2012 NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

First Things First

Pinal Regional

Needs and Assets Report

July 2012

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Letter from the Chair

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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July 31, 2012

Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Pinal 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 expansion of a child care quality improvement initiative, child care professional scholarships, home visitation support, distribution of food boxes, and child care scholarships.

The First Things First Pinal Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities for families to provide quality child care and health care to their young children.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Pinal Region in 2010 and the new 2012 report. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future. The Pinal Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets Vendor LeCroy & Milligan Associates for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Pinal Region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families within the Pinal Region.

Going forward, the First Things First Pinal 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.

Respectfully,

Bryant Powell

Bryant Powell, Chair
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Introductory Summary and Acknowledgements

A Child's most important developmental years are those leading up to kindergarten. First Things First is committed to helping Arizona kids five and younger receive the quality education, healthcare and family support they need to arrive at school healthy are ready to succeed. Children's success is fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Pinal Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. Our families and young children in the Pinal Region need a system that supports them from cradle to career: exposure to rich learning environments from a very young age, access to high quality, non-parental care from birth to pre-K, parent education, access to health care, health insurance, and a medical home, and access to coordinated family services such as home visitation, parent education, and family literacy.

The First Things First Pinal 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 Pinal Region, in the past year, has been on limited access to parental education and education/service delivery systems, limited opportunities to increase the knowledge and skill sets of family home care providers, families have limited access to high quality early care and education programs/infant and toddler care, families with children birth through age five have limited access to preventative screening and referral services, and limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations; while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

Acknowledgments:

The First Things First Pinal 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 Pinal 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.

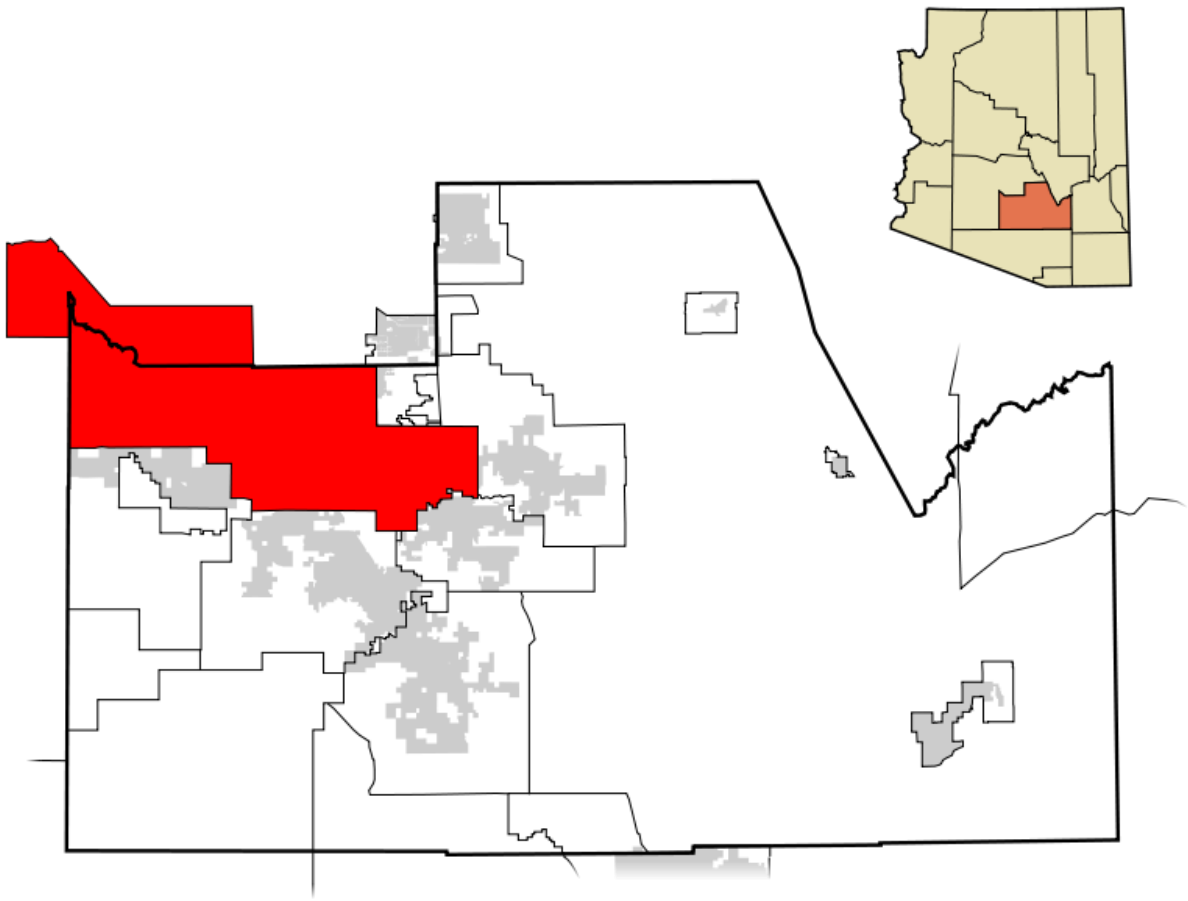
We also want to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral , the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts

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, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, and the Ak-Chin Indian Community for their contribution of data for this report.

Executive Summary

The Pinal Regional Partnership lies within the boundaries of Pinal County, Arizona, excluding lands of the Gila River Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Tribe and San Carlos Apache Reservation. The dark-shaded area in the Region map below depicts the Gila River Indian Community, the light-shaded area depicts incorporated areas, and areas that are not shaded depict unincorporated areas within the Pinal Region.

Map of Pinal County



Note. From Pinal County 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments.PDF *CAAG Pinal Planning Commissioners Presentation.pdf Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pinal_County_Arizona_Incorporated_and_Unincorporated_areas_GRIC_highlighted.svg

The communities of the Region are diverse in population density (defined as number of people living within one square mile), from a low of 48.3 within the Ak-Chin Indian Community to a high of 2,903.1 in, Florence Arizona (Florence population density includes the prison population) (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2010). In Pinal County, the population increased by over 100 percent between 2000 and 2009, which far outpaced Arizona's overall population growth of 25 percent. This population growth occurred primarily in the central and western portion of the Region, while the eastern side still contains vast expanses of undeveloped public lands and isolated rural communities. From 2009 to 2010, however, the communities of Kearny, Mammoth, and Superior experienced a rapid decline in population, an indication of the degree to which these communities have been impacted by the economic downturn.

Key Demographic and Economic Findings

- Roughly eight percent of the Region's population is comprised of children under five years-old.
- Teen births have steadily declined from 16 percent of all births in 2004 to ten percent in 2010.
- In 2010, 58 percent of grandparents in Pinal County report having primary care-giving responsibilities for one or more of their grandchildren, compared to 44 percent statewide.
- Between 2008 and 2010, an average of 17 percent of families with children under the age of five years was living below the federal poverty level, up from an average of 11 percent over 2006 to 2008.
- In 2011, the percent of economically disadvantaged students surpassed 50 percent in the majority of school districts in Pinal County.
- The unemployment rate in the Region dropped from 11 percent in 2010 to ten percent in 2011, however the average wage rate of new hires remains stagnant.
- The number of families in the Region receiving developmental disability services has risen from just over 200 families in 2007 to over 350 families in 2010.

Key Education Findings

- The percentage of Pinal County mothers with 1-4 years of college has increased from 38 percent in 2006 to 49 percent in 2010, while the number of mothers with no high school diploma has decreased from 30 percent in 2006 to 18 percent in 2010.
- Compared to statewide and national figures, Pinal County has a higher percentage of educated adults who have graduated high school, have some college experience, or hold an Associate's Degree.
- However, the percentage of adults in Pinal County with a Bachelor's or graduate level degree is lower than the statewide and national average.

- Sixty-three 63 percent of students in Pinal County either met or exceeded proficiency standards for math in 2011, which is a slight decrease from 67 percent in 2007.
- However, 72% of Pinal County students met or exceeded proficiency standards for reading in 2011, which is an increase from 67 percent in 2007.
- High school graduation rates in Pinal County have continued to increase since 2006.

Key Early Child Care Findings

- Over 30 Early Care Providers are currently enrolled in Quality First!
- The number of families in the Region who qualified for Child Care Assistance has decreased from 1,137 in 2010 to 648 as of July 2011.
- Eighty-nine percent of families eligible for Child Care Assistance were receiving this assistance as of July 2011.
- The number of families on the Child Care Assistance waiting list also dropped from 243 families in 2010 to 146 families as of July 2011.
- Forty-eight child care staff in Pinal County completed a combined 240 hours of professional training for child care.

Key Family Support Findings

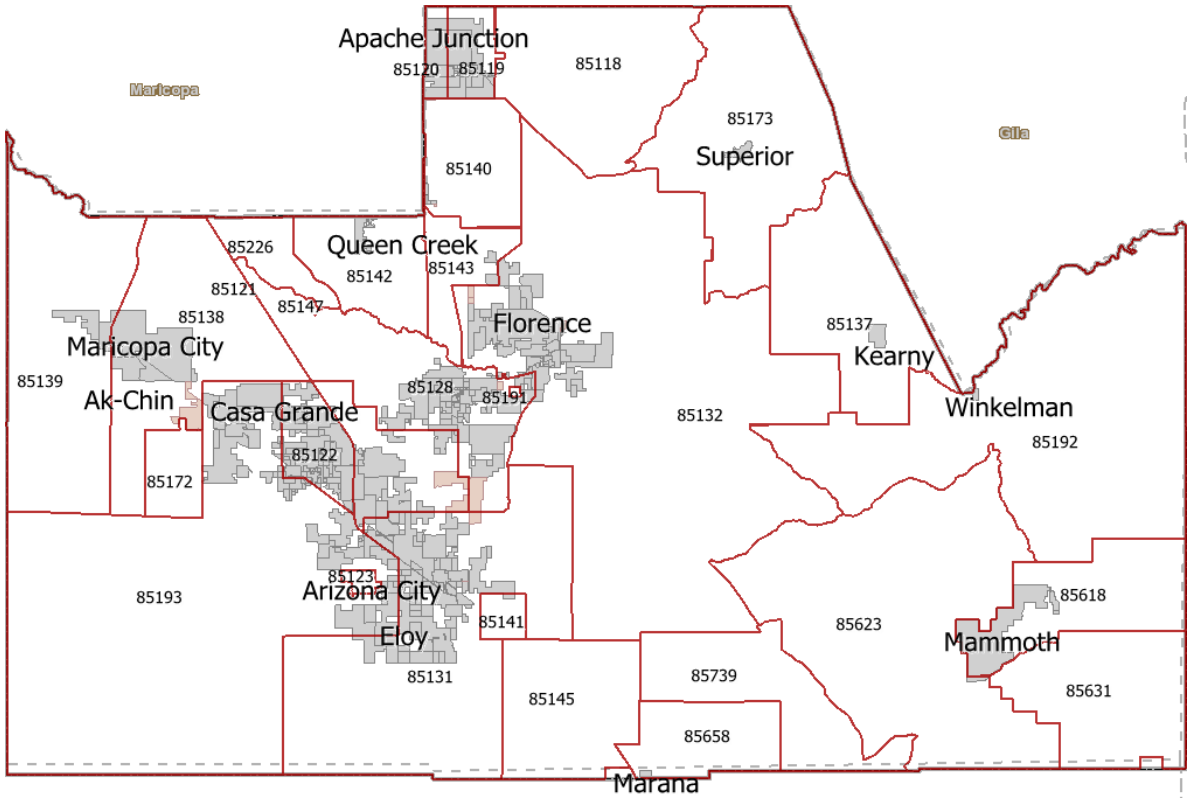
- A majority (70 percent or more) of parents surveyed in the Pinal Region agreed or strongly agreed that it is easy to locate needed services and that services received are high quality and culturally appropriate.
- A substantial portion of parents surveyed in the Pinal Region expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how family and child service providers work together and communicate.
- Sixty-three percent of surveyed parents felt there was a repetition in the paperwork required to obtain services.
- Only 82 percent of infants and toddlers referred to Arizona Early Intervention Program services were assessed and received their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of their referral, which is shy of the 100 percent federal mandate.
- One hundred percent of families participating in early intervention services reported that these services helped to keep them informed of their rights, surpassing the state's target of 91 percent.
- Sixty-two percent of children referred to Arizona Early Intervention Program services actually received these services.

Key Health Findings

- For children aged 19 to 59 months, the immunization rates in Pinal County are higher than the statewide rate, with the exception of 3+ HepB immunizations.

- However, immunization rates kindergarten aged children in the county are below state averages, with a significant discrepancy for Varicella immunizations.
- Regionally, 71 percent of children aged 12 to 24 months received their 3222 (DTAP vaccine, dose three, IPV vaccine, dose two, HIB vaccine, dose two, and HEPB vaccine, dose two), vaccination series in 2010.
- Regionally, 47 percent of children aged 19 to 35 months received their 431331 (4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, 1 Varicella) Vaccination Series in 2010.
- Compared to statewide data, Pinal County had the lowest rate of child fatalities with about 40 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Exhibit 1. Map of Pinal County



I. General Population Trends

Prior to examining the well-being of children and families in Pinal County (see map in Exhibit 1), it is important to consider the demographic makeup of these populations. Demographic data offer descriptive information about a Region that can help to inform an analysis of needs, assets, and trends. Important demographics to examine include: number of families and children living in the Region; change in population over the last ten years and since the 2010 Needs and Assets report publication; and notable trends in specific sub-regions of the county. This information is provided in the following sections. Whenever possible, data are presented for children aged zero to five, the target population for the First Things First initiatives. All data presented are the most current and reliable information available at the time of this publication.

Population

Exhibit 2 shows that the population of Pinal County has continuously grown from 2005 to 2010. In 2010, the total population estimate was 375,770 people, a 58 percent increase from 237,457 in 2005.

Exhibit 2. Population, All Ages, 2005-2010

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pinal County	237,457	270,453	302,633	329,060	340,962	375,770
Arizona	5,974,834	6,192,100	6,362,241	6,499,377	6,595,778	6,392,017
United States	295,753,151	298,593,212	301,579,895	304,374,846	307,006,550	308,745,538

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

The table presented in Exhibit 3 shows the number of children ages zero through five, the total population, and the percentage of children in this age group out of the total population. The data in the table are sorted in descending order by the percentage of children under five out of the total population. The percentage of children under five varies across the Region from two percent in Florence to 15 percent in Casa Grande and Coolidge. The bar chart presented in Exhibit 4 illustrates the number of children by community in descending order, showing that greatest number of young children live in the City of Maricopa, Casa Grande, Queen Creek, and Apache Junction, respectively.

Exhibit 3. Pinal Region Under Age Five Population by Community, 2010

	Total Population	Under 5 Population	Under 5 as a Percentage of Total Population
Ak-Chin Village	862	119	14%
Apache Junction	35,840	1,942	5%
Casa Grande	48,571	3,857	8%
Coolidge	11,825	1,160	10%
Eloy	16,631	891	5%
Florence	25,536	466	2%
Hayden	662	46	7%
Kearny	1,950	117	6%
Mammoth	1,426	119	8%
Maricopa, City of	43,482	4,632	11%
Oracle	3,686	179	5%
Queen Creek	26,361	2,731	10%
San Manuel	3,551	253	7%
Superior	2,837	170	6%
Winkelman	353	19	5%
Pinal County Total*	375,770	30,182	8%

*Note. From U.S States Census Bureau, Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1). *This county figure include locales in Pinal County, that are not in the First Things First Pinal Region, therefore, community figures do not sum to county total.*

Exhibit 4. Bar Graph of Number of Children in Pinal Region Under Age Five By Community

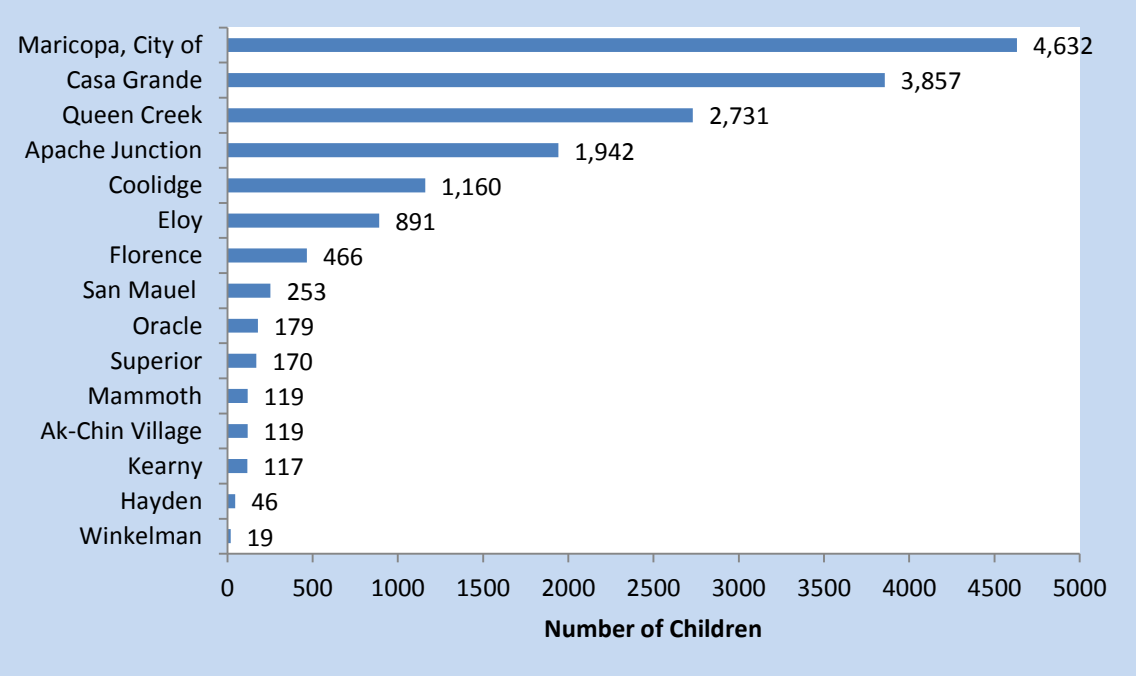


Exhibit 5 shows specifically the population statistics for the Ak-Chin Indian Community for 2010.

Exhibit 5. Population Statistics for Ak-Chin Indian Community, 2010

	Total Population (%Male/Female)	Population 0-5	Female-Headed Households
Ak-Chin Indian Community	862 (48%/52%)	119 (14%)	28%

Note. From U.S. Census Bureau, Ak -Chin Indian Community Primary Care Area 2010, Bureau of Health Systems Development, ADHS and Households and Families 2010 SF1.

Population Growth

As shown in Exhibit 6, from 2000 to 2010 Pinal County experienced an incredibly large growth in population of 109 percent. This growth rate is significantly higher than the statewide average of 25 percent and the national average of ten percent growth over the same time period.

Exhibit 6. Population Change, All Ages, 2000-2010

	2000	2010	Percent Change
Pinal County	179,727	375,770	+109%
Arizona	5,130,362	6,392,017	+25%
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	+10%

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

First Things First calculates estimates for the number of children between the ages of zero through five in each Region, primarily for the purpose of funding allocations. Figures shown in Exhibit 7 reflect these estimates to most accurately depict the population of children served by the Pinal Regional Partnership Council. From 2000 to 2009, this Region experienced a large increase in the population of children aged zero to five of 142 percent, from 13,445 in 2000 to 32,513 in 2009. This percentage increase is much greater than the ten percent increase observed in the same population between 2008 and 2009.

Exhibit 7. Pinal Regional Profile Data, Population Change, Ages Zero-Five, 2000-2009

	2000	2008	2009	Percent Change 2000-2009	Percent Change 2008-2009
Ages 0-5	13,445	29,592	32,513	+142%	+10%

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

Data are also available for children under five years of age from Pinal County records. Exhibit 8 shows that from 2000 to 2010, the number of children in this category increased by 150 percent. While at the state level, during the same time period, the population of children in this age range increased by only 19 percent.

Exhibit 8. Population Change, Children Under Five Years Old, 2000, 2009, 2010

	2000	2009	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
Pinal County	12,066	27,277	30,182	+150%
Arizona	382,386	518,431*	455,715	+19%
United States	19,175,798	21,299,656*	21,201,362	+11%

*Note. From U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (cc-est 2009-ageses-04); Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Age for Arizona: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (SC-EST2009-02-04[1]; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Groups for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (NC-EST2009-01), Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010. *The population in Arizona did not grow as fast from 2000 to 2009 as expected by the U.S. Census Bureau. Therefore, some population data for 2009 are more than counted in the 2010 Census.*

Trends in Population Changes by Community

Exhibit 9 shows population trends by community and for the county. Towns and Cities in Pinal County for which data are available had highly variable growth rates between 2000 and 2010. Growth rates ranged from 13 percent in Apache Junction to 93 percent in Casa Grande. Looking at percentage change from 2009 to 2010, Eloy experienced the most growth of 25 percent, followed by 17 percent in Florence. The only city that experienced a negative population growth between 2009 and 2010 was City of Maricopa, which decreased by three percent.

Exhibit 9. Population Change by Community, 2000-2010

	2000	2008	2009	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2009-2010
Ak-Chin Village	673*	NA	1,097**	862***	NA	NA[ŦŦ]
Apache Junction	31,814	33,515	34,284	35,840	13%	5%
Casa Grande	25,224	41,995	43,878	48,571	93%	11%
Coolidge	7,786	10,607	11,079	11,825	52%	7%
Eloy	10,375	12,932	13,308	16,631	60%	25%
Florence[ŦŦŦ]	17,054	20,897	21,769	25,536	50%	17%

	2000	2008	2009	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2009-2010
Hayden	892	814	808	662	-26%	-18%
Kearny	2,249	3,311	3,446	1,950	-13%	-43%
Mammoth	1,762	2,599	2,701	1,426	-19%	-47%
Maricopa, City of	NA₸₸	44,866	44,691	43,482	NA₸₸	-3%
Oracle	3.563	NA	NA	3,686	+3%	NA
Queen Creek	4,316	23,839	26,098	26,361	511%	1%
San Manuel	4,375	NA	NA	3,551	-19%	NA
Superior	3,254	3,366	3,525	2,837	-13%	-20%
Winkelman	443	432	428	353	-20%	-18%
Pinal County	179,727	329,060	340,962	375,770	109%	10%

*Note. From U.S. Census Bureau, Incorporated Place and Minor Civil Division Population dataset, Population Estimates Program, Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 and 2010; NA = not available; *2000 SF 4 Sample Data; ** ACS 5-year estimates; *** 2010 SF1 Sample Data; ₸ Estimated populations in 2009 were greater than actual counts in 2010 for Ak-Chin Village; ₸ ₸ The City of Maricopa was not incorporated during the 2000 Census. ₸ ₸ ₸ This figure includes the prison population in Florence.*

Other Information

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

II. Additional Population Characteristics

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

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

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

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

Race/Ethnic Groups

Residents in Pinal County are diverse in ethnicity and race. As shown in Exhibit 10, in 2010, 59 percent of the population self-identified as White, non-Hispanic; 29 percent as Hispanic; five percent as American Indian/Alaska Native; four percent as Black; two percent as Asian; and two percent as two or more races. Looking specifically at the Ak-Chin Indian community, 73 percent of this group self-identified as American Indian, 30 percent as Hispanic, and three percent as white, non-Hispanic.

Exhibit 10. Race/Ethnicity, All Ages, 2010

	Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two Or More Races	White, Not Hispanic
Pinal County	5%	2%	4%	29%	<1%	<1%	2%	59%
Arizona	4%	3%	4%	30%	<1%	<1%	2%	58%
United States	<1%	5%	12%	16%	<1%	<1%	2%	58%
Ak-Chin Indian Community*	73%	0%	0%	30%*	0%	24%	0%	3%

*Note. From 2010 Census, Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 (DP-1), United States Census Bureau. Ak -Chin Indian Community Primary Care Area 2010, Bureau of Health Systems Development, ADHS. *Percentages do not total 100% because Hispanic is an ethnic group. Racial groups total 100%.*

Exhibit 11 displays the race and ethnicity of mothers in Pinal County in 2010. More than half of total births (53 percent) were to mothers who self-identified as white, non-Hispanic, which is higher than the statewide rate of 45 percent but on par with the U.S. rate of 54 percent. Additionally, 32 percent of births in the county were to Hispanic/ Latina women.

Exhibit 11. Race/Ethnicity of Mothers, 2010

	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latina	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other/ Unknown	White, Non-Hispanic
Pinal County	405 (8%)	207 (4%)	1,572 (32%)	120 (2%)	24 (<1%)	2,662 (53%)
Arizona	5,815 (7%)	4,328 (5%)	34,333 (39%)	3,293 (4%)	507 (<1%)	38,777 (45%)
United States	46,760 (1%)	589,139 (15%)	946,000 (24%)	246,915 (6%)	Not reported	2,161,669 (54%)

Note. From Table 5B-8 Births by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Child's Gender and County of Residence, Arizona, 2010, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics.

Immigrant Status

An immigrant family is defined as one in which at least one parent is foreign-born. Even though many of the children in immigrant families are citizens, these children face unique challenges compared to their peers. Research suggests that children from immigrant families are less likely to be prepared to start kindergarten (Glick

& Hohmann Marriott, 2007; Han 2008; Reardon & Galindo, 2009; Crosnoe 2010). In addition, mothers of immigrant families may lack access to or feel uncomfortable, because of language barriers, accessing preventive health care (such as prenatal care), which has been shown to positively impact youth outcomes (Capps, Ku, & Fix, 2002; Regenstein, Cummings, & Huang, 2005; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012). Additionally, foreign-born individuals may not seek services for themselves or their children in fear of having their immigration status questioned, even if they are legal citizens.

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

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

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

It is likely that these figures are under-estimated; immigrant families living illegally in the U.S. may avoid participation in the Census, limit their access to services where their information would be documented, and minimize their involvement in any system that could result in deportationThe American Community Survey estimated average from 2008 to 2010 indicate that 90 percent of people in Pinal County are native-born, U.S. Citizens; three percent are foreign-born, naturalized citizens; and seven percent are foreign-born, non-United State citizens (Exhibit 12).

Exhibit 12. Population by Citizenship Status, Three-Year Average, 2008-2010

	Native-Born, U.S. Citizen	Foreign-Born, Naturalized Citizen	Foreign-Born, Non-U.S. Citizen
Pinal County	320,517 (90%)	11,431 (3%)	24,380 (7%)
Arizona	5,472,752 (86%)	295,205 (5%)	577,794 (9%)
United States	267,399,163 (87%)	17,054,898 (6%)	22,284,372 (7%)

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

Family Composition

The structure of American families has changed over the past few decades. Many families no longer consist of a traditional mother/father household. Instead, many are single-parent households, teenage mothers caring for their children, or grandparents or other relative as caregivers (AARP, 2010; Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount Data Center, n.d.; Teachman, Tedrow, & Crowder, 2000). The full impact of different family arrangements on youth is not fully known. Some studies have shown that children of teenage mothers are at increased risk for physical and cognitive problems compared to children born to older mothers. Higher poverty rates for single mothers are also well-documented and economic hardships is linked to limited access to educational resources, strained family relationships, and other factors associated with teen parents (Cornelius et al., 2009; Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, 2008). The number of families for which grandparents are raising their grandchildren is also increasing. Grandparents as caregivers may require unique resources and face certain parenting challenges. One consideration is that youth often enter the care of their grandparent due to negative circumstances related to their biological parents, such as the death of a parent or drug and alcohol abuse. This situation, which may contribute to increased risk factors for youth under care by their grandparents (Williams, 2011).

The following section details the composition of families in Pinal County. The United State Census defines a household as including "all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence." A "family household" is composed of "a householder [i.e. "head of household"] and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth,

marriage, or adoption." Individuals living in a household who are not related to the householder are not counted as part of their family. Some family households have children, while others do not.

It is important to consider specific support needs of different family types in order to help ensure positive outcomes for all youth.

Exhibit 13 shows that in 2010, 22 percent of family households in Pinal County were married couples with children. Female-headed family households represented seven percent and male-headed households represented three percent. These figures are fairly consistent with both state and national data.

Exhibit 13. Composition of Family Households with Children zero-18 Years of Age, 2010

	Husband-Wife Married Households	Female-Headed Household, no Spouse	Male-Headed Household, no Spouse
Pinal County	27,892 (22%)	8,462 (7%)	4,303 (3%)
Arizona	465,120 (20%)	169,397 (7%)	71,914 (3%)
United States	23,588,268 (20%)	8,365,912 (7%)	2,789,424 (2%)

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

Grandparents as Caregivers

Exhibit 14 shows that 59percent of Pinal County grandparents have assumed primary caregiving responsibility for their live-in grandchildren, on either a temporary or permanent basis. This figure exceeds the statewide and national rates of 44 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Moreover, of these grandparents, 21 percent have been caregivers for five or more years. Potential needs of grandparents acting as primary caregivers of their grandchildren are noteworthy of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council.

Exhibit 14. Grandparents' Responsibility for Grandchildren, 2010

	Grandparents Living with Adult Children and Grandchildren	Grandparents Living with, Responsible for Grandchildren	Number of Years Responsible For Grandchildren			
			<1	1-2	3-4	5+
Pinal County	7,417	4,320 (59%)	882 (12%)	1,176 (16%)	687 (9%)	1,575 (21%)
Arizona	141,726	61,742 (44%)	14,370 (10%)	14,303 (10%)	11,101 (8%)	21,096 (16%)
United States	7,010,181	2,738,300 (39%)	610,937 (9%)	684,997 (10%)	454,184 (7%)	988,182 (14%)

Note. From Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2006-2010, American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-Year Estimates. Data regarding grandparents in Pinal County who were responsible for their grandchildren were not available from the American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates.

Teen Parents

Exhibit 15 shows that the percentage of births from teenage mothers in Pinal County has declined by an overall rate of 42 percent from 2004 to 2010. However, the number of teen births per year has remained consistent over time with the exception of the drop in 2010. Statewide, the percentage of teen births increased slightly in 2006 from 12 percent to 13 percent and declined in 2008 to 2010.

Exhibit 15. Teen Births, 2004-2010

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pinal County	948 (16%)	1,019 (15%)	997 (13%)	1,088 (12%)	1,045 (11%)	952 (11%)	551 (10%)
Arizona	11,863 (12%)	11,933 (12%)	12,916 (13%)	12,972 (13%)	12,161 (12%)	10,952 (12%)	9,428 (11%)
United States	422,043 (10%)	421,318 (10%)	441,832 (10%)	451,094 (10%)	440,522 (10%)	414,831 (10%)	No data

Note. From Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2000-2009; Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2010, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. Birth Tables, Age of Mother, United States, 2004-2009.Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. Vitalstats.

Exhibit 16 shows that the majority of teen births in Pinal County from 2008 to 2010 was from 18 to 19 year olds (seven percent annually), followed by 15 to 17 year olds (three percent – four percent annually). Less than one percent of births were from teens under 15 years of age. While these figures are comparable to state and national data, increased outreach and/or prevention efforts targeting high school age teens could be a useful addition to county services.

Exhibit 16. Number of Teen Births by Age Sub-Group, 2008-2010

	<15 Years			15-17 Years			18-19 Years			Total Teen Births*		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Pinal County	7 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	219 (4%)	198 (4%)	156 (3%)	392 (7%)	355 (7%)	349 (7%)	618 (11%)	560 (11%)	511 (10%)
Arizona	161 (<1%)	132 (<1%)	106 (<1%)	4,151 (4%)	3,501 (4%)	2,921 (3%)	7,849 (8%)	7,309 (8%)	6,401 (7%)	12,161 (12%)	10,942 (12%)	9,428 (11%)
United States	5,764 (<1%)	5,029 (<1%)	4,500 (<1%)	135,664 (3%)	124,247 (3%)	109,193 (3%)	299,094 (7%)	285,555 (7%)	258,559 (6%)	440,552 (10%)	414,831 (10%)	372,252 (9%)

Note. From Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2000-2009; Resident Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2010, Arizona Department of Health Services, Health Status and Vital Statistics. Percentages are computed based on the total number of 1) 2008 births in Pinal County (5,731), Arizona (99,215), and the United States (4,251,095); 2009 births in Pinal County (5,309), Arizona (92,616), and the United States (4,130,665); 2010 births in Pinal County (4,990), Arizona (87,053), and the United States (4,000,279). Percentages are based on the total number births to women of all ages, not only births to teenage mothers.

Language Usage

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

Another study stressed the importance of proficiency in English on the development of reading skills by children from households that spoke a language other than English. Children proficient in English at entrance to kindergarten demonstrated greater success in reading skill development throughout elementary school, compared to their counterparts who had limited English proficiency (Kieffer, 2008). A more recent case study utilized several tools to better support these students, including a thorough language skill assessment aligned with academic content standards, a "menu" of individualized program models, and referring families to support resources (Marietta & Brookover, 2011). These studies suggest that English language learners are in need of both high quality and individualized early childhood education to help them achieve to the same extent as native English speakers.

In Pinal County, 22 percent of the population five years of age and older speaks a language other than English at home (Exhibit 17). This figure is lower than the statewide rate of 27 percent but comparable to that of the United States. Of county residents who speak a language other than English at home, seven percent self-reported speaking English "less than well" on the 2010 American Community Survey, an increase from an average of five percent self-reported for the ACS 2005 to 2008 three-year estimate.

Exhibit 17. Language Spoken at Home, Population Five Years of Age and Older, 2008-2010

	Only English	Languages Other Than English: All	Languages Other Than English: Spanish	Speaks English "Less Than Very Well," Self-Reported
Pinal County	274,336 (78%)	78,698 (22%)	65,426 (19%)	23,740 (7%)
Arizona	4,365,286 (73%)	1,592,675 (27%)	1,214,905 (20%)	587,298 (10%)
United States	229,673,150 (79%)	59,542,596 (21%)	36,995,602 (13%)	25,223,045 (9%)

Note. From Selected Social Characteristics in the United States (DP02), American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates.

III. Economic Circumstances

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

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

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

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

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

Both national and local economic climates have major implications for health, child care, and educational needs of families with young children and the availability of support resources.

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

Children and Families Living Below Federal Poverty Level

According to the three-year estimates for all families, from 2008 to 2010 (Exhibit 18), ten percent of Pinal County residents lived below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is slightly less than the 12 percent statewide average and equal to the national average.

Examining family household composition by economic standing, married families with and without children are faring better in comparison to female-headed households.

In Pinal County, five percent of married families without children and six percent of married families with young children (under the age of five) live below the FPL, compared to seven percent and nine percent statewide and five percent and seven percent nationally, respectively. However, the poverty rate for single female-headed households in Pinal County, with and without young children, is significantly higher at 56 percent and 29 percent, respectively. Statewide, 44 percent of single-parent, female-headed households and 29 percent of these women without children are living below the FPL. Nationally, the trend continues with 29 percent of single female headed households and 46 percent of single mothers living below the FPL. This data indicates that female-headed households--particularly those with children under five years old-- are at heightened risk for poverty and potentially have the greatest need for assistance to meet their young children's health and early education needs.

Exhibit 18. Percentage of Families Living Below Poverty Level, Three-Year Average 2008-2010

	Families	Families With Related Children < 5 years old	Married Couple Families with related children under 18 years	Married Couple Families With Related Children < 5 years old	Female-Headed Household, No Husband Present with related children under 18 years	Female-Headed Household, No Husband Present With Related Children < 5 years old
Pinal County	10%	17%	5%	6%	29%	56%
Arizona	12%	19%	7%	9%	29%	44%
United States	10%	18%	5%	7%	29%	46%

Note. From U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey. Poverty status in the past 12 months of families by presence of related children under 18 years by age of related children.

Additional community-level data regarding children living in poverty in the Pinal Region is provided by the United States Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Exhibit

19 shows that SAIPE's county-level estimates show that 14 percent of all children zero to 18 years of age were living in poverty in 2010.

Exhibit 19. Estimated Number of Individuals Living in Poverty, 2010

	All	Under 18 Years Old	Under 5 Years Old
Pinal County	51,500 (14%)	18,384 (18%)	NA
Arizona	1,105,075 (18%)	401,664 (25%)	129,973 (29%)
United States	46,215,956 (15%)	15,749,129 (22%)	4,961,524 (25%)

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

Exhibit 20 shows specifically the income, poverty and unemployment statistics for the Ak-Chin Indian Community for 2010.

Exhibit 20. Income, Poverty and Unemployment in Ak-Chin Indian Community, 2010

	AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
Median Household Income	$35,116
Population below 100% FPL	53%
Population below 200% FPL	29%
Children under 12 in Poverty	48%
Unemployment	14%

Note. From Ak-Chin Indian Community Primary Care Area 2010, Bureau of Health Systems Development, ADHS.

SAIPE estimates for school districts show the varying levels of poverty in the Pinal Region (Exhibit 21). In 2009, Red Rock Elementary District had the lowest percentage – eight percent - of children ages five to 17 living in poverty. The Eloy Elementary District had the highest percentage – 28 percent - of children living in poverty. In 2010, the Maricopa Unified and J.O. Combs Unified Districts had the lowest percentage – ten percent - of children living in poverty. Again, Eloy Elementary District had the highest percentage of children living in poverty at 32 percent, an increase of four percentage points from the previous year. Of the 17 school districts for which SAIPE has data, 11 had child poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in 2010.

Exhibit 21. Estimated Poverty for Children Age five-17 by School District, 2009 and 2010

	Total Population of District		Children Age 5-17		Children Age 5-17 in Families in Poverty	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Apache Junction Unified District	89,602	58,142	12,189	7,291	2,016 (17%)	1,535 (21%)
Casa Grande Elementary District	71,326	62,073	11,922	8,909	2,177 (18%)	1,797 (20%)
Coolidge Unified District	28,461	35,213	6,923	7,848	1,195 (17%)	1,398 (18%)
Eloy Elementary District	13,895	6,785	2,779	1,050	792 (28%)	333 (32%)
Florence Unified District	40,349	72,464	3,611	12,760	446 (12%)	1,585 (12%)
J.O. Combs Unified District	5,236	35,617	1,128	8,690	110 (10%)	850 (10%)
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	12,784	5,577	3,105	1,104	655 (21%)	341 (31%)
Maricopa Unified District	9,157	48,305	2,201	10,579	215 (10%)	1,110 (10%)
Oracle Elementary District	16,605	13,915	1,577	1,013	140 (9%)	198 (20%)
Picacho Elementary District	4,484	8,443	250	129	49 (-20%)	26 (-20%)
Ray Unified District	8,901	3,908	1,914	742	369 (19%)	218 (29%)
Red Rock Elementary District	866	3,436	118	569	10 (-8%)	93 (-16%)
Stanfield Elementary District	7,406	5,305	1,344	789	336 (25%)	192 (24%)
Superior Unified District	7,349	3,436	1,475	566	380 (26%)	145 (26%)
Toltec Elementary District	11,528	14,501	1,781	1,892	243 (14%)	381 (20%)

Note. From: *Table 1: 2009; Table 1: 2010 School district estimates*, United States Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Estimates are available only for school districts identified in the U.S. Census Bureau's school district mapping project. The U.S. Census states that these estimates have a confidence interval of 90%, which means the actual number may be 5% higher or lower.

School district data on economically disadvantaged students for 2010 and 2011 (Arizona Department of Education) provides another picture of the economic situation for children in the Pinal Region (Exhibit 22). These data show that in 2011, in the majority of the Region's school districts, the percentage of students who were economically disadvantaged surpassed 50 percent. Red Rock Elementary District, in which no students were classified as economically disadvantaged in 2010 or 2011, was the exception. In most districts, the percentage of such

students was approximately the same in both reported years. However, some experienced significant change.
Florence Unified District and Oracle Elementary District both experienced significant change in the percentage of students classified as economically disadvantaged.

The economic disadvantage data provided by the Arizona Department of Education is for all students in a district. However, reported data from Mammoth-San Manuel School Distinct indicates that a larger percentage of children receive free or reduced lunches in elementary school than high school. As lower grade data is more relevant for the Pinal Regional Partnership Council, if further investigation mirrors what was found in Mammoth –San Manuel, it would be useful for future reports to provide economic disadvantage data specific to elementary grades.

Exhibit 22. Preschool and Elementary Economic Disadvantage by School District, 2010-2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE
Apache Junction Unified District	2010	2,944	1,723	59%
	2011	2,668	1,587	59%
Casa Grande Elementary District	2010	6,317	4,010	63%
	2011	5,973	3,541	59%
Coolidge Unified District	2010	2,361	1,703	72%
	2011	2,183	1,696	78%
Eduprize Schools, LLC Queen Creek, 85142	2010	1,513	0	0.0%
	2011	1,708	105	6%
Eloy Elementary District	2010	916	850	93%
	2011	858	733	85%
Excalibur Charter Schools, Inc. Apache Junction, 85120	2010	235	193	82%
	2011	234	165	71%
Florence Unified School District	2010	4,865	2010 data is unavailable	2010 data is unavailable
	2011	4,729	2,530	54%
J O Combs Unified School District	2010	2,932	1,190	41%
	2011	2,755	1,253	45%
Leading Edge Academy Maricopa Campus City of Maricopa, 85138	2010	2010 data is unavailable	2010 data is unavailable	2010 data is unavailable
	2011	91	32	35%
Legacy Traditional Charter School	2010	543	0	0.0%
	2011	848	0	0.0%
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	2010	663	470	71%
	2011	560	369	66%
Maricopa Unified School	2010	3,989	2,039	51%

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE	PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE
District	2011	3,576	1,785	50%
Mary C O'Brien Accommodation District	2010	121	121	100%
	2011	129	129	100%
Oracle Elementary District	2010	444	268	60%
	2011	443	3	1%
Picacho Elementary District	2010	158	136	86%
	2011	186	186	100%
Pinal County Special Education Program	2010	4	0	0.0%
	2011	No data	No data	No data
Ray Unified District* Kearney, 85137	2010	299	175	59%
	2011	297	182	61%
Red Rock Elementary District	2010	264	0	0.0%
	2011	279	0	0.0%
Sierra Oaks School, Inc. Oracle, 85623	2010	53	26	49%
	2011	47	19	40%
Stanfield Elementary District	2010	572	572	100%
	2011	539	539	100%
Superior Unified School District	2010	259	187	72%
	2011	253	203	80%
Toltec Elementary District	2010	1,132	809	71%
	2011	1,048	796	76%
Region Total	2010	31,384	15,077	48%
	2011	30,226	16,321	54%

Note. From data from the Arizona Department of Education supplied by First Things First. The Arizona Department of Education uses eligibility for free and reduced lunches as its criterion for economic disadvantage.*This district is not entirely located in the Pinal Region.

Household Income

Household income serves as another useful indicator for examining the economic status of families in Pinal County. According to the American Community Survey estimate, the average median household gross annual income for 2010 in Pinal County was $54,896 (Exhibit 23). The data show that median family income in the Pinal County has increased markedly between 2000 and 2010 (by nearly 40 percent). In 2000, median income for Pinal County was significantly lower than the State of Arizona as a whole.

By 2010, median income for Pinal County was nearly on par with median income for the state as a whole—$54,896 for Pinal County compared to $55,353 reported for the state.

Exhibit 23. Median Family Gross Annual Income, 2000 and 2010

	2000	2010	PERCENT CHANGE
Pinal County	$39,548	$54,896	+39%
Arizona	$46,723	$55,353	+18%
United States	$50,046	$60,609	+21%

Note. From Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights, United States Census Bureau; Selected Economic Characteristics (DP-03), American Community Survey 2010 1-Year Estimates. 2000 Census are in 1999 dollars.

Further examination of median family income reveals that there are major differences in median income for families based on family type. United State Census data shown in Exhibit 24 indicates that in 2010, the median income of families with children under 18 in Pinal County was $62,822 for married couples, $40,116 for male-headed families, and $31,364 for female-headed families. This means that the median income of male-headed families and female-headed families is 64 percent and 50 percent, respectively, of the median income of married couple families. These data suggest, as expected, that female-headed households with children constitute a significant group in need of assistance and that children living in such households would benefit from supplemental programs. Furthermore, the data suggest that attention be paid to male-headed families as well since their median household income is also significantly below that of married couple families.

Exhibit 24. 2000 and 2010 Median Income of Families with Children Under 18 by Family Type

	FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES		MALE-HEADED FAMILIES		MARRIED COUPLES	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Pinal County	$13,352	$31,364	$19,563	$40,116	$43,066	$62,822
Arizona	$21,517	$29,431	$28,171	$39,556	$53,815	$65,580
United States	$20,284	$32,031	$29,907	$49,718	$59,461	$72,751

Note. From 2006-2010 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

Employment and Unemployment

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

Examination of the 2007-2011 unemployment rates for localities in Pinal County shows the trajectory of impact of the recent economic recession as well as the geographic variability of that impact (Exhibit 25). The table below shows that in 2007, most Pinal County communities had unemployment rates of approximately four percent or less, with those rates rising by two-three percent in the following year. In 2009, the unemployment rate continued to rise across the region, ranging from five point eight percent in Gold Canyon to 33 percent in San Tan Valley. Data from 2010 and 2011 show that the unemployment rate is slowly decreasing in Pinal communities, but still remains far above the 2007 average. Across the county as a whole, excluding Native American Reservations, the unemployment rate rose from four point one percent in 2007 to a peak of 11.2 percent in 2010 and moderated to 10.1 percent in 2011.

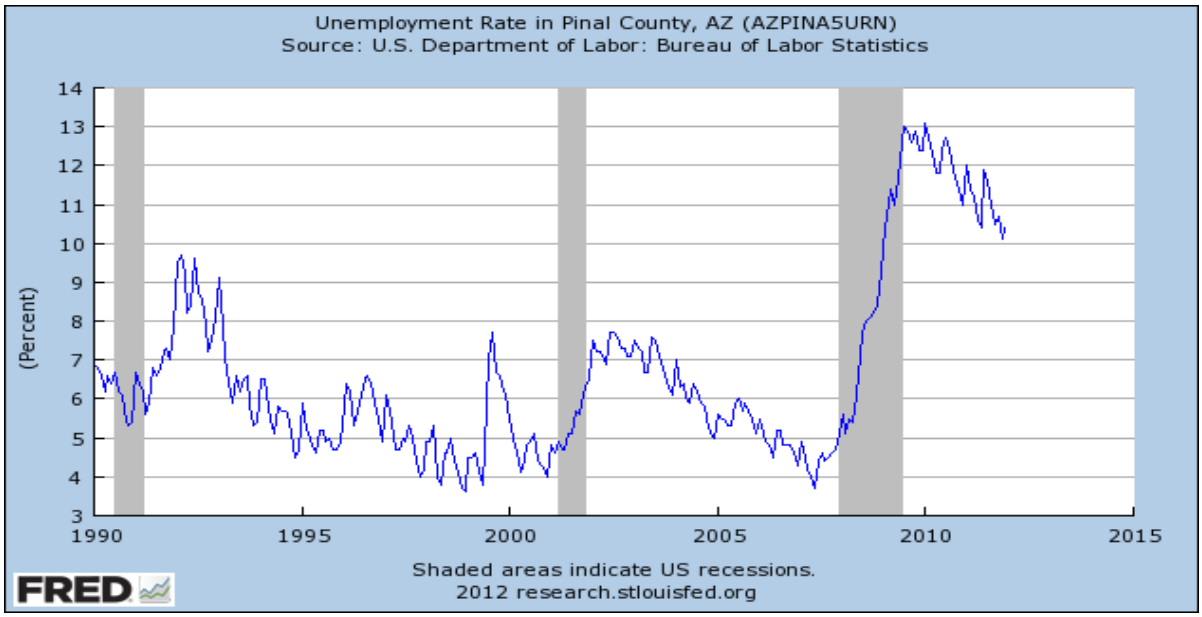
Exhibit 25. Unemployment Rates for Pinal County Localities, 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ak-Chin Village	5.7%	8.8%	14.8%	14.3%	12.8%
Apache Junction*	3.1%	5.0%	8.6%	8.3%	12.8%
Arizona City	2.5%	3.9%	6.8%	6.7%	5.8%
Casa Grande	4.2%	6.6%	11.3%	11.0%	11.2%
Coolidge	8.2%	12.6%	20.6%	20.1%	18.0%
Eloy	6.7%	10.5%	17.3%	16.9%	15.1%
Florence	4.4%	7.0%	11.9%	11.6%	21.2%
Gold Canyon	2.1%	3.3%	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%
Kearny Town	2.7%	4.3%	7.5%	7.3%	6.4%
Mammoth	7.4%	11.5%	18.9%	18.5%	16.5%
Maricopa, City of	5.0%	7.9%	13.3%	13.0%	10.3%
Oracle	4.8%	7.5%	12.7%	12.4%	10.9%
Queen Creek	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
San Manuel	6.4%	10.0%	16.7%	16.3%	14.5%
San Tan Census Designated Place	14.4%	21.6%	33.0%	32.5%	29.5%
Stanfield	10.1%	15.5%	24.8%	24.3%	21.8%
Superior	9.7%	14.8%	23.8%	23.2%	20.8%
Pinal County	4.5%	7.1%	12.0%	11.7%	10.3%
Pinal County Less Native American Reservations	4.1%	6.5%	11.1%	10.8%	9.6%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.7%	10.5%	9.5%
United States	4.6%	5.8%	9.3%	9.6%	8.9%

Note. From Arizona Employment Statistics Program Special Unemployment Reports 2000-2009, 2010-2011, Arizona Department of Commerce, Office of Employment and Population Statistics. Retrieved Oct. 27, 2011 from http://www.workforce.az.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics.aspx ; http://data.workforce.az.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/labForceReport.asp?menuchoice=LABFORCE; from.*) Annual average unemployment rate, civilian labor force 16 years and over (percent),* U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted. *Apache Junction data is for part of the city in Pinal County only.

Exhibit 26 plots the county-wide unemployment rate from 1990, when the rate was under seven percent, through February, 2012, showing that the unemployment rate has continued to improve from Pinal County's high 11 percent in 2010.

Exhibit 26. Twenty-two Year Time Series Plot of Unemployment Rates in Pinal County



Note. From FRED, Federal Reserve Economic Data, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Civilian Unemployment Rate [UNRATE]; U.S. Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics; http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/UNRATE; accessed February 25, 2012.

Monthly unemployment data for 2011 provide an even more detailed "snapshot" of the unemployment rate in Pinal County (Exhibit 27). These data show a gradual decline in unemployment from January through May 2011. Unemployment increased in June to 11.9 percent before gradually declining again from June through December, when unemployment stood at 10.4 percent.

Exhibit 27. Unemployment Rate for Pinal County, January-December 2011

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Pinal County	12.0%	11.4%	11.2%	10.6%	10.4%	11.9%	11.6%	11.0%	10.5%	10.7%	10.1%	10.4%
Arizona	10.0%	9.5%	9.3%	8.9%	8.8%	9.9%	9.7%	9.4%	8.9%	8.9%	8.4%	8.7%
United States	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	8.5%

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

Additional employment indicators may create a more detailed image of the impact of the economic recession on families in the Pinal Region. Exhibit 28 below shows that in Pinal County, average monthly earnings fluctuated within a $458 range ($3,409-$2,951) from the beginning of 2009 through the first quarter of 2011. Average new hire wages also fluctuated several times

during the period. Pinal County's net job flow was negative in the second and third quarter of 2009, as well as the fourth quarter of 2010. Total employment remained at about 50,000 workers throughout 2009 and 2010 and increased markedly in the first quarter of 2011 to 58,170 workers.

Exhibit 28. Key Employment Indicators for Pinal County

	2009 Q1	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2009 Q4	2010 Q1	2010 Q2	2010 Q3	2010 Q4	2011 Q1
Average Monthly Earnings	$3,069	$3,242	$3,038	$3,409	$2,951	$3,300	$3,078	$3,388	$2,973
Average New Hire Earnings	$1,919	$2,211	$1,901	$2,473	$2,077	$2,497	$2,004	$2,364	$1,822
Job Creation	3,345	3,096	2,193	4,116	2,803	3,330	3,032	2,341	2,801
Net Job Flows	663	-1,871	-28	1,839	694	124	1,127	-1,684	177
New Hires	6,032	6,227	5,641	7,005	5,850	6,946	6,788	6,986	6,709
Separations	7,335	10,425	6,710	8,077	6,512	8,701	7,095	10,609	7,760
Total Employment	50,171	50,630	47,198	50,312	49,884	50,501	46,990	51,704	58,170
Turnover	8.7%	10.6%	7.9%	8.3%	7.5%	9.1%	8.2%	11.7%	8.2%

Note. U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), *LEHD State of Arizona County Reports – Quarterly Workforce Indicators*. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The first quarter of 2011 is the last period for which a full set of data is available.

Other Relevant Economic Indicators

Poverty, median income, unemployment, and key employment data presented in this section provide a picture of recent economic conditions in Pinal County. Information about participation in state and federal benefit programs further enhances understanding of the economic environment of a community. The federal and state governments offer a variety of assistance programs utilized by Pinal County residents. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) is a program of the Office of Family Assistance of the United State Department of Health and Human Services that funds state efforts to provide financial assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

Exhibits 29-31 provide information about TANF participation by families Pinal County. Between June 2007 and June 2009, the number of families with children ages zero - five enrolled in TANF increased from 774 to 825 (Exhibit 29). By July 2010, this figure had fallen markedly to 544 families. This trend of decreasing enrollment continued into July 2011, at which point 391 families were enrolled in TANF, less than half of what it was in June of 2009. Data from Pinal County follow the same trend as statewide data. Effective July 1, 2010, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 60 months 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 Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 36 months to 24 months. All families that had received TANF for

more than 24 months were immediately removed. Additionally, some tribal regions that run their own TANF programs were not affected by this legislation so you may not see the declines within this population.

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

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Pinal County	752	774	837	825	761	544	444	391
Arizona	16,511	15,527	18,477	18,045	18,129	13,651	10,289	9,776

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

The zip code level data included in Exhibit 30 show that most localities followed a similar pattern of enrollment between January 2007 and July 2011. Enrollment of families with children ages zero to five in the Region rose slightly between January 2007 and January 2009. From January 2009 to July 2011, enrollment numbers decreased from 776 to 405. The data show that in almost all zip codes, enrollment decreased between January 2007 and July 2011.

Exhibit 30. Families with Children Ages Zero to Five Enrolled in TANF, Pinal Region by Zip Code, 2007-2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	1	0	0	0	1	No Data	No Data	No Data
	85119/219	43	35	51	38	11	16	10	13
	85120/220	92	78	65	72	37	28	23	25
	85178/278	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data
Arizona City	85123/223	23	35	36	32	17	21	22	16
Casa Grande	85122/222	165	173	155	157	115	117	100	83
	85130/230	2	4	3	2	0	0	0	3
	85193/293	0	0	8	11	9	4	5	7
	85194/294	0	0	7	9	6	0	1	0
Coolidge	85128/228	69	80	84	70	44	55	47	40
Eloy	85131/231	61	66	70	54	38	44	42	31
Florence	85132/232	26	27	31	43	20	29	14	16
Gold Canyon	85118/218	5	4	5	7	1	2	3	3
Hayden	85135	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data
Kearny	85137	10	4	4	3	0	1	0	1
Mammoth	85618	13	11	8	11	14	9	6	1
Marana	85658	0	0	8	4	2	3	1	0
Maricopa, City of	85138	0	0	43	43	27	23	22	12
	85139/239	39	49	29	36	39	29	13	9
Oracle	85623	11	10	14	6	6	2	3	2
Picacho	85141/241	2	5	1	1	0	1	1	1
Queen Creek	85142/242	54	56	58	52	33	41	22	29
Red Rock	85145/245	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	0
San Manuel	85631	13	9	10	9	8	5	4	4
San Tan Valley	85140/240	0	0	31	34	24	31	19	19
	85143/243	39	37	50	50	31	35	21	21
Stanfield	85172/272	12	11	8	14	4	10	6	4
Superior	85173/273	12	13	8	11	5	8	1	0

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Tortilla Flat	85190	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Valley Farms	85191/291	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
Winkelman	85192/292	4	6	6	5	0	12	15	12
Region Total		697	714	796	776	507	535	404	357

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

Exhibit 31 shows the number of children ages zero to five enrolled in TANF by zip code. As was the case in the table above, enrollment in TANF rose from January 2007 to January 2009, at which point, enrollment began to drop. By July 2011, 444 children in the Region were enrolled in TANF compared with 906 children in January 2007.

Exhibit 31. Children Ages Zero to Five Enrolled in TANF, Pinal Region by Zip Code, 2007-2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	1	0	0	0	1	No Data	No Data	No Data
	85119/219	57	47	60	50	16	16	10	14
	85120/220	120	104	78	82	47	38	33	33
	85178/278	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data
Arizona City	85123/223	30	44	43	42	21	31	39	2
Casa Grande	85122/222	204	220	198	200	147	164	136	104
	85130/230	2	6	3	3	0	0	0	3
	85193/293	0	0	10	15	12	18	22	17
	85194/294	0	0	9	15	10	5	8	12
Coolidge	85128/228	92	104	112	96	55	76	58	54
Eloy	85131/231	78	94	100	73	52	67	55	39
Florence	85132/232	34	34	44	62	32	46	20	22
Gold Canyon	85118/218	5	6	5	10	1	2	3	3
Hayden	85135	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data
Kearny	85137	12	5	6	3	0	1	0	1
Mammoth	85618	17	14	12	16	23	13	9	3
Marana	85658	0	0	9	6	3	3	1	0
Maricopa, City of	85138	0	0	59	58	31	28	29	16
	85139/239	55	72	37	43	51	38	14	12
Oracle	85623	15	14	18	8	6	2	4	2
Picacho	85141/241	2	9	3	3	0	1	1	1
Queen Creek	85142/242	74	73	75	65	42	51	32	35
Red Rock	85145/245	0	0	2	2	4	3	0	0
San Manuel	85631	17	12	13	12	9	8	6	8
San Tan Valley	85140/240	0	0	43	42	30	38	26	24
	85143/243	50	49	58	65	37	43	28	27
Stanfield	85172/272	16	16	11	22	6	13	9	5
Superior	85173/273	14	16	10	14	5	9	2	0
Tortilla Flat	85190	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Valley Farms	85191/291	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	0
Winkelman	85192/292	5	7	9	6	0	1	0	0
Region Total	906	947	1029	1014	656	722	552	444	906

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

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is another federal program utilized by families in Pinal County. According to a 2010 study by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Research Institute's PolicyLab, "poor nutrition resulting from food insecurity has been linked to behavioral problems in preschoolers; lower educational performance among Kindergarteners; generally poorer cognitive and psychosocial development among children of various ages; and adverse health outcomes such as more frequent hospitalizations, particularly among young children" (Sell, Zlotnik, Noonan & Rubin, 2010). The results of studies by the United States Department of Agriculture (Children's HealthWatch, 2011a; Nord & Prell, 2011) have both concluded that the 2009 across-the-board increase in SNAP benefits contributed to the health, well-being, and food security of young children during the recent recession. However, a collaborative study by Children's HealthWatch, Drexel University School of Public Health, and the Center for Hunger-free Communities (Children's HealthWatch, 2011b) conducted in urban low-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia found that even the increased level of SNAP benefits achieved in 2009 left poor families with children far short of being able to afford a minimal healthy diet and that, in some locations, many of the foods needed for such a diet are not readily available. A recent analysis by Children's HealthWatch found that children who received SNAP benefits were less likely to be underweight or at risk of developmental delays than children eligible for but not receiving such benefit (Children's HealthWatch, 2012).

Data regarding the number of children zero to five years old and families with children age zero through five years old who are SNAP recipients provides additional insight into the economic status of Pinal County families with young children (Exhibit 32). The table below shows that SNAP enrollment by Pinal County families with children ages zero to five steadily increased from 3,737 in January 2007 to 10,751 in July 2011.

Exhibit 32. Families with Children Ages 0-5 Enrolled in SNAP

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Pinal County	3,737	4,023	5,457	6,040	6,449	10,016	10,081	10,751
Arizona	88,171	91,054	119,380	133,148	145,657	143,665	138,687	147,871

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

A zip code level breakdown of SNAP participation by families with children ages zero to five sheds further light on geographic variation in participation across the Region. Exhibit 33 shows a

steady increase in SNAP enrollment for the majority of families with young children from June 2007 to July 2011.

Exhibit 33. Families with Children Ages Zero to Five Enrolled in SNAP, Pinal Region by Zip Code, 2007-2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	3
	85119/219	218	219	283	307	189	308	312	310
	85120/220	350	356	476	518	338	517	508	539
	85178/278	0	0	0	0	0	No Data	No Data	No Data
Arizona City	85123/223	159	198	248	289	145	220	253	301
Casa Grande	85122/222	981	997	1203	1323	1123	1,461	1,479	1,519
	85130/230	2	4	3	5	0	2	1	3
	85193/293	0	0	114	127	91	113	119	132
	85194/294	0	0	74	88	70	104	90	93
Coolidge	85128/228	322	357	407	428	272	466	476	545
Eloy	85131/231	375	369	461	470	366	513	489	520
Florence	85132/232	104	126	201	263	169	275	289	287
Gold Canyon	85118/218	33	33	43	50	29	60	53	52
Hayden	85135	0	0	0	0	2	3	8	9
Kearny	85137	46	37	35	36	1	36	46	33
Mammoth	85618	55	58	64	68	76	75	61	63
Marana	85658	0	0	45	37	44	41	47	50
Maricopa, City of	85138	0	6	293	339	322	388	421	460
	85139/239	252	290	290	337	270	367	331	366
Oracle	85623	54	50	79	77	75	78	79	71
Picacho	85141/241	17	14	13	13	5	10	13	14
Queen Creek	85142/242	301	359	408	486	347	632	587	633
Red Rock	85145/245	4	3	18	14	10	16	20	21
San Manuel	85631	73	72	87	100	101	91	80	97
San Tan Valley	85140/240	0	4	343	398	325	495	539	505
	85143/243	177	236	394	479	443	633	584	608
Stanfield	85172/272	51	69	79	87	42	59	76	83
Superior	85173/273	63	68	82	92	40	97	78	82
Tortilla Flat	85190	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Valley Farms	85191/291	1	1	2	4	1	2	4	6
Winkelman	85192/292	37	38	38	39	39	48	50	58
Region Total		3677	3965	5783	6476	4972	7154	7153	7539

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

Exhibit 34 shows the zip code level distribution of children ages zero to five receiving SNAP benefits in the Pinal Region from January 2007 to July 2011. The largest concentrations of young children receiving SNAP benefits over this period were in zip codes 85122/222 (Casa Grande), 85131/231 (Eloy), 85128/228 (Coolidge), and 85120/220 (Apache Junction). There were no consistent patterns across all of the region's zip codes in the number of children ages zero to five receiving SNAP benefits.

As SNAP benefits are based on income eligibility, large increases in the number of recipients suggest that many families in the Pinal Region have experienced economic difficulties and continue to do so in 2011. However, beyond being a sign of economic stress in the Region and consistent with study findings presented above, the large increase in SNAP participation among families with zero to five year olds over the last three years suggests that many young children in the Region may be dependent on government programs to fulfill their basic nutritional needs.

Exhibit 34. Children Ages Zero to Five Enrolled in SNAP, Pinal Region by Zip Code, 2007-2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	5
	85119/219	325	328	403	451	275	438	439	444
	85120/220	526	531	685	735	489	747	728	777
	85178/278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona City	85123/223	251	312	380	446	238	475	475	496
Casa Grande	85122/222	1,528	1,590	1,834	1,994	1,663	2,173	2,177	2,230
	85130/230	3	8	5	8	0	7	6	8
	85193/293	0	0	177	183	137	180	183	207
	85194/294	0	0	113	138	104	168	136	148
Coolidge	85128/228	538	604	658	692	423	765	756	842
Eloy	85131/231	591	582	738	744	569	811	743	776
Florence	85132/232	148	190	320	419	276	441	449	440
Gold Canyon	85118/218	41	42	56	72	42	78	69	66

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JULY 2010	JAN. 2011	JULY 2011
Hayden	85135	0	0	0	0	2	6	11	11
Kearny	85137	71	59	55	54	1	61	67	51
Mammoth	85618	76	83	93	102	116	107	91	94
Marana	85658	0	0	67	53	72	62	77	75
Maricopa, City of	85138	0	13	453	525	492	570	645	701
	85139/239	406	461	439	512	412	562	513	569
Oracle	85623	81	73	119	110	109	112	114	97
Picacho	85141/241	27	21	21	19	11	19	26	26
Queen Creek	85142/242	474	601	642	768	526	961	903	953
Red Rock	85145/245	7	5	22	18	15	29	35	34
San Manuel	85631	115	116	133	151	146	133	114	140
San Tan Valley	85140/240	275	380	629	728	685	993	891	932
	85143/243	0	8	543	656	534	787	847	799
Stanfield	85172/272	87	111	129	143	59	132	115	120
Superior	85173/273	96	112	119	130	54	138	119	119
Tortilla Flat	85190	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Valley Farms	85191/291	1	1	3	5	2	6	11	9
Winkelman	85192/292	0	0	0	0	7	71	75	85
Region Total		5,670	6,233	8,836	9,858	7,524	11,108	10,920	11,375

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

School lunch programs have traditionally been another means by which low-income children have received nutritional supplementation (Exhibit 35). In 2010, free or reduced lunch enrollment in Pinal County ranged from less than one percent in Red Rock Elementary District to 99 percent in Stanfield Elementary District. However, in almost all districts, more than half of students were enrolled in free or reduced lunch in that year.

Exhibit 35. Percent of Children Enrolled in Free or Reduced School Lunch Program by School District, 2007-2010

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Apache Junction Unified District	44%	41%	45%	53%
Casa Grande Elementary District	62%	60%	59%	64%
Coolidge Unified District	52%	12%	61%	66%
Eloy Elementary District	17%	88%	89%	90%
Florence Unified School District	39%	48%	48%	51%
J O Combs Unified School District	No data	No data	No data	No data
Leading Edge Academy, City of Maricopa	No data	No data	No data	No data
Legacy Traditional Charter School	No data	No data	No data	No data
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	24%	71%	67%	75%
Maricopa Unified School District	30%	32%	41%	51%
Mary C O'Brien Accommodation District	No data	No data	No data	No data
Oracle Elementary District	47%	50%	39%	41%
Picacho Elementary District	99%	99%	99%	88%
Pinal County Special Education Program	No data	No data	No data	No data
Ray Unified District	64%	56%	47%	53%
Red Rock Elementary District	NA	<1%	21%	<1%
Stanfield Elementary District	100%	100%	88%	99%
Superior Unified School District	87%	60%	84%	86%
Toltec Elementary District	73%	66%	59%	70%
Arizona	41%	38%	47%	47%

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

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the United State Department of Agriculture that provides grants to states primarily for providing supplemental foods to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their children up to age five who are at nutritional risk.

To qualify for WIC benefits a family's income must fall at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line. Some studies of WIC programs suggest that it has positive impacts on family well-being. For example, there is evidence that prenatal participation in WIC improves birth weight and fetal growth. Given the program's focus on low-income mothers and their young children, WIC

participation numbers serve as another useful indicator of regional economic conditions. Exhibit 36 shows the number of infants and children in Pinal County and Arizona enrolled in the WIC program from June 2010 to June 2011. Exhibit 37 summarizes WIC participation by zip code in Pinal County.

Exhibit 36. WIC Participation, Unduplicated, June 2010 – June 2011

	INFANTS (<12 MONTHS)	12 TO 23 MONTHS	24 TO 35 MONTHS	36 TO 47 MONTHS
Pinal County	2,900	3,187	1,770	1,628
Arizona	65,519	69,838	36,480	33,268

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) dataset (provided by First Things First).

Exhibit 37. WIC Participation of Children Zero to Five by Pinal County Zip Codes, Unduplicated, June 2010 – June 2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JUNE 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	< 25	25	< 25
	85119/219	271	248	252
	85120/220	438	438	436
	85178/278	< 25	< 25	< 25
Arizona City	85123/223	354	348	331
Casa Grande	85122/222	1592	1592	1550
	85130/230	< 25	< 25	< 25
	85193/293	50	49	56
	85194/294	68	56	62
Coolidge	85128/228	583	553	592
Eloy	85131/231	560	572	521
Florence	85132/232	252	261	257
Gold Canyon	85118/218	31	32	34
Hayden	85135	< 25	< 25	< 25
Kearny	85137/237	51	60	58
Mammoth	85618	< 25	72	57
Marana	85658	< 25	< 25	< 25
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	372	397	421
	85139/239	306	279	287
Oracle	85623	< 25	64	57
Picacho	85141/241	< 25	< 25	< 25
Queen Creek	85142/242	77	69	58
Red Rock	85145/245	< 25	< 25	< 25
San Manuel	85631	< 25	92	87
San Tan Valley	85140/240	129	116	128
	85143/243	138	122	117

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JUNE 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
Stanfield	85172/272	95	94	105
Superior	85173/273	82	67	75
Tortilla Flat	85190	< 25	< 25	< 25
Valley Farms	85191/291	< 25	< 25	< 25
Winkelman	85192/292	52	58	53
Region Total		5,596	5,738	5,673

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) dataset (provided by First Things First).

Data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security show that in almost all of the Region's zip codes the number of residents receiving unemployment benefits increased from January 2007 to January 2010 (Exhibit 38). In many zip codes, the number of claimants grew by an extraordinary seven to ten times over the previous reporting period. However, in 2011, there was a notable decrease in the number of unemployment insurance claims in the region.

Exhibit 38. Unemployment Insurance Claimants by Zip Code, Pinal Region: 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
Apache Junction	85117/217	7	6	46	57	66	9	7
	85119/219	69	61	271	476	595	104	71
	85120/220	81	93	371	667	870	138	93
	85178/278	4	7	36	54	68	5	5
Arizona City	85123/223	56	84	171	286	311	56	29
Casa Grande	85122/222	55	51	675	1,098	1439	208	185
	85130/230	11	19	67	103	127	17	12
	85193/293	3	3	59	98	125	13	10
	85194/294	2	2	56	121	132	14	14
Coolidge	85128/228	7	6	169	314	400	56	71
Eloy	85131/231	53	67	160	277	323	51	55
Florence	85132/232	35	47	157	265	320	49	37
Gold Canyon	85118/218	33	28	127	208	257	29	26
Hayden	85135	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	1	3
Kearny	85137/237	4	4	20	36	46	2	9
Mammoth	85618	7	8	26	48	61	3	9
Marana	85658	No data	No data	8	19	18	19	12

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010	JAN. 2011	JUNE 2011
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	9	12	384	671	811	119	116
	85139/239	91	110	264	446	546	97	70
Oracle	85623	13	9	33	50	96	19	16
Picacho	85141/241	2	0	11	10	11	No data	5
Queen Creek	85142/242	71	75	66	142	315	166	120
Red Rock	85145/245	3	9	10	18	26	6	4
San Manuel	85631	13	18	46	89	101	12	21
San Tan Valley	85140/240	3	9	334	550	728	134	84
	85143/243	71	84	424	715	915	137	83
Stanfield	85172/272	7	4	19	50	68	17	7
Superior	85173/273	14	14	54	83	105	12	7
Tortilla Flat	85190	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	1
Valley Farms	85191/291	2	1	7	11	14	3	1
Winkelman	85192/292	2	4	2	7	14	5	5
Region Total		911	1081	4087	7001	8947	1509	1200

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) dataset (provided by First Things First). Available data reported. January 2011 data reflect the number of people in the month of January who initiated a UI claim. Data for 2009 and 2010 reflect the number of people who filed weekly continued claims in the month of January.

Families in the Pinal Region access special services for children with developmental disabilities from the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Developmental Disabilities. Exhibit 39 shows that the number of service-users has increased over time. Services to children ages zero to 35 months rose from 144 in 2007 to 203 in 2010. Services to children ages 36-71 months rose from 66 in 2007 to 151 in 2010.

Exhibit 39. Receiving Developmental Disability Services by Age: 2007, 2009, and 2010

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	2007		2009		2010	
		Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months	Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months	Ages 0 to 35 months	Ages 36 to 71 months
Apache Junction	85117/217	No data	No data	1	No data	1	No data
	85119/219	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
	85120/220	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	No data	No data
	85178/278	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Arizona City	85123/223	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Casa Grande	85122/222	33	< 25	39	< 25	29	28
	85130/230	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
	85193/293	< 25	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	85194/294	No data	No data	< 25	No data	< 25	No data
Coolidge	85128/228	< 25	No data	< 25	< 25	No data	No data
Eloy	85131/231	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Florence	85132/232	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Gold Canyon	85118/218	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Hayden	85135	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Kearny	85137/237	< 25	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Mammoth	85618	No data	No data	< 25	No data	No data	No data
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	40	< 25
	85139/239	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
Oracle	85623	< 25	No data	2	1	No data	1
Picacho	85141/241	No data	No data	2	No data	No data	1
Queen Creek	85142/242	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Red Rock	85145/245	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25
San Manuel	85631	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	No data
San Tan Valley	85140/240	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	27	< 25
	85143/243	< 25	< 25	33	< 25	36	29
Stanfield	85172/272	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	< 25	No data
Superior	85173/273	< 25	No data	< 25	< 25	No data	< 25
Tortilla Flat	85190	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Valley Farms	85191/291	< 25	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Winkelman	85192/292	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Region Total		144	66	189	88	203	151

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) dataset (provided by First Things First).

IV. Educational Indicators

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

Educational Attainment

From 2006 to 2010, the educational level of mothers in Pinal County has mostly followed a positive trend (Exhibit 40). The percentage of mothers with one to four years of college has increased from 38 percent in 2006 to 49 percent in 2010. This is two percentage points higher than the state as a whole. Moreover, the number of mothers with no high school diploma has decreased from 30 percent in 2006 to 18 percent in 2010.

Exhibit 40. Percentage of Live Births by Educational Attainment of Mother

	EDUCATION LEVEL	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pinal County	No High School Diploma	30%	30%	28%	19%	18%
	High School Diploma	31%	34%	34%	31%	31%
	1-4+ yrs. of College	38%	38%	38%	50%	49%
	Unknown	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Arizona	No High School Diploma	29%	28%	26%	24%	22%
	High School Diploma	30%	30%	30%	31%	31%
	1-4+ yrs. of College	41%	41%	43%	45%	47%
	Unknown	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
United States	No High School Diploma	10%	12%	14%	14%	N/A
	High School Diploma	15%	14%	17%	17%	N/A
	1-4+ yrs. of College	25%	26%	32%	33%	N/A
	Unknown	50%	48%	37%	35%	N/A

Note. From *Births by Mother's Education and County of Residence, Arizona (Table 5B-13)* 2005-2010 , Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics. Percent's do not total to 100% due to rounding up. "No high school diploma" is defined as educational achievement of 0-11 years. "High school diploma" is defined as completion of up to 12 years of education. "1-4+ yrs. of college" is defined as completion of 13-15 years of education. N/A indicates data is not available.

American Community Survey data from 2008 to 2010, shown in Exhibit 41, indicates that the educational attainment of adults (defined as 25 years of age and older) in Pinal County compares somewhat favorably to statewide levels. A higher percentage of adults in Pinal County have graduated high school, completed some college, and attained an associate's degree compared to the state and nationwide. However, the County lags behind state and national figures for attainment of higher education such as a bachelor's degree or a graduate or professional degree. Exhibit 42 shows education levels for the Ak-Chin Indian Community in the Region, with the majority being less education in comparison to county, state, and national data.

Exhibit 41. Educational Attainment, Adults 25 Years and Older, Three Year Average, 2008-2010

	NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
Pinal County	16%	29%	29%	9%	12%	6%
Arizona	15%	25%	26%	8%	17%	10%
United States	15%	28%	21%	8%	18%	10%

Note. From Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, American Community Survey 2008-2010 3-Year Estimates. Percentages are based on the following population estimates of people over 25 years of age: United States – 202,053,193; Arizona - 4,088,405; Pinal County – 234,149. High school graduation rate included graduation equivalents. Percent's do not total to 100% due to rounding up.

Exhibit 42. Educational Attainment, Adults 25 Years and Older, Five Year Average, 2005-2009

	NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE	ASSOCIATES DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
Ak-Chin Indian Community	46%	58%	2%	2%	2%	0%

Note. From Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, American Community Survey 2005-2009 5-Year Estimates. Percentages are based on an estimated 436 of people over 25 years of age.

Kindergarten Readiness and Literacy

While there is a national focus on assessing students' academic progress and quality of education provided, more attention has been placed on measuring children's school readiness levels. School readiness is defined as "a child's attainment of a certain set of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills needed to learn, work, and function successfully in school" (Rafoth, Buchenauer, Crissman & Halko, 2004). Ongoing research confirms that children's readiness for school is multifaceted, encompassing a range of physical, social, emotional, language, and cognitive skills that children need to thrive (Center for Family Policy & Research, 2008). However, professionals struggle with ways to identify and measure school readiness.

Kindergarten readiness is important to consider as research studies have found that participation by low-income children in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten is related to improved

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

A number of factors influence a child's school readiness level in the United States, including health, parental engagement, and language proficiency, which is a key predictor of school success. Early literacy skills (i.e. size of vocabulary, letter recognition, and comprehension of letter and sound relationships) at entry to kindergarten are good predictors of a child's reading ability *throughout* their educational career and that children from low-income families may be falling behind. Low-income children are more likely to start school with limited language skills, health problems, and social and emotional problems that interfere with learning. To improve school readiness and academic success, in 2005 the State Board of Education adopted the Early Learning Standards, which are aligned with academic standards for kindergarten and Head Start. According to the Arizona Department of Education, developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers are planned to be finalized in 2012.

Many assessments have been developed to look at children's growth across developmental domains such as language, social-emotional and physical development, and behavior. Currently, such assessments only serve as proxy measures of school readiness. In school settings throughout Arizona, these assessments are often used to screen children for additional educational support needs, such as English Language Learners. Current research has confirmed the efficacy of using certain assessment methods in linguistically diverse settings, such as in Arizona (Berhenke, Miller, Brown, Seifer & Dickstein, 2011; Downer et al., 2011). Some school districts also use assessments at entry to preschool to determine a baseline of children's development and better tailor programming and instruction. However, other research found that assessment of children's social and executive domain functioning at 54 months was only partially predictive of socio-emotional and achievement outcomes in the fifth grade (Sabol & Pianta, 2012).

Standardized Testing

Two instruments that are used frequently across Arizona schools for formative (ongoing and used to guide instruction) assessment are the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). These assessments are often used to identify children's early literacy skills upon entry to school and need for interventions in reading throughout the year. At the Kindergarten level, DIBELS tests only a small set of skills around letter knowledge without assessing other areas of children's language and literacy development such as vocabulary and print awareness.

Additionally, DIBELS does not measure other important skill sets around social emotional development, math, or science. While the results of the DIBELS and AIMS assessments do not

reflect children's full range of skills and understanding in the area of language and literacy, they do provide a snapshot of children's learning as they enter and exit Kindergarten.

AIMS tests use a four-level scale to measure student performance: the lowest level of performance is termed *Falls Far Below (FFB),* followed by *Approached (A), Met (M),* and *Exceeded (E).* The categories of FFB and A represent failing scores, while M and E represent passing scores. From 2009-2011, there was great variation in AIMS mathematics, reading, and writing scores for third grade students by school district. Ten of the 16 school districts in the county, Pinal County as a whole, and statewide AIMS test results for mathematics showed that at least 50 percent of students achieved passing scores consistently from 2009 to 2011. Likewise, 13 of the 16 districts, Pinal County, and statewide AIMS test results for reading showed that at least 50 percent of students achieved passing scores annually over the three-year time frame.

Looking at changes in scores over time, 13 districts in the Pinal Region showed a *decrease* in the percentage of students that met or exceeded proficiency standards in math over three years. Three districts, Mammoth-San Manuel Unified, Red Rock and Stanfield Elementary, reported a maintenance or increase in the percentage of students with passing math scores. Reading scores show the opposite trend, with eight school districts, Pinal County, and statewide results showing a positive trend of an increase in the percentage of students with passing scores over three years. However, eight districts reported a decrease in the percentage of passing scores over time. County-wide results are summarized in Exhibits 43 - 45; district-by-district tables of AIMS results are presented in Appendix D.

Exhibit 43. Results of AIMS Mathematics Test, Pinal County 3rd Grade, 2009-2011

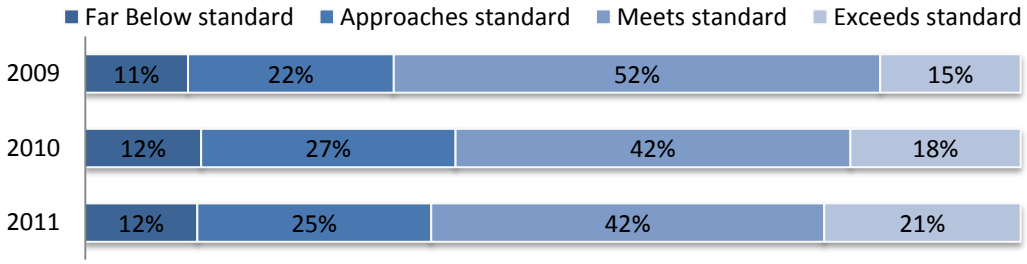


Exhibit 44. Results of AIMS Reading Test, Pinal County 3rd Grade, 2009-2011

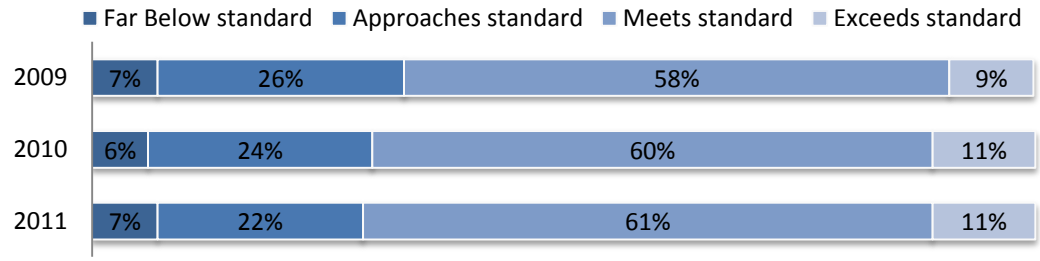


Exhibit 45. Results of AIMS Writing Test, Pinal County 3rd Grade, 2009

Special Needs Populations

Two of the largest groups of students with special educational needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Schools are required to develop an IEP for students with disabilities who meet government requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The school district data presented in Exhibit 46 show that at least 10 percent of students in all of the school districts in Pinal County have been identified as having special needs. In some of these districts, the percentage of students with special needs is significantly higher than the state average. Red Rock and Oracle elementary districts have the highest rates of special needs between 2007 and 2010.

Exhibit 46. Percentage of Special Education Students, School District, 2007-2010

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Apache Junction Unified District	14%	10%	15%	14%
Casa Grande Elementary District	12%	11%	12%	13%
Coolidge Unified District	16%	15%	13%	13%
Eloy Elementary District	12%	12%	11%	12%
Florence Unified School District	13%	13%	13%	13%
J O Combs Unified School District	No data	No data	No data	No data
Leading Edge Academy, City of Maricopa	No data	No data	No data	No data
Legacy Traditional Charter School	No data	No data	No data	No data
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	11%	11%	12%	11%
Maricopa Unified School District	No data	No data	No data	No data
Mary C O'Brien Accommodation District	No data	No data	No data	No data
Oracle Elementary	15%	21%	14%	16%

	2007	2008	2009	2010
District				
Picacho Elementary District	16%	11%	17%	12%
Pinal County Special Education Program	No data	No data	No data	No data
Red Rock Elementary District	17%	20%	18%	26%
Stanfield Elementary District	13%	12%	12%	11%
Superior Unified School District	12%	13%	12%	13%
Toltec Elementary District	13%	14%	11%	12%
Arizona	12%	11%	11%	12%

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

Exhibit 47 shows a district-level breakdown of special needs populations by school district, including special education, English-language learners (ELL), and students from homeless and migrant families. In 2011, a total of 4,195 preschool and elementary students in the Pinal Region were enrolled in special education and, of those students, 1,569 were ELL. Consistent with Exhibit 48, districts with the highest number of Special Education students were Casa Grande Elementary District and Florence and Maricopa Unified Districts. In 2011, Casa Grande Elementary District had the largest number of ELL students.

Exhibit 47. Number of Special Needs Students by School District, 2010-2011

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	HOMELESS COUNT	MIGRANT COUNT	SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNT	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) COUNT
Academy Of Excellence, Inc.	2010	39	0	0	2	0
	2011	35	0	0	0	0
Apache Junction Unified District	2010	2,944	38	0	414	143
	2011	2,668	24	0	411	102
Casa Grande Elementary District	2010	6,317	69	9	822	238
	2011	5,973	98	0	830	442
Coolidge Unified District	2010	2,361	1	0	281	43
	2011	2,183	33	0	252	182
Eduprize Schools, LLC	2010	1,513	0	0	109	0
	2011	1,708	0	0	122	0
Eloy Elementary District	2010	916	0	0	90	102
	2011	858	1	7	91	140

SCHOOL DISTRICT	YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	HOMELESS COUNT	MIGRANT COUNT	SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNT	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) COUNT
Excalibur Charter Schools, Inc.	2010	235	21	0	18	13
	2011	234	23	0	23	0
Florence Unified School District	2010	4,865	29	0	676	258
	2011	4,729	30	0	683	165
J O Combs Unified School District	2010	2,932	49	0	396	75
	2011	2,755	54	1	447	68
Leading Edge Academy, City of Maricopa	2010	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2011	91	0	0	14	0
Legacy Traditional Charter School	2010	543	0	0	39	0
	2011	848	0	0	76	8
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	2010	663	0	0	71	24
	2011	560	0	0	78	5
Maricopa Unified School District	2010	3,989	48	0	566	216
	2011	3,576	42	0	541	187
Mary C O'Brien Accommodation District	2010	121	0	0	11	7
	2011	129	0	0	13	9
Oracle Elementary District	2010	444	0	0	71	10
	2011	443	0	0	67	6
Picacho Elementary District	2010	158	0	0	18	16
	2011	186	0	0	39	12
Pinal County Special Education Program	2010	4	0	0	4	0
	2011	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Red Rock Elementary District	2010	264	0	0	67	0
	2011	279	0	0	85	5
Sierra Oaks School, Inc	2010	53	0	0	10	0
	2011	47	0	0	7	0
Stanfield Elementary District	2010	572	78	0	44	139
	2011	539	60	0	65	132
Superior Unified School District	2010	259	0	0	24	5
	2011	253	0	0	27	19
Toltec Elementary District	2010	1,132	0	0	133	72
	2011	1,048	6	0	124	84
Region Total	2010	31,384	333	9	4,077	1,362
	2011	30,226	371	8	4,195	1,569

Note. From Data from the Arizona Department of Education dataset (supplied by First Things First). The Arizona Department of Education uses eligibility for free and reduced lunches as its criterion for economic disadvantage.

Other Relevant Data

The completion of high school is a very important accomplishment in a young person's life. Students who stay in school and challenge themselves academically tend to continue their education, stay out of jail, and earn significantly higher wages later in life. Other research suggests that students who do not graduate have higher rates of unemployment and underemployment (United State Department of Labor, 2003). Given the reality about the importance of graduation, the high school graduation rate in an area should be considered when looking at local needs and assets. High school completion rates allow for a retrospective look at all aspects of early childhood development, ranging from child care and health care services to the education system overall. Students who have the support, resources and care they need to be able to develop and eventually complete high school are then more likely to go on to have long-term positive life outcomes.

The high school graduation rates for the Pinal Region vary widely over time for both within and between school districts (Exhibit 48). The data show no discernible trend in high school graduation rates from 2006 to 2009. In 15 of the 16 school districts graduation rates were higher in 2009 than in 2006, with the exception of Apache Junction Unified District.

Exhibit 48. High School Graduation Rates, 2006-2010

	2006*	2007	2008	2009	2010
Apache Junction Unified District	69%	65%	64%	67%	75%
Casa Grande Union High School District	60%	73%	75%	72%	91%
Coolidge Unified District	51%	64%	50%	67%	57%
Florence Unified District	61%	65%	59%	65%	67%
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District	79%	66%	76%	82%	82%
Mary C O'Brien Accommodation District	19%	19%	23%	33%	28%
Maricopa Unified District	61%	72%	77%	75%	73%
Santa Cruz Valley Union High School District	54%	45%	61%	62%	65%
Superior Unified District	Data unverified	72%	75%	80%	85%

Note. From 2010 Four Year 2009 Four Year Graduation Rate by School and Subgroup; 2008 Four Year Graduation Rate by School and Subgroup; 2007 Four Year Grad Rate by School, Subgroup and Ethnicity; 2006 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup; 2005 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup; 2004 Five Year Grad Rate Data by School, Arizona Department of Education, Accountability Division, Research & Evaluation. *2006 data are sorted by school. This meant for the two districts (Coolidge and Casa Grande) with multiple high schools, rates had to be averaged. A simple average was calculated to arrive at the figure for the table.

I. Early Care Education

There is a need for child care across the United States as a majority of children ages birth to six years of age participate in regular, nonparent child care. In 2007, more than half of children age's three to six who had not entered Kindergarten attended a child care center. For families with mothers who are employed, the need for child care is even higher. In 2010, during the time mothers were at work 48 percent of children ages zero to four were principally cared for by a relative, 24 percent attend a child care center (day care, Head Start, etc.), and 14 percent receive home-based care by a non-relative. Families use many criteria to make decisions about care for their children. Some of the factors that are often important to parents include: cost; proximity to home or work; and recommendations from friends, family or acquaintances. Parents may also personally assess the center or home's environment, interaction between children and staff, and perceived quality of learning environment (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, 2011). Researchers have also suggested that mothers' assessment of quality are highly personalized, and that choosing high quality care may have a positive effect on a mother's level of depressive symptoms (Gordon et al., 2011).

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

Quality and Access

Early care and education programs are crucial to a thriving economy, not only because they allow parents to work, but because the child care sector is large and purchases numerous goods and services. New economic development strategies toward enhancing child care access can improve child care financing and the business infrastructure associated with the child care sector. Additionally, a significant investment in children's well-being in the early years has enormous long-terms payoffs. Students that are parents make up 26 percent of community college students and many have young children; yet research shows that available child care only meets a tiny fraction of the need. Improving child care access is not only about improving access to sources of care and education outside the home, but also increasing a parent's capacity to care for their own children.

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

In Arizona, increased efforts have been undertaken to improve child care quality. The Board of First Things First approved funding in March 2008 for the development and implementation of a statewide quality improvement and rating system called Quality First!. Effective in 2010, Quality First! set the standards of quality child care centers in Arizona. This program identifies measures of quality child care and provides a star rating based on the providers assessed level of quality care (see Exhibit 49 for the list of providers in Pinal Region and Exhibit 50 for the number of providers by community). This system has become a statewide asset that Regions can utilize when addressing child care program quality. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council participates in the Quality First! initiative. The following sections detail current indicators pertaining to child care quality and access, as well as professional development of child care staff, in the Pinal Region.

Exhibit 49. Plot of the Number of Quality First! Child Care Centers in the Pinal Region by Community

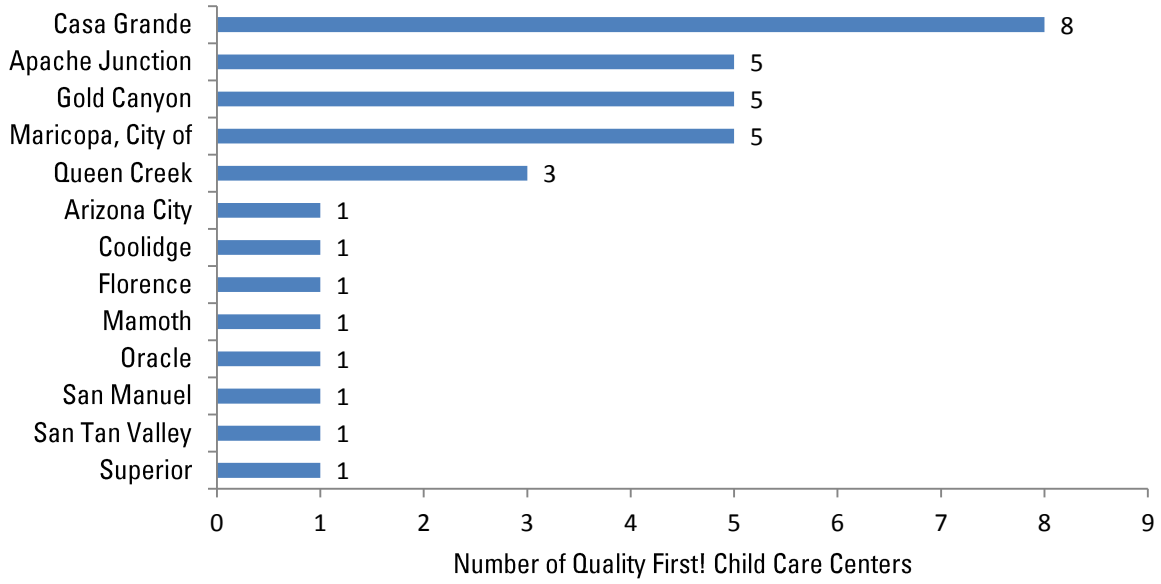


Exhibit 50 shows that there were four nationally accredited early care and education centers in the Pinal Region in 2011. Two of these accredited centers are in Coolidge, one is in Casa Grande and the other is in Apache Junction. This represents five percent of the 79 licensed centers in the Region.

Exhibit 50. Number of Accredited Early Care and Education Centers

	AMI/AMS	ASCI	NAC	NAEYC	NECPA	NAFCC*	NLSA
2011	0	0	0	3	0	0	1

Note: From accreditation lists on the websites of the Association Montessori Internationale [AMI], American Montessori Society (AMS), National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), and National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services' Division of Licensing, in 2011 there were a total of 79 licensed child care providers in the Pinal Region (Exhibit 51). There were a total of 48 licensed child care centers, with a capacity of serving 3,483 children, 21 licensed facilities located in public schools, with a total capacity of 1,819 children. Ten licensed facilities were small group homes with a capacity of 100 children. The Region's licensed centers had a combined capacity to serve 5,402 children. The community with the highest percentage of capacity (28 percent) was Maricopa, followed by Casa Grande (24 percent), and Apache Junction (14 percent).

Exhibit 51. Types of Arizona Department of Health Services Licensed Child Care Facilities by Community, 2011

	CHILD CARE CENTERS	CHILD CARE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	SMALL GROUP HOMES

Community	No. of centers	Capacity	No. of centers	Capacity	No. of centers	Capacity
Apache Junction	7	651	3	99	0	0
Arizona City	2	118	0	0	0	0
Casa Grande	12	1021	2	225	3	30
Coolidge	8	399	1	25	3	30
Eloy	4	189	0	0	1	10
Florence	2	120	0	0	1	10
Gold Canyon	1	62	0	0	0	0
Kearny	0	0	1	59	0	0
Mammoth	1	32	1	49	0	0
Maricopa, City of	5	644	4	843	0	0
Oracle	0	0	1	59	1	10
Queen Creek	0	0	2	184	1	10
San Manuel	1	43	1	84	0	0
San Tan Valley	3	122	3	138	0	0
Stanfield	1	42	1	10	0	0
Superior	1	40	1	44	0	0
Region Total	48	3,483	21	1,819	10	100

Note. From Provider Databases, Child Care Facilities 10/4/2011. Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Division of Licensing Services

The State of Arizona has designated six districts for the purpose of conducting a child care market rate survey that is required by the United State Department of Health and Human Services. Pinal County and Gila County are in District V, as shown in Exhibit 52. The data show that 75 percent of full-time Department Economic Security approved child care centers charged between $33 per day for school age children to $45 per day for children ages zero to two in 2010.

Exhibit 52. Daily Rates Charged by Home-based Centers for Full-time Child Care, 2010

	CHILDREN UNDER 1		1 & 2 YEAR OLDS		3,4 & 5 YEAR OLDS		SCHOOL AGE	
	Dist. V	State	Dist. V	State	Dist. V	State	Dist. V	State
Median	$42.50	$38.75	$37.50	$34.80	$27.50	$30.00	$30.00	$27.00
75%**	$45.00	$46.00	$45.00	$42.00	$40.00	$36.95	$33.00	$34.00

Note. From Child Care Market Rate Survey 2010, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services, Child Care Administration. Full time care is considered six or more hours. Rates for children under 1 were based on data from 17 centers. Rates for 1 and 2 year olds were based on data from 24 centers. Rates for 3, 4, and 5 year olds were based on data from 37 centers. Rates for school age children were based on data from 32 centers. Rates were computed based on the average number of children receiving child care. Weekly rates were computed by the number of days care was provided; hourly rates were multiplied by 8. "State" indicates the statewide average. **75% indicates the rate at which 75% of the market is at or below.

The Child Care Administration Office of the Arizona Department of Economic Security assists eligible families with child care costs. Eligibility is in part income-based. Immediate assistance is available if the child is in Child Protective Services system, the family is receiving Cash Assistance, the family is eligible for transitional child care, and a parent participates in the Arizona DES Jobs Program. In other cases, families are put on a waiting list.

The exhibit below shows that in the 2010 contract year, 1,065 (97 percent) out of the Region's 1,095 eligible families received child care assistance. Of the 1,684 children eligible for such assistance, 1,627 (97 percent) received it. Data from January and July 2011 show a large decrease from the 2010 levels in both numbers of families and children eligible and receiving child care assistance. In January 2011, only 660 families were eligible for child care assistance and 1,014 children. Of those families eligible, 544 (82 percent) received child care assistance. Of those children eligible, 831 (82 percent) received it. In July 2011, the numbers further decreased: 618 families and 931 children were eligible for child care assistance and 549 (89 percent) and 841 (90 percent) respectively, received child care assistance.

Exhibit 53 shows the number of families and children on the waiting list for child care assistance in Pinal County and Arizona. In 2010, 243 families and 331 children were on the waiting list. These numbers dropped in 2011. The same trend can be observed in the State of Arizona as a whole.

Exhibit 53. Number of Families/Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance

	CY 2010		JANUARY 2011		JULY 2011	
	Number of Families Receiving/ Eligible	Number of Children Receiving/ Eligible	Number of Families Receiving/ Eligible	Number of Children Receiving/Eligible	Number of Families Receiving/ Eligible	Number of Children Receiving/Eligible
Pinal County	1,065/1,095	1,627/1,684	544/660	831/1,014	549/618	841/931
Arizona	22,965/23,776	34,178/35,449	11,924/14,708	17,596/21,510	12,656/13,998	18,669/20,664

CY = Contract Year

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

Exhibit 54 shows the number of families and children eligible and receiving child care assistance by zip code. The data roughly mirror Pinal County trends with some variation by zip codes. Exhibit 55 shows the number of families on a waiting list for assistance.

Exhibit 54. Number of Families and Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance in the Pinal Region by Zip Code

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	CY 2010		JAN 2011		JULY 2011	
		RECEIVING/ ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING/ ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE
Apache Junction	85117/217	7/7	8/8	3/6	4/7	8/6*	9/6*
	85119/219	45/49	58/65	23/33	34/46	24/31	32/42
	85120/220	87/95	127/142	44/54	67/86	45/50	71/80
	85178/278	3/3	4/4	2/2	3/3	2/2	3/3
Arizona City	85123/223	51/54	83/90	32/37	51/59	24/24	33/36
Casa Grande	85122/222	258/256*	402/401*	129/145	196/219	126/132	177/179
	85130/230	35/35	57/61	19/21	35/38	15/18	26/30
	85193/293	9/9	17/17	6/7	11/12	8/9	14/16
	85194/294	14/12*	24/20*	7/10	10/16	10/10	17/17
Coolidge	85128/228	57/56*	92/91*	31/39	52/66	37/42	70/72
Eloy	85131/231	41/45	68/75	22/28	33/43	21/28	33/46
Florence	85132/232	37/41	55/68	20/24	29/35	21/24	38/40
Gold Canyon	85118/218	11/12	12/13	6/10	6/15	7/6*	12/11*
Hayden	85135	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Kearny	85137/237	1/2	1/3	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Mammoth	85618	1/2	1/2	1/1	1/1	1/-*	1/-*
Marana	85658	14/14	24/25	6/10	11/18	7/10	11/15
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	72/76	106/107	49/54	69/73	36/49	48/67
	85139/239	41/40*	66/66	16/22	26/38	25/26	42/40*
Oracle	85623	17/19	30/33	7/10	13/14	5/6	8/10
Picacho	85141/241	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	CY 2010		JAN 2011		JULY 2011	
		RECEIVING/ ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING/ ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE	RECEIVING / ELIGIBLE
Queen Creek	85142/242	98/107	154/167	34/54	57/80	56/67	89/103
Red Rock	85145/245	1/1	1/1	-/1	-/1	No Data	No Data
San Manuel	85631	12/12	26/25*	7/6*	17/14*	5/4*	13/12*
San Tan Valley	85140/240	63/67	91/100	31/41	44/61	38/47	56/68
	85143/243	87/95	127/141	44/60	65/92	43/48	59/67
Stanfield	85172/272	5/6	9/10	2/2	3/3	No Data	No Data
Superior	85173/273	16/13*	23/16*	4/5	5/6	4/4	4/4
Tortilla Flat	85190	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Valley Farms	85191/291	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	1/-*	1/-*
Winkelman	85192/292	5/5	8/6*	3/3	3/3	1/1	2/2
Pinal Co.		1,092/1,137	1,678/1,761	550/689	847/1,053	573/648	872/970

CY = Contract Year. *Note.* From Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) dataset (provided by First Things First). *The data supplied shows more families and children receiving child care assistance than were reported as being eligible in certain zip codes during some time points.

Exhibit 55. Number of Families and Children on Child Care Assistance Waiting List, 2010 and 2011

	CY 10		Jan. 2011		Jul. 2011	
	Families	Children	Families	Children	Families	Children
Pinal County	243	331	133	190	146	223
Arizona	5257	6956	3396	4653	3223	4372

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

Professional Development

Professional development and education levels of staff are important elements of child care quality. According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (2008), the most effective teachers are those who have a strong foundation in early childhood education, most often acquired through higher education. Once in the classroom, teachers who have completed higher education courses in child development are more likely than teachers without such higher education to be prepared to apply knowledge of child development, use appropriate teaching strategies, meet the social/emotional demands of young children, understand children's thinking, know how to build student learning over time, and understand language and literacy development. In spite of the importance of each of these elements, findings from the National Pre-Kindergarten Study (2005) show that more than one-fourth of teachers lacked a bachelor's degree and half of those teachers had no more than a high school diploma. Only 24 percent had a master's degree. Assistant teachers had even less education, with 59 percent having no more than a high school diploma. A 2010 report by the Pew Center on the States recommended that all Pre-K teachers have both a bachelor's degree and special training in early childhood education (Bueno, Darling-Hammond & Gonzales, 2010). Additionally, a report from the Brookings-Rockefeller Project suggested that states should create innovative charter colleges to produce a well-trained professional early childhood workforce (Mead & Carey, 2011). The Pew Center on

the States report further suggested that instituting such education requirements would support professionalization of the early childhood workforce, and lead to higher compensation, and thereby, easier recruitment and greater retention. Lacking such professionalization, salaries for early childhood teachers remain low. Bureau of Labor Statistic (2010) data showed that pre-K teachers earned an average of $29,200 and child care workers earned an average of $21,110.

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

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

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

- Professional REWARDS: This program offers stipends to early childhood educators who advance their education or maintain a designated length of continuous employment.
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arizona Scholarships: First Things First offers two Associates scholarships to early childhood systems that enroll in the Quality First! rating and improvement system.
- Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) Service, Support and Incentive Package: In addition to the T.E.A.C.H. scholarships mentioned above, the TQRIS model includes the provision of individualized assets-based coaching.

In addition to the funded approaches above, First Things First's strategic plan includes advocacy for increased wages for the early childhood workforce, and increased systems coordination between community colleges and universities.

The Child Care Professional Training, funded by the Department of Economic Security, is another child care worker professional development program. It provides a 60-hour comprehensive training program to individuals with minimal or no child care experience who seek entry level employment in the child care field. In Pinal County the trainings are delivered by instructors from the Association for Supportive Child Care. Exhibit 56 shows the dates and number of participants in such trainings for the last two years.

Exhibit 56. DES Child Care Professional Training (CCPT) in Pinal County, 2010-2011

	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING HOURS
July 2010	19	60
November 2010	7	60
July 2011	15	60
September 2011	7	60

Note. From Personal communication from Hiroko Flores, DES/CCA, March 21, 2012.

II. Supporting Families

Family Support

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

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

Home visitation programs offer a variety of family-focused services to pregnant women and families with infants and young children. Research demonstrates that well-designed and well-run programs are effective in improving parenting skills and the intellectual development of at-risk young children (American Academy of pediatrics, 2009), as well as reducing child abuse and maternal behavior problems that stem from drug and alcohol use (Zero to Three, 2007). Using home visiting programs as one strategy in the prenatal to pre-Kindergarten continuum can help prevent more long-term costs and promote healthy social and emotional development in later years. These programs offer information, guidance, and support directly to families in their home environments, eliminating many of the scheduling, employment, and transportation barriers that might otherwise prevent families from taking advantage of necessary services. While home visiting programs vary in their goals and content of services, in general, they combine health care, parenting education, child abuse prevention, and early intervention services for infants and

toddlers and, in some cases, older preschool-aged children. Exhibit 57 provides a list of home visiting programs and areas served within the Pinal Region.

Exhibit 57. Home Visiting Programs in the Pinal Region

Program/Agency	Area(s) served
Pinal County Healthy Families	Arizona City, Casa Grande, Coolidge, 11 Mile Corner, Eloy, Hidden Valley, La Palma, Maricopa, Picacho, Randolph, Stanfield, Toltec, Valley Farms
Arizona's Children Association Parents As Teachers	Pinal County
Pinal Gila Community Child Services	Apache Junction. Early intervention program; families with children who are between birth and three years old and have an identified developmental disability or are at-risk for a developmental delay
Early Head Start	Winkelman, Apache Junction

Data from the First Things First *Family and Community Survey (2008)* provide insight into parents' perception of services available in the Region and ways they might better fulfill their needs. Most (92 percent) of the Pinal parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, 39 percent of parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate (Exhibit 58).

Exhibit 58. Satisfaction of Services in the Pinal Region, 2008

		VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
How satisfied are you with the information and resources available to you about children's development and health?	Region	3%	5%	31%	61%
	Arizona	1%	4%	39%	56%
How satisfied are you with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate?	Region	19%	20%	40%	20%
	Arizona	17%	26%	42%	15%

A majority (70 percent or more) of the parents surveyed in the Pinal Region agree or strongly agree that it is easy to locate services they need and feel that services received are of a high quality and culturally appropriate. However, parents appear less satisfied with other aspects of service provision. Specifically, 63 percent of parents said that paperwork required to obtain services was repetitive. In addition, 64 percent agreed or strongly agreed that services were not available at convenient times or location as compared to 45 percent of parents statewide. Half (50 percent) of parents felt that accessible services filled only a portion of their families' needs, with 40 percent noting a lack in preventive services.

Exhibit 59. Specific Perceptions of Services in the Pinal Region, 2008

		Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
It is easy to locate services that I need or want.	Region	2%	17%	35%	46%
	Arizona	5%	13%	38%	45%
I do not know if I am eligible to receive services.	Region	39%	17%	26%	18%
	Arizona	43%	18%	22%	18%
I am asked to fill out paperwork or eligibility forms multiple times.	Region	12%	26%	25%	38%
	Arizona	20%	19%	31%	31%
Available services are very good.	Region	3%	16%	46%	34%
	Arizona	12%	10%	39%	40%
Available services reflect my cultural values.	Region	11%	18%	27%	44%
	Arizona	17%	18%	38%	27%
Service providers do not speak my language or materials are not in my language.	Region	74%	16%	5%	5%
	Arizona	82%	9%	3%	5%
Services are not available at times or locations that are convenient.	Region	20%	17%	38%	26%
	Arizona	32%	23%	28%	17%
Available services fill some of my needs, but do not meet the needs of my whole family.	Region	35%	15%	32%	18%
	Arizona	44%	18%	24%	14%
I cannot find services to prevent problems; I only qualify after problems are severe.	Region	41%	21%	19%	20%
	Arizona	44%	24%	15%	17%

Note. From First Things First (2008). *Complete by Region Family and Community Survey (Unpublished Data).*

An important factor that influences parents' access to services for children less than five years of age is their level of knowledge regarding child development. A higher percentage of parents surveyed correctly answered 15 out of 22 questions concerning child development compared to statewide results. However, the relatively low level of some county level scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed to educate parents about child development in the Pinal Region.

Exhibit 60. Parents Understanding of Early Childhood in the Pinal Region Compared to the State, 2008

When do you think a parent can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development?	Percent correctly responding: *Prenatal/From Birth*	
	In Region 87%	In Arizona 78%
At what age do you think an infant or young child begins to really take in and react to the world around them?	Percent correctly responding: *Up to one month*	
	In Region 51%	In Arizona 51%
Which do you agree with more? First year has a little impact on school performance. First year has a major impact on school performance.	Percent correctly responding: *First year has a major impact on school performance*	
	In Region 87%	In Arizona 79%
At what age do you think a baby or young child can begin to sense whether or not his parent is depressed or angry, and can be affected by his parent's mood?	Percent correctly responding: *Up to two months*	
	In Region 69%	In Arizona 57%
Children's capacity for learning is pretty much set from birth and cannot be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)	Percent correctly responding: *Definitely false*	
	In Region 74%	In Arizona 78%
In terms of learning about language, children get an equal benefit from hearing someone talk on TV versus hearing a person in the same room talking to them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)	Percent correctly responding: *Definitely false*	
	In Region 60%	In Arizona 53%
Parents' emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence that child's intellectual development.	Percent correctly responding: *Definitely true*	
	In Region 90 %	In Arizona 89%
For a five-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?	Percent correctly responding: *Playing is crucial*	
	In Region 99%	In Arizona 90%
For a three-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?	Percent correctly responding: *Playing is crucial*	
	In Region 95%	In Arizona 92%
For a 10-month-old, how important do you	Percent correctly responding:	

think playing is for that child's healthy development?	*Playing is crucial*	
	In Region 83%	In Arizona 79%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child wants to get her parents' attention?	Percent correctly responding: *Not at all likely*	
	In Region 12%	In Arizona 14%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child enjoys learning about what happens when buttons are pressed?	Percent correctly responding: *Very likely*	
	In Region 84%	In Arizona 78%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child is angry at her parents for some reason or she is trying to get back at them?	Percent correctly responding: *Not at all likely*	
	In Region 69%	In Arizona 76%
In this case of turning the TV on and off, would you say that the child is misbehaving, or not?	Percent correctly responding: *Not misbehaving*	
	In Region 89%	In Arizona 92%
Should a 15-month-old baby be expected to share her toys with other children?	Percent correctly responding: *No, too young to share*	
	In Region 52%	In Arizona 60%
Should a 3-year-old child be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so?	Percent correctly responding: *A three-year-old should not be expected*	
	In Region 76%	In Arizona 74%
Can a six-month-old be spoiled? Or is he too young?	Percent correctly responding: *A six-month-old is too young to spoil*	
	In Region 52%	In Arizona 36%
Picking up a three-month-old every time she cries?	Percent correctly responding: *Appropriate*	
	In Region 76%	In Arizona 62%
Rocking a one-year-old to sleep every night because the child will protest if this is not done?	Percent correctly responding: *Appropriate*	
	In Region 33%	In Arizona 30%
Letting a two-year-old get down from the dinner table before the rest of the family has finished their meal?	Percent correctly responding: *Appropriate*	
	In Region	In Arizona

	60%	58%
Letting a five-year-old choose what to wear to school every day?	Percent correctly responding: *Appropriate*	
	In Region 79%	In Arizona 77%

Note. From First Things First (2008). *Complete by Region Family and Community Survey (Unpublished Data).*

Child Abuse/Neglect

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

The number of child abuse reports in Pinal County ranged from 983 to 1,169 for the six month period between October 2007 and March 2011. The percentage of substantiated reports ranged from three point five percent to five point seven percent (Exhibit 62). As a comparison, it should be noted that the substantiation rate for Arizona was eight percent for October 2010 through March 2011. While the percentage of substantiated reports in Pinal County has fluctuated, the data demonstrate a general downward trend between October 2007 and March 2011.

The number of new removals from the home in Pinal County ranged from 34 to 115 for each six month period, with the highest number of removals occurring between October 2009 and March 2011. This data could possibly indicate that greater action has been taken in recent years to address issues of child abuse, especially given the downward trend in the substantiation rate. However, deeper investigation of this issue would be needed to arrive at more definitive conclusions.

It is worth noting that a child abuse report is neither an indicator of risk nor does it lead to a child's removal from their home. Moreover, lack of substantiation is often due to a lack of resources in the child welfare system. The state's fiscal crisis has led to a statewide decrease in the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) staff, resulting in average caseloads of approximately 67 percent above state and national standards. At the same time, the most recent state data show that CPS has a turnover rate of 26 percent for case managers and ten percent for supervisors (Reinhart, 2012). It is likely that constraints within CPS have impacted Pinal County.

Exhibit 61. Pinal County Child Abuse Reports, Substantiations, Removals, and Placements, 2007-2011

	Oct. 2007 through Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008 through Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008 through Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 through Sept. 2009	Oct. 2009 through Mar. 2010	Apr. 2010 through Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011 Through Mar. 2011
Number of reports received*	1,004	983	1,017	1,002	1,102	1,169	1,120
Number of reports substantiated	68	86	71	51	46	64	54
Substantiation rate**	5.6%	5.7%	5.2%	4.1%	3.5%	4.3%	4.0%
Number of new removals	88	74	34	86	92	115	100

Note. From Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Welfare Reports, Apr. 1, 2008 – Sept. 30, 2008; Oct. 2008 – Mar. 2009; Apr. 2009 – Sept. 2009; Oct. 1, 2009-Mar. 31, 2010; Apr. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011; Oct. 1 2011-Mar. 31, 2011. - Tables 2,3,15, 16, 21, and 22. Retrieved on Oct. 31, 2011 from https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx. The latest available data are reported for each period. Each Child Welfare Report includes data for that period and data for the period preceding it. In some cases, data from the earlier period have been revised. In those cases, revised data are provided in this table. *"Reports received" includes data for reports characterized by the risk level *high*, *moderate*, *low*, and *potential*.** Substantiation rates are computed based on the total number child abuse cases assigned for investigation whose risks levels were assessed as low, medium, or high risk. It excluded reports reported labeled in the Child Welfare Reports as "potential."

Foster Care

The number of children in foster care in the United States has been steadily decreasing over the last seven years from 510,699 in 2005 to 408,425 in 2010. Over that same time period, the number of foster care children in Arizona has varied from a low of 9,099 in 2007 to a high of 9,930 in 2010 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011). Children are placed in foster care settings for a variety of reasons and few are reunified with their parents. One study found that on average, the duration of care was 48.6 months, suggesting that many youth in foster care (approximately seven out of every ten) will age out of the welfare system before they can be reunited with their biological families or adopted (Cheng, 2010). Youth who age out of foster care are at an increased risk for a range of poor outcomes related to employment, education, housing, criminal activity, physical and mental health, substance abuse, and child bearing (Stott & Gustavsson, 2010). Many of these risk factors hold true even for youth who are adopted or for whom permanent environments are established.

The stated policy of the Arizona Department of Economic Security is to avoid children's repeat entry into foster care, while ensuring the best interests of children and their families. Between October 2010 and March 2011, nine point eight percent of children removed from households in Pinal County had another instance of removal in the prior 12 months, up from eight percent between October 2009 and March 2010. The Pinal County figure is slightly higher than Arizona's rate of nine point two percent.

The percentage of Pinal County children entering foster care who were removed on another occasion in the prior 24 months for the same period was three point seven percent. This is less than the Pinal County figure from October 2009 to March 2010 as well as the state average (four point three percent) (Exhibit 62).

Exhibit 62. Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care by Prior Placements, Oct. 1, 2009 – Mar. 31, 2010 and Oct. 1, 2010 – Mar. 31, 2011

	Number of Children Removed		Number of Children with Prior Removal in Last 12 Months		Percent of Children with Prior Removal in Last 12 months		Number of Children with a Removal in Prior 12 to 24 Months		Percent of Children with a Prior Removal in 12 to 24 months	
	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010- Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010- Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010- Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010- Mar. 2011	Oct. 2009 - Mar. 2010	Oct. 2010- Mar. 2011
Pinal County	212	214	17	21	8.0%	9.8%	13	8	6.1%	3.7%
Arizona	3,936	3,978	384	367	9.8%	9.2%	130	171	3.3%	4.3%

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

Juvenile Justice

When children enter the juvenile justice system it is often the culmination of a history of psychological and academic problems. A youth's entry, exit, and continued involvement in the juvenile justice system are influenced by a range of individual, social, and environmental factors. For example, race/ethnicity, gender, history of mental health, substance abuse, trauma, delinquency, family conflict, poverty, prior social service involvement, and geographic location may impact a youth's likelihood involvement in juvenile justice. (Maschi, Hatcher, Schwalbe & Rosato, 2008). Thus, the number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development programs and services in a region. Nationwide, the number of children age's seven to 12 referred to juvenile courts increased by 33 percent in the 1990s. Research has shown that children who become delinquents at an early age are "two to three times more likely to become serious, violent, and chronic offenders than adolescents whose delinquent behavior begins in their teens" (Loeber, Farrington & Petechuk, 2003). Involvement in the juvenile justice system is of ongoing concern as, on average, over half of juvenile delinquents go on to become adult offenders. (Eggleston & Laub, 2002).

The number of juvenile cases filed in Pinal County Superior Court in 2009 and 2010 is reported in Exhibit 64. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 1,851 juveniles in Pinal County were referred to the Arizona Court System in 2010.

This is a 13 percent decrease in referrals from 2009. Of the 2010 youths: 800 (43 percent) were detained; 588 (32 percent) were diverted to community service or other non-judicial alternatives;

957 (52 percent) petitions were filed requesting the court assume jurisdiction; 575 (31 percent) received standard probation; and 38 (2 percent) resulted in commitment to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Exhibit 63. Juveniles Process in the Arizona Court System (Pinal County), Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010

	Referred	Detained	Diverted	Petition Filed	Dismissed	Penalty Only	Standard Probation	JIPS	Committed to ADJC
2009	2,127	766	663	1,070	448	42	429	137	31
2010	1,851	800	588	957	472	36	575	115	38

Note. From Arizona State, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division, Research and Information Unit, *Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, FY 2009; FY2010 Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System. Retrieved on Oct. 31, 2011 from (http://www.azcourts.gov/jjsd/PublicationsReports.aspx*. Data are reported for juveniles ages 8 through 17. Cases for juveniles below age 8 are handled through Child Protective Services or other agencies. *Referred* indicates juveniles for whom a report was submitted to the juvenile court alleging the youth committed a delinquent act or incorrigible behavior. *Diverted* denotes a process by which a juvenile is able to avoid formal court processing and to have the referral alleging an offense adjusted if the juvenile fulfills one or more conditions. *Petitions Filed* refers to legal documents filed in the juvenile court alleging that a referred youth is delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent and which requests the courts to assume jurisdiction over the youth. *Dismissed* denotes the number of youth with petitions against them that were dismissed. The dismissal of a petition may occur because of a lack of evidence, extension of unfulfilled diversion conditions, disposition of other charges, etc. *JIPS* = Juvenile Intensive Probation.

III. Health

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

While the last 50 years have seen declines in child mortality, rates of acute illness, and pediatric hospitalizations, there appears to be an increase in chronic illness (Wise, 2007). The percentage of American children ages two-19 who are obese has almost tripled over the last three decades and approximately one in six children and adolescents between the ages of two and 19 are obese (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.). Recent analysis of data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey found that the percentage of children age's two to five who are obese increased from five percent in 1976-1980 to 10.4 percent in 2007-2008 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2010). Furthermore, childhood obesity rates vary greatly based on demographic factors such as ethnicity and socioeconomic status. In 2007-2008, the obesity rate for Mexican American adolescent boys (26.8 percent) far exceeded the rate for white adolescent boys (16.7 percent) (National Center for Health Statistics, 2010). The obesity rate for low-income preschool-aged children (17 percent) is far above the 200-2008 figure (10.4 percent) for all children age's two to five. If current trends continue, it is estimated that by 2030, 16-18 percent of all health care expenditures in the U.S. will be attributable to overweight/obesity (Wang, Beydoun, Liang, Caballero & Kumanyika, 2008).

Another study found a high prevalence of obesity and other chronic conditions in three nationally representative cohorts of children, which was gradually increasing in each cohort. (Van Cleave, Gortmaker & Perrin, 2010).

Experts have suggested that initiating strategies to prevent the onset of chronic diseases in childhood can help limit the onset of chronic diseases in adulthood (Halfon & Newacheck, 2010). The Committee on Obesity Prevention Policies for Young Children of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (2011) has determined goals and action steps to prevent obesity in young children. Goals include: assessing and monitor growth during early childhood; using social marketing to provide high quality information and strategies for the prevention; increasing the amount of physical activity engaged in by young children; and creating indoor and outdoor environments that promote physical activity.

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

With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. The expansion of public insurance programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) has played an important role in expanding health care access to children. The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) found that the rate of uninsured children decreased from 14 percent in 1997 to 7 percent in the first quarter of 2011. Over that same period, the percentage of children covered by public insurance dramatically increased from 20-40 percent, while usage of private coverage fell. Children from lower socioeconomic strata of society particularly benefit from public insurance programs. The early 2011 NHIS survey reported that 84 percent of poor children and 61 percent of near poor children were covered by such program (Cohen & Martinez, 2011).

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

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

of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Act through the end of the 2015 (Voices for America's Children, n.d.).

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

Health Insurance Coverage and Utilization

Exhibit 65 shows the figures for enrollment of children in the state's KidsCare program. County-wide enrollment decreased by 77 percent from 2008 to 2012 and statewide enrollment decreased by 81 percent. This significant decrease in the number of children enrolled in KidsCare is the statewide freeze on program enrollment as of January 1, 2010. Since this date, only renewing applications have been accepted and eligible families have been placed on a waiting list. Although county level wait list data are not available, as of Feb. 15, 2012 there were 136,843 eligible children on the statewide waiting list. There has also been a drop in the number of renewals due to the current economic situation. Some families have been unable to pay the monthly premiums for KidsCare, resulting in their children being dropped from the program. AHCCCS data show that 1,805 children were discontinued from KidsCare and Child Medicaid because their parents or guardians failed to pay required premiums (AHCCCS, n.d.). In the Ak-Chin Indian Tribal Community, 16 percent of the population was enrolled in AHCCCS and less than one percent of children were enrolled in KidsCare in 2010 (Exhibit 65).

Exhibit 64. KidsCare Enrollment, 2008-2012

	FEBRUARY 2008	FEBRUARY 2009	FEBRUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2011	FEBRUARY 2012	PERCENT CHANGE (2008 TO 2012)
Pinal County	1,871	1,883	1,513	817	432	-77%
Arizona	63,580	59,574	42,162	22,153	12,147	-81%

Note. From KidsCare Enrollment, Arizona State, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Retrieved June 2, 2010, March 11, 2012 from http://www. azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/KidsCare.aspx

Exhibit 65. Ak-Chin Insurance Coverage, 2010

	AK-CHIN
AHCCCS Enrollees	16%
KidsCare Enrollees	<1%

Medicare Beneficiaries	No data

Note. From Ak-Chin Indian Community Primary Care Area 2010, Bureau of Health Systems Development, ADHS. *Percent's do not total 100% because "Hispanic" is considered an ethnic group. Racial groups total to 100%.

Monthly data from February 2011 to February 2012 show a steady decrease in KidsCare enrollment in Pinal County over the period. In February 2011, 871 children were enrolled in KidsCare and by February 2012, this number had fallen by about half to 432 children (Exhibit 66).

Exhibit 66. KidsCare Enrollment, February 2011 – January 2012

	PINAL COUNTY	ARIZONA		PINAL COUNTY	ARIZONA
Feb. 2011	871	22,153	Sept. 2011	587	15,734
Mar. 2011	760	21,053	Oct. 2011	551	14,953
Apr. 2011	734	20,198	Nov. 2011	526	14,225
May 2011	694	19,170	Dec. 2011	499	13,531
June 2011	672	18,466	Jan 2012	463	12,837
July 2011	651	17,642	Feb. 2012	432	12,147
Aug. 2011	617	16,649			

Note. From Kids Care Enrollment, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

Public Health Clinics

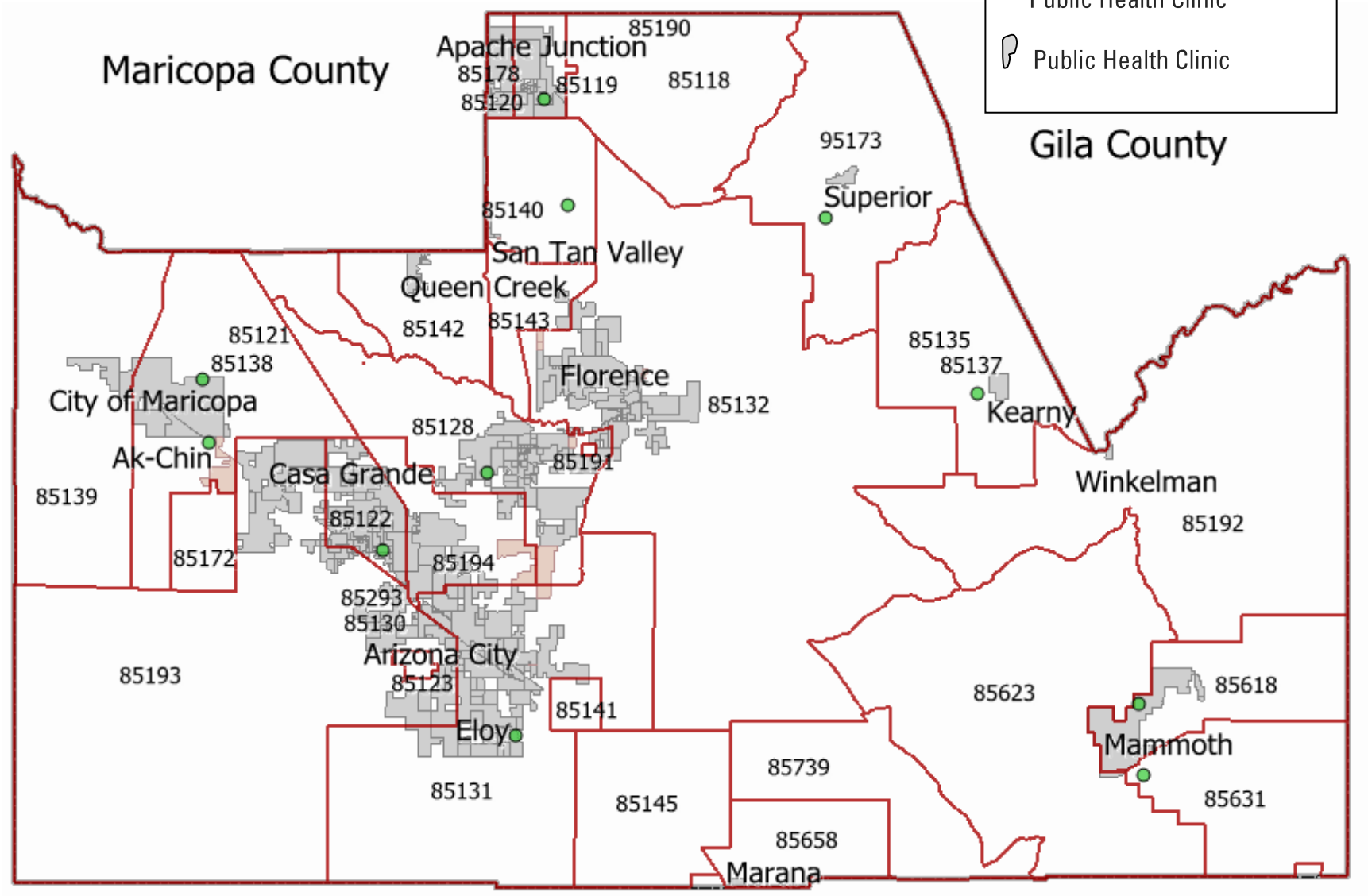
As of January, 2012, the Pinal region operated twelve public health clinics (Exhibit 68) that are designed to be permanent locations for public health services. Services available at these facilities include:

- Childhood Immunizations (no charge for children 18 and under)
- Well Woman Health Checks
- Cervical Cancer screenings
- Breast Cancer screenings
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
- Reproductive health services (non-surgical)
- Administration of the WIC Program (Women, Infant & Children nutrition education for eligible families)
- Flu shots

Exhibit 67. Pinal Public Health Clinic Locations and Services

Community	Location	Services
Ak-Chin Village	48203 W Farrell Rd	Mon-Fri
Apache Junction	575 N Idaho Rd	Wed-Sat (WIC & Nursing)
Casa Grande	820 E Cottonwood Ln	Mon-Sat (WIC & Nursing)
Coolidge	119 W Central	Thurs-Fri (WIC & Nursing)
Eloy	302 E 5th St	Tues-Wed (WIC & Nursing)
Mammoth	110 S Main St	Thurs-Sat (WIC on Sat Only)
Oracle	1870 W American Ave	2nd, 3rd, & 4th Fridays (WIC Only) 4th Wed (Nursing Only)
Kearny	355 Alden Rd	1st & 3rd Wed (WIC & Nursing) 2nd & 4th Wed (WIC Only)
Superior	60 E Main St	2nd &4thThursday (WIC Only) 2nd Wed (Nursing Only)
San Tan Valley	36375 N Gantzel Rd	Mon-Thurs (WIC & Nursing)
Maricopa	41600 W Smith-Enke Rd Bldg 15	Tues-Fri (WIC & Nursing)
San Manuel	23 S McNab Parkway	1st & 3rd Thursday (WIC Only)

Exhibit 68. Pinal Public Health Clinics



Healthy Births

A women's utilization of pre and perinatal care have important short and long-term implications for child health. It is recommended that a woman have monthly medical visits throughout her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2010 show that Pinal County fared better than the state in the number of prenatal visits by pregnant women. Exhibit 69 shows that in Pinal County, the percentage of women who had at least nine prenatal visits increased from 75 percent in 2006 to 85 percent in 2010. This data suggests that the majority of pregnant women visited their doctor at least once a month, on average, during their pregnancy.

Low birth weight babies are at risk for serious health problems as newborns that may affect their health throughout their lives. Information regarding the prevalence of low birth weight babies for Pinal County is presented in Exhibit 72. Low birth weight is defined as a baby that is less than five point eight pounds at birth. The data show that the percentage of low birth weight babies born in Pinal County have been slightly lower or consistent with the state ratio, ranging from six point three to seven point one percent In addition, Exhibit 71 shows that there were 299 newborns in Pinal County admitted into intensive care units in 2010. Of admitted babies, 183 (61 percent) were pre-term and 142 (47 percent) had a low birth weight.

Exhibit 69. Births by Number of Prenatal Visits, 2006 -2010

	NUMBER OF VISITS	% OF MOTHERS 2006	% OF MOTHERS 2007	% OF MOTHERS 2008	% OF MOTHERS 2009	% OF MOTHERS 2010
Pinal County	No visits	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	1-4 visits	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	5-8 visits	18%	20%	15%	12%	10%
	9-12 visits	48%	45%	52%	60%	60%
	13+ visits	27%	29%	29%	25%	25%
Arizona	No visits	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	1-4 visits	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%
	5-8 visits	17%	17%	17%	16%	14%
	9-12 visits	49%	47%	48%	49%	49%
	13+ visits	28%	30%	30%	30%	32%

Note. From 2006-2008 *Table 5B-12 – Births by Number of Prenatal Visits and County of Residence;* Health Status and Vital Statistics site, Arizona Department of Health Services. Retrieved on April 21, 2010; *Births By Number Of Prenatal Visits And County Of Residence, Arizona, 2010.* 2010 data from a 3/5/12 personal communications from Clare Torres, Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services prior to publication. Percent's do not total to 100% because of rounding.

Exhibit 70. Low Birth Weight Rates, 2006-2008

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pinal County	6.7%	7.1%	6.3%	7.0%	6.6%
Arizona	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
United States	8.3%	8.2%	8.2%	NA	NA

Note. From Table 5B-*17 Low Birthweight Birth Ratios In The United States And In Urban And Rural Counties Of Arizona, 2000-2010,* Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services. *Low birth weight* is defined as less than 5.8 pounds at birth. Data are per 1,000 live births. NA = not available.

Exhibit 71. Newborns Admitted to Intensive Care Units, 2010

	TOTAL	PRETERM	<2,500 GRAMS
Pinal County	299	183	142
Arizona	5,354	3,106	2,524

Note. From Table 5b-24 Newborns Admitted To Newborn Intensive Care Units By Gestational Age, Birthweight And Mother's County Of Residence, Arizona, Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services. Less than 2,500 grams is considered low birth weight.

Exhibit 72 shows statistics on characteristics of newborns and activities of expectant mothers for Pinal County and statewide in 2010. Figures for Pinal County are fairly consistent with statewide data. Overall, a quarter to a third of 100 births had complications with labor and/or delivery, medical risk factors, and circumstances that resulted in a caesarean birth. Regarding risk related behaviors of women during pregnancy, while less than one percent of expectant women used alcohol during pregnancy, six percent used tobacco.

Exhibit 72. Statistics on Newborns and Expectant Mothers, 2010

	PINAL COUNTY	ARIZONA
Preterm Births (gestational age <37 weeks)	10%	10%
Births with complications of labor and/or delivery	24%	29%
Births with abnormal conditions reported	9%	8%
Births with medical risk factors reported	32%	35%
Primary and repeat caesarean births	29%	28%
Infants admitted to newborn intensive care units	6%	6%
Tobacco used during pregnancy	6%	6%
Alcohol use during pregnancy	0.3%	0.5%

Note. From Table 5b-30 - Rates of Occurrence for Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers Giving Birth by County of Residence, Arizona, 2010, Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services. Rate is per 100 births. Less than 2,500 grams is considered low birth weight. Arizona data does not include one pre-term and two full-term births for which weight data is not known.

Exhibit 73 presents the characteristics of newborns and prenatal care accessed by expectant mothers across communities in Pinal County. Between three percent and 33 percent of births across Pinal communities were to teen mothers and an average of 58 percent of women was not married. Regarding prenatal care, between 59 percent and 100 percent of women in Pinal communities received care during their first trimester and, for the majority of areas, between zero percent and four percent did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy. While the majority of communities did not have low birth weight newborns in 2010, between five percent and 33 percent of births in other communities were low birth weight babies. For the majority of communities, between 25 percent and 75 percent of births were paid for by public funds. Exhibit 76 presents selected data available for the Ak-Chin Indian community.

Exhibit 73. Selected Birth Statistics by Community, 2010

COMMUNITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS	MOTHER <19 YRS	UNWED MOTHER	PRENATAL CARE IN 1ST TRIMESTER	NO PRENATAL CARE RECEIVED	LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT NEWBORN	PUBLIC PAYEE FOR BIRTH
Apache Junction	451	12%	54%	84%	1%	10%	64%
Arizona City	166	15%	55%	76%	3%	6%	60%
Casa Grande	871	16%	55%	80%	4%	5%	60%
Catalina	1	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Coolidge	253	17%	53%	84%	1%	9%	64%
Dudleyville	3	33%	100%	67%	0%	0%	100%
Eloy	182	22%	64%	70%	3%	8%	80%
Florence	205	6%	34%	86%	1%	7%	39%
Gold Canyon	43	9%	30%	86%	2%	7%	40%
Kearny	18	11%	61%	89%	0%	17%	67%
Mammoth	24	21%	54%	67%	4%	8%	79%
Marana	2	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	50%
Maricopa	856	7%	30%	93%	2%	7%	31%
Oracle	32	19%	63%	59%	3%	9%	66%
Picacho	7	0%	43%	29%	14%	14%	86%
Queen Creek	789	5%	26%	92%	0%	6%	37%
Queen Valley	2	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	50%
Red Rock	47	9%	17%	79%	0%	6%	28%
San Manuel	30	13%	47%	73%	0%	7%	67%
San Tan Valley	718	3%	16%	95%	0%	5%	26%
Stanfield	42	17%	69%	71%	2%	7%	79%
Superior	22	23%	73%	68%	0%	0%	77%
Toltec	5	0%	60%	80%	0%	0%	100%
Valley Farms	3	33%	100%	100%	0%	33%	100%
Winkelman	1	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
County Total	4,820	10%	39%	87%	2%	7%	47%
Arizona	87,053	11%	45%	82%	2%	7%	55%

Note. From Selected Characteristics Of Newborns And Mothers By Community, Arizona, 2010, Health Status and Vital Statistics, Arizona Department of Health Services.

Exhibit 74. Ak-Chin Birth Characteristics, 2010

Birth Rate/1000 residents	16.3
No prenatal care	5%

Note. From -Chin Indian Community Primary Care Area 2010, Bureau of Health Systems Development, ADHS.

In 2010, there were 162 births in Pinal County to mothers under the age of 17 and 96 percent were unmarried (Exhibit 75). Private insurance paid for 23 of these births, two were self-paid, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) or Indian health Services (IHS) paid for the remainder of these births.

Exhibit 75. Teen Births by Marital Status and Payee for Birth, 2010

	MARITAL STATUS		PAYEE FOR BIRTH			
	Married	Unmarried	AHCCCS	IHS	Private Insurance	Self
< 15 years	0	6	4	0	2	0
15-17 years	9	147	124	6	21	2
18-19 years	40	309	299	4	38	8

Note. From Table T23 – Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Women Giving Birth, Pinal County, Arizona, 2010, Arizona, 2010 from Arizona State, Department of Health Services Vital Statistics. The payees for three Pinal County 15-17 year-olds' births are unknown.

Immunizations

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

Important indicators of child health are the percentage of children ages 15-59 months who are immunized and the percentage immunized by the time they enter Kindergarten (Exhibit 76). For children ages 19-59 months, 95 percent or more received all the immunizations shown in Exhibit 78, with the exception of only 73 percent receiving Hepatitis B. Between 94 percent and 96

percent of children entering kindergarten in Pinal County received most vaccinations; however only 75 percent received Varicella and only 21 percent received Varicella or HX.

Exhibit 76. Child Immunization Data, 2010-2011 School Year

		NUMBER ENROLLED	4+ DTAP	3+ POLIO	2+ MMR	2 HEP A	3+ HEP B	2 VARICELLA	1 VARICELLA OR HX
Children 19-59 Months of Age in Child Care	Pinal County	2,308	97%	98%	98%	95%	73%	97%	98%
	Arizona	76,659	95%	97%	96%	94%	82%	96%	96%
Children in Kindergarten	Pinal County	4,272	94%	94%	94%	---	96%	75%	21%
	Arizona	83,348	96%	96%	95%	---	97%	81%	16%

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services, *Arizona Kindergarten Immunization Coverage Levels 2010-2011 School Year,* Retrieved on Oct. 28, 2011 from http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/act_aipo.htm#assessment. Of the children 19-59 months of age in child care, 2.5% in Pinal County and 4.0% statewide had a personal or medical exemption from vaccinations. Of the children in Kindergarten, 3.8% in Pinal County and 3.5% statewide had a personal or medical exemption from vaccinations.

Additional 2010 data on rates of children that completed various vaccine series were available by zip code from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (Exhibit 77). Data for children ages 12-24 months old who received the 3:2:2:2 vaccination series show a variation in completion rates, ranging from 53-100 percent across zip codes. In a majority of zip codes, between 60-80 percent of children ages 12-24 months received a complete series of vaccines.

Exhibit 77. Children Ages 12-24 Months Receiving 3222 Vaccination Series in 2010 by Zip Code

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING VACCINES	COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 3	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 2
Apache Junction	85117/217	8	7 (88%)	7	7	7	8
	85119/219	187	133 (71%)	139	154	156	160
	85120/220	255	166 (65%)	170	200	200	210
	85178/278	3	3 (100%)	3	3	3	3
Arizona City	85123/223	146	117 (80%)	118	128	128	132
Casa Grande	85122/222	726	541 (75%)	551	621	619	644
	85130/230	26	23 (88%)	23	25	25	26
	85193/293	10	9 (90%)	9	10	10	10
	85194/294	31	24 (77%)	24	25	25	27
Coolidge	85128/228	167	130 (78%)	130	143	143	152
Eloy	85131/231	148	118 (80%)	118	128	129	134
Florence	85132/232	156	100 (64%)	101	120	119	135
Gold Canyon	85118/218	62	42 (68%)	43	50	51	53
Kearny	85137/237	30	19 (63%)	21	23	26	27
Mammoth	85618	31	25 (81%)	25	26	27	30

LOCALITY	ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING VACCINES	COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 3	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 2	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 2
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	463	346 (75%)	354	379	384	396
	85139/239	320	236 (74%)	245	267	269	277
Oracle	85623	30	24 (80%)	24	27	28	29
Picacho	85141/241	5	3 (60%)	3	4	4	4
Queen Creek	85142/242	576	375 (65%)	389	445	458	471
Red Rock	85145/245	36	25 (69%)	27	29	31	33
San Manuel	85631	41	32 (78%)	33	37	38	37
San Tan Valley	85140/240	472	320 (68%)	337	389	391	403
	85143/243	430	286 (67%)	295	336	343	359
Stanfield	85172/272	39	29 (74%)	31	32	32	33
Superior	85173/273	36	25 (69%)	25	30	30	31
Valley Farms	85191/291	3	2 (67%)	2	2	2	2
Winkelman	85192/292	15	8 (53%)	8	10	12	11
Region Total		9024	6421 (71%)	6597	7393	7469	7776

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

Data for children ages 19-35 months old who received the 4:3:1:3:3:1 vaccination series show a large variation in completion, ranging from 11-65 percent. In a majority of zip codes, about 50 percent of children ages 19-35 months received a complete series of vaccines (Exhibit 78).

Exhibit 78. Children Ages 19-35 Months Receiving 431331 Vaccination Series in 2010 by Zip Code

LOCAILTY	ZIP CODE	N (%) COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 4	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 3	RECEIVED MMR VACCINES	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED VAR VACCINES
Apache Junction	85117/217	5 (50%)	7	8	9	9	8	7
	85119/219	128 (46%)	153	211	214	218	211	213
	85120/220	186 (46%)	223	282	286	286	282	291
	85178/278	2 (29%)	3	5	6	7	5	6
Arizona City	85123/223	115 (59%)	129	160	159	158	160	158
Casa Grande	85122/222	607 (56%)	673	848	852	837	882	832
	85130/230	25 (64%)	30	35	33	32	34	33
	85193/293	14 (61%)	15	17	19	18	20	18
	85194/294	14 (48%)	19	25	23	24	24	22
Coolidge	85128/228	169 (60%)	176	228	220	227	230	219
Eloy	85131/231	171 (63%)	185	218	216	217	226	214
Florence	85132/232	121 (45%)	141	187	186	192	193	187
Gold	85118/218	38 (43%)	40	55	57	59	59	56

LOCAILTY	ZIP CODE	N (%) COMPLETED VACCINE SERIES	RECEIVED DTAP VACCINES 4	RECEIVED IPV VACCINES 3	RECEIVED MMR VACCINES	RECEIVED HIB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED HEPB VACCINES 3	RECEIVED VAR VACCINES
Canyon								
Kearny	85137/237	21 (47%)	25	32	33	33	36	24
Mammoth	85618	23 (64%)	24	28	28	27	27	28
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	279 (44%)	354	432	484	462	461	452
	85139/239	247 (45%)	291	374	391	389	383	389
Oracle	85623	25 (53%)	30	34	41	35	37	39
Picacho	85141/241	1 (11%)	1	2	3	4	5	3
Queen Creek	85142/242	367 (41%)	455	563	634	613	571	616
Red Rock	85145/245	28 (56%)	32	39	43	42	37	44
San Manuel	85631	30 (59%)	31	33	47	39	38	45
San Tan Valley	85140/240	309 (46%)	382	467	529	517	477	513
	85143/243	281 (40%)	350	449	491	483	463	479
Stanfield	85172/272	32 (63%)	37	46	47	43	44	45
Superior	85173/273	19 (40%)	24	37	36	38	41	26
Valley Farms	85191/291	1 (33%)	1	2	2	2	2	2
Winkelman	85192/292	13 (65%)	13	14	17	17	14	17
Region Total		3282 (48%)	3855	4847	5122	5042	4987	4994

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

Developmental Screening

Developmental screening is another family health practice essential for ensuring children grow and develop optimally. The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children receive a developmental screening at nine, 18, and 30 (or 24) months with a valid and reliable screening instrument. Research has documented that early identification through developmental screening can lead to enhanced developmental outcomes and reduced developmental problems for children who have special needs. Providing children at risk for developmental delays with the supports and services they need early in life leads to better health and educational outcomes into adulthood. There are several elements of developmental screening that are reported by the Arizona Department of Health Services. These include Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), evaluation/assessment, and in-home or out-of-home services or programs. Arizona Early Intervention Program (DES/AzEIP) is the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is Arizona's statewide, interagency system of supports and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Exhibit 79 summarizes the degree to which AzEIP met its goals with regard to serving families with young children in need of Part C early intervention services. Of primary concern, is the lag between the time when a family is referred to early intervention services and when an IFSP is developed, which informs service coordination and initiates services. Part C Early Intervention mandates a lag of no longer than 45 days from when a family consents to receive services and an IFSP is developed. District V, which includes Pinal County, reported that 82 percent of families received the required services within 45 days, compared to 72 percent statewide.

Exhibit 79. Performance Indicators for Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) District 5* 2008-2009**

	DISTRICT V. ACTUAL	ARIZONA ACTUAL	ARIZONA TARGET
Percent of children with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children	84%	76%	90%
Percent of infants and toddlers who received evaluation/ assessment and IFSP within 45 days of referral	82%	72%	100%
Percent of families rating early intervention services as helpful in learning about child's needs	93%	97%	91%
Percent of families rating early intervention services as helpful to knowing their rights	100%	95%	91%
Percent of families rating early intervention services having helped family effectively communicate child's needs	93%	95%	91%

Note. From Public Report of Early Intervention Services Programs, 2010, Arizona Department of Economic Security. *District 5 consists of Pinal and Gila County. **The reporting periods for these indicators was July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009.

Zip code-level data were available regarding children referred to and receiving AzEIP services from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (See Exhibit 80). Three communities in the Pinal Region had greater than 50 referrals for AzEIP services: Casa Grande (n=138), Queen Creek (n=192), and City of Maricopa (n=117). Of the three communities, the City of Maricopa achieved the highest proportion of service provision to those families, at 84 percent, followed by Queen Creek at 67 percent, and Casa Grande at 46 percent. The number of cases serviced is worthy of further analysis to determine whether the differences by zip code is due to population size, developmental services' locations, changes in the level of need, or another factor.

Exhibit 80. Children Referred to and Receiving Services for AzEIP July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, by Zip Code

LOCALITY	ZIP	REFERRED FOR AZEIP SERVICES	RECEIVING AZEIP SERVICES
Apache Junction	85117/217	< 25	< 25
	85119/219	35	< 25
	85120/220	38	25
Arizona City	85123/223	< 25	< 25
Casa Grande	85122/222	138	64
	85130/230	< 25	< 25
	85193/293	< 25	< 25
	85194/294	< 25	< 25
Coolidge	85128	41	< 25
Eloy	85131/231	33	< 25
Florence	85132/232	38	< 25
Gold Canyon	85118/218	< 25	< 25
Kearny	85137/237	< 25	< 25
Mammoth	85618	< 25	< 25
Maricopa, City of	85138/238	64	57
	85139/239	53	42
Oracle	85623	< 25	< 25
Picacho	85141/241	< 25	< 25
Queen Creek	85142/242	33	30
Red Rock	85145/245	< 25	< 25
San Manuel	85631	< 25	< 25
Stanfield	85172/272	< 25	< 25
Superior	85173/273	< 25	< 25
San Tan Valley	85140/240	90	64
	85143/243	102	65
Winkelman	85192/292	< 25	< 25

LOCALITY	ZIP	REFERRED FOR AZEIP SERVICES	RECEIVING AZEIP SERVICES
Total		742	

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

Injuries

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

The number of Pinal youth under 19 years of age with inpatient discharges for injury and/or poisoning as a first-listed diagnosis increased from 175 in 2006 to 411 in 2009 (Exhibit 81). In each year and for both age groups, males had a higher number of discharges for injury and/or poisoning, sometimes by a large margin. This data suggest that public health campaigns addressing injury and poisoning prevention should target families with boys under the age of 15 years.

Exhibit 81. Number of Child Inpatient Discharges for Injury and/or Poisoning as First-Listed Diagnosis, 2006-2009

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	<15 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	<15 yrs	15-19 yrs	<15 yrs	15-19 yrs	<15 yrs	15-19 yrs
Females	46	35	39	34	39	23	104	51
Males	58	36	74	75	55	51	150	106
Total	104	71	113	109	94	74	254	157

Note. From Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, Table 1, *Characteristics of ER visits and inpatient discharges with the diagnosis of Injury and poisoning, 2006-2010* Retrieved March 26, 2012 from http://azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/injury/index.htm.

Child Mortality and Morbidity

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

Infant mortality is defined as the death of an infant at any time from birth up to, but not including, the first year of life. Two distinct periods make up the infant mortality timeframe: neonatal (from birth through 27 days) and post-neonatal (28 days to <one). A majority of infant deaths occur in the neonatal period. The leading causes of infant death from 2004-2010 in the Pinal region are displayed in Exhibit 82. Two causes stand out for their size and consistency over time from 2004 to

2010: congenital malformations and conditions originating in the perinatal period. The perinatal period commences at 20 completed weeks (140 days) of gestation and ends 28 days after birth. It is possible that some of these conditions may be addressed by the expansion of programs targeting perinatal mothers and their newborns.

Exhibit 82. Infant Mortality Cases 2004-2010 by Cause of Death

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Conditions in the Perinatal Period	6	11	14	19	19	16	8
Congenital Malformations	8	6	7	9	9	9	4
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	0	4	2	1	1	3	2
Accident	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
Influenza and Pneumonia	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Infections and Parasitic Diseases	no data	no data	no data	no data	0	1	3
Diseases of the Digestive System	no data	3	1	1	0	0	0
Diseases of the Nervous system	no data	0	0	2	0	2	0
Assault (homicide)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total*	20	30	29	39	33	39	20

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, Table 5E-20, *Leading Causes of Infant Death by County of Residence, Arizona,* 2004-2006; Table T29, *Leading Causes of Infant Death by County of Residence 2007-2010.* *ADHS data for *Total* includes deaths from causes not reported on by category. *Infections and Parasitic Diseases* was not a category for 2004-2007. 2004 data also do not include *Diseases of the Digestive System* or *Diseases of the Nervous System.*

Exhibit 83 displays the leading causes of death among children who resided in Pinal County, ages one-14 from 2004 to 2010. The most consistent cause of deaths among children over the five reported years was motor vehicle accidents. Two Pinal County children died of a motor vehicle accident each year, except for 2008 when only one child died in a motor vehicle accident.

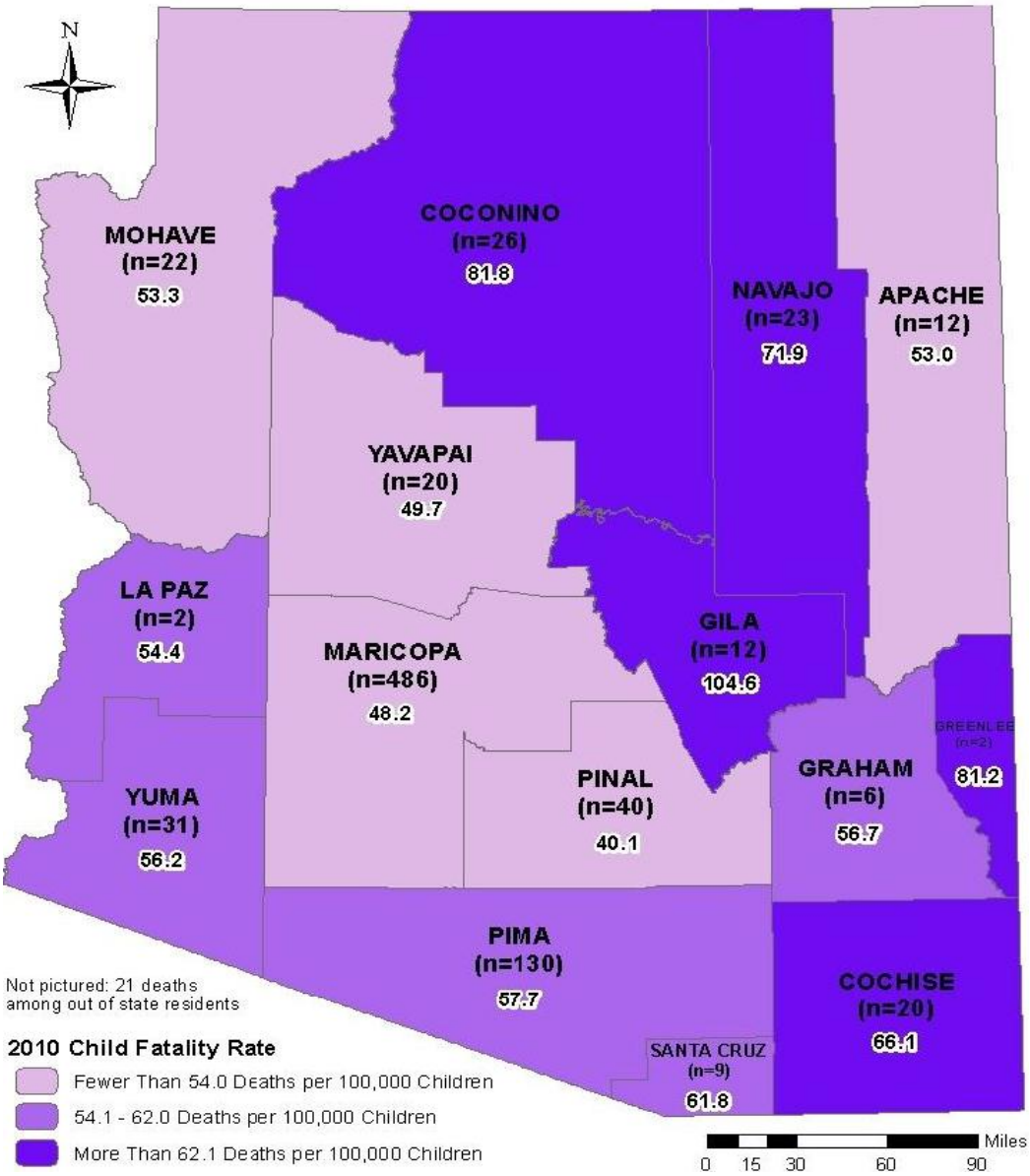
Exhibit 83. Leading Causes of Death among Children Ages 1-14, 2004-2010

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Motor Vehicle Accident	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Accidental Drowning and Submersion	1	1	2	2	3	2	1
Other Unintentional Injury	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasms	0	3	0	2	3	0	3
Assault (homicide)	2	1	1	3	0	1	2
Congenital Malformation	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Intentional Self-harm (suicide)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Septicemia	0	0	0	no data	1	0	0
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diseases of the Heart	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Influenza and Pneumonia	0	0	2	no data	0	0	0
Asthma	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cerebrovascular Diseases	no data	0	1	no data	1	no data	no data
Pinal County Total*	6	16	21	17	13	7	12

Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, Table 5E-25, *Leading Causes of Death Among Children (1-14 years) by County of Residence, Arizona,* 2004-2010. Retrieved on Nov. 7, 2011 from http://www.azdhs. gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2005/5e.htm; http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2006/5e.htm; http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2007/5e.htm; http://www.azdhs.gov/ plan/ report/ ahs/ahs2008/5e.htm; http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2009/5e.htm; Advance vital statistics by county of residence, Section 3 - Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, Arizona, 2010, *Table 31 Children (1-14) by county of residence*. Retrieved on Nov. 7, 2011 from http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/avs/avs10/section%203.htm. *ADHS data for *Total* includes deaths from causes not reported on by category. *Influenza and Pneumonia* and *Septicemia* were not categories in Table 5E-25 in 2007 and *Cerebrovascular diseases* was not a category in 2004, 2007, 2009 or 2010.

Across the state of Arizona, Pinal County had the lowest stable rate of child fatalities, with 40.1 deaths per 100,000 residents. Exhibit 84 shows child fatality rates per 100,000 by county (Arizona Department of Health Services, 2011).

Exhibit 84. Child Fatality Rates per 100,000 Children by Arizona County, 2010



Note. From Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Child Fatality Review Program Eighteenth Annual Report, November, 2011. Retrieved March 22, 2012 from http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/pdf/reports/Eighteenth-Annual-CFR-Report_Nov2011.pdf.

Other Relevant Data

In 2010, 148 children under 15 years of age received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in a Pinal hospital. Fourteen youth ages 15 to 19 received such a discharge (Exhibit 85). Hospital admittance for asthma may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. The data suggests that public health efforts might usefully target families with children under 15 years of age who suffer from asthma. The large difference between the numbers of female and male children discharged with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis is also worthy of further investigation.

Exhibit 85. Number of Inpatient Discharges with Asthma as First-listed Diagnosis, 2010

		CHILDREN 0-15 YEARS OLD	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 YEARS OLD
Pinal County	Female	46	10
	Male	102	4

Note. From Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, Table 1 *Number of inpatient discharges with asthma as first-listed diagnosis by age group, gender, race/ethnicity and county of residence, Arizona.* Retrieved March 26, 2012 from http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm.

IV. Public Awareness and Collaboration

Any successful initiative aimed at effectively impacting early childhood development must be designed and implemented in an environment that includes both public awareness and collaboration. A high level of public awareness helps to ensure that families in need of assistance are able to locate and utilize available services and that they recognize the importance early childhood development. Collaboration is important in any context where multiple services are provided to a target population from different sources. The BUILD Initiative is a national organization that has recognized both the power and necessity for collaboration in early childhood systems development (BUILD Initiative, n.d.). The following section examines the extent to which the First Things First Pinal Regional Partnership Council has enhanced public awareness of early childhood issues and fostered systems coordination as well as strategies for improvement.

Public Awareness of Early Childhood Issues

First Things First Pinal Regional Partnership Council identified "limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health" as a regional priority to be addressed in its Strategic Plan for SFY 2013-2015. This section reviews survey data from the FTF 2008 Family and Community Survey as well as FTF Pinal strategies and progress on public awareness of early childhood issues.

The 2008 FTF Family and Community Survey assessed parents' understanding of early childhood development through a series of questions. A higher percentage of parents in the Pinal Region correctly answered 15 out of 22 questions concerning child development compared to parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed to educate parents about child development. Satisfaction with the information and resources available to parents about their children's development and health is high as 96 percent of parents in the Pinal Region indicated that they were "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied."

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council made progress in SFY 2010-2012 in the area of public awareness. For example, starting in October of 2010, the Council utilized a Community Outreach Consultant who distributed important information about First Things First, child development, parenting and literacy. The Regional Council identified great improvement in the ability of families to get the information they need as a result of this effort.

First Things First Pinal Region is committed to continuing to improve public awareness of early childhood issues as evidenced in funding allocations to three strategies for SFY 2013-2015: Community Outreach, a Community Awareness Campaign, and a Media Campaign. Community Outreach will involve: presentations to local organizations and community events; organizing and conducting early childhood-focused community meetings; gathering and sharing stories related to impact of FTF strategies and programs; and recruiting and retaining champions for early childhood education and health. The Regional Council will target K-12 teachers/administrators, parents, community/business leaders/government officials, and women's organizations for community outreach. Both the Community Awareness and Media Campaigns will communicate the importance of early childhood development to the broader public through: posters, children's books, book markers, regional brochures, standup banners, pens, pencils, palm cards, and regional brochures, as well as print media, broadcast, community presentations, billboards, and First Things First cinema announcements.

System Coordination

The First Things First, Pinal Regional Partnership Council has also identified the need to increase collaboration and coordination among service providers and reduce both fragmentation and duplication of services. This section reviews data from the 2008 First Things First Family and Community Survey and strategies and progress examined in the SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan.

Services Provided

The Pinal Region provides services to children zero through five and their families in three areas: Early Learning, Family Support and Health. Among these services are early intervention services, early care and education, home visitation, parent education, and family literacy.

Awareness of Services

On the 2008 Family and Community Survey 40 percent of parents strongly agreed that they could easily locate services needed, indicating that 60 percent found some level of difficulty in locating services. The Pinal Regional Council has noted a great deal of improvement in awareness of services through the use of Family Support Networks that assist families with referrals to service providers. The SFY 2013-2015 Funding Plan notes enhanced collaboration between Parenting Education Providers, Home Visiting Providers, Child Care Providers, Health Care Providers, and parents and children as a result of the Family Support Networks and a more comprehensive system of early childhood development and health services with reduced service duplication.

Coordination and Cohesiveness of Early Childhood Resources

On the 2008 Family and Community Survey 44 percent of parents said they were somewhat satisfied and 14 percent were very satisfied with how service providers work together and communicate. The results suggest room for improvement in the area of system coordination and cohesiveness of services.

Service fragmentation was addressed in SFY 2010-2012 by enlisting a Pinal Regional Program Coordination Specialist and the development of three coalitions for the three goal areas of the Council—Health, Family Support, and Early Care and Education. The SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan indicates that with the help of the specialist and the successful establishment of the three coalitions, the Council achieved their desired outcomes regarding coordination in the region.

Three Community Forums were held in 2011 (comprised of council members, members of the public, and regional grantees) to help identify and prioritize regional needs and strategies that will inform the SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan. The SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan identified Service Coordination as one of its strategies. In order to encourage coordination, the Council will foster cross-system collaboration efforts among local, state, federal, and tribal organizations by continuing to utilize the three coalition groups and monitor their progress in implementing individualized strategic plans to improve coordination efforts.

Importance of System Coordination and Communication in the region

Given the scope of the Council's efforts to address the needs of children ages zero to five and their families and the multitude of service providers involved in that process, systems coordination and communication is critical. The Pinal Regional Council has addressed this need by holding grantee orientations and quarterly meetings for information and resource sharing. Other communication strategies identified in the SFY 2010-2012 Regional Funding Plan, include: distribution of FTF leave-behinds and branded collateral materials, media, sponsorships, parent education and awareness, grantee recognition, and participation in community events.

Summary and Conclusions

This report is the third biennial assessment of the health, welfare, and educational needs and assets of the youngest community members served by the Pinal Regional Partnership Council, along with their families, educators, caregivers, and family support providers. The vast amount of data collected for this report have been collated and presented to: a) provide an expansive look at the current state of the Region's children and their myriad supports, b) examine trends in key indicators and needs of specific sub-populations, and c) recommend strategies to improve child health and developmental outcomes in the Pinal Region.

Eighty-nine percent of Pinal Region families who were eligible for Child Care Assistance were receiving assistance as of July, 2011. The number of families on the Child Care Assistance waiting list dropped from 243 families in 2010 to 146 families as of July 2011.Over 30 providers are currently enrolled in Quality First, but no providers have yet attained a rating. 48 child care staff have completed a combined 240 hours of child care professional training. Seventeen percent of families in the Region with children under the age of five years are living below the Federal Poverty Level, up from 10.5 percent from 2006–2008.

Children under five years of age represent about eight percent of the Region's population and licensed child care facilities have the capacity to accommodate approximately 19 percent of these children. Regional data such as a decreasing unemployment rate may result in an increased demand for quality and affordable child care as parents re-enter the work force. Fifty-eight percent of grandparents in the Pinal Region report having primary care-giving responsibilities for one or more of their grandchildren.

Pinal Regional Partnership Council Strategies:

- Award 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.
- Provide multiple Quality First! supports to centers and homes in order to expand the number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who have access to high quality care and education.
- Provide Family, Friends, and Neighbors supports to family, friend, and neighbor caregivers to enhance the quality of early care and education in unregulated settings.

The number of families in the region receiving developmental disability services has risen steadily from just over 200 families in 2007 to over 350 families in 2010. Sixty-two percent of children referred for Arizona Early Intervention Program services ultimately went on to receive services.

Pinal Regional Partnership Council Strategy:

- Developmental and sensory screening provides children with developmental, oral, vision, and hearing screening and referrals for follow-up services increases children's access to preventive health care and helps to identify developmental disabilities early.

From 2006 to 2010, the educational level of mothers in Pinal County has mostly followed a positive trend. The percentage of mothers with 1-4 years of college has increased from 38 percent in 2006 to 49 percent in 2010. Moreover, the number of mothers with no high school diploma has decreased from 30 percent in 2006 to 18 percent in 2010. Further, teen births have declined steadily from 2004 where they accounted for 16 percent of births to ten percent in 2010. Across the State of Arizona, Pinal County had the lowest and most stable rate of child fatalities, with 40.1 deaths per 100,000 residents. For children ages 19-59 months, the immunization rates in Pinal County are above those of the state except for the 3+ HepB immunizations. Pinal County's kindergarten immunization rates are slightly below state averages. Region-wide, 71 percent of children ages 12-24 months and 47 percent of children ages 19-35 months received the appropriate vaccinations 2010.

Pinal Regional Partnership Council Strategy:

- Provide Quality First! supports to centers and homes including consultants specializing in health practices.
- Provide Home visitation services with focuses on educating parents on early health and development.

Monthly data from February 2011 to February 2012 show there was an almost steady month-by-month decrease in KidsCare enrollment in Pinal County over the period. In February 2011, 871 children were enrolled in KidsCare and by February 2012, this number had fallen by about half to 432 children. This may be a leading indicator of the need for enhanced efforts targeting family and children's health care needs in the region.

Pinal Regional Partnership Council Strategy:

- The First Things First Child Care Health Consultation strategy provides qualified health professionals who assist child care providers in achieving high standards related to health and safety for the children in their care, aimed at improving the health and safety of children in a variety of child care settings.

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Appendix B: Data Collection Methodology

The methodology used to prepare the Pinal Regional Needs and Assets is described in this section.

The focus of this report is the compilation and meaningful analysis of data collected across multiple sources, with particular emphasis on the region's organizations, agencies and programs, and the services available to the citizens of the region.

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

State sources included in the report:

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

Federal sources included in the report:

United States Census Bureau
United States Department of Health and Human Services
United States Department of Labor
United States Department of Environmental Quality

Appendix C: Table of Needs, Assets and Strategies

In March, 2012 the Pinal Regional Partnership Council published the Pinal Family Resource Guide and has made this publication available on its website, http://www.azftf.gov/RPCCouncilPublicationsCenter/Pinal_Family_Resource_Guide.pdf, as well as to agencies and programs in the Pinal region who have contact with families and children. This resource guide is a comprehensive list of organizations that provide services to children, their families and referral agencies throughout Pinal County.

REGIONAL NEEDS	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
Seventeen percent of families in the region with children under the age of five years-old are living below poverty level, up from 10.5% from 2006 – 2008.	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.
Fifty-eight percent of grandparents in the Pinal region report having primary care-giving responsibilities for one or more of their grandchildren.	Family, Friends, and Neighbors supports family, friend, and neighbor caregivers to enhance the quality of early care and education in unregulated settings.
Licensed child care facilities in the region have the capacity to accommodate approximately 19% of the region's children under age five. Regional economic indicators such as the unemployment rate in the region continuing to show improvement, though average new-hire wages remain stagnant, may be leading indicators of increasing demand for child care as greater numbers of parents re-enter the work force at lower wages.	Quality First! support to centers and homes will expand the number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who have access to high quality care and education.
The number of families in the region receiving developmental disability services has risen steadily from just over 200 families in 2007 to over 350 families in 2010.	Developmental and sensory screening provides children with developmental, oral, vision, and hearing screening and referrals for follow-up services increases children's access to preventive health care and helps to identify developmental disabilities early.
Pinal County's kindergarten immunization rates are slightly below state averages. Region-wide, 71% of children ages 12-24 months received the appropriate vaccinations 2010. Region-wide, 47% of children ages 19-35 months received the appropriate vaccination series in 2010. In 2010, within the Ak-Chin community, 5%	Quality First! supports to centers and homes include consultants specializing in health practices. Home visitation services with focuses on educating parents on early health and development. Targeted education and outreach efforts to increase the percentage of expectant mothers who are receiving adequate prenatal care.

of expectant mothers received no prenatal care.

Need for enhanced efforts targeting family and children's health care needs in the Region.	Child Care Health Consultation provides qualified health professionals who assist child care providers to improve the health and safety of children in child care settings. Physician Education & Outreach provides consultation in order to provide preventive health care for young children including necessary developmental screenings and referrals. This strategy is aimed at ensuring that young children are receiving the required preventive health care from a consistent medical provider, including more consistent developmental screenings and referrals.

Appendix D. AIMS 3rd Grade Score Achievement Levels* in Mathematics by School District, 2009-2011

	MATHEMATICS					
	YEAR	FFB	A	M	E	M or E
Apache Junction District	2009	8%	17%	52%	24%	76%
	2010	9%	20%	41%	30%	71%
	2011	9%	27%	39%	25%	64%
Casa Grande District	2009	8%	21%	52%	19%	71%
	2010	13%	24%	42%	20%	62%
	2011	13%	26%	42%	19%	61%
Coolidge Unified District	2009	15%	24%	52%	10%	62%
	2010	24%	34%	33%	9%	42%
	2011	24%	37%	33%	6%	39%
Eloy Elementary District	2009	19%	35%	46%	1%	47%
	2010	17%	45%	35%	2%	37%
	2011	16%	41%	37%	5%	42%
Florence Unified District	2009	14%	26%	51%	10%	61%
	2010	16%	34%	39%	11%	50%
	2011	19%	25%	42%	14%	56%
J.O. Combs Unified District	2009	7%	17%	57%	19%	76%
	2010	8%	25%	48%	19%	67%
	2011	11%	22%	47%	20%	67%
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District*	2009	4%	17%	65%	15%	80%
	2010	3%	20%	55%	23%	78%
	2011	13%	9%	60%	20%	80%
Maricopa Unified District	2009	12%	21%	54%	12%	66%
	2010	13%	25%	42%	20%	62%
	2011	9%	27%	49%	16%	65%
Mary C. O'Brian Accommodation District	2009	0%	6%	69%	25%	94%
	2010	0%	60%	35%	5%	40%
	2011	7%	60%	27%	7%	34%
Oracle Elementary District	2009	12%	29%	47%	12%	59%
	2010	9%	30%	46%	16%	62%
	2011	21%	30%	36%	13%	49%
Picacho Elementary District	2009	0%	26%	61%	13%	74%
	2010	22%	48%	30%	0%	30%

	MATHEMATICS					
	YEAR	FFB	A	M	E	M or E
	2011	43%	21%	21%	14%	35%
Red Rock Elementary District*	2009	10%	21%	59%	10%	69%
	2010	11%	34%	40%	14%	54%
	2011	5%	19%	38%	38%	76%
Stanfield Elementary District*	2009	28%	31%	33%	8%	41%
	2010	17%	26%	49%	8%	57%
	2011	17%	28%	47%	8%	55%
Superior Unified District	2009	6%	27%	55%	12%	67%
	2010	6%	24%	53%	18%	71%
	2011	17%	21%	34%	28%	62%
Toltec Elementary District	2009	10%	18%	50%	22%	72%
	2010	5%	25%	48%	21%	69%
	2011	17%	27%	39%	18%	57%
Pinal County	2009	11%	22%	52%	15%	67%
	2010	12%	27%	42%	18%	60%
	2011	12%	25%	42%	21%	63%
Arizona	2009	9%	9%	18%	52%	70%
	2010	11%	25%	43%	22%	65%
	2011	10%	22%	43%	24%	67%

FFB = Falls Far Below; A = Approached; M = Met; and E = Exceeded. M or E = cumulative passing scores
Note. From AIMS Assessment Results, 2011 AIMS Results, Arizona Department of Education, Research and Evaluation.
*Indicates the percentage of students that took the AIMS test in a district was too low to allow for reporting while still maintaining confidentiality.

AIMS 3rd Grade Score Achievement Levels* in Reading and Writing by School District, 2009-2011

	READING						WRITING			
	YEAR	FFB	A	M	E	M or E	FFB	A	M	E
Apache Junction District	2009	7%	17%	59%	17%	76%	5%	15%	75%	6%
	2010	5%	19%	58%	18%	76%	*	*	*	*
	2011	7%	19%	60%	13%	73%	*	*	*	*
Casa Grande District	2009	5%	28%	58%	10%	68%	10%	27%	63%	1%
	2010	5%	25%	61%	9%	70%	*	*	*	*
	2011	8%	23%	62%	8%	70%	*	*	*	*
Coolidge Unified District	2009	7%	30%	56%	7%	63%	8%	19%	70%	3%
	2010	12%	32%	52%	5%	57%	*	*	*	*
	2011	10%	38%	48%	4%	52%	*	*	*	*
Eloy Elementary District	2009	7%	49%	43%	1%	44%	12%	37%	51%	0%
	2010	7%	40%	49%	3%	52%	*	*	*	*
	2011	11%	34%	53%	3%	56%	*	*	*	*
Florence Unified District	2009	8%	27%	57%	8%	65%	5%	25%	68%	2%
	2010	7%	24%	61%	7%	68%	*	*	*	*
	2011	10%	23%	62%	6%	68%	*	*	*	*
J.O. Combs Unified District	2009	5%	19%	66%	9%	75%	3%	22%	73%	2%
	2010	5%	20%	61%	13%	74%	*	*	*	*
	2011	7%	19%	60%	13%	73%	*	*	*	*
Mammoth-San Manuel Unified District*	2009	2%	17%	71%	7%	78%	1%	17%	78%	4%
	2010	1%	12%	76%	11%	87%	*	*	*	*
	2011	8%	12%	62%	20%	82%	*	*	*	*
Maricopa Unified District	2009	8%	27%	58%	7%	65%	5%	17%	73%	4%
	2010	5%	24%	59%	12%	71%	*	*	*	*
	2011	5%	25%	57%	13%	70%	*	*	*	*
Mary C. O'Brian Accommodation District	2009	0%	19%	50%	31%	81%	6%	0%	75%	19%
	2010	0%	20%	80%	0%	80%	*	*	*	*
	2011	0%	7%	93%	0%	93%	*	*	*	*
Oracle Elementary District	2009	10%	29%	57%	4%	61%	16%	32%	52%	0%
	2010	5%	18%	68%	9%	77%	*	*	*	*
	2011	9%	36%	50%	5%	55%	*	*	*	*
Picacho Elementary District	2009	4%	17%	74%	4%	78%	0%	30%	70%	0%
	2010	4%	43%	48%	4%	52%	*	*	*	*
	2011	14%	50%	29%	7%	36%	*	*	*	*
Red Rock Elementary	2009	3%	23%	69%	5%	74%	0%	36%	64%	0%
	2010	6%	34%	49%	11%	60%	*	*	*	*

		READING					WRITING			
District*	2011	0%	14%	81%	5%	86%	*	*	*	*
Stanfield Elementary District*	2009	21%	42%	33%	4%	37%	11%	38%	48%	3%
	2010	13%	32%	54%	1%	55%	*	*	*	*
	2011	5%	39%	52%	4%	56%	*	*	*	*
Superior Unified District	2009	9%	21%	70%	0%	70%	13%	16%	72%	0%
	2010	3%	15%	74%	9%	83%	*	*	*	*
	2011	10%	24%	48%	17%	65%	*	*	*	*
Toltec Elementary District	2009	6%	31%	54%	10%	64%	8%	22%	69%	1%
	2010	4%	27%	64%	4%	68%	*	*	*	*
	2011	14%	27%	55%	4%	59%	*	*	*	*
PINAL ALL	2009	7%	26%	58%	9%	67%	6%	22%	69%	3%
	2010	6%	24%	60%	11%	71%	*	*	*	*
	2011	7%	22%	61%	11%	72%	*	*	*	*
STATEWIDE	2009	6%	22%	58%	14%	72%	4%	17%	73%	6%
	2010	6%	21%	60%	13%	73%	0%	44%	56%	0%
	2011	5%	19%	62%	13%	75%	0%	100%	0%	0%

Note. From AIMS Assessment Results, 2011 AIMS Results, Arizona Department of Education, Research and Evaluation FFB (Falls Far Below) and A (Approaches) both represent a failing score. M (Meets) and E (Exceeds) both indicate a passing score. *Indicates the percentage of students that took the AIMS test in a district was too low to allow for reporting while still maintaining confidentiality.