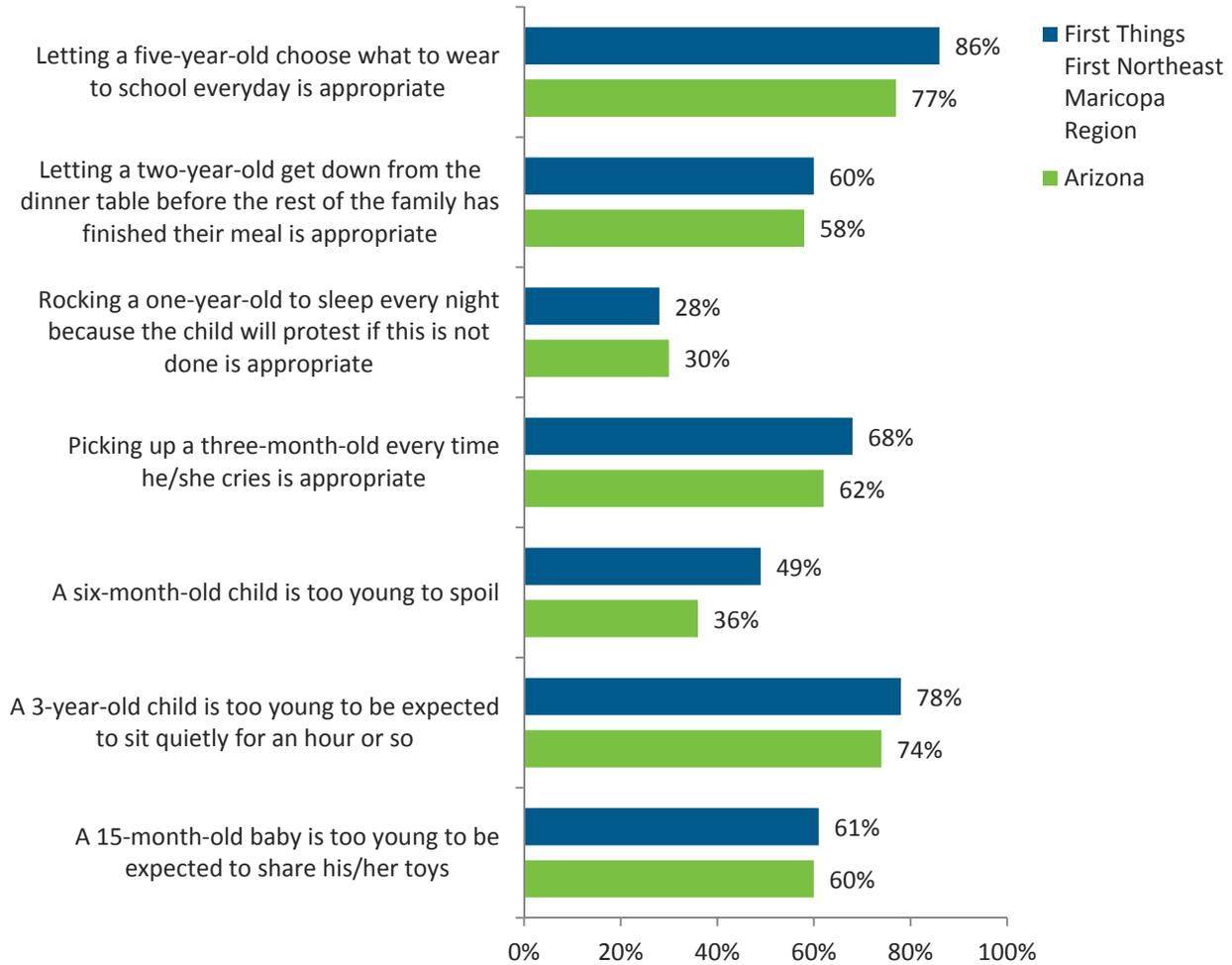
	FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTHEAST MARICOPA REGION	ARIZONA
Parents can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development from birth (prenatal)	84%	78%
Infants up to one month begin to really take in and react to the world around them	50%	51%
The first year has a major impact on school performance	83%	79%
A baby up to two months can begin to sense whether or not his parent is depressed or angry, and can be affected by his parent's mood	54%	57%
Children's capacity for learning is NOT set from birth and CAN be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them	80%	78%
In terms of learning about language, children DO NOT get an equal benefit from hearing someone talk on TV versus hearing a person in the same room talking about them	56%	53%
Parents' emotional closeness with their baby CAN strongly influence that child's intellectual development	89%	89%

Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
Note: Most recent data available.



Parents' knowledge of their child's social and emotional development varied. For example, a large majority (86%) of First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region parents knew that it is appropriate to let a five-year-old choose what to wear every day, while less than a third (28%) of respondents knew that is appropriate to rock a one-year-old to sleep every night if the child protests when not rocked.

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



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First. Note: Most recent data available.



Special Needs

Children with Disabilities: Identification & Services

Why It Is Important

Early identification of children with special needs helps ensure these children get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.³⁵ Developmental screenings, including oral, vision, cognitive and audio screenings, are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth, setting them up for success by identifying early on when services are needed.

The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development unit supports all Arizona districts and charter schools with teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development for improving the knowledge, skills, and services of staff to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

The Arizona State Performance Plan is dedicated to improving achievement for students with disabilities and assisting schools in complying with indicators like preschool placements and outcomes.

The Parent Information Network Specialists serve every county in Arizona to provide essential information to parents to be active participants in all areas of their child's special education (free resources, trainings, workshops, and consultations).

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The PANDA preschool*** at Scottsdale Unified School District offers preschool special needs screenings throughout the school year. PANDA preschool campuses include Cherokee, Hohokam, Laguna, Navajo, Tavan, Yavapai, and Redfield Elementary Schools. In the Scottsdale Unified School District, there are 161 students participating in the PANDA Program.

³⁵ Steele, M.M. (2004). Making the Case for Early Identification and Intervention for Young Children at Risk for Learning Disabilities, *Early Childhood Education Journal*, Vol. 32, 2, 75-79.



- ***The Paradise Valley Unified School District SUN Kids Preschool*** provides a developmentally-appropriate setting for children who have been identified with special needs as well as for children who are developing typically (Peer Pals). Peer Pals are chosen if they are strong language and social models. The cost per month for a Peer Pal is \$130. For more information: <http://www.pvschools.net/skps/peerpals.html>
- ***Cave Creek Unified School District offers a Special Education Positive Learning Center (PLC)***. The program serves children with special needs in the area of social and emotional functioning.
- ***The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)*** provided 134 families with services by the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 2011-12, including home visitations and support for families in teaching positive behavior change to their children.
 - ***The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's*** 2012 budget funds ***The Center for Autism and Related Disorders*** to provide short-term focused crisis intervention and supports to families whose children face significant behavioral, developmental, or mental health issues.

What the Community Is Saying

- There are more kids with learning disabilities and autism in north Scottsdale, most likely due to those families who have moved to the area because the local school system has more services available to children with special needs. The state threshold for what services public schools provide is set low, so families tend to live in the few districts where they can get those services.
- There is an ongoing shortage of early intervention specialists that serve the special needs population. Families on public insurance will qualify for a speech and language therapist, but the threshold is high such that children have to have severe delays in order to receive services. Due to the low pay scale of public payers, many professionals take private payers over public payers in order to meet their own economic needs.
- First Things First Child Care Health Consultants provide training and support to child care staff on behavioral issues. They link the training to things that can be changed environmentally within the classroom. They also train staff on how to share tips with parents to address issues at home.



What the Data Tell Us

Some communities in the region have no professionals or services for particular speech language needs. For example, there are only hearing aid dispensaries in Scottsdale; Carefree has no speech or language service providers; and Paradise Valley has no speech language assistants. The vast majority of all speech language and hearing professionals and services are located in Scottsdale.

Number of Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, 2012

COMMUNITY	TEMPORARY SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY LIMITED	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY	SPEECH LANGUAGE ASSISTANT	HEARING AID DISPENSARIES ¹	AUDIO-LOGISTS ²
Carefree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	0	1	14	1	0	2
Fountain Hills	8	7	36	1	0	0
Paradise Valley	0	3	7	0	0	0
Scottsdale	15	16	196	36	24	2
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	23	27	253	38	24	4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services, Provider Databases. Retrieved 2011 from First Things First.

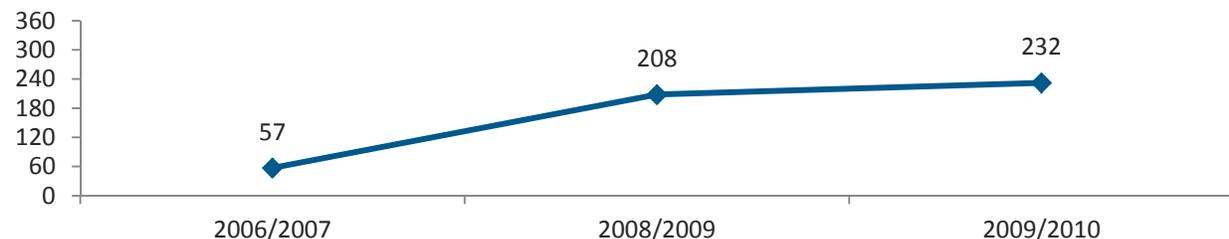
¹ Includes temporary hearing aid dispensaries.

² Includes Audiologists and Dispensing Audiologists.

One component of the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services for children with special needs is the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of referral to AzEIP. However, state funding for early intervention services was eliminated effective November 1, 2010 and federal stimulus was used to backfill state funding cuts. As a result, families must share some of the cost in order to receive services, a practice which may deter some from obtaining services. When children turn three years old, the local school districts assume responsibility for services for children with disabilities.

The number of children receiving AzEIP services in the region increased from 57 in 2007 to 232 in 2010.

Children Ages Birth to Three Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2011). Retrieved 2011 from DES Multidata Database from (Unpublished Data).

Note: Data presented is the most recent available.



Less than 2% of children ages birth through three in Maricopa County had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), similar to the percentage statewide. A smaller percentage of Maricopa County infants and toddlers with IFSPs received an evaluation/ assessment within 45 days (61%), as compared to the state (72%) in 2008/09. Approximately three quarters (76%) of Maricopa County infants and toddlers with IFSPs received early intervention services in the home or in programs for typically developing children, the same percentage as in the state overall in 2008/09.

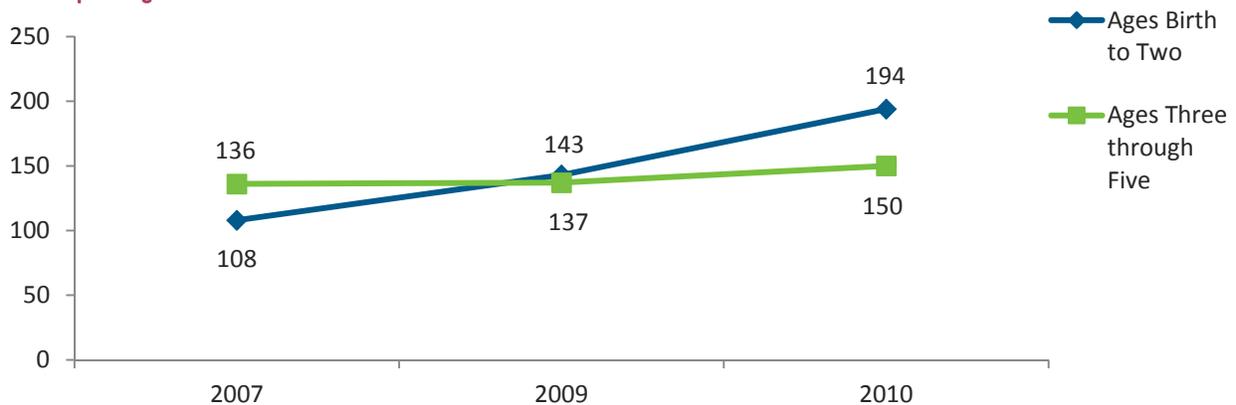
Early Intervention Program Data

AREA	2008/09
Infants Ages Birth Through Three with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)	
Maricopa County	1.6%
Arizona	1.8%
Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Received an Evaluation/Assessment and IFSP Within 45 Days of Referral	
Maricopa County	61%
Arizona	72%
Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Primarily Receive Early Intervention Services in the Home or in Programs for Typically Developing Children	
Maricopa County	76%
Arizona	76%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Early Intervention Program Report. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov>.

The number of children in the region between three and five years old receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) services was 136 in 2007 and 150 in 2010. The number of children ages birth through two receiving these services increased by 80% (from 108 to 194) in the same time period. Only children who are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism qualify for DDD services (in addition to AzEIP services).

Children Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

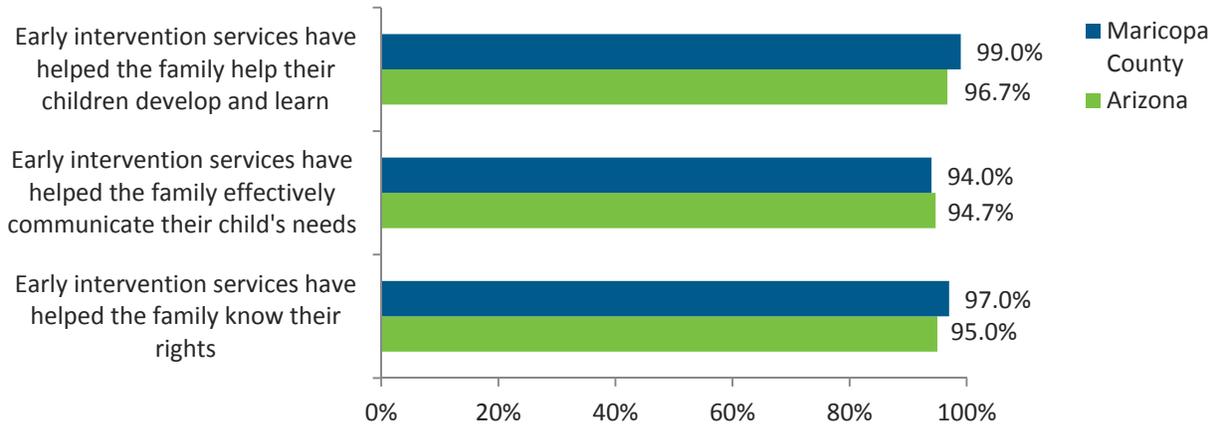


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). DES Multidata Database. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First. Note: Children are eligible for DDD services if they are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism. Note: Data presented is the most recent available.



An overwhelming majority of parents in Maricopa County responded that early intervention services helped their family in a variety of ways, from helping their child develop and learn (99%) and knowing their rights (97%), to communicating their child’s needs (94%). These percentages were similar or slightly higher in Maricopa County than in the state overall.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2011). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2011 from <https://www.azdes.gov>.

The highest percentage of students with disabilities in both Scottsdale and Cave Creek Unified School Districts had speech delays.

Preschool Enrollment by Disability, 2010/11

SCHOOL DISTRICT	HEARING IMPAIRED (HI)	VISUALLY IMPAIRED (VI)	SPEECH LANGUAGE IMPAIRED (SLI)	PRESCHOOL SEVERE DELAY (PSD)	DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY (DD)	PRESCHOOL TOTAL	DISTRICT TOTAL
Scottsdale	0	< 25	210	40	122	208	2,997
Cave Creek	0	< 25	29	< 25	< 25	63	664

Source: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts. (2012). Personal Correspondence with District Representatives. (Unpublished Data). Received from First Things First Northeast Maricopa School Districts.



Education

Children's success in school is improved by a combination of promoting physical and mental health, increasing literacy, and enhancing social and emotional skills. Typically, children who do well in school have early literacy skills and higher social and emotional skills at entry to kindergarten. However, Arizona students scored below the national average on every subject at every grade level tested, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).³⁶

School Enrollment

Why It Is Important

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Paradise Valley Unified School District's*** Community Education Department offers pre-school and early childhood programs, day camps during school holidays or breaks, after school enrichment, summer camps and activities for pre-kindergarten to high school, and online classes for high schoolers.
- ***Scottsdale Unified District*** has two early childhood campuses.
- ***Cave Creek Unified School District*** offers Child's Play Learning Center, an early childhood program of Desert Foothills Community Education. The program is located at five locations within the Cave Creek School District.
- ***Fountain Hills Unified School District*** offers a community preschool and a developmental preschool for students at least three years old.

³⁶ Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from Arizonaindicators.org



What the Data Tell Us

Preschool enrollment in the region overall has increased by 431 children between 2006/07 and 2010/11. Most of this increase was in the Scottsdale Unified District. However, kindergarten enrollment in the region decreased during this time period from 4,851 to 4,733, with decreases in Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale Unified School Districts and an increase in Cave Creek Unified District.

School Enrollment by District

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Cave Creek Unified District					
Preschool	46	35	34	43	NA
Kindergarten	420	409	438	446	430
District Total	5,898	5,881	5,956	5,856	5,769
Fountain Hills Unified District					
Preschool	38	42	42	62	56
Kindergarten	162	134	150	105	129
District Total	2,437	2,347	2,328	2,234	2,092
Paradise Valley Unified District					
Preschool	598	598	602	677	668
Kindergarten	2,540	2,395	2,485	2,387	2,451
District Total	34,648	34,107	33,849	33,431	33,354
Scottsdale Unified District					
Preschool	264	475	657	697	653
Kindergarten	1,729	1,659	1,763	1,722	1,723
District Total	24,653	26,567	27,029	27,093	26,735
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region					
Preschool	946	1,150	1,335	1,479	1,377
Kindergarten	4,851	4,597	4,836	4,660	4,733
District Total	67,636	68,902	69,162	68,614	67,950

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

Note: Preschool enrollment includes only students attending preschools associated with public school districts. Cave Creek does not list totals for preschool in 2010-2011.

¹ First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Total are the sum of all school districts in the region. The district total does not include charter schools.



School Readiness

Why It Is Important

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, are more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crime and drugs.³⁷ A recent study showed that of children who were ready for kindergarten, 62% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3rd grade. Of children who were not ready for kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3rd grade. Typically, children will not make up the learning gap that they started off with when they entered kindergarten.³⁸

Children's literacy and reading skills are assessed using the AIMSweb Test of Early Literacy in kindergarten in some schools in Arizona. The assessment focuses on measures letter naming, letter sound, phoneme segmentation, and nonsense word fluency. While the AIMSweb only focuses on one aspect of kindergarten readiness, the results provide some picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

School Readiness Indicator

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council*** funds pre-kindergarten scholarships to increase the number of three and four year olds enrolled in high quality preschool programs that will prepare them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. As of the third quarter of FY 2012, 123 children received pre-kindergarten scholarships.

³⁷ Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return." In *Big Ideas for Children*. First Focus, Washington, D.C.

³⁸ Applied Survey Research. (2008). Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success. San Jose, California: Applied Survey Research.



What the Data Tell Us

Cave Creek Unified School District has seen an increase in students at grade level between 2006/07 and 2010/11 at both the beginning and end of the school year. Each year also showed an increase in students at grade level by the end of the school year when compared with the year's start. For example, in 2010/11, 64% of students began the year at grade level and 73% ended the year at grade level.

The need for substantial intervention fell dramatically in 2010/11 from 23% at the start of that year to 6% by year's end.

AIMSweb Kindergarten Literacy Readiness, Cave Creek Unified School District

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
AIMSweb Beginning of School Year					
Benchmark – At Grade Level	44%	48%	65%	58%	64%
Strategic – Needs Additional Intervention	38%	32%	17%	29%	13%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	18%	20%	18%	13%	23%
AIMSweb End of School Year					
Benchmark – At Grade Level	59%	60%	65%	64%	73%
Strategic – Needs Additional Intervention	25%	20%	21%	25%	21%
Intensive – Needs Substantial Intervention	16%	20%	14%	11%	6%

Source: Cave Creek Unified School District. (2012). Personal Communication with District Representatives. Received 2012 from Cave Creek Unified School District.

Note: AIMS Web is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent, and continuous student assessment. Benchmarks assess students three times per year for early identification, general education progress, and AYP accountability. Strategic monitor assesses at-risk students monthly and evaluate the effectiveness of instructional changes. Progress monitor writes individualized annual goals and monitors more frequently for those who need intensive instructional services.

Note: School districts that did not provide data included Fountain Hills Unified School district, Paradise Valley Unified School district, and Scottsdale Unified School district.

3rd Grade Test Scores

Why It Is Important

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child's reading level at the end of third grade. In third grade it is expected that children will show evidence of reading comprehension and be able to read unfamiliar words through various strategies. Reading proficiency at this point prepares the student for fourth grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."³⁹ The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

³⁹ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>



What the Data Tell Us

Beginning in the school year 2013/14, students whose scores are “falling far below” on their 3rd grade AIMS reading will not be promoted from 3rd grade. In 2010/11, parental notification requirements began for any student who seemed to be falling behind. All school districts in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region had 5% or less of students who were “falling far below” on their 3rd grade AIMS reading in 2011.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PERCENT FALLING FAR BELOW
Cave Creek Unified School District	1%
Fountain Hills Unified School District	3%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	5%
Scottsdale Unified School District	2%

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

AIMS 3rd grade reading scores in 2011 were highest in Cave Creek Unified School District where 93% of children passing the standard, compared to only 78% of Maricopa County as a whole.

AIMS Reading: 3rd Grade Students Passing the Standard

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cave Creek Unified School District	88%	91%	89%	90%	93%
Fountain Hills Unified School District	92%	80%	89%	81%	82%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	78%	78%	79%	81%	84%
Scottsdale Unified School District	86%	84%	83%	-	89%
Maricopa County	-	69%	73%	74%	78%
Arizona	69%	69%	72%	73%	76%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard>.

Note: A dash (-) indicates data that was unavailable for that year or grade for a district.

Fountain Hills Unified School District had the lowest percent (68%) of students passing the AIMS standard for math, while Cave Creek Unified School District had the highest (88%).

AIMS Math: 3rd Grade Students Passing the Standard

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cave Creek Unified School District	88%	92%	90%	83%	88%
Fountain Hills Unified School District	93%	84%	89%	71%	68%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	80%	80%	82%	73%	78%
Scottsdale Unified School District	87%	85%	85%	-	83%
Maricopa County	-	73%	75%	67%	70%
Arizona	72%	71%	73%	65%	68%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). School Report Cards. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard>.

Note: A dash (-) indicates data that was unavailable for that year or grade for a district.



Graduation Rate

Why It Is Important

High school graduation is an important indicator of future economic and personal success. Youth who leave high school prior to graduation are more likely to experience lower earnings and higher rates of unemployment.⁴⁰ Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including child abuse, substance abuse, unaddressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.⁴¹

There are differences in graduation rates by ethnicity in Arizona which may be due to language and cultural barriers, as well as higher poverty rates. It is important to identify the contributing factors to these low graduation rates to ensure greater success for all children.⁴²

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce* provided one \$2,500 and one \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors in the workforce development internship program.
- Information about resources geared toward graduation rates in the Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale Unified School Districts were not readily available. It is unknown whether there are resources in these districts.

What the Data Tell Us

Graduation rates varied in the region with 94% of Cave Creek Unified School District students graduating from high school in 2010, 93% in Fountain Hills Unified School District, 91% in Scottsdale School District, and 90% in Paradise Valley Unified School District.

Graduation Rate

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cave Creek Unified School District	90%	92%	92%	94%
Fountain Hills Unified School District	93%	96%	90%	93%
Paradise Valley Unified School District	88%	88%	89%	90%
Scottsdale Unified School District	89%	90%	89%	91%
Arizona	73%	75%	76%	75%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). Research Evaluation Section. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad/>.

⁴⁰ United States Department of Education. (n.d.). Promoting Educational Excellence for all Americans, Questions and Answers on No Child Left Behind. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.ed.gov/>

⁴¹ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth, 2000. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

⁴² Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from [Arizonaindicators.org](http://arizonaindicators.org)



Educational Attainment

Why It Is Important

Lack of education is often associated with lower incomes, less access to good quality child care, and poorer health. Children of parents with lower educations are typically less prepared for school when they enter kindergarten. A mother's level of education is a strong predictor of a child's educational potential.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- Rio Salado College Scottsdale Adult Learning Center** offers Adult Basic Education (ABE) and GED classes designed to help adults improve basic reading, writing and math skills. These classes support individuals in preparing to pass the tests for the GED High School Equivalency Diploma, improve their job skills, and become more self-sufficient. In-person classes are offered free of charge, include books and materials for use in the classroom, and are self-paced to meet individual learning goals.

What the Data Tell Us

Within Scottsdale, over half (52%) of residents attained their Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to Maricopa County (29%) or Arizona (26%) in 2010.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over

	2009	2010
Less than High School Graduate		
Scottsdale City	4.9%	4.4%
Maricopa County	15.7%	14.4%
Arizona	16.1%	15.0%
High School Graduate		
Scottsdale City	16.1%	15.3%
Maricopa County	24.3%	23.8%
Arizona	25.6%	25.1%
Some College or Associate's Degree		
Scottsdale City	28.5%	28.4%
Maricopa County	31.9%	32.8%
Arizona	32.6%	33.5%
Bachelor's Degree		
Scottsdale City	31.5%	32.3%
Maricopa County	18.2%	18.8%
Arizona	16.4%	16.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree		
Scottsdale City	19.0%	19.6%
Maricopa County	9.9%	10.3%
Arizona	9.3%	9.6%

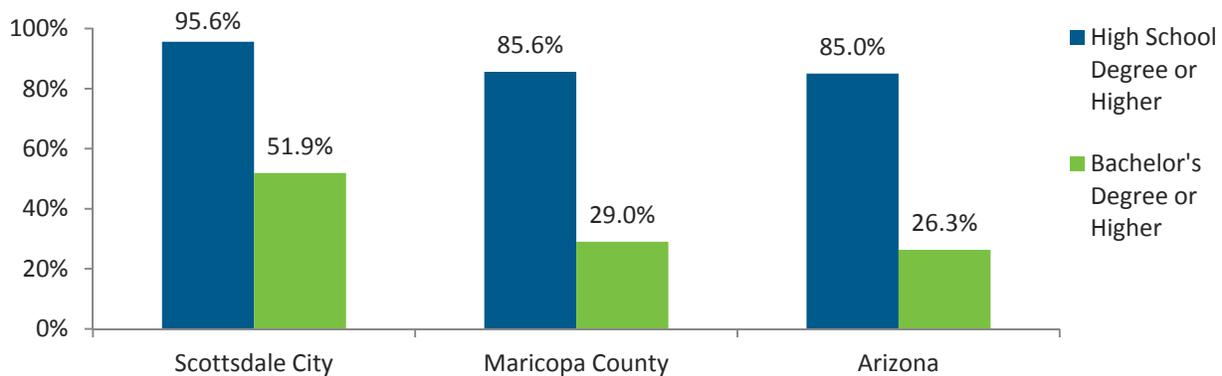
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1501- Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Zip code or community level data was unreliable due to a margin of error greater than 90%.



About 15% of the population 25 years and over in Maricopa County and Arizona had not received their GED or high school degree, compared to only 4% of the Scottsdale population.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1501- Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Zip code or community level data was unreliable due to a margin of error greater than 90%.

Family Literacy

Why It Is Important

One important component of parenting knowledge is the understanding of the importance of reading to and with children from an early age. When families read to their infants and preschool age children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.⁴³ Other key activities such as playing games and exercising also help children learn and develop.

The national Reach Out and Read program promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children and educating parents about the importance of reading to children. The program partners with doctors in 185 locations in Arizona (as of 2011) as the primary point of contact with children and families. In a 2010 parent survey of the program, 99% of respondents reported receiving a book from their doctor or nurse during their first well child visit and 87% said their child's doctor provided advice about early literacy that inspired parents and children to read together.⁴⁴

⁴³ Levy, B. A., Gong, Z., Hessels, S., Evans, M. A., & Jared, D. (2006). Understanding print: Early reading development and the contributions of home literacy experiences. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 93(1), 63-93.

⁴⁴ Ready for School. (2012). Personal correspondence. *Reach out and Read Arizona*. Received February, 2012 from Ready for School.



Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Scottsdale Public Library's*** five locations provide programs and services to children birth to five, their siblings, and their parents and caregivers through Storytimes, literacy events, and classes for parents and children in early literacy, social/emotional development, community resources, and parent education. They also have a wide range of books for children in their Parenting Collection and have numerous Community Outreach programs in conjunction with local preschools and the Scottsdale Unified School District.
- ***The Civic Center and Mustang Libraries*** are Family Place Libraries – a national network of children's librarians focusing on community, family and literacy.
- ***Desert Foothills Library*** serves Cave Creek and Carefree and is one of the few public, non-profit libraries in the Southwest supported entirely by paid memberships and donations by individuals, businesses, local towns and organizations.
- ***Fountain Hills Branch Library*** is part of the Maricopa County Library system and serves the residents of Fountain Hills.
- ***The Fort McDowell Yavapai National Tribal Library*** has a children's corner offering story time, a homework lab, and arts and crafts. It also provides language, tribal history, and cultural resources, including language classes for residents.

What the Community Is Saying

- ***The Scottsdale Public Library*** programs are well attended, especially since the downturn in the economy. The majority of children that participate in the library programs are ages 18 months to 3 years since older children tend to be in preschool programs. All youth librarians are trained in early literacy skills. When babies are born at the two local hospitals, they are given a board book and a library card.



What the Data Tell Us

Scottsdale Public Library increased the number of its programs for preschoolers between 2008/09 and 2010/11, and saw higher numbers of preschool program participants each year as well. These increases occurred at all library branches, and occurred even while overall traffic in most branches (“door counts”) decreased.

Scottsdale Public Library, Preschool Program Analysis

	FY 2008/2009	FY 2009/2010	FY 2010/2011
Civic Center			
Number of Programs	230	325	404
Number of Attendees	6,146	8,688	10,270
Door Counts	602,127	612,484	576,916
Mustang			
Number of Programs	185	316	418
Number of Attendees	5,570	9,051	11,294
Door Counts	437,573	440,248	418,703
Palomino			
Number of Programs	135	146	226
Number of Attendees	2,079	2,682	3,282
Door Counts	261,983	266,975	251,431
Arabian			
Number of Programs	199	329	383
Number of Attendees	4,720	8,082	8,962
Door Counts	259,480	258,464	244,104
Appaloosa*			
Number of Programs	-	124	224
Number of Attendees	-	2,689	5,152
Door Counts	-	101,913	164,567
Paiute			
Number of Programs	53	67	88
Number of Attendees	705	1,168	1,834
Door Counts	-	-	-

Source: Scottsdale Public Library. (2012). Correspondence with Representatives. Received 2012 from Scottsdale Public Library.

*Appaloosa opened November 2009.



The Paiute Neighborhood Center held the most Knowing and Growing programs (focusing on parent education and family literacy) between September 2011 and February 2012, with 76 programs and a total of 1,183 participants. The Mustang branch had 38 programs and 894 attendees.

Scottsdale Public Library, Knowing and Growing Program Numbers and Attendance, Sept. 2011 – Feb. 2012

LOCATION	CLASSES	ATTENDANCE
Paiute Neighborhood Center	76	1,183
Mustang	38	894
Arabian	36	485
Cave Creek	34	590
Civic Center	33	515
Palomino	27	592
Appaloosa	27	558
Fountain Hills	24	128
Fort McDowell	19	201
Total	314	5,146

Source: Scottsdale Public Library. (2012). Correspondence with Representatives. Received 2012 from Scottsdale Public Library.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

All families need support of one kind or another. Families experiencing the strain of substance abuse or family violence may need extra resources. At the same time, every family has strengths. We need to recognize and build on the capacity and resiliency of our families, while helping to provide them with the supports needed to best care for their children. The identified indicators within this section help us understand how well we are doing to keep our families strong.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Social Services

- Parenting Support Systems

Social Services

- Child Abuse
- Foster Care
- Children of Incarcerated Parents



Community Supports

Parenting Support Systems

Why It Is Important

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources.

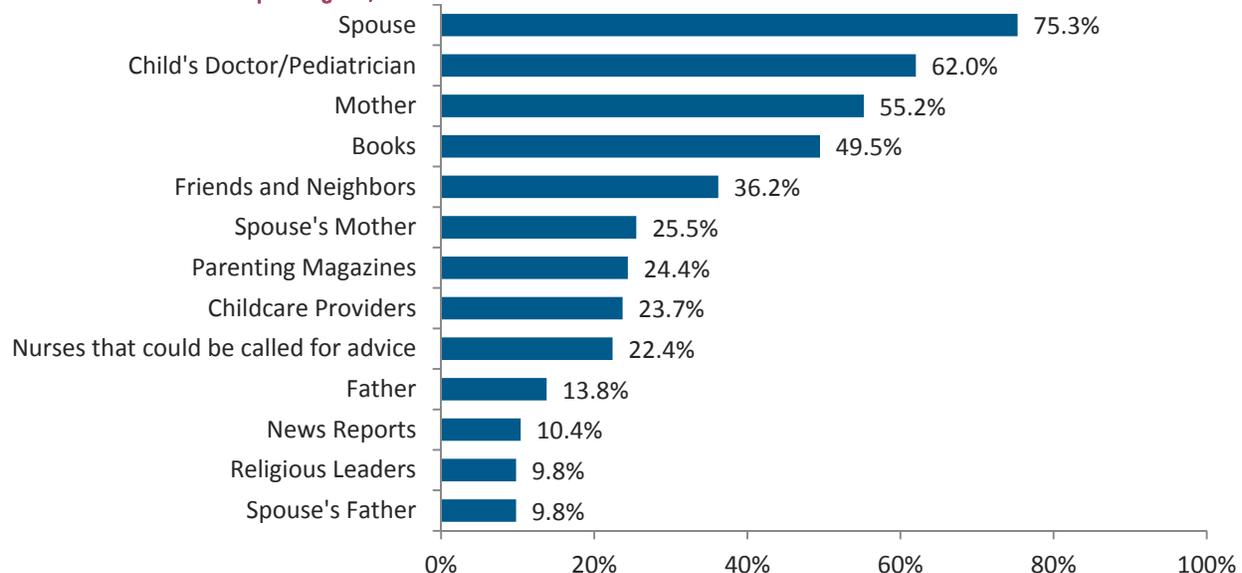
Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council:*
 - Funds voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families. Service areas include the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and focuses on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition.
 - Over 3,000 adults with children ages birth through five attended over 400 classes on parenting, child development, and problem-solving skills during the first three quarters of FY 2012, provided by Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services and the City of Scottsdale with funding from First Things First.

What the Data Tell Us

Parents reported most often relying on their spouse (75%), their child's doctor or pediatrician (62%), and their mother (55%) for support in 2008.

Parents Who Report that they "Frequently" Rely on Family and Community Members for Support, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, 2008



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

Note: Most recent data available.



Social Services

Child Abuse

Why It Is Important

Child abuse and neglect are found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all factors that can lead to adults abusing children.⁴⁵ Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children.⁴⁶ The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012 in 2010 dollars, including \$32,648 in childhood health care costs. It is therefore essential that communities work to prevent child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center*** addresses the special needs of children and parents who experience family violence. Their team and partners include health care providers, Child Protective Services (CPS) staff, adult probation, crisis intervention specialists, and members of the police department.
- ***Free Arts of Arizona*** offers therapeutic, creative arts programming to abused, neglected, or at risk Maricopa County children ages 3 through 21 and serves over 6,100 children each year.
- ***My Sister's Place*** (part of Catholic Charities Community Services) provides shelter to victims of domestic violence in East Valley using an empowerment model that integrates a holistic, strengths-based approach to help them feel safe and self-sufficient.
- ***Pathways*** (part of Catholic Charities Community Services) is an additional program that helps victims residing outside of a shelter to maintain their safety and to heal emotionally. For more information:
<http://catholiccharitiesaz.org/ServicesForThoseInNeed/DomesticViolence/Pathways.aspx>

⁴⁵ Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2004, February). *Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/pdfs/riskprotectivefactors.pdf>

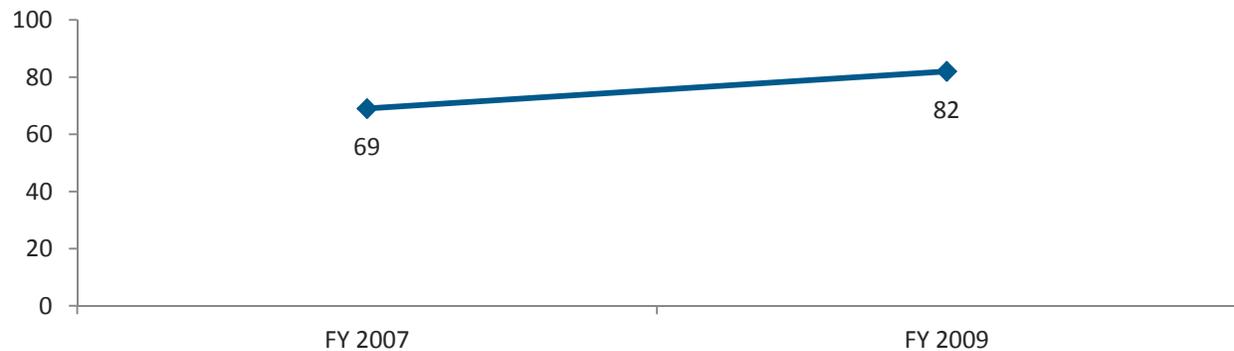
⁴⁶ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims, 11*, 113-128; and Child abuse: The hidden bruises. (2008, May). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Retrieved 2012 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruiers.



What the Data Tell Us

Sixty-nine children were removed from their homes by CPS in 2007 and 82 children were removed in 2009, a 19% increase.

Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region data are the combination of all zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

The number of child abuse and neglect cases more than doubled across the county over the past six years with 890 cases in FY 2006 and 2,261 cases in FY 2011. The majority of cases in 2011 were neglect (1,807), followed by physical abuse (382), and sexual abuse (66).

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Maricopa County

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Emotional Abuse	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Neglect	414	432	440	416	1,540	1,807
Physical Abuse	400	535	370	361	358	382
Sexual Abuse	74	121	95	88	79	66
Total	890	1,089	910	866	1,978	2,261

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
 Note: Fiscal year goes from October to September.



Foster Care

Why It Is Important

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is care for children ages birth through 17 who are removed from their parents' or guardians' home and placed in a different setting such as a family foster care home, relatives' home, group residential home, or an institutional care facility. It is generally held that the child's best interests are served by being with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues at home so as to reunite the family.⁴⁷ Some children are placed into foster care because their parents were deported due to immigration laws. Immigrant victims of domestic violence are at particular risk of losing their children.⁴⁸

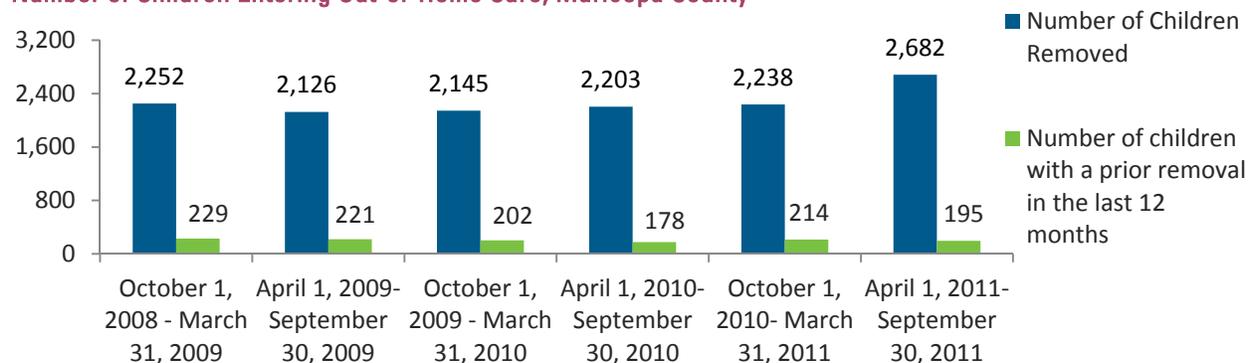
Snapshot of Community Assets

- The Child Crisis Center** is funded by Scottsdale's Human Services Commission. Through the Family Resource Center and Arizona Adoption and Foster Care Program, 27 families will receive education, designed to prevent child abuse and strengthen families, through parenting skills training and family support workshops. In addition, nine families will receive foster care and adoption training and licensing/certification.

What the Data Tell Us

The number of children entering out-of-home care is reported in 6 month increments. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, there were 2,682 children removed from homes in Maricopa County, the highest number report since October 1st, 2008. Between April 1st and September 30th of 2011, 7% of those children had a prior removal in the 12 months previous.

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



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2011). Child Protective Services. (Unpublished Data). Received 2012 from First Things First.
Note: Fiscal year goes from October to September.

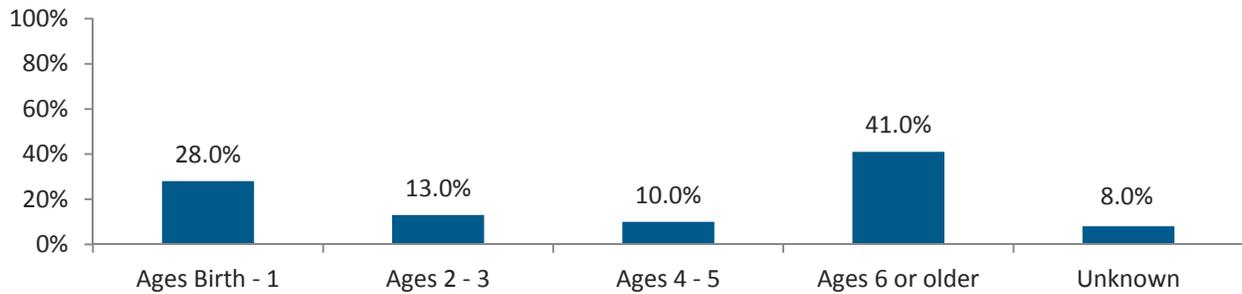
⁴⁷ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family Preservation Services. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>

⁴⁸ Applied Research Center. (2011). Shattered Families. Retrieved 2012 from www.arc.org/shatteredfamilies.



Over one-quarter of children who entered out-of-home care in 2009 were birth to under 2 years old, and 41% were 6 years old or higher.

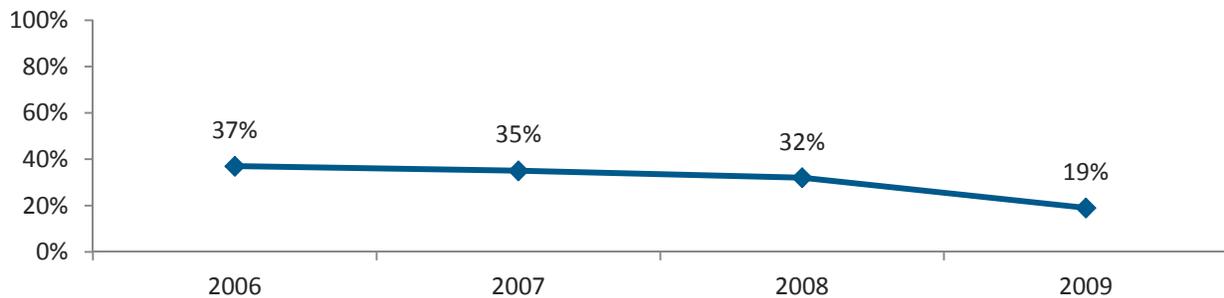
Percentage by Age at Entry, Out-of-Home Care, Maricopa County, 2009



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). Data obtained from the Chapin Hall State Foster Care Data Archive. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/>

Total adoptions in Maricopa County, and across many Arizona counties, have decreased for children who were less than one year old at entry into the foster care system. Only 19% of adoptions in 2009 were of children less than one year old at entry compared to 37% in 2006.

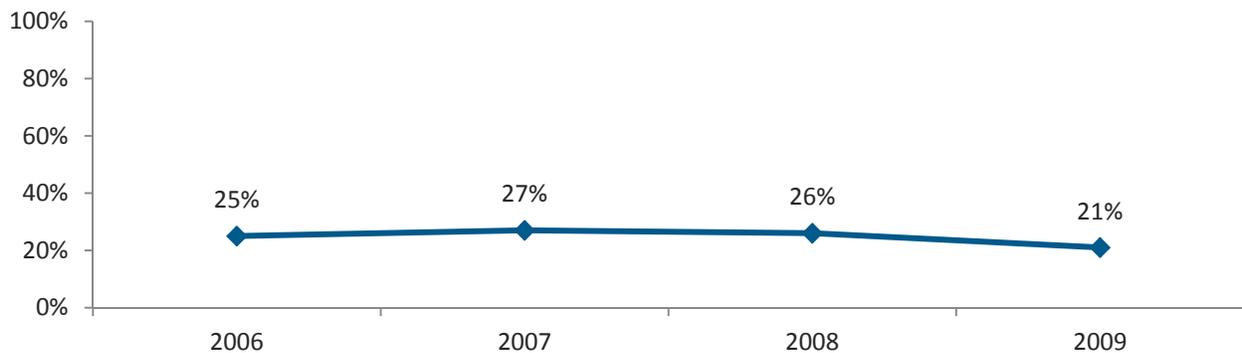
Total Adoptions through 12-21-10, <1 year old at entry, First Admission Cohorts, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). Data obtained from the Chapin Hall State Foster Care Data Archive. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/>

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

Reentry in 12 Months from Exits to Reunification or Live with Relatives, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2009). Data obtained from the Chapin Hall State Foster Care Data Archive. Retrieved 2012 from <https://www.azdes.gov/>



Children of Incarcerated Parents

Why It Is Important

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability, especially due to increased likelihood of single parent households or grandfamilies. They are more likely to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested. They are also more likely to later be incarcerated themselves if preventive steps are not taken.⁴⁹ Arizona had the highest rate of incarceration nationally with an estimated 93,245 minor children in Arizona affected by parental incarceration in 2011. An additional 47,293 children had at least one parent on probation. Overall, it was estimated that on any given day, 171,662 children had a parent involved in the Arizona criminal justice system.⁵⁰

What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County hosts the majority of the entire state's prison population. About two-thirds (66%) of children affected by parental incarceration are in Maricopa County.

Estimated Number of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2011

	MARICOPA COUNTY	ARIZONA
Percent of State Prison Population	65.5%	100.0%
Number Incarcerated in State Prisons	25,503	40,777
Number Incarcerated in County Jails	9,200	15,972
Number on Probation	25,951	47,293
Total Population of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Jail and Prison)	58,995	93,245
Total Population of Children Affected by Parental Incarceration (Jail, Prison, and Probation)	103,112	171,662

Source: Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). *Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents* Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2011 from <http://thepartnership.us>.

⁴⁹ Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). *Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers* (New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2009). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf

⁵⁰ Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). *Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents* Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2011 from <http://thepartnership.us>. Retrieved 2011 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf



HEALTH

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development so that children can become successful, healthy and thriving adults. It is critical that children have access to health care to ensure that they have a chance at obtaining optimum health. However, Arizona's general fund budget has been reduced by more than 20%, from \$10.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2008 to \$8.5 billion in FY 2011. Cuts to health and human services have been especially profound.⁴⁹

According to the 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey, more than 1/3 of parents were dissatisfied with the health information and resources available, and 70% of parents of children with health issues expressed dissatisfaction with available information and resources. The cuts that have occurred to date are beginning to take their toll on children and their families, especially the most vulnerable populations, such as children with behavioral health conditions and special health needs.

SELECTED INDICATORS

Maternal and Child Health

- Prenatal Care
- Birth Characteristics
- Substance Abuse During Pregnancy
- Teen Births
- Breastfeeding
- Immunizations

Special Needs

- Health Insurance
- Health Providers
- Oral Health Care

Education

- Asthma
- Overweight and Obesity
- Illness
- Leading Causes of Death

⁴⁹ Arizona Health Futures. (2011). After the Dust Settles. Retrieved 2012 from <http://slhi.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/ib-2011-April.pdf>



Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Care

Why It Is Important

Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care for pregnant women, including screening and treatment for medical conditions and help for issues such as smoking, alcohol, and substance abuse that are linked with poor birth outcomes. Some research has shown that babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers receive prenatal care.⁵² Lack of prenatal care is often associated with lack of health insurance and other barriers to health care, including communication difficulties, lack of child care, and transportation obstacles.⁵³ Women are advised to seek prenatal care early in their pregnancy (in the first trimester) and to have effective, high quality prenatal care visits throughout the pregnancy.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***A2Z Breastfeeding*** serving Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and Cave Creek works with employers and offers pre and postnatal house calls, education, and workplace visits to breastfeeding women and those planning to breastfeed.
- ***Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program:***
 - Provided 90 women with prenatal services in FY 2011. Of these deliveries, 90% were of healthy weight, according to the 2011 NOAH Report.
 - Dental services were expanded in April 2011 to treat pregnant NOAH medical patients. This expansion is a way to "prevent and treat periodontal disease and gestational gingivitis, which can lead to pre-term delivery," according to the 2011 NOAH Report.
- Information about prenatal care resources in Paradise Valley, Carefree, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Rio Verde were not readily available. It is unknown whether they provide services in these cities.

⁵² U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. (n.d.). A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>

⁵³ American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Universal maternity care. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893



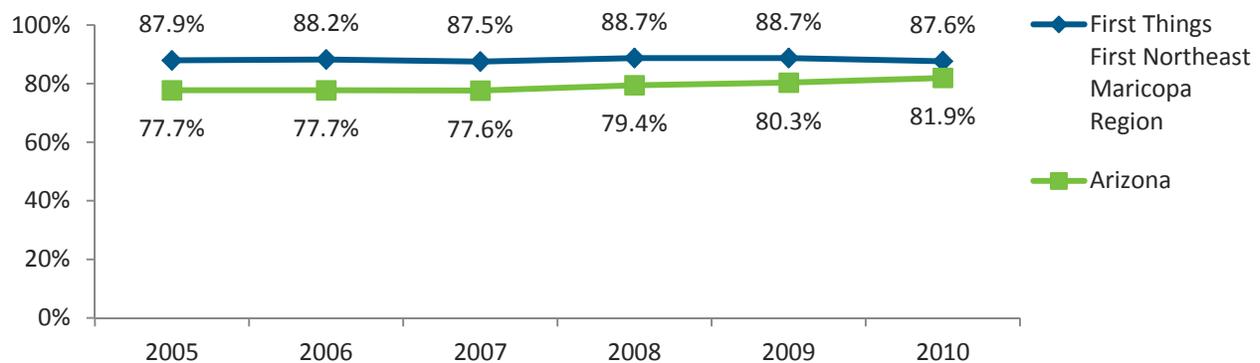
What the Community Is Saying

- A local First Things First representative suggested a discussion between First Things First and the obstetrics and gynecology community would be helpful for looking at what barriers are preventing women from getting prenatal care. According to the local health representative, current barriers may be due to a lack of insurance coverage.
- Increasing the number of breastfeeding mothers could help to reduce obesity, but it's often difficult for mothers to find an appropriate place to breastfeed, especially in the private business sector. Policy changes could help by reducing this barrier so that more mothers could easily breastfeed.

What the Data Tell Us

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has had higher percentages of women who began prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (approx. 88%-89%) as compared to the state (78%-82%) over the past 6 years.

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/index.htm/>.

Note: Percentage of total births

Note: The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region is based on the sum of Arizona Department of Health Services communities within the region. See the methodology for more information.



Women in Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (56%) and Carefree (71%) had the lowest percentages of prenatal care in the first trimester in 2010.¹

Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree ¹	100.0%	81.8%	100.0%	100.0%	75.0%	71.4%
Cave Creek	95.3%	91.9%	93.9%	93.3%	93.6%	93.6%
Fountain Hills	91.2%	88.3%	91.0%	93.0%	92.7%	89.0%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ¹	65.0%	69.2%	36.4%	73.7%	73.7%	56.3%
Paradise Valley	97.8%	94.3%	95.2%	90.1%	92.1%	98.6%
Scottsdale	86.6%	87.6%	86.5%	88.0%	88.0%	86.9%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	87.9%	88.2%	87.5%	88.7%	88.7%	87.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. *Health Status Profile of American Indians*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Percentage of total births

¹ Please use caution when interpreting data, actual number of births less than 30.

A small percentage of women (less than 1%) did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy in the communities served by the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2010, compared to Arizona at nearly 2%.

Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree ¹	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cave Creek	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Fountain Hills	0.7%	2.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ¹	5.0%	7.7%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%
Paradise Valley	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%
Scottsdale	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region Total	1.2%	1.0%	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%
Arizona	2.3%	2.4%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. *Health Status Profile of American Indians*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Percentage of total births

¹ Please use caution when interpreting data, actual number of births less than 30.



Birth Characteristics

Why It Is Important

There are many factors surrounding a child's birth that are related to infant and child survival, health, and development. Low birth weight is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.⁵⁴ Low birth weights are commonly associated with pre-term births which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.⁵⁵

What the Data Tell Us

There were 2,619 total births in the region in 2010; there has been a consistent decline since 2005.

Total Births

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree ¹	9	11	9	5	8	7
Cave Creek	320	359	247	283	249	202
Fountain Hills	137	163	122	143	124	91
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ¹	20	13	11	19	19	16
Paradise Valley	93	87	104	81	63	72
Scottsdale	2,552	2,631	2,422	2,378	2,258	2,231
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	3,131	3,264	2,915	2,909	2,721	2,619

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. *Health Status Profile of American Indians*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

¹Please use caution when interpreting data, actual number of births less than 30.

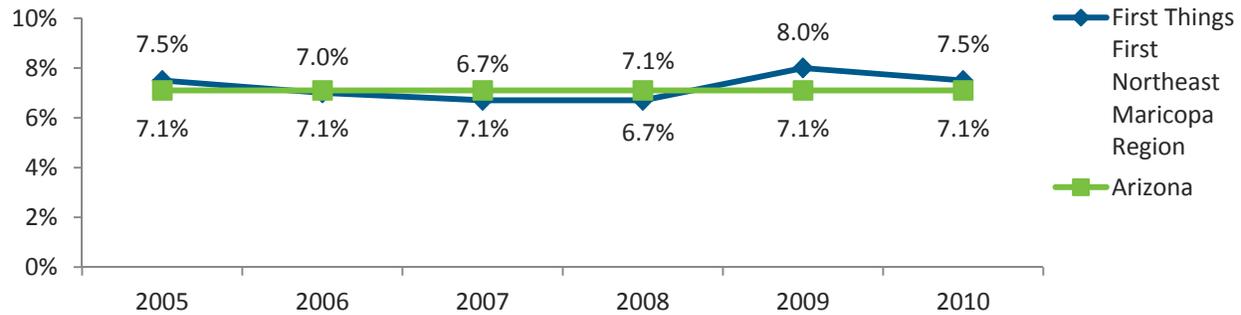
⁵⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). Child health USA 2008-2009. Retrieved 2012 from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

⁵⁵ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm Births. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4



Approximately 8% of babies were born at low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) in the region compared to 7% in Arizona in 2010.

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



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Percent of total births

Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services communities within region and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

The communities with the highest percentages of low birth weight babies were Paradise Valley (19%) and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (19%)¹ in 2010.

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

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree ¹	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%
Cave Creek	5.6%	4.7%	7.7%	7.8%	5.6%	5.9%
Fountain Hills	10.9%	8.6%	7.4%	12.6%	7.3%	6.6%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ¹	0.0%	7.7%	9.1%	0.0%	5.3%	18.8%
Paradise Valley	10.8%	10.3%	7.7%	8.6%	4.8%	19.4%
Scottsdale	7.6%	7.1%	7.3%	6.3%	8.5%	7.2%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	7.5%	7.0%	7.4%	6.7%	8.0%	7.4%
Arizona	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%

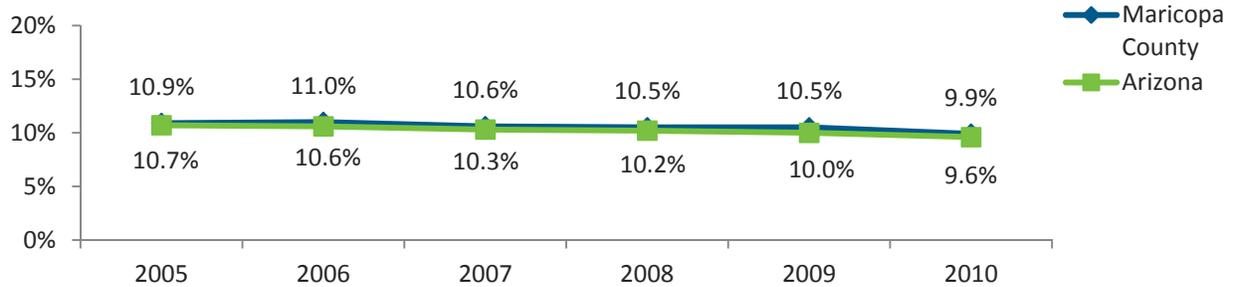
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. *Health Status Profile of American Indians*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

¹Please use caution when interpreting data, actual number of births less than 30.



Ten percent of births in Maricopa County and the state were preterm births (gestational age of less than 37 weeks).

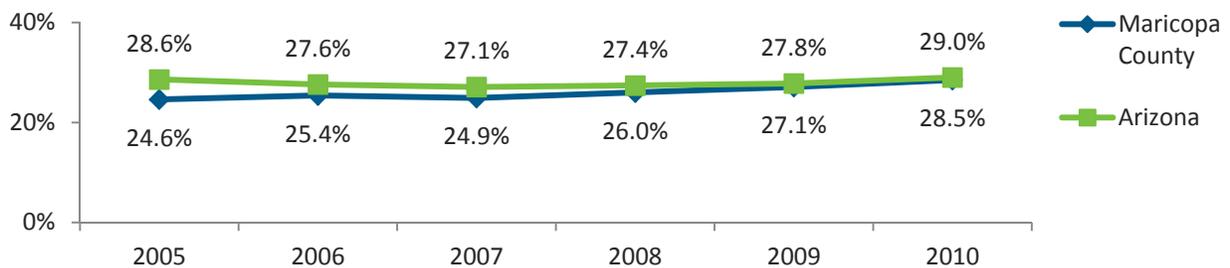
Preterm Births (Gestational Age of Less than 37 Weeks)



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.
 Note: Percent of total births

Births with medical complications of labor and delivery include such things as long delivery, uncoordinated contractions, and overstretching of the uterus. Almost 29% of births in Maricopa County entailed some complications with labor and delivery.

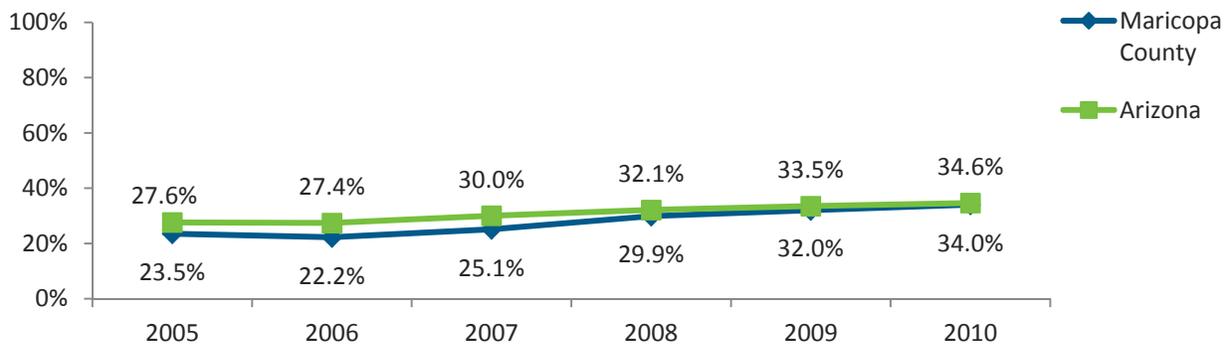
Births with Complications of Labor and Delivery



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Births with medical risk factors apply to the mother and include such things as anemia, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease. Thirty-four percent of births in Maricopa County had medical risk factors.

Births with Medical Risk Factors



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is Arizona's Medicaid agency that offers health care programs to serve Arizona residents. Individuals must meet certain income and other requirements to obtain services. The Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Twenty-four percent of births in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were paid for by AHCCCS in 2009, this was lower than the state average of 54%. Indian Health Services paid for less than one percent in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region. Private insurance paid for 71% of births in the region, this was much higher than the state average of 41%. Very few births in both the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region and the state of Arizona were paid for by individuals without any form of insurance.

Source of Payment for Labor and Delivery

PAYEE	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)					
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	21.3%	22.5%	20.8%	22.8%	23.6%
Arizona	52.6%	52.1%	52.2%	52.5%	53.5%
Indian Health Service					
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	0.4%	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%
Arizona	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
Private Insurance					
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	73.6%	72.4%	72.3%	72.1%	70.7%
Arizona	41.6%	42.3%	42.0%	42.0%	41.0%
Self					
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	4.2%	4.2%	5.2%	4.2%	4.5%
Arizona	2.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%
Unknown					
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
Arizona	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: 2005 Arizona state data unavailable.

Note: Region total includes Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

Note: Most recent data available.



Birth Characteristics – Births to Mothers Residing on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Seventeen percent of births to American Indian mothers residing on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation had complication of labor and delivery in 2009, a percentage that has dropped over the years. One-third (33%) of births to American Indian mothers residing on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation had medical risk factors such as anemia, heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension for the mother in 2009. Over half of the births in 2009 to American Indian mothers residing on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation were paid for with private health insurance, with the remaining births paid for by Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

Birth Characteristics, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Selected Characteristics					
Total Births	17	25	10	20	18
Preterm Births	3	1	3	1	3
Births with Medical Risk Factors	8	9	1	3	6
Births with Complications of Labor and Delivery	8	9	2	3	3
Attendant at Birth					
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)	15	20	9	14	16
Certified Nurse Midwife	1	5	0	4	1
Other	1	0	1	2	1
Source of Payment for Labor and Delivery					
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	2	10	1	7	8
Indian Health Service	2	1	0	1	0
Private Insurance	12	14	7	12	10
Self	1	0	1	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Most recent data available.



Substance Abuse During Pregnancy

Why It Is Important

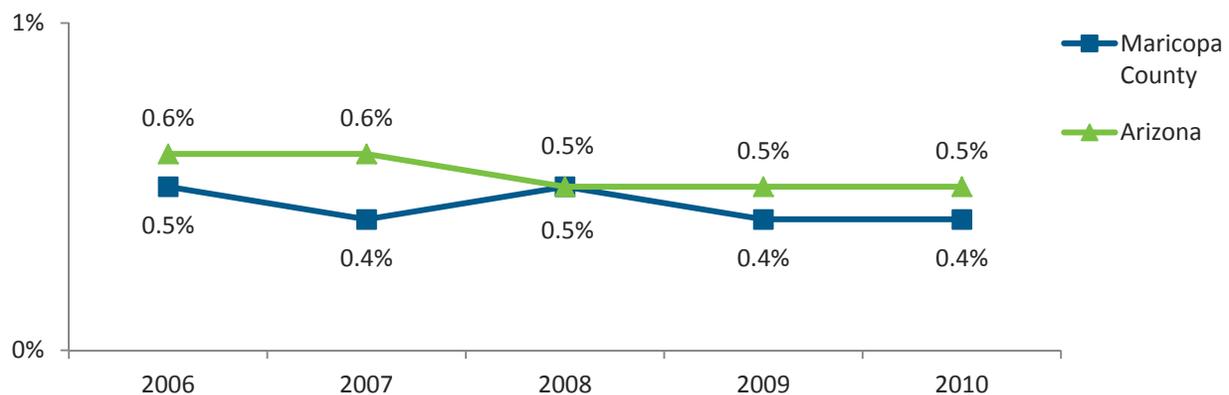
Tobacco and alcohol use by pregnant women has a number of serious consequences. Infants prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop a range of disorders known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders such as developmental delays in thinking, speech, movement or social skills, poor coordination, and heart defects.⁵⁶ Furthermore, smoking tobacco during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among mothers and infants. Babies born to smokers are more likely to be born prematurely, with a low birth weight and reduced life expectancy.⁵⁷

What the Data Tell Us

Unfortunately, statistics on mothers' drug and alcohol use is not available at the regional level. However, data is available at the county level which provides some insight to drug and alcohol use by mothers in the region.

Almost one half of one percent of births (0.4%) were to mothers who used alcohol during pregnancy in Maricopa County in 2010.

Births to Mothers Who Used Alcohol During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

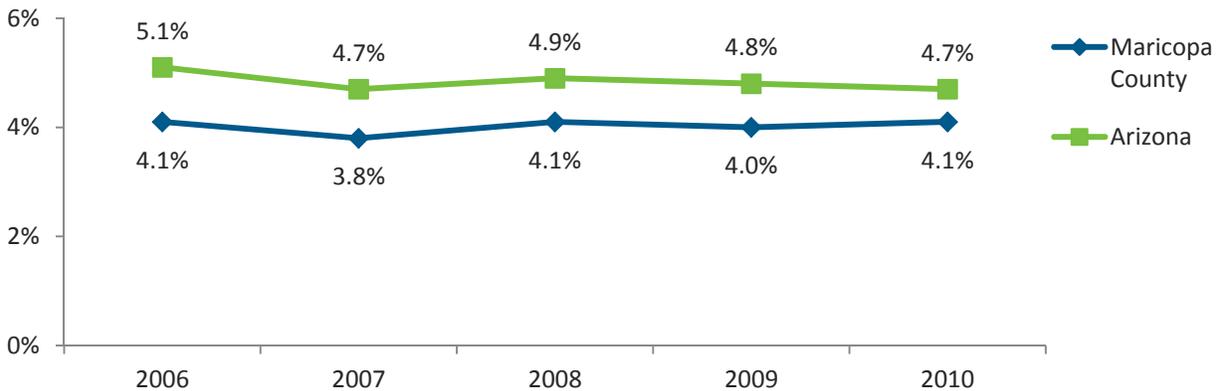
⁵⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

⁵⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Tobacco Use and Pregnancy. Retrieved 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov>.



Approximately 4% of births were to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy.

Births to Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

One hundred seventeen infants experienced drug withdrawal in Maricopa County in 2009.

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

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

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.
 Note: Most recent data available.

Teen Births

Why It Is Important

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay childbirth. Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and therefore have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.⁵⁸ Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention’s Link to Other Critical Social Issues. Retrieved 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>.

⁵⁹ Arizona Department of Health Services and National Center for Health Statistics. (2009). Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/>



Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Scottsdale Girls Ranch** provides a safe, structured place for teen mothers to live and care for their babies while they learn parenting skills and independent living so they can successfully support themselves and their children once they turn 18.
- **The Scottsdale Community Health Services** program offers a Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services program that helps prepare pregnant teens for motherhood, providing 20 hours of health education and mentoring from a case manager and registered nurse.
- **Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services (TOPS)**, funded by the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, provides prenatal and parenting education, mentoring, peer support, and father and family involvement to support pregnant and parenting teens and young adults.

What the Data Tell Us

The community with the highest percentage of teen births was the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (13%¹), followed by Fountain Hills (4%) and Scottsdale (4%) in 2010, with a similar trend over the past five years.

Births to Teen Mothers (19 Years or Younger)

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree ¹	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cave Creek	1.4%	2.5%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%	2.0%
Fountain Hills	3.7%	0.7%	1.6%	3.5%	6.5%	4.4%
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ¹	30.8%	20.0%	36.4%	15.8%	15.8%	12.5%
Paradise Valley	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%	2.5%	3.2%	0.0%
Scottsdale	5.1%	5.8%	5.1%	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	4.6%	5.2%	4.7%	4.0%	4.4%	4.0%
Arizona	12.7%	12.7%	12.6%	12.3%	11.8%	10.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. *Health Status Profile of American Indians*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/>

Note: Percentage of total births

¹ Please use caution when interpreting data, actual number of births less than 30.



Immunizations

Why It Is Important

Immunization requirements help to prevent against a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care. The required vaccinations protect against hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox).

Another standard measure of vaccinations, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received the appropriate number of vaccines across a wide range of diseases; this standard is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.⁶⁰

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***First Things First's Child Care Health Consultation Program*** works with center and home-based child care providers to identify children who are behind in their immunizations, and helps centers direct parents to free or low-cost vaccinations.
- ***Scottsdale Healthcare's Osborn Medical Center*** offers monthly no-appointment-necessary children's immunization clinics. Vaccines are supplied through the Arizona Vaccines for Children program and are available to children who are uninsured, are covered by KidsCare or AHCCCS, are Native American, or whose family's insurance does not cover immunizations. Spanish interpreters are available.

What the Community Is Saying

- According to a local health representative, there is a pocket of lower immunization rates in Cave Creek/ Carefree by choice and not because of unavailable services. Families are choosing to opt out of immunizations due to incorrect perceptions that vaccinations are linked to autism.

⁶⁰ U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (May 2010). National Immunization Survey. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>.



What the Data Tell Us

Immunizations for kindergarteners in Maricopa County were similar to those of the state. For example, approximately 95%-96% of kindergarteners in the region and the state had the 4+DTap immunizations. About 3% of children did not have immunizations due to their parent's personal reasons.

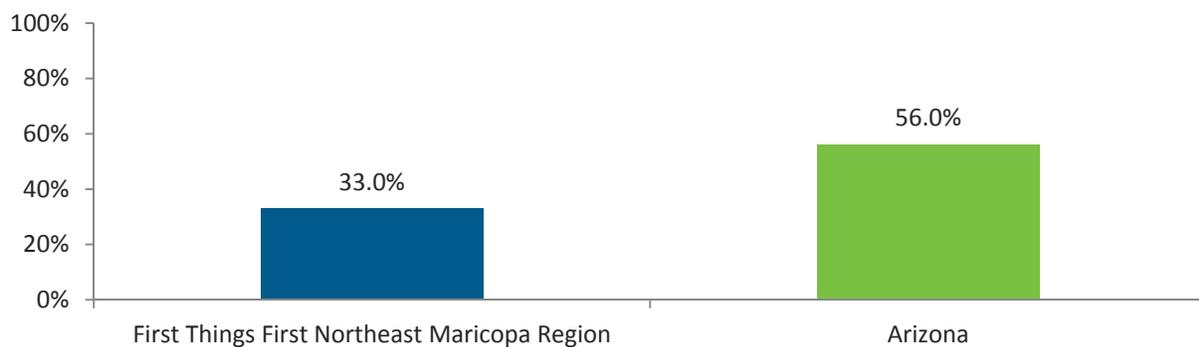
Kindergarteners with Required Immunizations, 2010/11

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

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

About one-third (33%) of children ages 19 through 35 months had completed vaccination schedules in the region in 2010 compared to 56% in the state.

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule, 2010



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

U.S. National Immunization Survey. (2011). Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by State and Local Area. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/nis-2010-released.htm>

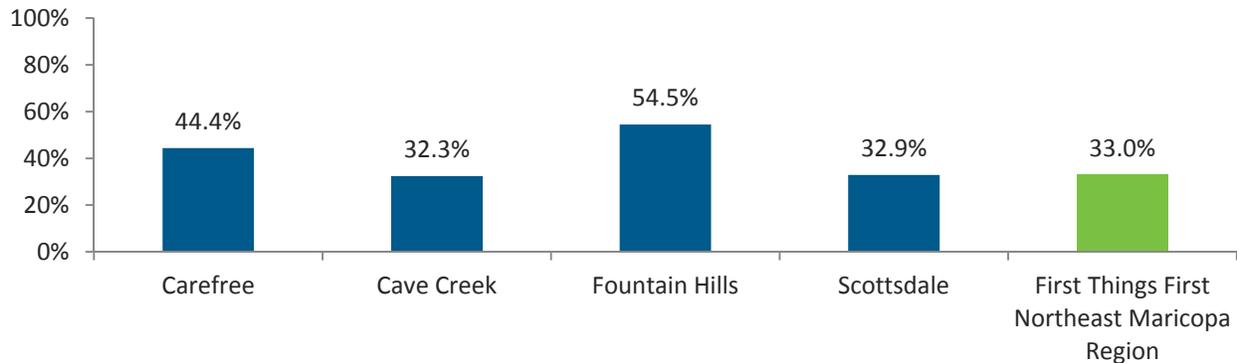
Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within region.

Note: Children with completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.



The percentage of children ages 19 through 35 months who had completed vaccination schedules varied by community. Fountain Hills had the highest percentage of children with completed vaccinations schedules (55%) while Cave Creek had the lowest (32%).

Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule by Community, 2010



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

U.S. National Immunization Survey. (2011). Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by State and Local Area. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/nis-2010-released.htm>

Note: First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region based on sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within region.

Note: Children with completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.

Health Care

Health Insurance

Why It Is Important

A key measure of access to the health care system is whether a child has health insurance. Children who don't have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.⁶¹ Uninsured children have less access to health care, are less likely to have a regular source of primary care, and use both medical and dental care less often. Children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.⁶²

To help parents get insurance for their children, there is a toll-free hotline in Arizona to request an application for KidsCare/AHCCCS.

⁶¹ American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). *MediKids Fact Sheet*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

⁶² Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative, *In Brief Number 4*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHImproves.pdf>



Snapshot of Community Assets

- *Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program* provides a range of care to uninsured patients. NOAH clinics provided 4,723 medical and dental visits in fiscal year 2010, including 1,484 children who received primary care and 690 routine well child visits.

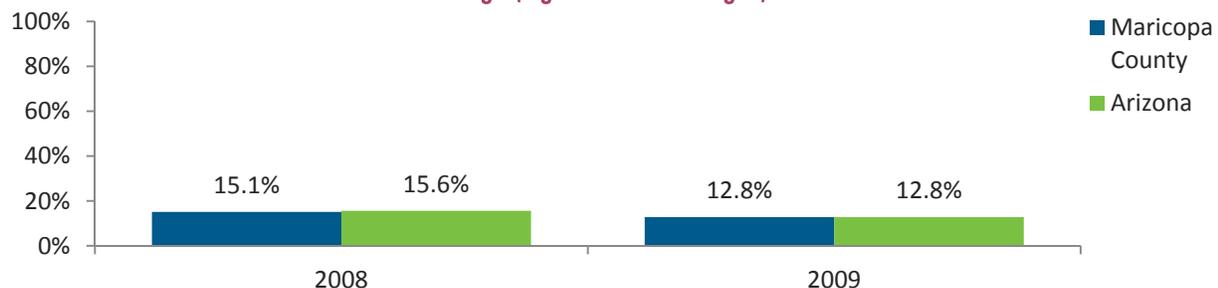
What the Community Is Saying

- Efforts are being made to identify families that don't have access to health insurance but are receiving services at one of the community centers. These families tend to be undocumented Latino families that have lost their jobs and income because of the economy. There is currently a waiting list for KidsCare, but if families are extremely poor they can provide proof of citizenship for the child and qualify for Medicaid. Some of these children qualify for services at the community health clinics, and if they are linked to a school or older siblings' school, they can also receive services there.
- According to key informant interviews at the local level, many undocumented parents are not accessing services such as KidsCare for fear of deportation.
- Individuals who never had to use the public safety net are using it now because they have lost their health insurance along with their jobs. To address this, state funding has been provided to help the community provide primary care for the uninsured. This region has suffered less from cutbacks in services than others like Yuma or the West Valley of Phoenix.

What the Data Tell Us

About 13% of children and youth (ages 19 and younger) in Maricopa County and Arizona did not have health insurance in 2009.

Children Without Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 19 and Younger)

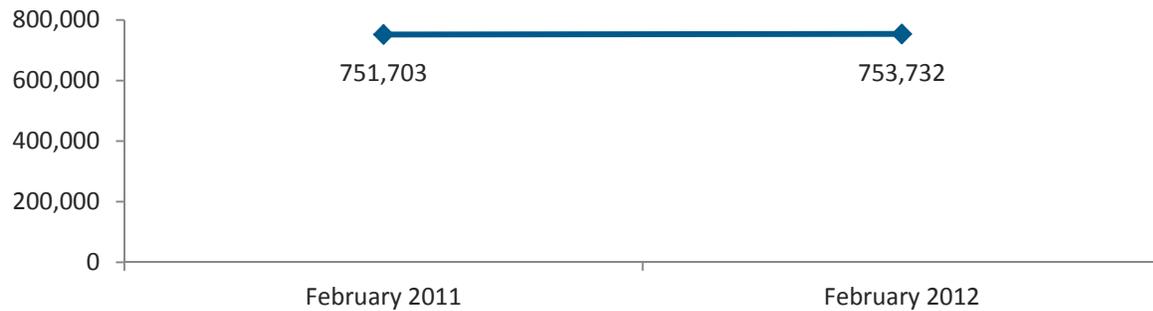


Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2009). 2009 Health Insurance Coverage Status for Counties. *Small Area Health Insurance Estimates*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html>.



The number enrolled in Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) increased from 751,703 in 2011 to 753,732 in 2012.

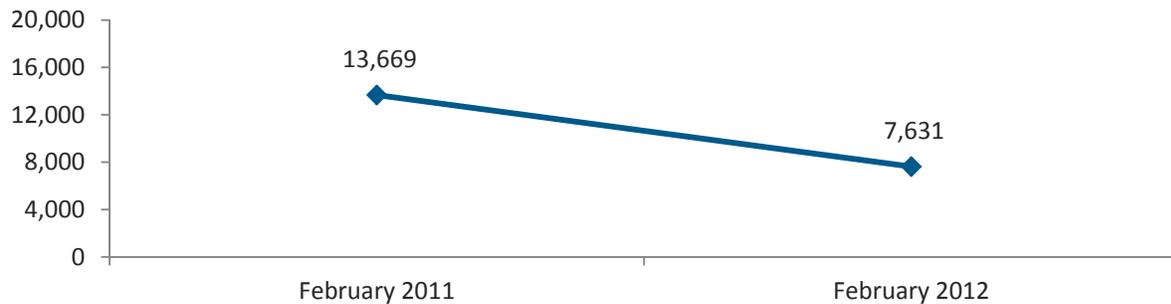
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2011). AHCCCS Population by County. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov>.

KidsCare enrollment decreased 44% between 2011 and 2012, largely due to state budget cuts.

KidsCare Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2011). AHCCCS Population by County. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov>.

Primary Care

Why It Is Important

Access to primary care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation, language, and education.⁶³ Children's access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more serious health problems. However, there are not enough doctors or therapists in the state to serve many communities, especially children with special health care or socio-emotional needs. The Arizona Department of Health Services defines Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including the ratio of providers to the population,

⁶³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). National Healthcare Disparities Report 2003. Rockville, MD. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>



the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight babies, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates.⁶⁴

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) Clinics* run by Scottsdale Healthcare recently received status as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and provides a number of opportunities for the region. The NOAH program Palomino Clinic is located in Northeast Phoenix while the NOAH Paiute clinic is located in South Scottsdale.
 - FQHCs provide primary care to underserved populations regardless of income or medical insurance coverage. FQHC status brings a number of benefits to both the organization and the community including allowing the community access to additional federal grants; access to the Vaccine for Children’s Program providing no cost vaccinations to uninsured children; the National Health Service Corp providing financial support to primary care providers and automatically designates the area as a Health Professional Shortage Area.

What the Community Is Saying

- Some of the biggest assets in the region are the community clinics of Scottsdale Health Care that link out into the community. Paiute services in Scottsdale have outgrown their facility, and are providing more mental health services. They have adopted an integrated model that is being used nation-wide to improve the delivery of care to the uninsured.
- According to the 2011 NOAH report, “the clinic and the school nurses at Palomino Primary and Palomino Intermediate Schools provide many opportunities for collaboration and educational programs in this tight-knit community.”

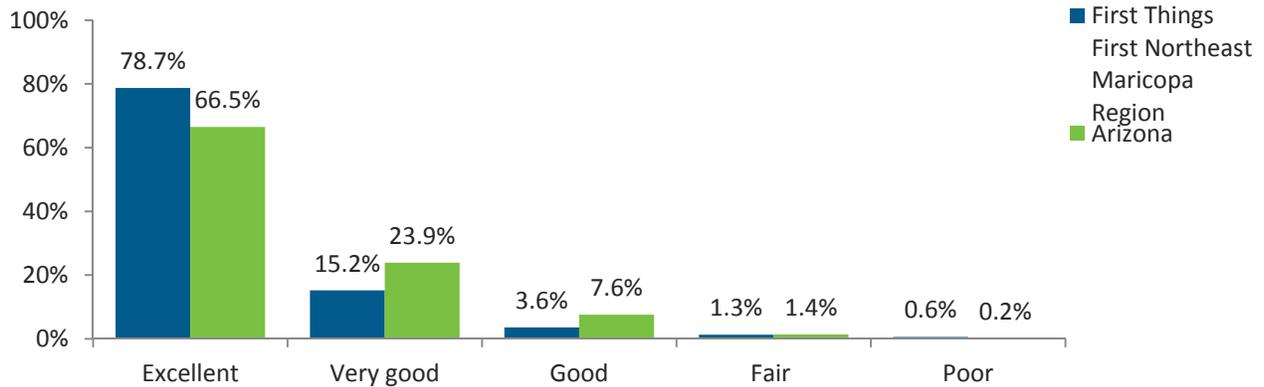
⁶⁴ Arizona Department of Health Services. Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health. (2010). Arizona Medically Underserved Areas. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm>.



What the Data Tell Us

Parents of children birth to five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were more likely to say that they thought their child’s health was “excellent” compared to other Arizona parents, according to the 2008 Family and Community Survey.

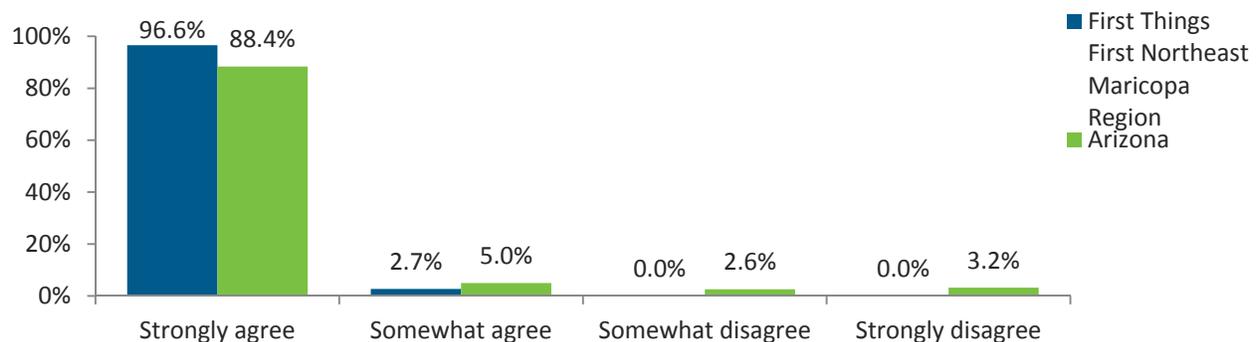
Parent Perceptions of the Statement “Compared with Other Children Ages Birth through Five, Would You Say that Your Child’s Health Is...”, 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.
 Note: Most recent data available.

Ninety-seven percent of First Things First Northeast Maricopa parents of children birth to five “strongly agreed” that their child/children had regular doctor office visits in 2008.

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

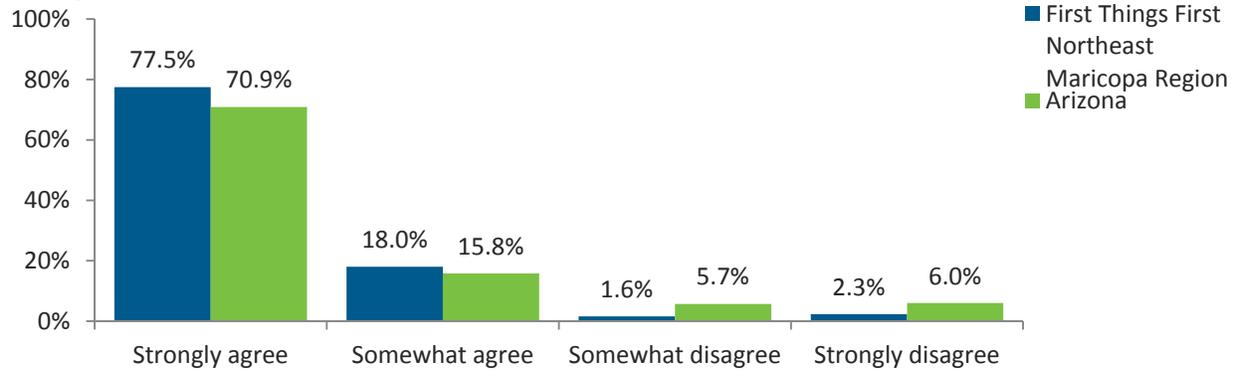


Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.
 Note: Most recent data available.



Seventy-eight percent of First Things First Northeast Maricopa parents of children birth to five “strongly agreed” that their regular provider knew their family well and helped the family make healthy decisions.

Parent Responses to the Statement “My Regular Medical Provider Knows my Family Well and Helps Us Make Healthy Decisions,” 2008



Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “don’t know” or refusing to answer.
 Note: Most recent data available.

Scottsdale housed the greatest number of medical facilities in the region, with 8 hospitals, 66 outpatient treatment centers and 13 ambulatory surgical centers. Scottsdale Healthcare is the largest employer and health care provider in the region and runs three hospitals in Scottsdale, as well as a Pediatric Emergency Room.

Medical Facilities, 2011

FACILITIES	CAREFREE	FOUNTAIN HILLS	PARADISE VALLEY	SCOTTSDALE
Ambulatory Surgical Center	0	0	0	13
Outpatient Treatment Center	2	2	1	66
Home Health Agency	0	1	0	16
Hospice	0	0	0	6
Hospitals	0	0	0	8
Med-Hospital/Outpatient Surgery Center	0	0	2	4
Med-Recovery Center	0	0	1	0
Medical Single Group Licensure/OTC	0	0	0	2
Outpatient Physical Therapy/Speech Pathology Service Center	0	0	0	4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Division of Licensing Services, Provider and Facility Databases. Received 2012 from First Things First.



The ratio of population to providers was lowest in Scottsdale (237 people to each provider), and highest in Cave Creek (513 people to each provider). The population to provider ratio in Scottsdale was much lower than that of Arizona.

Population to Provider Ratio, 2010

	CAVE CREEK	PARADISE VALLEY	SCOTTSDALE	ARIZONA
Population-Provider Ratio	513:1	389:1	237:1	501:1

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Statistical Profile*. Received 2012 from First Things First.

There were 2,474 primary care physicians, 323 physician assistants, 873 nurse practitioners, 11,007 registered nurses, 901 dentists, 31 licensed midwives, and 1,497 emergency medical transport personnel in the region in 2010.

Primary Care Providers by Type

TYPE OF PROVIDER	CAVE CREEK		PARADISE VALLEY		SCOTTSDALE		FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTHEAST MARICOPA REGION	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Primary Care Physicians (MDs and DOs)	342	440	833	1,019	819	1,015	1,994	2,474
Physician Assistants	27	37	160	169	118	117	305	323
Nurse Practitioners	193	246	261	350	185	277	639	873
Registered Nurses	3,439	3,409	4,758	4,517	3,264	3,081	11,461	11,007
Dentists	144	183	319	345	303	373	766	901
Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives	9	8	13	14	10	9	32	31
Emergency Medical Transport Personnel	605	637	612	563	314	297	1,531	1,497

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Statistical Profile*. Received 2012 from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Regional total is a calculation of the three preceding Primary Care Areas.



Paradise Valley was considered an Arizona medically underserved area and a health professional shortage area in 2009.

Medically Underserved Areas and Health Professional Shortage Areas, 2009

	CAVE CREEK	PARADISE VALLEY	SCOTTSDALE
Primary Care Score ¹	6	16	12
Arizona Medically Underserved Area (AZMUA)	No	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	No
Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)	No	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	No
Federal Medically Underserved Area/ Population (MUA/P)	No	No	MUA (North Tempe)
MUA/P Score ²	-	-	52.4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). Received 2012 from First Things First.

¹Higher Primary Care Scores indicate more severe levels of medical underservice. The primary care score is the sum of the values for a given area in terms of the following components: population to provider ratio, travel time to the nearest primary care facility, percent of the population with income less than 200% of poverty level (and 100-200%), percent of uninsured births, ratio of hospital admissions with ambulatory sensitive condition's per 1000 population less than age 65, percentage of low birth rates, the sum of the percentage of births receiving no prenatal care or prenatal care in the second or third trimester, and the percentage of births reporting four or less prenatal care visits, premature mortality, infant mortality, percent minority, the percent elderly, and unemployment rate above the statewide average. The values for the components of the primary care score can be found at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/pcuindex.pdf>.

²Higher MUA/P scores indicate greater levels of medical service (or less severe underservice). The MUA/P score is based on four variables: ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over. For more on the MUA/P scores, see: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm>.

Oral Health Care

Why It Is Important

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem. Arizona has substantial disparities in oral health where low income children, Hispanic or Latino children, and children of color have more dental needs.⁶⁵ Dental diseases can be serious and are linked to premature birth, low birth weight infants, failure to thrive, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and stroke. Dental care is the most common unmet health need in children, and is the cause of impaired speech development, inability to concentrate in school, poor social relationships, and reduced self esteem.⁶⁶ Experts recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for tooth decay.⁶⁷

Snapshot of Community Assets

- **First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership** funds the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to provide oral health screenings and fluoride varnishes in a range of community settings, educate families about the importance of oral

⁶⁵ The Oral Health of Arizona's Children. (2005). Arizona Department of Health Services. Office of Oral Health. Retrieved November 2005 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>

⁶⁶ Arizona department of Health Services, Bureau of Women and Children's Health, Office of Oral Health. *The State of American Indian Children's Oral Health in Arizona*. Retrieved May 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>

⁶⁷ American Association for Pediatric Dentistry. (2004). *Policy on the Dental Home*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf



health care for their children, and engage in outreach to dentists to encourage first dental visits by age one.

- Scottsdale Healthcare’s Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program** offers dental care to adults and children and provided 1,468 dental visits in fiscal year 2011, according to the 2011 NOAH Report. NOAH’s Palomino, Paiute and BEACH clinics offer full dental services, while its Heuser Family Medicine clinic offers fluoride treatments for children. Full dental services include cleanings, exams, sealants, and X-rays. The program stresses prevention and visits emphasize oral health education.

School Readiness Indicator
 #/% of children with untreated tooth decay

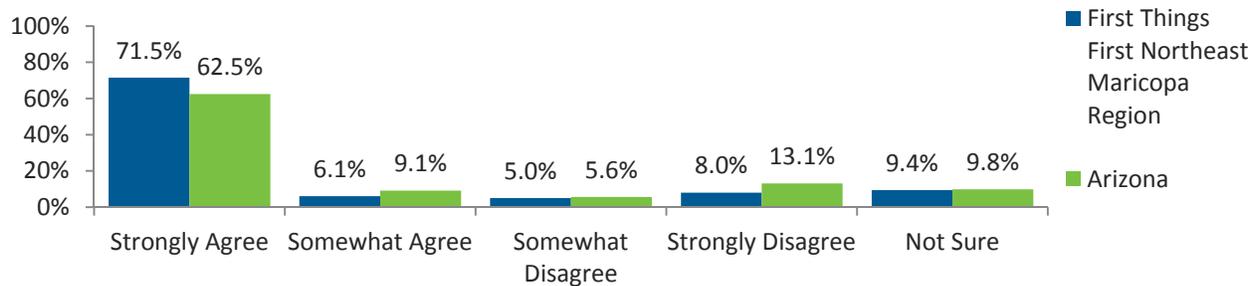
What the Community Is Saying

- There is a shortage of dentists serving children in the Medicaid population statewide. To improve the state of oral health care in the region, dentists could be offered incentives to take AHCCCS. Health care and child care providers could be educated about when children should see dentists, and pediatricians could be engaged to help.
- There are oral health issues in the region and statewide due to lack of fluoridation in the water, so the state is funding an oral health fluoride varnish program to help address children’s oral health. There is also a lack of oral health insurance coverage which prevents preventive care from being accessed.
- Paiute Community Center services in Scottsdale has partnered with Scottsdale Health Care’s Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program an integrated model that is being used nationwide to deliver care to the uninsured including oral health care that hospitals typically don’t provide. They have been able to grow and sustain these services despite economic hard times.

What the Data Tell Us

More parents of children under five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region said that their child/children had regular visits with the same dental provider, as compared to other Arizona parents.

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

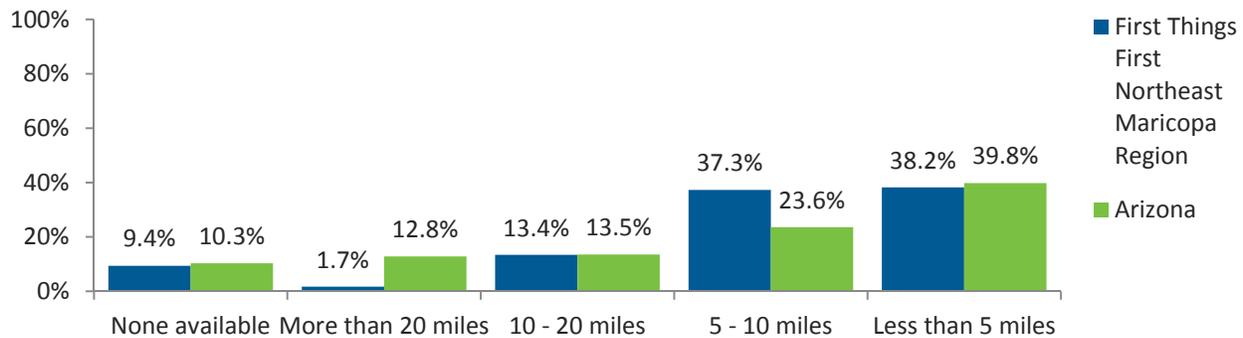


Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First. Note: Most recent data available.



Over three-fourths of parents had to drive ten miles or less to get to the dentist in 2008.

Distance Parents Travel to Get Dental Care for Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2008



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

Note: Most recent data available.

Chronic Disease and Mortality

Acute illnesses have been on the decline over the past century, but chronic illnesses like obesity and diabetes have taken their place. The medical costs of these chronic illnesses represent 75% of the \$2 trillion in U.S. annual health care spending.⁶⁸ Child mortality is also on the decline; however, the child mortality rate in the United States is almost twice that of the United Kingdom.⁶⁹

Illness

Why It Is Important

Communicable diseases are conditions that can be transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal. Reporting cases of communicable diseases is essential to preventing further spread and protecting public health. There are certain diseases that state and federal agencies are required by law to report.

What the Community Is Saying

- First Things First Child Care Health Consultants provide training and support to child care staff on preventing communicable disease and addressing safety issues in child care centers.

⁶⁸ Institute of Medicine. (January 2012). Living Well with Chronic Illness: A Call for Public Action. Retrieved 2012 from www.iom.edu/reports.

⁶⁹ State Child and Youth Well Being Index. Foundation for Child Development. (January 18, 2012). The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved 2012 from <http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/FCD%20State%20CWI%20Report%202012.pdf>



What the Data Tell Us

Food poisoning by enteritides was the most common notifiable disease for all ages in Maricopa County over the past six years and was lower in 2010 at 1,424 cases than in 2009 at 1,825 cases. Overall, vaccine preventable diseases, hepatitis, and tuberculosis have been on the decline since 2005.

Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Maricopa County

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Vaccine Preventable	631	457	203	220	306	342
Enteritides	1,319	1,430	1,596	1,842	1,825	1,424
Hepatitides (Hepatitis)	309	356	197	185	175	132
Tuberculosis	318	300	304	188	247	264

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Notes: Vaccine Preventable includes cases of measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, and *H. influenzae*. Enteritides includes cases of amebiasis, campylobacteriosis, cholera, cryptosporidiosis, *E. coli*, Salmonellosis, *Salmonella*, shigellosis, and typhoid fever. Hepatitides includes cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

Asthma

Why It Is Important

In the United States, nearly 9 million children have asthma. Children have smaller airways than adults, which makes asthma especially serious for them. Many things can cause asthma, including allergens (mold, pollen, animals, and irritants such as, cigarette smoke and air pollution), weather (cold air, changes in weather), exercise, and infections, including the flu and the common cold.⁷⁰ Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.⁷¹ Even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care. Well-controlled asthma allows for less symptoms and decreases interference with normal activities, including sleep, work and school.⁷²

What the Community Is Saying

- According to a local health representative, there are pockets of asthma rates that are higher in the northern part of the region due to dust issues.

⁷⁰ U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. (2010). Asthma. Medline Plus. Retrieved June 23 2010 from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmainchildren.html>.

⁷¹ Ibid.

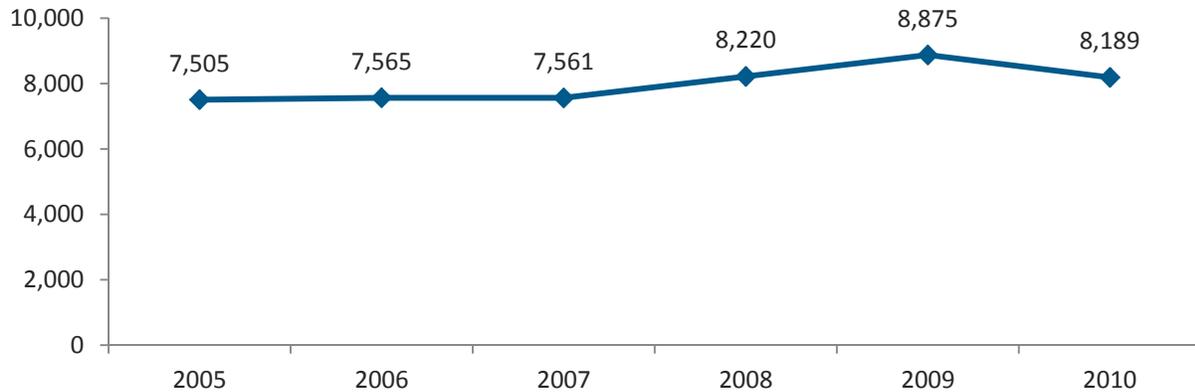
⁷² The Mayo Clinic. (2010). Asthma. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2>.



What the Data Tell Us

Emergency room visits for children birth through five due to asthma increased 9% from 7,505 cases in 2005 to 8,189 cases in 2010 in Maricopa County.

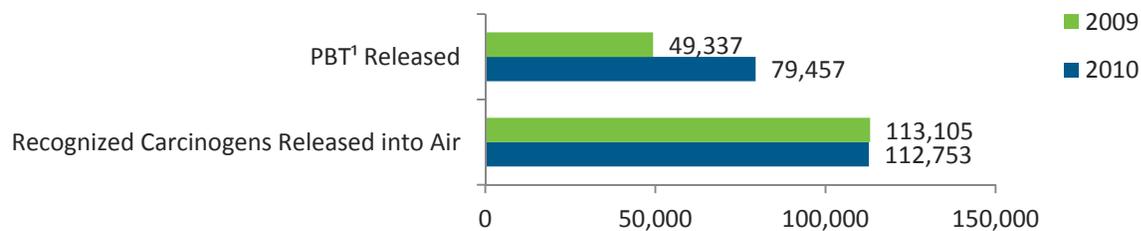
Emergency Room Visits by Children Ages Birth Through Five with Asthma, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>.
 Note: Includes all mentioned asthma cases.

The county had an “F” for annual ozone air quality and a “B” for annual particulate pollution over the three year measurement period of 2007 to 2009.

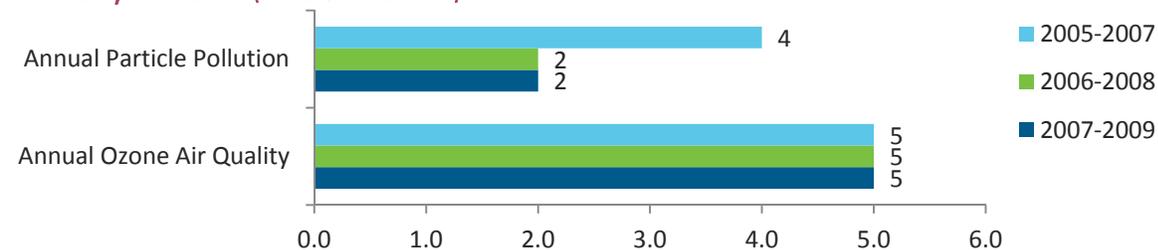
Air Quality Indicators (Measured in pounds)



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2012). *PBT Released and Recognized Carcinogens Released into Air*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.epa.gov>.

¹ PBT is the abbreviation for Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals.

Air Quality Indicators (Time Series Data)



Source: American Lung Association. (2012). Annual Particle Pollution and Annual Ozone Air Quality. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.lungusa.org>.



Overweight and Obesity

Why It Is Important

Children and adolescents with a body mass index (BMI) between the 85th and 94th percentiles are generally considered overweight, and those with a BMI at or above the gender- and age-specific 95th percentile of the population are typically considered obese. Overweight and obese conditions in children can lead to severe physical and emotional health effects, including a greater risk of hospitalization, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, and depression.

Arizona ranks 15th worst among states for childhood obesity. The rate of childhood obesity is so serious that today's youth are expected to be the first generation of Americans to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.

Due to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 signed by President Barack Obama, school districts are revising their menu's to offer healthier choices. There are certain school districts in Arizona that have conducted taste tests of new menu items with their families this past spring.

Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Paiute Neighborhood Center*** in Scottsdale offers a wide variety of activities for children and their families, including swimming, dance and a bilingual "Shake, Rattle and Roll" program. They have recently created a community garden to grow fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ***Fountain Hills*** has four parks with age-appropriate children's playgrounds including a playground at Golden Eagle Park specifically designated for children ages two through five.
- ***Scottsdale*** hosts 11 community parks and 26 neighborhood parks, some with aquatic and fitness centers. Various schools in South Scottsdale are sending home fresh fruits and vegetables with their students.
 - ***Thrive After Three*** in Scottsdale is an afterschool program that teaches children the importance of healthy eating with recreational activities and hands-on cooking projects.
- ***Paradise Valley*** has sixteen parks, two swimming pools, two bowling alleys, two roller skating rinks and numerous tennis courts, baseball diamonds and soccer fields.



- **Handlebar Helpers** is a community “Earn a Bike” and apprentice program that promotes bike safety and environmental stewardship.
- **Parks and Recreation, Community Centers, and the YMCA** offer programs for kids, including toddlers, such as: exercise, martial arts, sports classes, sports leagues, and swimming pools.
- The **City of Scottsdale** along with **Scottsdale Healthcare** and other sponsors held “Fit City Scottsdale” in the spring to encourage the community to be healthy. Activities included: exercise areas and booths focusing on nutrition and fitness. The event attracted several thousand attendees. For more information: www.fitcityscottsdale.org.

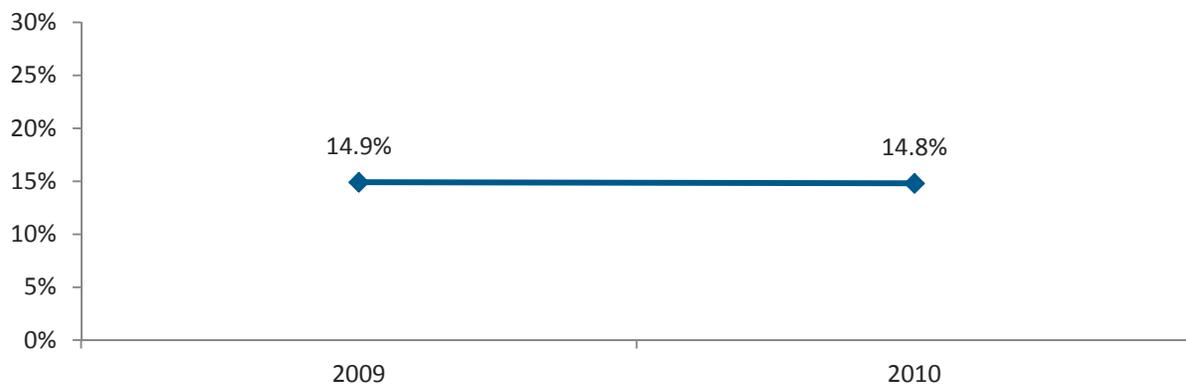
What the Community Is Saying

- The state licensure department has an empowerment program with health prevention services for children such as obesity prevention kits and physical activity interventions. This information is available to child care center staff and parents.

What the Data Tell Us

The childhood obesity rate of children ages 2-5 that participate in a WIC program in Maricopa County stayed fairly consistent at 15% from 2009 to 2010.

Childhood Obesity Rate of Children Ages 2-5 Participating in WIC, Maricopa County



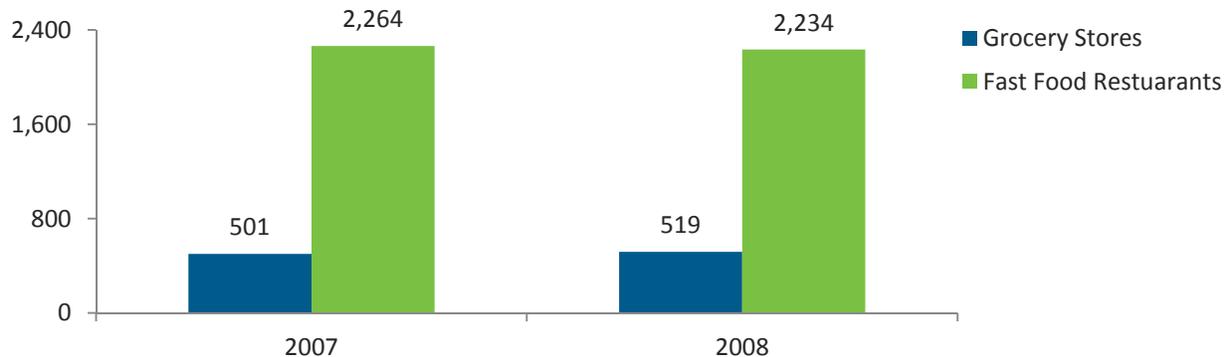
Source: Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS).

Note: Data on overweight and obesity are collected for children who participate in the WIC program in Maricopa County.



There were over four times as many fast food restaurants in comparison to grocery stores in 2008. However, there was a 1.3% decrease in the number of fast food restaurants throughout the county, from 2,264 in 2007 to 2,234 in 2008.

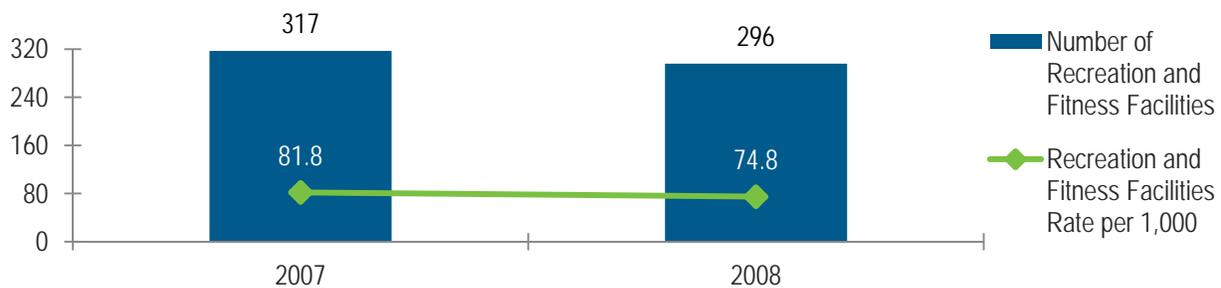
Availability of Grocery Stores and Fast Food Restaurants, Maricopa County



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (2012). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx>
 Note: Most recent data available.

There was one local farm to school program and nearly 300 recreation and fitness facilities in 2009.⁷³ However, there was a decline in the number of recreation facilities from 317 in 2007 to 296 in 2008. The rate of recreation and fitness facilities per 1,000 people in the county declined from 81.8 per 1,000 adults in 2007 to 74.8 per 1,000 adults in 2008.

Number of Recreation and Fitness Facilities and Rate of Facilities per 1,000, Maricopa County



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (2012). Health Indicators. Retrieved 2012 from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov/Food Atlas/foodenv5.aspx>
 Note: Most recent data available.

Diabetes

Why It Is Important

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

⁷³ Food Environment Atlas for Maricopa County.



delay the onset of diabetes complications. The cornerstones of diabetes management for children with type II diabetes are weight management and increased physical activity.⁷⁴

Adult diabetes was 31% higher in Arizona than across the nation. Direct medical costs for those with diabetes are 2.3 times greater than for those who don't suffer from the disease and many additional indirect costs are sustained through lost worker productivity.⁷⁵ In addition, diabetes is the 4th leading cause of death for American Indians in Arizona.⁷⁶ This requires aggressive public education campaigns that are bilingual and culturally sensitive.

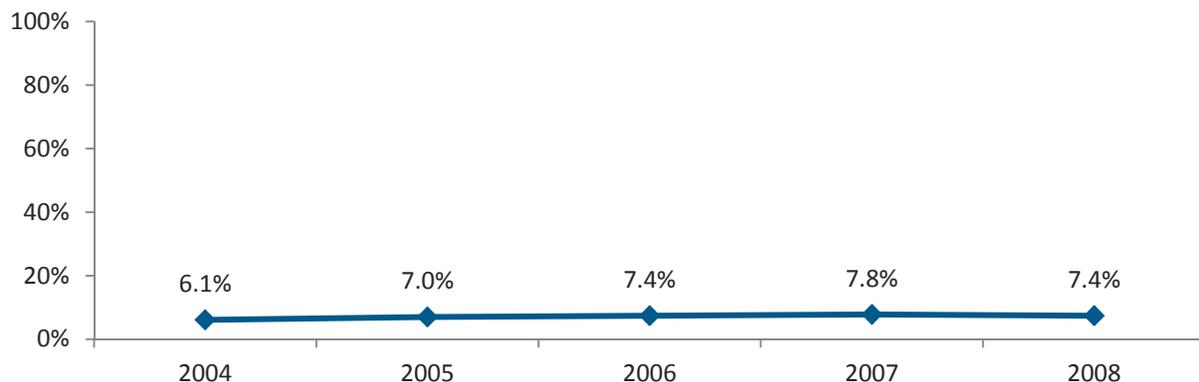
Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program's** Paiute clinic offers nutritional programs for individuals and groups. According to the 2011 NOAH Report, these programs "enhance the health of patients, especially those with diabetes."
- **Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) program's** dental services were expanded in April 2011 to treat diabetic NOAH medical patients. This expansion is a way to "decrease the co-existing dental ramifications for our diabetic patients," according to the 2011 NOAH Report.

What the Data Tell Us

Diabetes cases have remained relatively stable over the past 5 years, with 7% of Maricopa County adults diagnosed in 2008.

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



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older

Note: Most recent data available.

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

⁷⁵ CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2012). Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm>

⁷⁶ Arizona Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics. (2012). Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/>



Leading Causes of Death

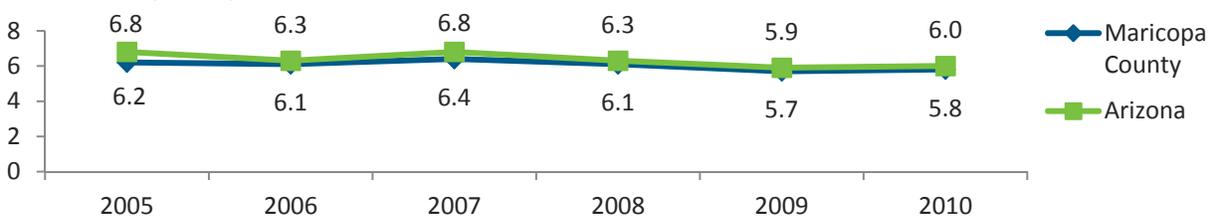
Why It Is Important

The infant mortality rate in the United States has decreased dramatically over the last 30 years from 20 deaths per 1,000 babies born in 1970 to 6.9 deaths per 1,000 babies in 2003.⁷⁷ The leading causes of death are birth defects, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and complications with the mother.

What the Data Tell Us

Infant mortality decreased in Maricopa County from 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 5.8 deaths in 2010. The infant mortality rate in Maricopa County has remained similar to the state of Arizona.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Under-five mortality rates and infant mortality rates are not actually rates but a probability of death expressed as rate per 1,000 live births.⁷⁸

The most common causes of infant death in 2009 was short gestation and low birth weight.

Cause of Infant Deaths, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

CAUSE OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Congenital Malformations	2	2	4	3	2
Short Gestation and Low Birth Weight	0	1	1	0	4
Maternal Complications	2	2	1	1	1
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	0	0	2	0	1
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	1	0	0	0	0
Bacterial Sepsis of Newborn	1	0	1	1	0
Influenza and Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	1
All other causes	7	4	2	5	7
Total, All Causes	13	9	11	10	16

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Total will not equal sum of causes presented because only selected causes are shown.

Note: Most recent data available.

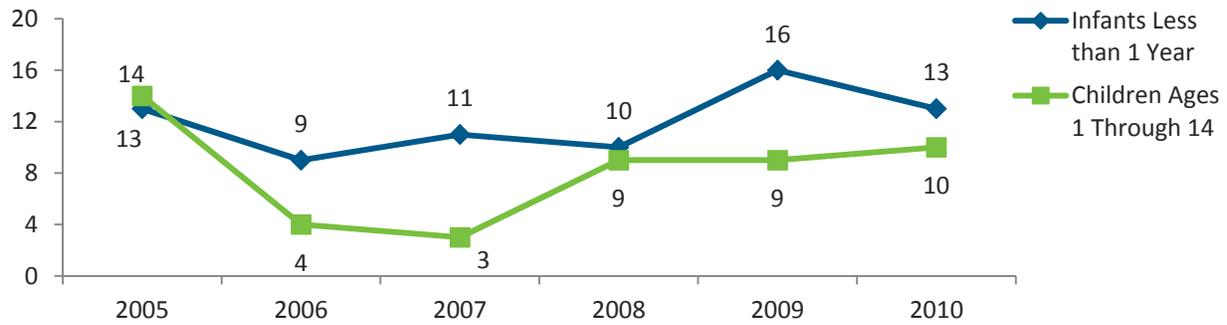
⁷⁷ United States Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). Preventing Infant Mortality Fact Sheet. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.hhs.gov/news/factsheet/infant.html>

⁷⁸ World Health Organization. (2010). Probability of dying aged < 5 years per 1000 live births (under-five mortality rate). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from <http://www.who.int/whosis/indicators/2007MortChild/en/>



There were 13 deaths of infants less than one year in 2010.

Number of Deaths for Children Ages Birth Through 14, First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

There were 23 deaths for children birth through 14 in the region in 2010, with 19 of them in Scottsdale alone.

Number of Deaths for Children Ages Birth Through 14

COMMUNITY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Carefree	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	2	2	0	3	3	0
Fountain Hills	2	1	0	3	0	2
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley	0	1	0	0	2	2
Scottsdale	23	8	14	13	20	19
First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region	27	12	14	19	25	23

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Total deaths over the past six years have been decreasing for children under 18. The largest cause of death for children under 18 years old was medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS) at 40% of total deaths, followed by premature birth (prematurity) at 24%.

Cause of Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

CAUSE OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Prematurity	174	184	187	159	158	118
Medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS)	247	255	252	226	196	195
Motor Vehicle Crash	61	67	43	30	43	32
SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	17	19	12	2	4	1
Undetermined	17	13	25	52	50	44
Total Maricopa County¹	642	664	648	577	542	486

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Child Fatality Review Report, Northeast Maricopa County. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

¹ Total includes categories not presented in this table.



Injury is the most common cause of death among children in the United States.⁷⁹ In 2009, there were 54 deaths to children ages birth through four in Maricopa County. Of those deaths, nearly 80% were unintentional. Injuries among young children are most frequently caused by car crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires, and falls.⁸⁰

Injury Mortality for Children Under 5 Years

MANNER OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Unintentional					
Maricopa County	42	42	42	41	43
Arizona	71	74	72	70	71
Assault					
Maricopa County	7	9	14	9	8
Arizona	19	18	21	13	11
Total Injury Deaths					
Maricopa County	56	53	61	57	54
Arizona	99	94	98	91	86

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Health Status and Vital Statistics. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Two-thirds of deaths (65%) to children under 18 years old in Maricopa County were due to natural causes, similar to the state of Arizona (67%) in 2010. Nineteen percent of deaths were due to accidents, 5% due to homicide, and 2% due to suicide in Maricopa County in 2010.

Manner of Death for Children Under 18 Years

MANNER OF DEATH	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Accident						
Maricopa County	21%	18%	16%	13%	16%	19%
Arizona	18%	26%	23%	19%	16%	16%
Homicide						
Maricopa County	5%	7%	8%	7%	7%	5%
Arizona	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	3%
Suicide						
Maricopa County	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Arizona	4%	4%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Natural						
Maricopa County	69%	69%	69%	67%	67%	65%
Arizona	69%	60%	68%	69%	72%	67%
Undetermined						
Maricopa County	3%	2%	5%	10%	8%	9%
Arizona	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	9%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Child Fatality Review Report, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Arizona excluding Maricopa County

⁷⁹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Vital Signs: Injury is the #1 killer of children. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/VitalSigns/ChildInjury/>

⁸⁰ Ibid.



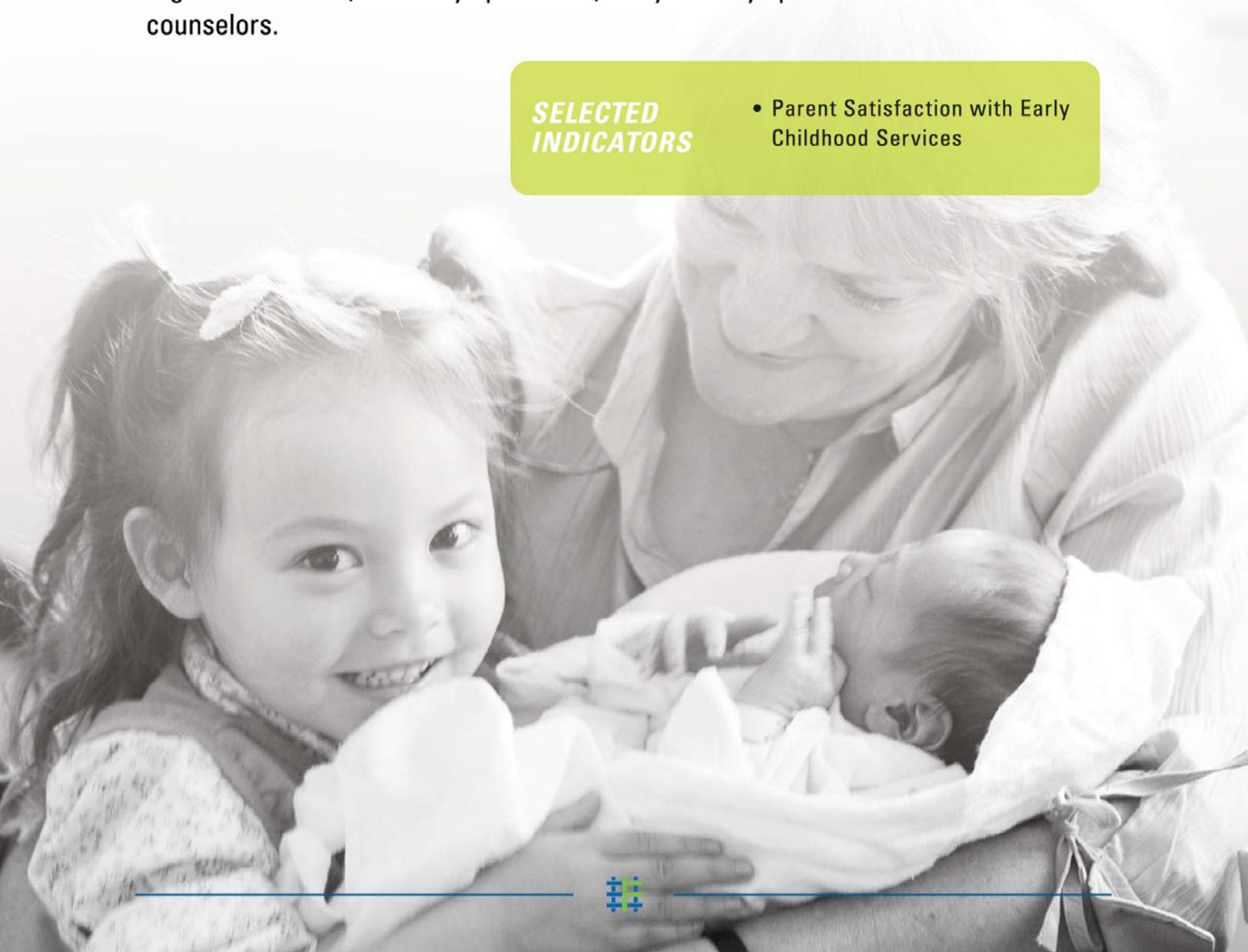
PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COLLABORATION

Parents are their children's first teachers and all parents can benefit from networking with other parents, sharing ideas with them, and hearing from experts about a range of topics such as child development, nutrition, positive discipline, managing a crying baby and building a child's self-esteem. Family support includes collaboration between families, programs and services with the goal of helping families reach their full potential.

The Birth to Five Helpline (1-877-705-KIDS) is a free resource open to all families with young children and professionals looking for information about their child's development. The helpline is staffed by early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disability specialists, early literacy specialists and mental health counselors.

SELECTED INDICATORS

- Parent Satisfaction with Early Childhood Services



Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services

Why It Is Important

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

Snapshot of Community Assets

- *First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council* has hired a full time Community Outreach staff member who communicates with local organizations, gathers stories about the impact of First Things First strategies, and recruits and retains champions for early childhood education and health.
- *First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council* also funds a media campaign to draw community members to the ReadyAZKids.com website.

What the Community Is Saying

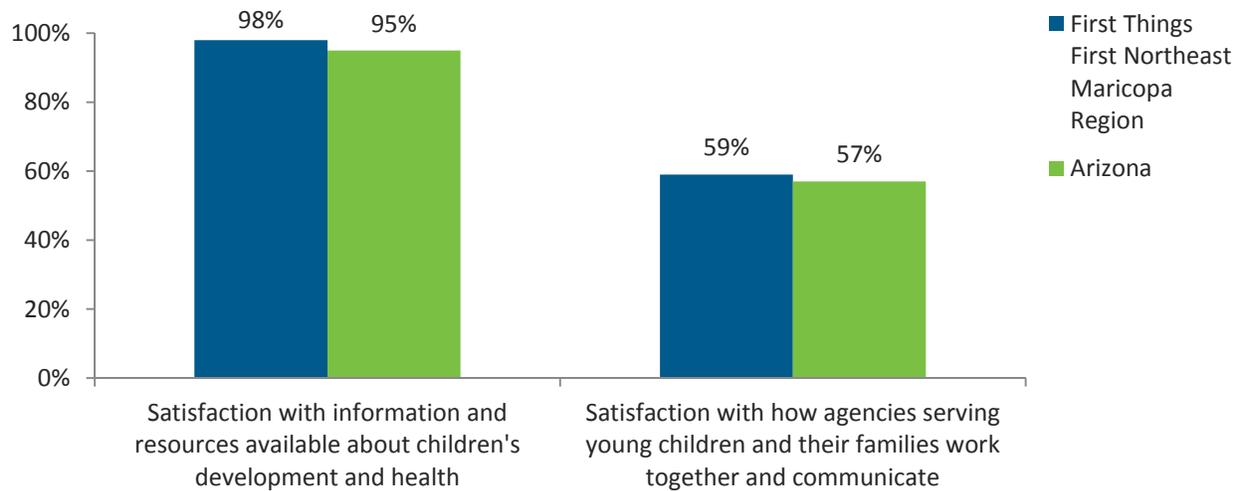
- Local programs need to come together to talk about ways to collaborate between programs and the city. They could do this to pool together those resources that are still available despite cuts, and partner to change policies. First Things First could coordinate the various stakeholders on a topic and advocate for those policies addressing children's health and education issues.
- Places like the Paiute Community Center are bringing services to families that combine early learning, afterschool programs, and health care. This local center was converted from an old school campus and is located close to where many families live. The community center has also partnered with local school districts to provide transportation to the center before and after school, and over summer, increasing access throughout the year.



What the Data Tell Us

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the region's parents were "somewhat or very satisfied" with the information and resources available about children's development and health. More parents in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were "somewhat or very satisfied" with how agencies serving young children and their families worked together and communicated (59%) compared to 57% in Arizona in 2008.

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

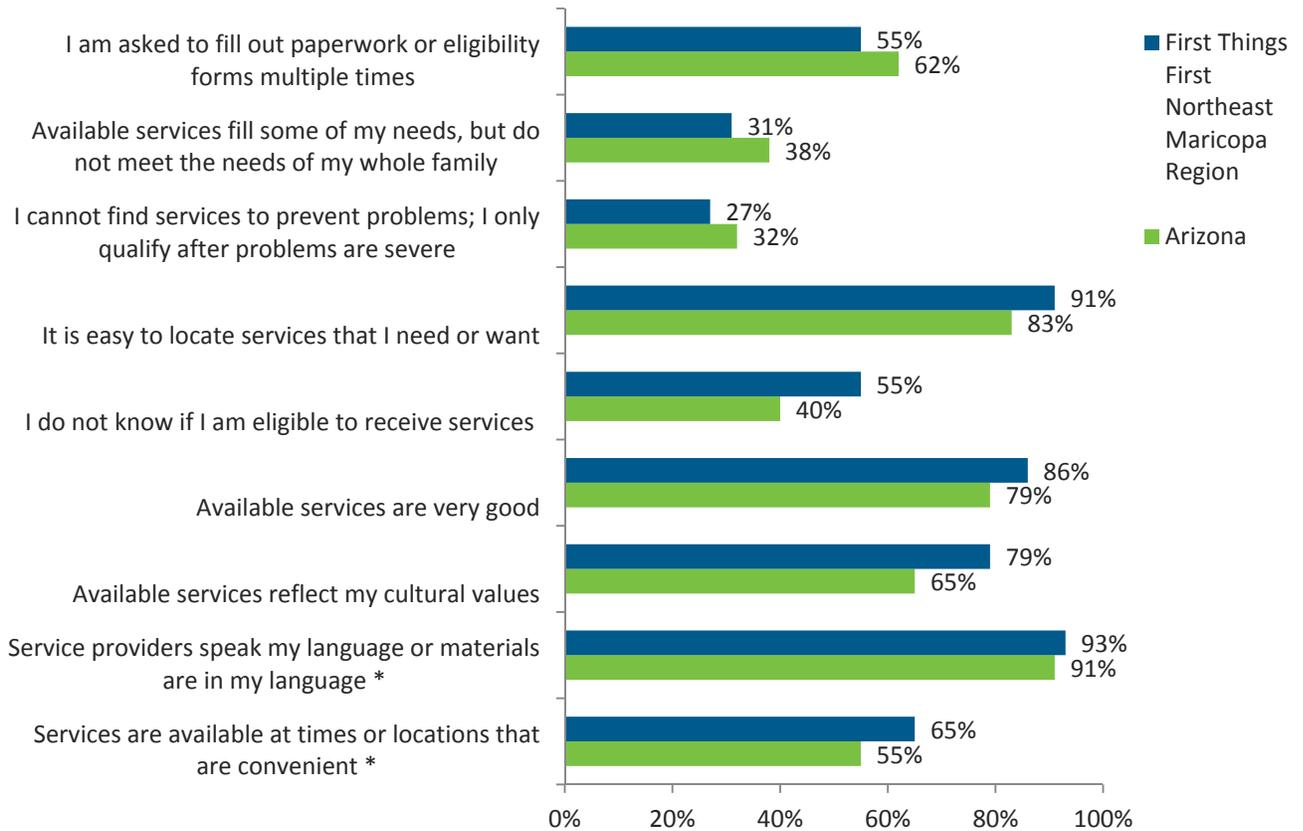


Source: First Things First. (2008). Family and Community Survey. (Unpublished Data). Received 2010 from First Things First.
 Note: Early Childhood Services: Parents Who "Somewhat" or "Strongly Agree" with the Following Statements.
 Note: Most recent data available.



Ninety-three percent (93%) of the region’s parents “somewhat or strongly agreed” that service providers spoke their language or materials were available in their language, 91% reported similarly about the ease of locating services that they needed or wanted. Parents struggled more with knowing whether they were eligible for services, finding services to meet the needs of the whole family and finding preventive services in 2008.

Parents That “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements about Accessing Services, 2008



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

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

Note: Most recent data available.



CONCLUSION



Conclusion

The families and children living within the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region

There were approximately 17,000 children ages birth through five living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region in 2010. In the Northeast Maricopa Region, a large majority (73%) of children birth through five were White, followed by 15% Hispanic or Latino, 5% Asian, 2% Black or African American and 1% American Indian. The total population for the region was estimated to be approximately 335,476 in 2010. The majority of the population five years and over spoke English at home (85%) in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the Northeast Maricopa Region dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children ages birth through five and their families, and they appear to be having a positive effect.

Low levels of poverty and unemployment

The unemployment rate in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa region has decreased from 2009 to 2011 and remained lower than the state of Arizona as a whole. All communities within the region had an unemployment rate of less than 10% in 2011 with the exception of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation which had an unemployment rate of 25%. While the number of children living in poverty in Arizona is 1 in 4, more than one in ten (11%) children birth through four living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were living in poverty, according to the 2006-2010 Census estimates. For those living in poverty, the region offers many services like the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center and Vista del Camino which provides food, job, and financial assistance.

More women were receiving prenatal care in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region than in Arizona as a whole

Between 2005 and 2010, more women living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were receiving prenatal care in the first trimester than in the state of Arizona. In the same time period, fewer women in the region went without prenatal care compared to the state as a whole.



Children have access to primary care

Almost all parents (97%) in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region reported that they “strongly agreed” that their child five and under had regular visits at the same doctors office in 2008. In addition, 78% of parents in the region reported that they “strongly agreed” that their regular medical provider knew their family well and helped them make healthy decisions in 2008. The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has eight hospitals and more than 2,000 primary care physicians. Although there are many opportunities within the region to seek medical care, Paradise Valley was considered an Arizona medically underserved area and was a health professional shortage area in 2009.

Parents are accessing library-based preschool programs

The Scottsdale Public Library increased the number of its programs for preschoolers between 2008/09 and 2010/11, and saw higher numbers of preschool program participants each year as well. These increases were seen at all of the library’s braches, and even occurred while overall traffic in most branches decreased. The libraries offer early literacy skill-building, arts and crafts, environmental awareness activities, story times, science activities, magic shows, and family reading programs.

Parents are accessing social supports

Seventy-five percent of parents living in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region reported relying on their spouse for support in 2008, followed by the child’s doctor/pediatrician (62%) and the parent’s mother (55%). There are several resources that are also available in the community. For example, the Birth to Five Helpline is a free service available to all families with young children that parents can call when they have parenting questions or concerns. It is staffed by those with expertise in the area: early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disability specialists, early literacy specialists, and mental health counselors. In addition, the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Regional Council plans to provide classes on parenting, child development, and problem-solving skills to 655 families with children birth through five in the region by 2013.

Community Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Despite the concerted efforts of First Things First, community organizations, and individuals, there are areas affecting the health and well-being of children and families in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region that need additional improvement.

Need for additional quality child care services

Only about 4 out of every 10 children (44%) ages 0-11 with working parents in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region have the option of licensed child care. Considering the need for additional quality child care, the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has taken steps to increase child care capacity and help parents access quality early learning opportunities for their child. The region provides Quality First Child Care Scholarships to children to attend quality early care and education programs and help low-income families afford a better educational beginning for their children. In addition, there were 18 Quality First programs in the region in 2011.



School readiness needs improvement

Data on kindergarten readiness is limited but what we do know indicates that many children in the region are not ready for kindergarten. Thirty-six percent of children in Cave Creek Unified School District began the 2010/11 school year with AIMS Web scores indicating a need for intervention. Of those, 23% indicated a need for substantial intervention. The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region recognizes the need for improving kindergarten readiness. The region is providing scholarships to quality preschool programs in a variety of settings to allow programs to serve more children. Increasing the number of 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in high quality preschool programs helps to prepare them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

More children ages 19 to 35 months should be receiving scheduled immunizations

In the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, only one-third (33%) of children ages 19 to 35 months had completed the 4:3:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule in 2010. In comparison, over half (56%) of children in Arizona had completed this schedule in 2010. Increasing education among parents regarding the importance of staying on track with the recommended immunization schedule and increasing the availability of vaccinations may help to increase immunization rates among younger children.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, children and families in the region are thriving. However, communities appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to child care services, school readiness, and immunizations. In light of these challenges in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, targeted efforts, such as those highlighted above, and continued collaboration are needed to help improve the situation of children and families. First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

Secondary Data

Secondary (pre-existing) data were collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; the U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 and 2010; the Arizona Department of Health Services; the Arizona Department of Economic Security; the Arizona Department of Education; and other local, state, and federal agencies. Additional data were provided by First Things First for inclusion in the Needs and Assets Report.

The First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region is a complicated region for which to collect representative data. County-level data are not accurate because the county of Maricopa is divided into five First Things First Regions. Therefore, whenever possible, every effort was made to collect data for just the region. In some cases, such as for the U.S. Census, data were available at the zip code level. In these cases, data for all zip codes within the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region (see below) were combined to form one value for the region as a whole. In other cases, data were available for individual communities within the region and these were combined together when possible (see below for the communities used from Arizona Department of Health Services data). Further, some data were available at the school district level, and data for the school districts in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region were combined to present a region total (see below for school districts in the region; only public school data were collected). However, data were not always available at the regional level, and data for comparable areas are presented as a proxy.

In some cases, data were available for individual communities within this region. These communities were presented as individual data points in the report, as they are not representative of full community hubs. Whether county-level data include data for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe was often unknown. Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation granted permission to present any publically released data in the report. It is important to note that permission was not granted to report exclusively on the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Therefore, individual data for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe were not included in this report, yet efforts were not made to remove Pascua Yaqui Tribe from county- or region-level data.

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

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



First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region Zip Codes

85250, 85251, 85252, 85253, 85254, 85255, 85257, 85258, 85259, 85260, 85331, 85261, 85262, 85263, 85266, 85267, 85268, 85269, 85271, 85290, 85327, 85377

First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region Census Tracts

1050.02, 1050.03, 1050.04, 1051.03, 2168.3, 2169.01, 2169.02, 2170.01, 2170.02, 2171.02, 2171.01, 2172.03, 2172.04, 2173, 2175.01, 2175.02, 2176, 2177, 2171.01, 2174

First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region School Districts

Public School Districts: Cave Creek Unified, Fountain Hills Unified, Paradise Valley Unified, and Scottsdale Unified District

First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region Department of Health Services Communities

Carefree, Cave Creek, Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Paradise Valley, and Scottsdale

Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First conducted a survey of community members and parents (or related, non-paid caregivers) of children ages birth through five in 2008. The survey assessed respondents' views of coordination among service providers, the quality and accessibility of family support programs, and their understanding of early childhood development and parenting. A randomly-selected, geographically-balanced sample of 5,193 Arizona adults (18 and older) was surveyed. The sample included 3,690 parents/caregivers of children ages birth through five and 1,503 members of the general population who did not have children under six. This randomized sample was drawn to ensure the generalizability of results to the adult Arizona population. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATIs) were conducted during August and September, 2008. The respondents were selected randomly from sample lists, and random predictive dialing was also used to supplement the purchased lists. This strategy helped to ensure that residents who were not yet listed in a directory (or who chose not to be listed) were still eligible for selection. To include "cell phone only" households, the contractor manually dialed randomly-generated cell phone numbers (based on known cell phone exchanges). Cell phone contacts were given the option of completing their interview using their calling plan minutes or scheduling a call-back (on a land line or such a time when cell phone calling plan minutes were "free"). The average length of a parent interview was 21 minutes; and the average general population interview lasted 7 minutes. Interviewers and respondents remained blind to the survey sponsor. For the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region, there were 225 surveys completed from 152 parents and 73 members of the general population. The survey sample may not be representative of the region as a whole especially those families living poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk.



APPENDIX B: DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

Data collection for the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region can be difficult due to the First Things First regional boundaries. Most sources publish data at the county level, which in the case of Maricopa County is not representative of the true population in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region. Despite these challenges, region-specific data were collected about many issues related to children ages birth through five and their families. Support and collaboration with many community members, schools, and organizations in the area resulted in current and relevant data regarding Head Start enrollment, kindergarten readiness scores, children with disabilities, community priorities, and more.

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

- **Cost of child care** – These data are collected through the Department of Economic Security’s Market Rate Survey. While the survey is conducted within all regions, the data are only presented at the county level, which for the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region is Maricopa County.
- **Child Care professional qualifications and compensation** – The only comprehensive source of this information is the state-level Compensation and Credentials Report, which presents data for all of Arizona. Data on Head Start child care professionals are available, but only at the Maricopa County level. Additional data are necessary to develop a picture of the qualifications and compensation levels of all child care professionals in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.
- **Kindergarten Readiness** – There is no current source of comprehensive kindergarten readiness data in the state of Arizona. Arizona school districts use a variety of methods, including DIBELS and AIMSWeb, to assess literacy skills however; these measures do not assess many of the other skills needed for children to succeed in schooling. Efforts are underway to build a common, cohesive system for measuring school readiness.
- **Child abuse and foster care** – The majority of these indicators are available only at the county level. While child abuse and foster care data are collected at a zip code level, the Department of Economic Security only released the number of children removed from their home by Child Protective Services.



- **Health insurance** – Enrollment numbers for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and KidsCare are not available at breakdowns lower than the county level.
- **Oral Health Data** – There is no current data regarding oral health care.
- **Asthma** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on hospital use for children with asthma, but only at the county level. There are no region-specific data on the number or percentage of children with asthma.
- **Obesity** – Obesity data are only available at the county level for children enrolled in WIC. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are considered to be overweight or obese in the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.
- **Diabetes** – Diabetes data are only available for adults at the county level. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Injuries** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on childhood injuries, but only at the county level. In addition, the most recent data available is from 2008.
- **The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation** – Only publically available data were collected and presented in this report on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Further efforts could be made in the future to secure Tribal approval to collect and present tribal data about children on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Reservation, so as to provide a complete picture of the First Things First Northeast Maricopa Region.
- **Pascua Yaqui Tribe** – Data were not collected or presented in this report on the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Further efforts could be made in the future to secure Tribal approval to collect and present data about children within the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, so as to provide a more complete picture of the Northeast Maricopa Region.

