

Needs and Assets Report 2010

Gila Regional Partnership Council

First Things First
Applied Survey Research



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September 16, 2010

Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Gila 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 emergency food boxes, and emergency child care scholarships.

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

Going forward, the First Things First Gila 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 children throughout the State of Arizona.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Yale, Chair
Gila Regional Partnership Council

Gila County Regional Partnership Council Members

Mrs. Suzanne Yale, Chair, At Large

Mr. Alexis Rivera, Vice-Chair, Business

Dr. Diane Bricker, Member, Educator

Mrs. Belinda Guerra, Member, Tribal Rep.

Ms. Paula Horn, Member, Health Service Provider

Mrs. Sharri Moody, Member, Faith Based

Mrs. Carol Moore, Member, School Administrator

Ms. Audrey Opitz, Member, Philanthropy

Mrs. Ann Tolman, Member, Child Care Provider

Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments

First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council

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

This Regional Needs and Assets Report for the Gila Region provides a clear statistical analysis, which helps with the understanding the needs, gaps, and assets for young children, and points to ways in which children and families can be supported.

The First Things First Gila 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 Gila Region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Regional Council's decisions and funding allocations, while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

Acknowledgments:

The First Things First Gila Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the Tonto Apache Tribe, community 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 Gila 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 Gila Region. The continued work and dedication of the Regional Partnership Council 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.

The Gila Regional Partnership Council would also like to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, the Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for their contribution of data for this report.

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Methodology

Primary Data

Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First conducted a survey of community members and parents (or related, non-paid caregivers) of children ages birth through five in 2008. The survey assessed respondents' views of coordination among service providers, the quality and accessibility of family support programs, and their understanding of early childhood development and parenting. A randomly-selected, geographically-balanced sample of 5,193 Arizona adults (18 and older) was surveyed. The sample included 3,690 parents/caregivers of children ages birth through five and 1,503 members of the general population who did not have children under six. This randomized sample was drawn to ensure the generalizability of results to the adult Arizona population. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATIs) were conducted during August and September, 2008. The respondents were selected randomly from sample lists, and random predictive dialing was also used to supplement the purchased lists. This strategy helped to ensure that residents who were not yet listed in a directory (or who chose not to be listed) were still eligible for selection. To include "cell phone only" households, the contractor manually dialed randomly-generated cell phone numbers (based on known cell phone exchanges). Cell phone contacts were given the option of completing their interview using their calling plan minutes or scheduling a call-back (on a land line or such a time when cell phone calling plan minutes were "free"). The average length of a parent interview was 21 minutes; and the average general population interview lasted 7 minutes. Interviewers and respondents remained blind to the survey sponsor. For the Gila Region, there were 104 surveys completed from 84 parents and 20 members of the general population. The survey sample may not be representative of the region as a whole especially those families living poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk.

Secondary Data

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

Most data were collected for Gila County, which is generally representative of the First Things First Gila Region. Whether county-level data include data for the San Carlos Apache and Tonto Apache Tribes was often unknown. Whenever possible, San Carlos Apache data were removed. While all efforts were made to identify data for the population ages birth through five in the Gila Region, data were not always available at this level. In these cases, data were collected for other age ranges (such as ages birth through four or under 18 years). Data were also collected for multiple years when available to present trends. Data in the report reflect the most recent data available.

Data Legend

 Denotes *No New Data Available*

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

Executive Summary

Introduction

This Needs and Assets Report helps to build a better future for all children, from birth through five years old. With this document, we have the research necessary to make educated and appropriate decisions, which are in the best interests of the children and their families of our region.

The First Things First Gila 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.

First Things First is committed to providing the best support needed in early childhood development and health throughout our region.

Demographic Overview

The Gila Regional Partnership Council serves communities located in Gila County excluding the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which has its own First Things First regional planning council. There were an estimated 2,949 children ages birth through five in the Gila Region in 2008. The total population for Gila County in 2009 was estimated to be 52,199. According to the 2006-2008 estimates, 41% of children ages birth through four identified as “White alone not Hispanic,” 27% were “Hispanic,” and 29% identified as “American Indian or Alaska Native Alone.” The majority of the population 5 and over (82%) in Gila County spoke only English at home, while 10% spoke Spanish and 7% spoke a Native North American language. In Gila County in 2000, 450 (5%) children ages 5 to 17 lived in linguistically isolated households, which is a household in which all members 14 years and older have at least some difficulty with English.

Many children are living in poverty. In 2007, one in five children in Gila County ages birth through four lived below the federal poverty level.

There are high rates of unemployment. In 2009, the unemployment rate in Gila County was 10%. The rate in the state of Arizona was nearly 9%.

Many families are relying on support services. Between 2007 and 2010, the number of Gila County families with children ages birth through five receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as Food Stamps, increased by 42%. Between 57% and 93% of students in Gila County School Districts were eligible for free or reduced-cost school meals in 2010.

Many children are meeting the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) in third grade. During the 2010 school year more than half of students in all school districts were meeting or exceeding reading and math standards. In the Pine-Strawberry School District, the number of students meeting or exceeding AIMS reading standards increased from 67% to 92% from 2008 to 2010.

Early Childhood System

Parent understanding of child development is high. Respondents to the 2008 First Things First Survey in the region had higher levels of understanding compared to the state regarding children's development in several categories: cognitive (e.g. language acquisition), social, and emotional development.

Women are not receiving the recommended amount of prenatal care. Sixty-one percent of women in Gila County received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, much lower than the 80% receiving this care statewide. Nearly one-third (30%) of women did not receive the recommended number of prenatal visits (nine or more visits). However, the percentage of women who did not receive any prenatal care in Gila County was less than 1%.

Many mothers are experiencing difficulties with pregnancy and delivery. Of the 704 births in Gila County in 2009, 11% were preterm and 8% experienced low-birth weights. Thirty-six percent of births had medical risk factors and 33% experienced complications of labor and delivery.

The percentage of births to teen mothers in Gila County is the second highest in Arizona. In 2009, births to teen mothers represented 21% of all births in the county, and the rate of teen births has remained consistently high between 2005 and 2009.

Many children need improved dental care. While many parents reported having access to dental care, 64% of children ages six through eight experienced tooth decay in 2003, which was slightly higher than Arizona as a whole (60%).

Many children are not receiving the recommended vaccinations. While most children in Gila County are receiving the vaccinations required for kindergarten, only 49% of children ages 19 to 35 months had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule,¹ compared to 74% of all Arizona children in the same age group.

The juvenile arrest rate is high. The overall juvenile arrest rate in Gila County was higher than Arizona as a whole in 2009. The rate of juvenile arrest for drug crimes in Gila County (11.6 per 1,000) was almost double the rate for Arizona (6.0) in 2009.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the Gila Region has identified the areas in which children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, Gila Region children and families appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to prenatal care, education, and vaccinations. In light of these challenges, continued collaboration is needed to help improve the situation of children and families. First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the Gila Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.

¹ 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule: 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

Demographic Overview: Who are the families and children living within the Gila Region?

Basic Demographics

The Gila Regional Partnership Council serves communities located in Gila County excluding the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which has its own First Things First regional planning council. The communities of Payson, Tonto Apache Tribal Lands, Pine, Strawberry, Star Valley, Rye, Gisela, Kohl's Ranch, Christopher Creek, Tonto Village and Young are in the northern area of the region. Globe, Miami, Claypool, Roosevelt, and Hayden, Winkelman, Dripping Springs and Tonto Basin are located in the southern area of the region.

The region is geographically diverse, with elevations ranging from 2,000 to 7,000 feet. The area houses a number of natural resources which has resulted in an interesting regional history and division of land. The U.S. Forest Service owns 56% of the land in Gila County. Approximately 38% belongs to the Apache Tribe, 2% to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1% belongs to the state of Arizona and 1% is public lands. Only 2% of the region is owned by individuals and corporations.

Globe and Payson are the largest cities in Gila County and offer a number of amenities to the region. Globe houses the Gila County government offices and a number of county services. Payson offers a large regional medical center as well as a Gila Community College. Major industries in the region are retail shopping, services, construction, wholesale trade, tourism, and outdoor recreational activities. Copper mining was once a major economic opportunity in the region and populations centered on the industry. The loss of mining opportunities in the late 1990's forced many communities to focus on alternate economies such as tourism and construction. While many of these alternative industries have recently suffered from the economic downturn, the mining industry seems to be on the rebound.

Children and Family Characteristics

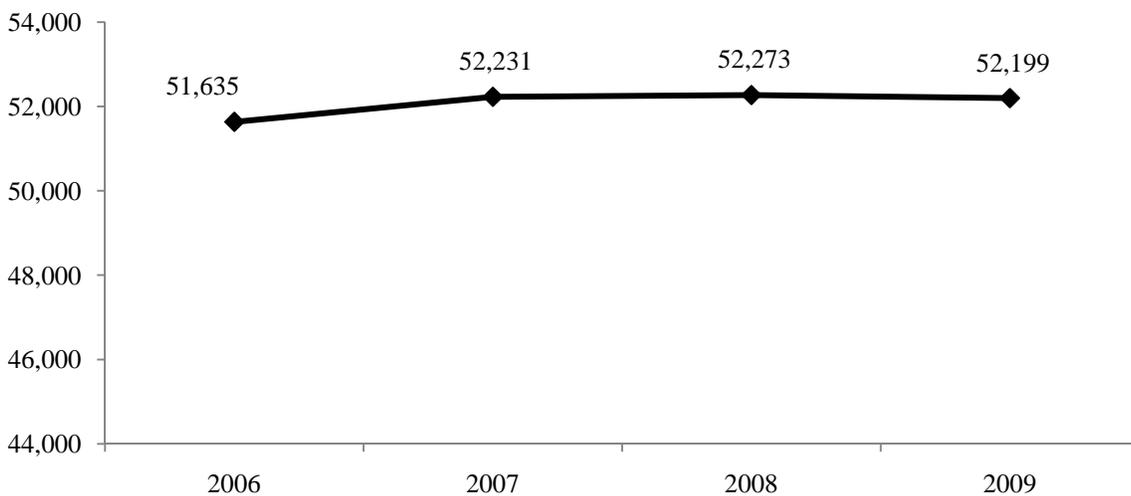
There were an estimated 2,949 children ages birth through five in the Gila Region in 2009. The total population for Gila County in 2009 was estimated to be 52,199. The estimated populations of both children ages birth through five and the county community members has remained relatively consistent over the last few years.

Family structure is an important factor in the health and development of young children, as well as their educational attainment and poverty status. Single-parent families are more likely to earn less and have higher poverty rates than two-parent families.² According to the 2006-2008 estimates, over half of children ages birth through five lived in a married-couple household (56%). About 40% of children ages birth through five lived in a female-headed household, and 4% resided in a male-headed household. The number of children living in a single parent household in Gila County (44%) far exceeded that of the state of Arizona (28%).

² Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). *Poverty, family structure, and child well-being: Indicators from the SIPP* (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23). Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>

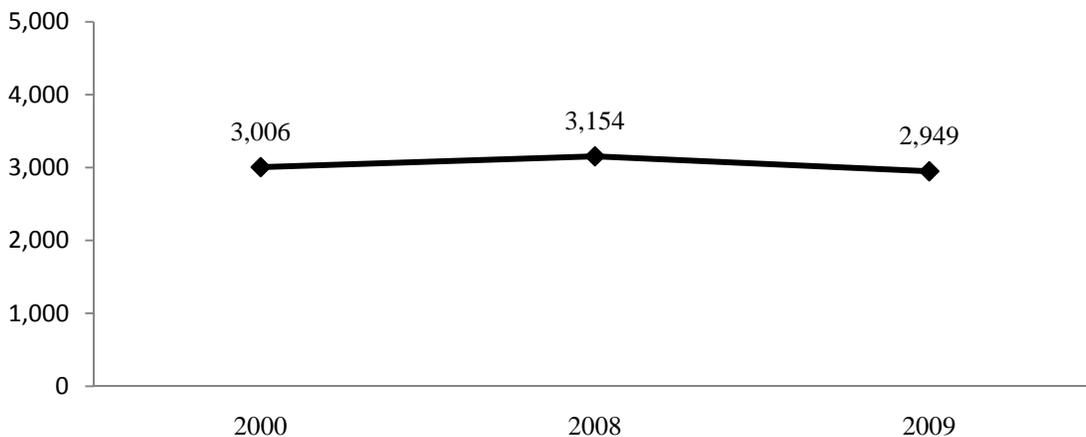
Another form of family structure affecting the health and development of children is grandfamilies, families in which grandparents care for their grandchildren. National data suggests that the largest percentage of children in grandfamilies are those under five years of age. Grandfamilies provide many advantages to children, including keeping families and siblings together, and allowing for consistency of care. However, grandparents often face challenges such as fixed or limited incomes. Additionally, grandparents often take over care without the involvement of the Child Welfare System and do not receive additional supports or resources for taking over the child’s care.³ The informal nature of many grandfamilies makes data difficult to capture, yet according to 2006-08 U.S. Census estimates, 2% of households with children under 18 years of age in Gila County are households in which a grandparent is responsible for his/her grandchildren.

Figure 1: Estimated Total Population, Gila County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2009) *T1 Population Estimates*. Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

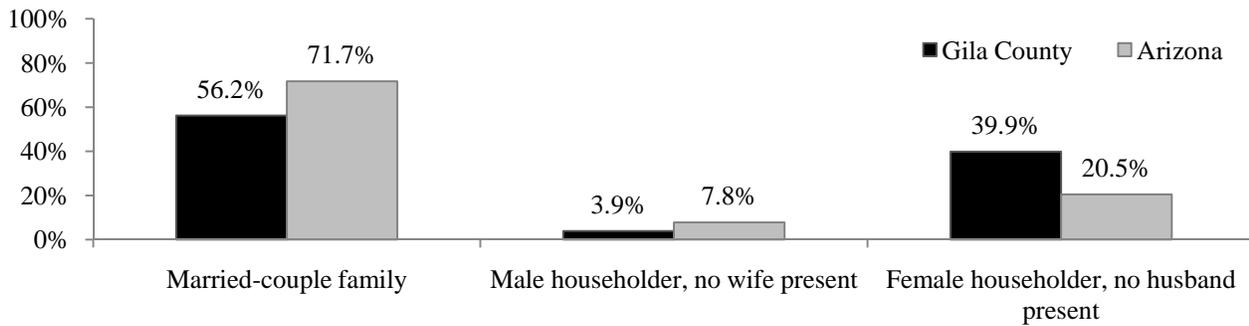
Figure 2: Estimated Population Ages Birth Through Five, Gila County



Source: Arizona First Things First, *Regional Profiles*. Received 2010. (Unpublished data).

³ Family Strengthening Policy Center (2007). *Strengthening Grandfamilies through Respite Care*. Washington, DC: National Human Services Assembly.

Figure 3: Type of Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five, 2006-2008 Estimates



U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). *Table B19126 Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months*. American Community Survey 2006-2008. Retrieved August 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Figure 4: Grandparents Living with and Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years

2006-2008 Estimates	
Gila County	
Number of Households with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	373
Percent of Households with One or More People Under 18 Years with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	2.0%
Arizona	
Number of Households with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	39,241
Percent of Households with One or More People Under 18 Years with Grandparent Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18 Years	1.7%

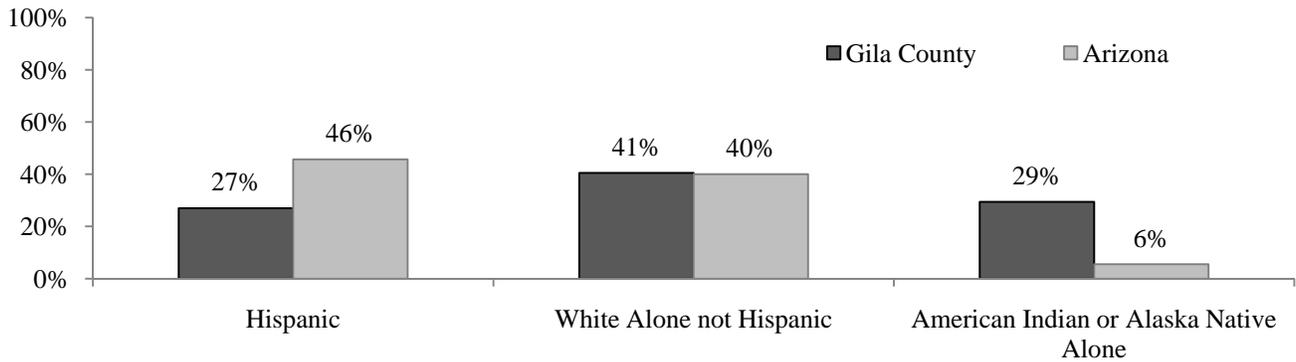
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, Tables*, B10063 Households with Grandparents Living with Own Grandchildren., Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Race/Ethnic Distribution and Language Characteristics

According to the 2006-2008 estimates, 41% of children ages birth through four identified as “White alone not Hispanic,” 27% were “Hispanic,” and 29% identified as “American Indian or Alaska Native Alone.” The majority of the population 5 and over in Gila County (82%) spoke only English at home, while 10% spoke Spanish and 7% spoke a Native North American language.

In Gila County in 2000, 450 children ages 5 through 17 lived in linguistically isolated households, households in which all members 14 years and older had at least some difficulty with English. While many services are available in multiple languages to Gila County residents, English fluency increases residents’ access to social and community services. English language fluency varied community by community; overall nearly 5% of Gila county children lived in linguistically isolated homes, compared to 9% in Arizona as a whole.

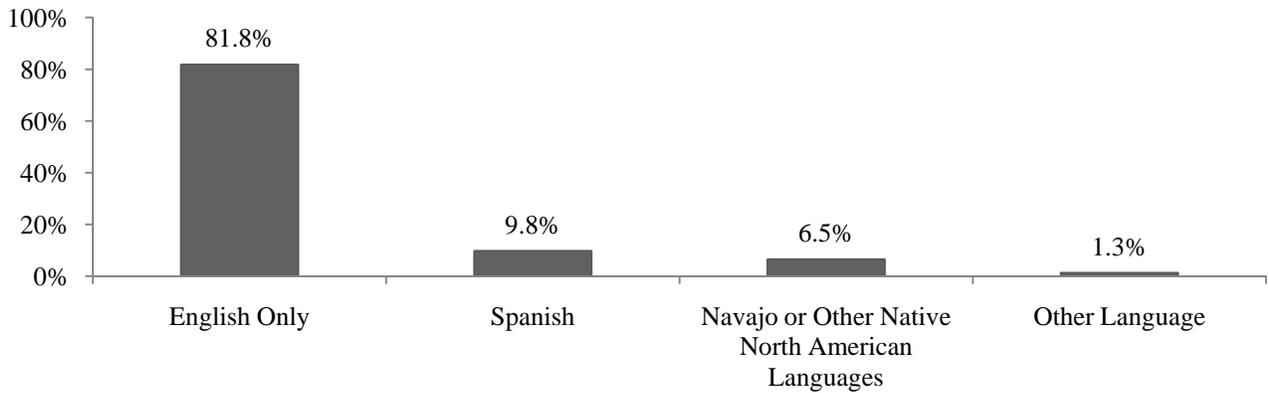
Figure 5: Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages Birth Through Four, 2006-2008 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). *Table B19126 Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months*. American Community Survey 2006-2008. Retrieved August 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Note: The U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Respondents are asked whether or not they are of Hispanic origin in addition to their racial classification. Due to respondents answering both questions, the percentages will not add up to 100%.

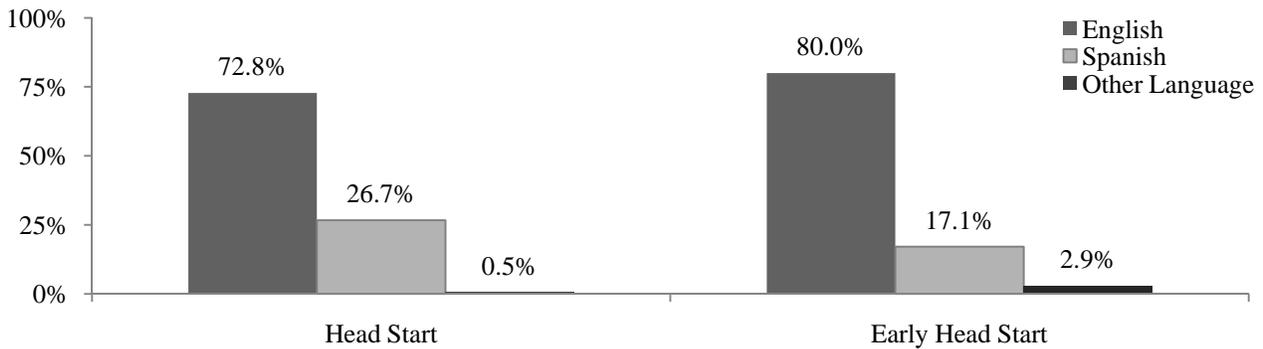
Figure 6: Language Spoken at Home by Population Five Years and Over, Gila County, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Census 2000, Summary File 3, Table QT-P16, Table DP-2*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

Note: These categories are derived from the U. S. Census. Spanish and other language speakers may or may not also speak English in the home.

Figure 7: Language Spoken by Head Start Children, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2008



Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished Data).

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Figure 8: Children Ages 5 to 17 Living in Non-English Speaking* Households, 2000

Community	Percent
Globe	1.5%
Hayden	12.3%
Miami	3.0%
Payson	1.0%
Pine	1.1%
Gila County	4.5%
Arizona	8.5%
United States	5.1%

Source: Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2010 (Unpublished data).

* "A household is classified as linguistically isolated if no one 14 years old and over speaks only English or speaks a non-English language and speaks English 'very well.' In other words, all members of the household 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English." (U.S. Census Bureau).

⊕ No New Data Available

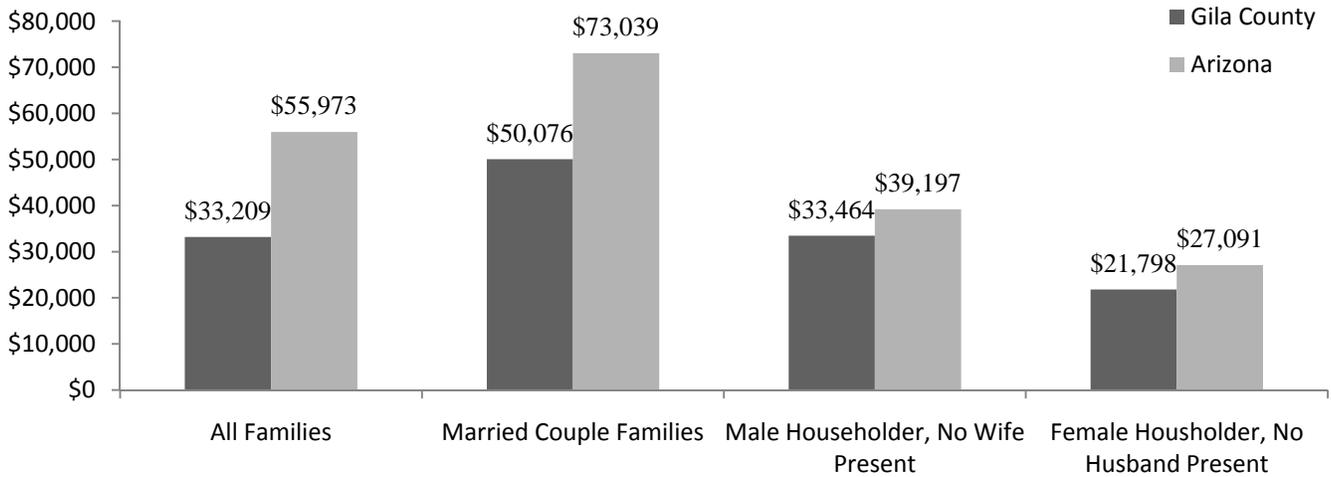
Economic Circumstances

Income

Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the well-being of its residents. According to the 2006-2008 U.S. Census estimates, the median family income for families in Gila County was \$33,209, compared to the state of Arizona (\$55,973) as a whole.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is used as an indicator of how much income is needed for a family to meet its minimal basic needs without the need for public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard and is dependent on geographic location, family structure, and the age of the children. Self-Sufficiency Standards in Gila County were last measured in 2002 and according to those data, a household with one adult and one preschooler requires \$24,236 to be self-sufficient and a household with two adults and one preschooler requires \$32,140. According to the 2006-2008 U.S. Census estimates, in Gila County the median family income of both married couple families as well as single-parent, male-headed households met these standards. However, the median income of single-parent female-head of households was \$21,798, lower than the level needed to be self-sufficient.

Figure 9: Estimated Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, 2006-2008 Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2008). *Table B19126 Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months*. American Community Survey 2006-2008. Retrieved August 2010 from www.factfinder.census.gov.

Figure 10: Median Family Income of Families with Children Under 18 Years, All Families by Community, 2000

Community	Income
Tonto Apache Reservation	\$41,667
Central Heights-Midland City	\$35,729
Claypool	\$47,593
Gisela	\$28,750
Globe	\$42,280
Hayden	\$26,964
Miami	\$30,625
Payson	\$38,713
Pine	\$45,947
Strawberry	\$42,279
Tonto Basin	\$29,091
Top-of-the-World	\$53,438
Winkelman	\$38,250
Young	\$26,438
Gila County	\$36,593
Arizona	\$46,723
United States	\$50,046

Source: First Things First, *Regional Profiles*, Received 2010 (Unpublished Data)

⊕ No New Data Available

Figure 11: Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Gila County, 2002

Monthly Expense	Family Type			
	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School-age	2 Adults + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School-ager
Housing	\$503	\$503	\$503	\$503
Child Care	\$440	\$682	\$440	\$682
Food	\$226	\$396	\$429	\$544
Transportation	\$227	\$227	\$437	\$437
Health Care	\$235	\$262	\$304	\$331
Miscellaneous	\$167	\$207	\$211	\$250
Taxes	\$329	\$401	\$444	\$500
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	-\$54	-\$47	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	-\$44	-\$80	-\$40	-\$80
Child Tax Credit (-)	-\$50	-\$100	-\$50	-\$100
Self-Sufficiency Wage				
Hourly ¹	\$11.48	\$13.92	\$7.61	\$8.71
Monthly	\$2,020	\$2,450	\$2,678	\$3,067
Annual	\$24,236	\$29,403	\$32,140	\$36,799

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2002). *Self Sufficiency Standard for Arizona*. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/pubs.html>.

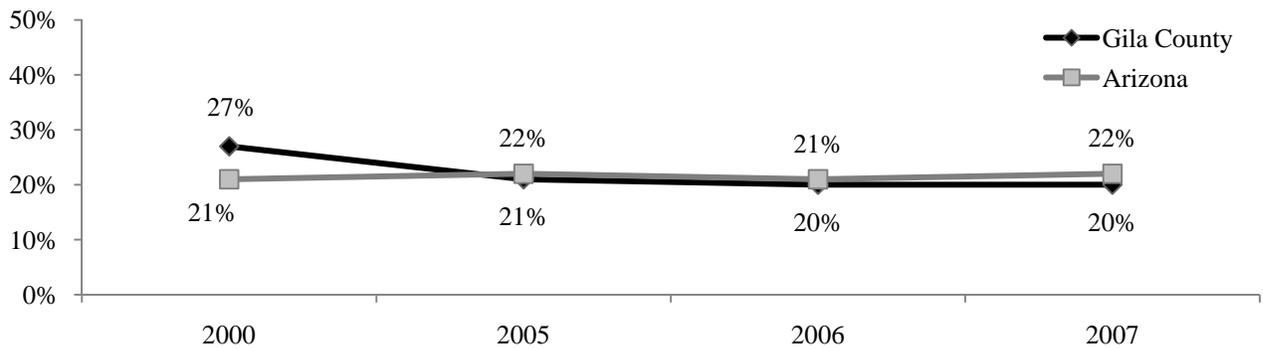
¹ Hourly wages for two-adult households are per adult (e.g., \$7.612 per adult for a family with two adults and one preschooler).

 No New Data Available

Poverty

Living in poverty puts children at risk for a wide variety of challenges with both immediate and lasting effects. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food, become victims of crime and violence, and lack basic health care. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment.⁴ In 2007, one in five children in the Gila Region ages birth through four lived below the federal poverty level. The numbers varied within the region in 2000, with more than 90% of Winkelman children and less than 15% of children in Globe living in poverty.

Figure 12: Families with Children Ages Birth Through 5 Living Below the Poverty Level



Source: First Things First. (2008). *Regional Profile*. (Unpublished data).

⁴ Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.

Figure 13: Poverty Status of Children Birth Through Five by Community, 2000

Community	2000
Tonto Apache Reservation	18%
Central Heights-Midland City	19%
Claypool	23%
Gisela	-
Globe	14%
Hayden	31%
Miami	38%
Payson	19%
Pine	13%
Strawberry	39%
Tonto Basin	36%
Winkelman	91%
Young	22%
Gila County	27%
Arizona	21%

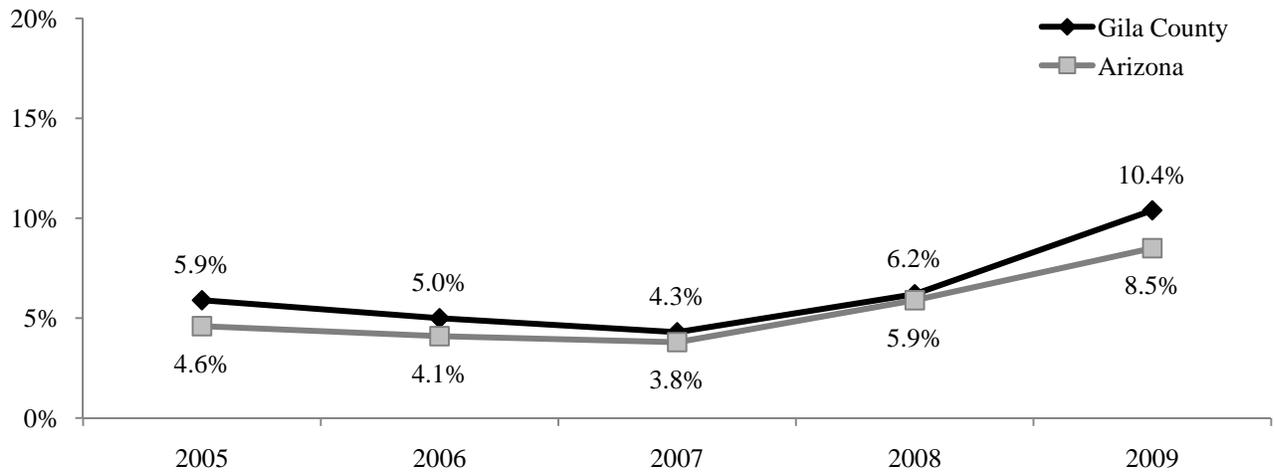
Source: First Things First. (2008). *Regional Profile*. (Unpublished data).

 No New Data Available

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in 2009 in Gila County was 10%, slightly higher than the state of Arizona at 9%. While the unemployment rate in Gila County has remained higher than Arizona as a whole, it has followed the same trend as the state since 2005, both nearly doubling over the four year period. The unemployment rates in Gila County in 2009 varied greatly by community, from 32% in Canyon Day to 0% in Gisela.

Local economies have relied heavily on mining, tourism, farming and construction. While a few of these industries seem to be rebounding they have been extremely hard hit by the economic downturn.

Figure 14: Unemployment Rate

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2010). *Special Unemployment Report*. Retrieved August 2010 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/>.

Figure 15: Unemployment Rate by Community

Community	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Canyon Day CDP	19.7%	17.3%	14.8%	20.7%	31.5%
Central Heights-Midland City CDP	8.0%	6.9%	5.9%	8.4%	14.0%
Claypool CDP	5.4%	4.6%	3.9%	5.7%	9.7%
Gisela CDP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Globe City	4.7%	4.0%	3.4%	5.0%	8.5%
Hayden Town	8.8%	7.4%	6.6%	9.3%	15.2%
Miami Town	7.3%	6.2%	5.3%	7.5%	12.8%
Payson Town	4.3%	3.7%	3.1%	4.6%	7.8%
Peridot CDP	8.2%	7.0%	5.7%	8.6%	13.3%
Pine CDP	3.1%	2.6%	2.3%	3.3%	5.7%
Strawberry CDP	2.7%	2.3%	2.0%	2.9%	5.0%
Tonto Basin CDP	2.7%	2.2%	1.8%	2.8%	4.5%
Winkelman Town	4.2%	3.5%	2.9%	4.4%	7.0%
Young CDP	3.7%	3.1%	2.6%	3.9%	6.2%
Gila County	5.9%	5.0%	4.3%	6.2%	10.4%
Arizona	4.6%	4.1%	3.8%	5.9%	8.5%

Source: Arizona Unemployment Statistics Program, *Special unemployment Report*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=142>.

Note: CDP stands for Census Designated Place.

Foreclosures

Many families across the country have been negatively affected by the mortgage crisis. When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally. While not all children who experience a foreclosure will become homeless, they often experience the same increased mobility associated with homelessness. This increased mobility has been shown to be associated with lower performance in math and reading, and more delinquent behaviors in the classroom. The mortgage crisis is projected to cause more than 86,000 foreclosures and affect more than 68,000 children in Arizona.⁵

While data were unavailable for many areas in the Gila Region, foreclosure rates in July 2010 appeared lower than in Arizona as a whole, with a total of 496 foreclosures in all of Gila County. Payson had the highest reported foreclosure rate (1 in 215) with a total of 370 foreclosures.

Figure 16: Foreclosure Rate, July 2010

Community (Zip Codes)	Number of Foreclosures	Rate of Foreclosures
Pine (85544)	20	1 in 1,859
Payson (85541)	370	1 in 215
Globe (85501)	82	1 in 809
Miami (85539)	18	1 in 927
Gila County	496	1 in 352
Arizona	108,328	1 in 167

Source: RealtyTrac. (July 2010). *National Real Estate Trends*, Retrieved August 18, 2010 from <http://www.realtytrac.com/tendcenter/>.

Economic Supports

There are several state and federal programs available to provide assistance for families struggling in the current economic conditions. One such program is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash assistance for struggling families.⁶ In Gila County, 229 families with children ages birth through five received support from TANF in January of 2010, a decrease from 310 in 2007. This enrollment decline may have been a result of more restrictive eligibility policies, thus reducing the number of poor families eligible for assistance.⁷

At the national level, nutritional support programs were feeding more than one in four children.⁸ Nutritional support programs are designed to address hunger and food insecurity. These programs are important because chronic undernutrition, food insecurity, and hunger can be associated with poorer

⁵ Lovell, P. and Isaacs, j. (2008) *The Impact of the Mortgage Crisis on Children and Their Education*. First Focus, Brookings Institute. Retrieved June 29 2010 from http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04_mortgage_crisis_isaacs.aspx

⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008, November 20). About TANF. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html>

⁷ Legal Momentum. (2009). *The Bitter Fruit of Welfare Reform: A Sharp Drop in the Percentage of Eligible Women and Children Receiving Welfare*. Retrieved June 28, 2010, from Legal Momentum: Advancing Women's Rights: <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/lm-tanf-bitter-fruit.pdf>.

⁸ Brady, E. (2010, Summer). A Menu for Survival: Food pantries help hungry New York families. *Censored. vol. 1 no. 2*. Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness: New York.

health status, higher levels of aggression, hyperactivity, anxiety, and passivity, as well as a diminished capacity to learn, lower test scores, and increased school absences, tardiness, and suspensions.⁹

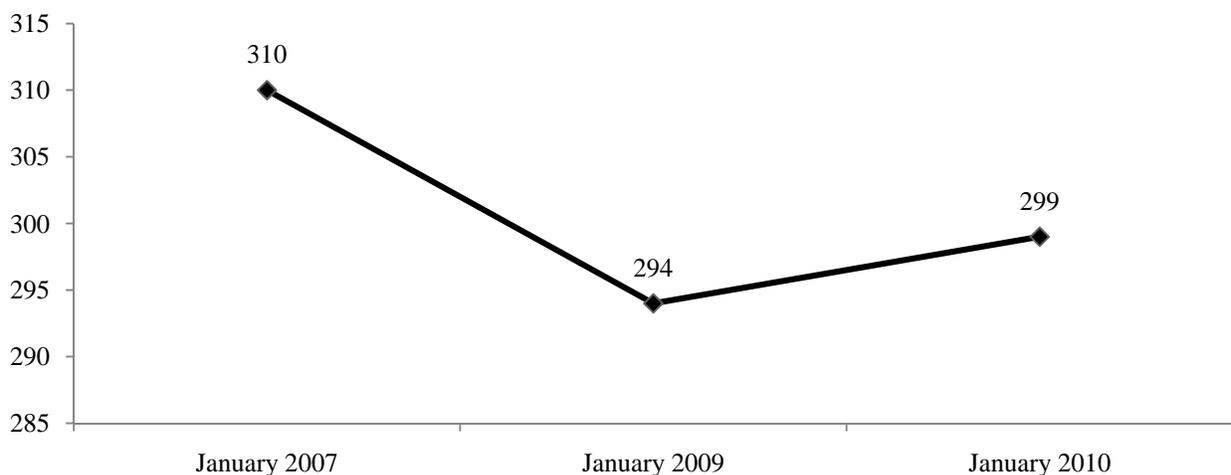
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as Food Stamps, also provides support to many families in Gila County. Between 2007 and 2010, the number of Gila County families with children ages birth through five receiving SNAP increased by 42%.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), provides food assistance, education, and health care referrals for pregnant women and mothers of children ages birth through five. The total number of children receiving WIC support in Gila County increased from 302 in 2005 to 443 in 2009. More than half (58%) of Head Start families in Gila and Pinal Counties were receiving WIC in 2009.

The National School Lunch Program qualifies low-income children living in families between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced-cost meals and those at or below 130% of the poverty level for free meals.¹⁰ Between 57% and 93% of students in Gila School Districts were eligible for free or reduced-cost school meals in 2010.

In an effort to address the increased nutritional needs of children and families in the region as a result of the economic downturn, First Things First offers emergency food boxes to families in the Gila Region. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, First Things First will supply boxes to 300 families region wide.

Figure 17: Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Gila County

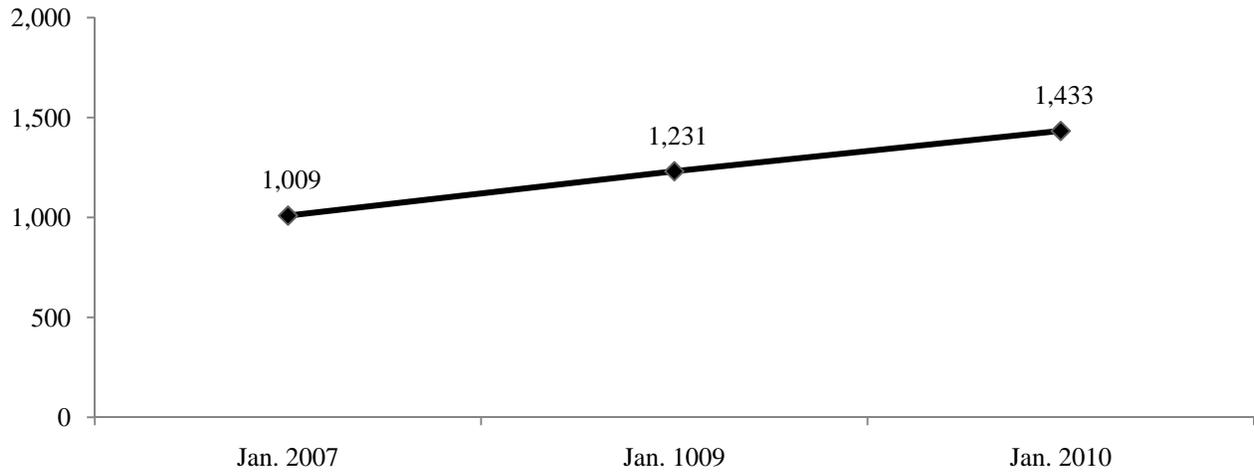


Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

⁹ Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, (2002, June). *The Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children, Evidence from Recent Scientific Studies*. Massachusetts: Brandeis University.

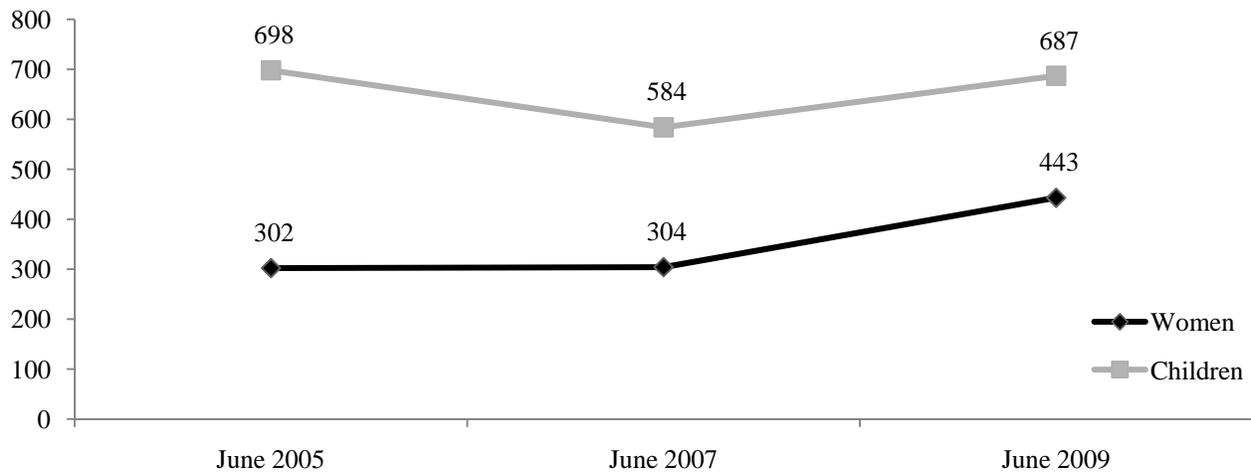
¹⁰ United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009, August). *National School Lunch Fact Sheets*. Retrieved June 22, 2010, from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/AboutLunch/NSLPFactSheet.pdf>

Figure 18: Families with Children Ages Birth Through Five Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, Formerly Known as Food Stamps), Gila County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (n.d.). *Receipt of Food Stamps in the Past 12 Months by Presence of Children Under 18 Years for Households, 2002*, Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

Figure 19: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Recipients, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). *Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Recipients*. Received June, 2010 from Arizona First Things First (Unpublished Data).

Figure 20: Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, Gila County School Districts

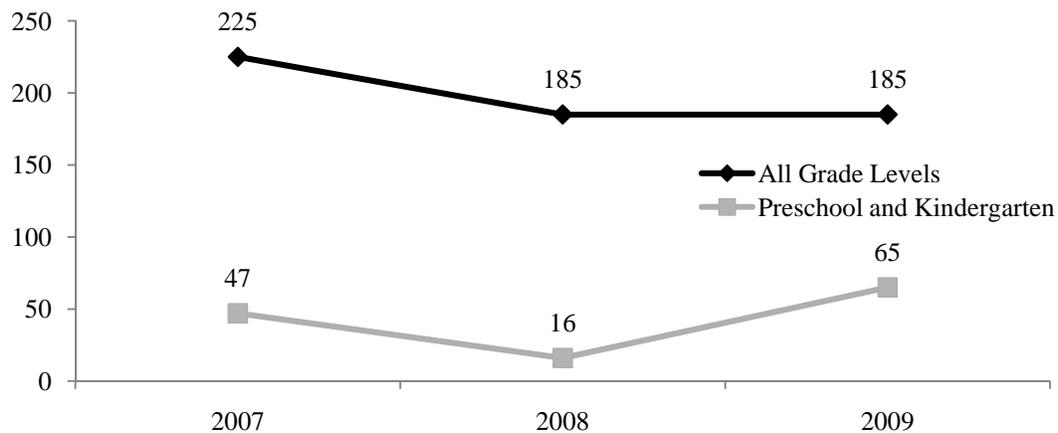
School District	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	59.2%	62.8%	63.5%
Globe Unified School District	50.0%	54.9%	57.3%
Miami Unified School District	55.2%	58.5%	64.7%
Payson Unified School District	46.7%	50.8%	56.6%
Pine Strawberry Elementary District	56.9%	55.7%	65.6%
Tonto Basin Elementary District	72.0%	75.3%	83.1%
Young Elementary School District	90.3%	88.9%	93.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2010). *National School Lunch program and School Breakfast Program*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/>.

Homelessness

Homelessness among young children, and the high mobility often associated with homelessness, can lead to behavior problems and reduced academic success in school.¹¹ The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as “1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and 2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”¹² Based on the McKinney-Vento Act definition, in 2009 there were 65 homeless students in preschool and kindergarten in Gila County. While the number of homeless children in preschool and kindergarten in Gila County increased between 2007 and 2009, the number of children in all grade levels experiencing homelessness decreased during the same time period.

Figure 21: Homeless Students (McKinney-Vento Eligible), Gila County



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2007, 2008, 2009). *Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona*. Retrieved August 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>

¹¹ Zerger, S. (2004, February). Health care for homeless Native Americans. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Retrieved June 2010 from <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/FINALHnNativeHealth.pdf>

¹² McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).

Educational Indicators

Children’s success in school is improved by a combination of promoting physical and mental health, increasing literacy, enhancing social and emotional skills, and increasing youth leadership roles and involvement within the community. Typically, children who do well in school have early literacy skills and higher social and emotional skills at entry to kindergarten. Continued success in school, graduation from high school, and further educational attainment leads to healthier communities and more supportive environments for the growth and development of children. Preparing children for success after graduation through higher levels of educational attainment in turn leads to healthier communities and more supportive environments for future children’s growth and development.

The Gila Region is composed of seven public school districts: Hayden-Winkelman, Payson Unified, Young Public School, Globe Unified, Miami Unified, Pine-Strawberry and Tonto Basin. There are an additional five charter schools and two accommodation schools in the area.

School Enrollment

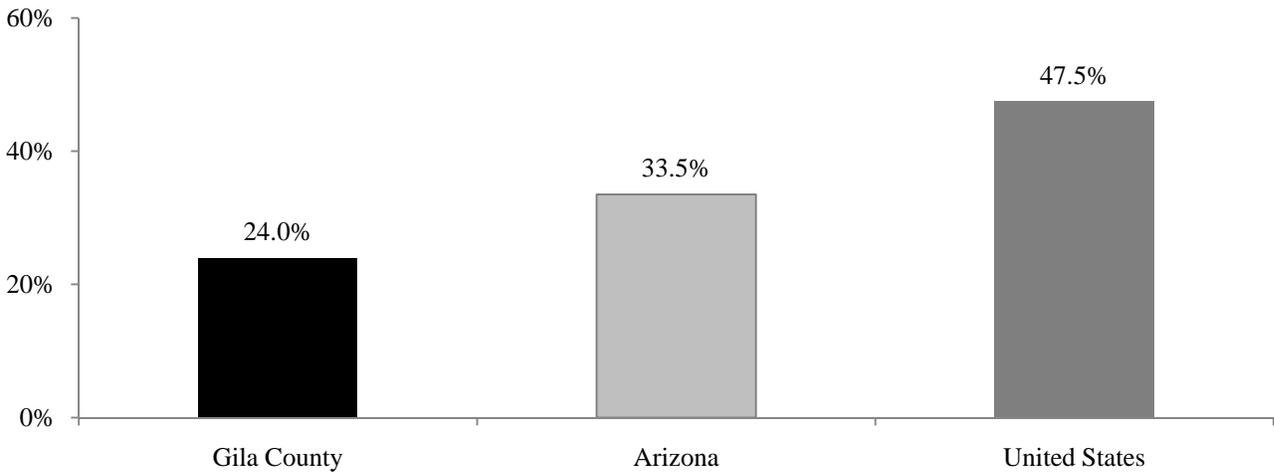
Total public school enrollment for all districts in the region was more than 6,000 students. A total of 586 students were enrolled in preschool or kindergarten, comprising 9% of the total student population. However, the estimated percentage of three and four year old children enrolled in school in 2008 was 24%, which was lower than the state of Arizona (34%). Nationally, 48% of three and four-year-olds were enrolled in school in 2008, double the percentage of children enrolled in Gila County.

Figure 22: School Enrollment, Gila Region School Districts, 2009/10 school year

School District	Preschool	Kindergarten	District Total
Globe Unified School District	18	123	1,865
Miami Unified School District	49	86	1,233
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District	31	23	391
Payson Unified School District	42	183	2,655
Pine Strawberry Elementary School District	12	12	134
Young Elementary School District	0	*	65
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	8	11	76
Gila Region School Districts Total	148	438	6419

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (n.d.). *Research and Evaluation*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/AZEnroll/>.

* Indicates that there were less than 10 students.

Figure 23: Percentage of 3 and 4 Year Olds Enrolled in School, 2006-2008 Estimates

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey*, S1401. Retrieved 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=.

3rd Grade Test Scores - Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child’s reading level at the end of third grade. In third grade, it is expected that children will show evidence of reading comprehension and be able to read unfamiliar words through various strategies. Reading proficiency at this point prepares the student for fourth grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”¹³ The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

Miami Unified, Pine-Strawberry, and Hayden-Winkelman Unified school districts showed improvements in their AIMS scores between the 2008 and 2010 school years. The number of children meeting or exceeding AIMS math standards in Globe and Payson school districts decreased by 10% in the three year period.

¹³ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Figure 24: AIMS Math: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

School District	2008	2009	2010
Globe Unified School District	61%	64%	51%
Miami Unified School District	52%	48%	58%
Payson Unified School District	84%	78%	74%
Pine-Strawberry School District	63%	90%	86%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	-	-	-
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School district	52%	41%	64%
Young Elementary School district	-	-	-

Source: Arizona Department of Education (2010). *School Report Cards*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>.

Figure 25: AIMS Reading: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

School District	2008	2009	2010
Globe Elementary School District	67%	64%	62%
Miami Unified School District	57%	63%	73%
Payson Unified School District	81%	78%	80%
Pine Strawberry School District	67%	91%	92%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	-	-	-
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School district	58%	50%	58%
Young Elementary School District	-	-	-

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2010). *School Report Cards*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>.

Figure 26: AIMS Writing: 3rd Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

School District	2008	2009
Globe Elementary School District	78%	80%
Miami Unified School District	38%	66%
Payson Unified School District	52%	81%
Pine Strawberry School District	87%	73%
Tonto Basin Elementary School District	-	-
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School district	39%	62%
Young Elementary School district	-	-

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2010). *School Report Cards*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www10.ade.az.gov/ReportCard/>

Note: Writing results are not available for the 2010 school year.

Graduation Rate

High school graduation is an important indicator of future economic and personal success. Youth who leave high school prior to graduation are more likely to experience lower earnings and higher unemployment.¹⁴ Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including child abuse, substance abuse, un-addressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.¹⁵ The graduation rates in the Gila Region varied from district to district. In 2009, 99% of students in Miami Unified graduated while only 37% of students in Liberty High School. Globe, Payson and Hayden-Winkelman districts graduated 84%, 73% and 69% (respectively) of their students in 2009. The graduation rate for Arizona as a whole was 71% in 2008.

Figure 27: Graduation Rate, Gila Region School Districts

School District	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Globe Unified District	72%	70%	77%	78%	84%
Payson Unified District*	84%	70%	73%	69%	73%
Miami Unified District	79%	73%	92%	93%	99%
Hayden-Winkelman Unified District	89%	73%	71%	74%	69%
Liberty High School	18%	59%	56%	42%	37%
Arizona	85%	71%	70%	71%	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Education (n.d.). *Research Evaluation Section*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/grad/>.

*05/06 data for Payson Unified District only includes data from Payson High School; it does not include Payson Center for Success.

Educational Attainment

In the Gila County, 83% of the population 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma or a GED in 2008, which was similar to Arizona as a whole (84%). Only 48% of Gila County residents had gone on to pursue education beyond high school, while 58% of individuals in Arizona had at least some college education.

With respect to the relationship between education and child well-being, it is important to examine maternal education levels. Research suggests that a mother's education relates to her child's health,¹⁶ school readiness,¹⁷ and school achievement.¹⁸ Mothers who have attained higher levels of education tend to have healthier children who are more ready for school, and who do better in school. In 2008, in Gila County, 34% of mothers had not obtained a high school diploma or completed their GED and 29% had completed at least some college education.

Individuals in the Gila Region seeking to pursue higher education have several options. The Gila Community College has campuses in the cities of Globe and Payson. Gila Community College also

¹⁴ United States Department of Education. (n.d.). *Promoting Educational Excellence for all Americans, Questions and Answers on No Child Left Behind*. Retrieved July 2010 from <http://answers.ed.gov/>

¹⁵ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, (2010). *Trends in the Well-being of America's Youth, 2000*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

¹⁶ Basu, A. M., & Stephenson, R. (2005). Low levels of maternal education and the proximate determinants of childhood mortality: A little learning is not a dangerous thing. *Social Science & Medicine*, 60(9), 2011-2023.

¹⁷ Augustine, J.M., Cavanagh, S. E., & Crosnoe, R. (2009). Maternal education, early child care and the reproduction of advantage. *Social Forces*, 88(1), 1-29.

¹⁸ Boxer, P., Dubow, E.F., Huesmann, L.R. (2009). Long-term effects of parents' education on children's educational and occupational success: Mediation by family interactions, child aggression, and teenage aspirations. *Merill Palmer Q (Wayne State University Press)*, 55(3).

provides classes in the community of Hayden. The college offers programs in early childhood education, cosmetics, electrical and instrumental technology, fire science, nursing, and plant maintenance. Central Arizona College is located in Winkelman and offers a number of AA and AAS degrees and certificate programs.

Additionally, there are a number of adult education programs for individuals looking to increase their reading, writing and mathematics skills. These classes are located in Globe, Payson, and San Carlos. These location also have registered GED testing centers for those interested in completing their high school education.

Figure 28: Estimated Educational Attainment, Population 25 Years and Older, 2006-2008 Estimates

Educational Attainment Level	Gila County	Arizona
Less than High School Graduate	16.9%	16.3%
High School Graduate	35.3%	26.1%
Some College, Associate’s Degree	34.8%	32.2%
Bachelor’s Degree	7.6%	16.1%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5.4%	9.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2006-2008). Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over. Retrieved 2010 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

Figure 29: Educational Attainment for Women Who Gave Birth in the Past 12 Months, All Ages, Gila County

Educational Attainment Level	2006	2007	2008
Less than High School Graduate	31.6%	30.0%	33.6%
High School Graduate	39.7%	42.4%	36.9%
Some College, Associate’s Degree, or Bachelor’s Degree	26.1%	24.9%	26.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1.8%	2.0%	2.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2008). Table 5B-13 *Women 15 to 50 Year who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Educational Attainment*. Retrieved August 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2007/5b.htm>

Note: Educational attainment for mother who gave birth in the past year includes all births including births to teen mothers. Although this might influence the data slightly the total number of births to teen mothers is relatively small.

The Early Childhood System

Early Care and Education

Over forty years of research has shown that children begin learning at birth and that all settings where they are cared for on a daily basis need to provide a quality environment that supports optimal growth and development.¹⁹ For these reasons, parents need options for their children to be cared for in quality early care and educational settings. Quality early care and education settings include: safe, healthy environments; highly educated teachers; classrooms and materials that simulate children at different stages of learning; and low staff to child ratios so that kids get the attention and support they need. All of these can contribute to a child's development and have long term effects that extend into adolescence and adulthood.²⁰ The Gila Regional Partnership Council developed an Early Childhood Network in Globe, Payson, and Haden-Winkelman to improve the lives of children in the area.

Child Care Capacity and Enrollment

Quality early care and education helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.²¹ Subsidizing child care for low-income families ensures that the children of working families will have options for quality care. The Department of Economic Security (DES) provides subsidies to eligible working families to help with the costs of child care so that they can afford the cost of regulated child care. Child care choices include center-based facilities, family child care homes, and informal care by family (kin) and friends (kith).

There are 38 licensed, certified, or registered child care programs within the Gila Region, with a combined approved capacity of about 940 children. Included in the number of licensed child care centers are Head Start Programs operated by Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. These centers are located in Payson, Globe, Miami and Haden-Winkelman.

Quality First was implemented by First Things First (FTF) in 2009 to increase the availability of quality early care and education in child care centers and homes so that children begin school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed. It is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for programs serving children ages birth through five. The Gila Region currently has four Quality First facilities.

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

¹⁹ Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (2006). *The Importance of Early Care and Education*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.practitionerresources.org/cache/documents/639/63935.doc/>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (n.d.). *Link Between Child Care and Academic Achievement and Behavior Persists Into Adolescence*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>

The majority of child care spaces are provided by centers, rather than homes. In 2008, most child care centers were not open on weekends or available after hours.

Figure 30: Child Care Programs and Capacity, Gila County, 2010

	Number of Programs	Approved Capacity
ADHS Licensed Programs	16	852
Child Care Centers	10	597
Child Care Public Schools	4	235
Child Care Small Group Homes	2	20
ADES Certified Programs: Child Care Homes	21	84
Child Care Resource and Referral Registered Programs: Family Child Care Homes*	1	4
Total Programs	38	940
Quality First Programs	4 (1 Center, 3 Homes)	—

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, *Division of Licensing Services, Child Care Centers and Small Groups Homes by Zip Code*, Retrieved April, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/databases/index.htm>. Child Care Resource and Referral Network, *Gila Regional Partnership April 12, 2010*, Received 2010 from First Things First. National Association for the Education of Young People, *Accredited Program Search*, Retrieved July 15, 2010 from <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/search>

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

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

Figure 31: Type of Special Care Provided, Gila and Pinal Counties

	2004	2006	2008
Child Care Homes			
Late Night Care	61%	57%	56%
All Night Care	43%	41%	48%
Weekend Care	52%	55%	50%
Extended Care	37%	44%	34%
Licensed Centers			
Late Night Care	13%	8%	7%
All Night Care	4%	6%	5%
Weekend Care	4%	8%	10%
Extended Care	17%	18%	12%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). *Child Care Market Rate Surveys*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

Figure 32: Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2006-2007

Demographic	Percent
Age	
3 years old	33.6%
4 years old	65.8%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	57.9%
Eligibility	
Income Eligible	76.6%
Receipt of Public Assistance	17.4%
Foster Children	2.7%
Over Income	3.4%
Primary Language	
English	72.8%
Spanish	26.7%
Other	1%

Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished data).

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Figure 33: Early Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2006-2007

Demographic	Percent
Age	
1 year old	22.7%
2 years old	42.4%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	31.4%
Eligibility	
Income Eligible	71.4%
Receipt of Public Assistance	17.1%
Foster Children	4.6%
Over Income	7.1%
Primary Language	
English	80.0%
Spanish	17.1%
Other	2.9%

Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished data).

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Cost of Child Care

Child care can be very costly for families. In 2008, the average daily cost of *full-time* child care ranged from \$24 to \$33 in Gila and Pinal Counties. The average daily cost of *part-time* child care ranged from \$15 to \$24. Child care for children under the age of one year old and child care provided by centers tended to be higher than child care for older children or approved homes.

In Gila County many families were eligible and receiving subsidized child care, such as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies. The number of families in Gila County who were eligible for and receiving CCDF child care subsidies in January of 2010 dropped dramatically from January of 2009, likely as a result of funding cuts to the program. There were 214 eligible families and 177 receiving subsidies in 2009. In 2010, there were only 125 eligible families and only 95 receiving subsidies. The percentage of eligible families receiving services decreased substantially. Similar to the trend for families, children eligible for and receiving subsidies was 67%, lower than statewide rates (77%). In 2010, in an effort to increase the availability of child care to families in the region, First Things First offered emergency childcare scholarships to income-eligible families.

Figure 34: Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Full-Time, Gila and Pinal Counties

Age of Child	2002	2004	2006	2008
Children Under One				
Centers	\$20.00	\$26.00	\$30.00	\$33.00
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
Certified Group Homes	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
Unregulated Homes	\$20.00	\$23.50	\$20.00	\$26.00
1 and 2 Year Olds				
Centers	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Approved Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
Certified Group Homes	\$19.00	\$24.00	\$26.00	\$25.00
Unregulated Homes	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds				
Centers	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Approved Homes	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$24.00
Certified Group Homes	\$19.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Unregulated Homes	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$20.00	\$25.00

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). *Child Care Market Rate Surveys*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

Note: Full-time is 6 or more hours a day.

Figure 35: Average Daily Cost of Child Care: Part-Time, Gila and Pinal Counties

Age of Child	2002	2004	2006	2008
Children Under One				
Centers	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$24.00
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$11.75	\$12.00	\$20.00
1 and 2 Year Olds				
Centers	\$19.20	\$19.20	\$19.38	\$21.00
Approved Homes	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$20.00
3, 4, and 5 Year Olds				
Centers	\$13.00	\$17.00	\$15.00	\$18.00
Approved Homes	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Certified Group Homes	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Unregulated Homes	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$20.50

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2010). *Child Care Market Rate Surveys*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?category=136>

Note: Part-time is fewer than 6 hours a day.

Figure 36: Families Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

	January 2009	January 2010
Number of Families		
Number of Families Eligible for Subsidies: Gila County	214	125
Number of Families Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	177	95
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	82.7%	76.0%
Percent of Eligible Families Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	81.3%	82.2%
Number of Children		
Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies: Gila County	326	191
Number of Children Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	250	133
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	76.7%	69.6%
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies: Gila County	76.4%	77.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009). *Child Care Subsidy Report*. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Professional Development

Preparation and ongoing professional development of Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals has been linked to increased learning and development of children receiving care.²² There are many professional development options in the Gila Region. Gila Community College offers several ECE certificates and Associate's Degree programs right in the Globe, San Carlos and Payson communities. Central Arizona College has a campus in Winkelman and also offers certificates and Associate's Degrees in Early Childhood Education. Many other colleges and universities in Arizona offer online Associate of Child Development Certificate or ECE degree programs in which Gila residents interested in the early childhood field can enroll.

However, there are many barriers preventing early childhood educators from seeking further education and training to improve their knowledge and skills in early education and child development. One such barrier is the cost of education. First Things First offers Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) scholarships which help child care center teachers, directors, and providers obtain their Associate of Early Childhood Degree or Associate Assessment of Child Development. Recipients receive tuition support, books, travel and paid release time. In 2010, there were a total of nine T.E.A.C.H. applications submitted in the Gila Region. First Things First will be expanding access to T.E.A.C.H. scholarships in 2011, offering more than \$100,000 in scholarships to both center- and home-based teachers.

More than half of the Head Start teachers in the Gila and Pinal Counties had an Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degree or Child Development Associate's Certificate. While the average salary of Head Start teachers in Gila and Pinal Counties was lower than the average salary of Head Start teachers at the state and national levels, average salaries increased with the teacher's level of education.

Research has shown that teachers' wages play a significant role in program quality. Higher wages enable centers to hire better-qualified teachers, which can contribute to both lower turnover rates and more secure attachments between children and teachers.²³ While there is no new data on wages and benefits to child care workers in Gila County, in 2007 the average teacher was making just over \$19 per hour and the average assistant teacher was making less than \$9 an hour.

²² Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). *Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

²³ Phillips, D., Mekos, D., Scarr, S., McCartney, K., & Abbott-Shim, M.. (2000). Within and beyond the classroom door: Assessing quality in child care centers. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15(4), 475-496.

Figure 37: ECE Professional Development Programs, Gila Region

College or Institution	Degree	Degree Name	Location
Arizona State University	M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education	Online
Childcare Education Institute	C.D.A. Certificate	Child Development Associate	Online
Central Arizona College	Certificate	Early Childhood Education	Winkelman; Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Winkelman; Online
Gila Community College	Certificate	Early Childhood Education	Globe; San Carlos; Payson; Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Globe; San Carlos; Payson; Online
Grand Canyon University	B.S.	Elementary Education: Early Childhood Education	Online
	M.A.	Elementary Education	Online
Northern Arizona University	B.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
Prescott College	B.A.	Early Childhood Education	Online
	B.A.	Early Childhood Special Education	Online
Rio Salado College	Certificate	Early Childhood Education	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Education	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Learning and Development	Online
	A.A.S.	Early Childhood Administration and Management	Online
	A.T.P.	Early Childhood Teacher Education	Online
University of Phoenix	M.Ed.	Early Childhood Education	Online

Source: College or Institution website searches, 2010.

Figure 38: Level of Education of Head Start ECE Professionals, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2006/07

ECE Professionals	High School Graduate	Associate Degree	Baccalaureate Degree	Advanced Degree	CDA or State Equivalent	Total Staff*
Classroom/Child Development Staff						
Teachers	19	15	5	0	1	43
Assistant Teachers	12	2	0	0	1	40
Supervisory Child Development Staff						
Child Development Supervisors	0	11	8	1	0	20
Family and Community Partnerships Staff						
Family Workers	10	2	1	0	0	13
Family and Community Partnerships Supervisors	0	0	0	0	0	0

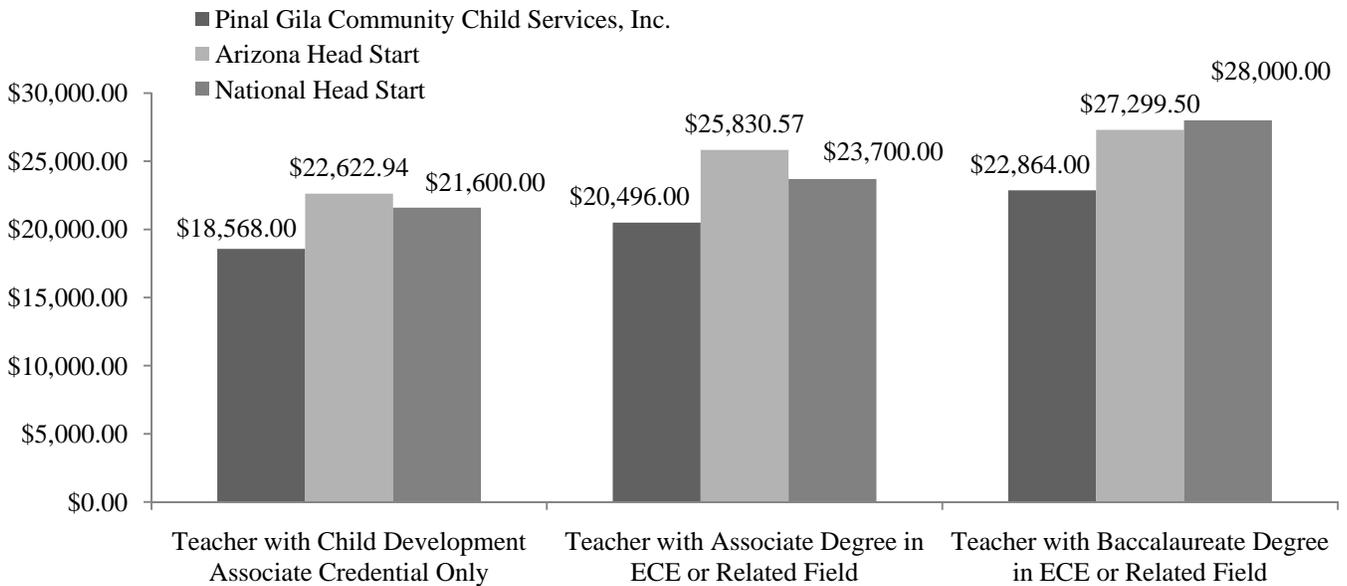
Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished data).

Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Note: Associate's, Bachelor's, and Advanced Degrees were in Early Childhood Education or related fields.

* Total staff includes staff with and without a degree or credential.

Figure 39: Average Salary of Head Start Teachers, 2007/08



Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished Data). For National Head Start: National Head Start (2010). *Basic Head Start Facts*. Retrieved from <http://www.nhsa.org/>

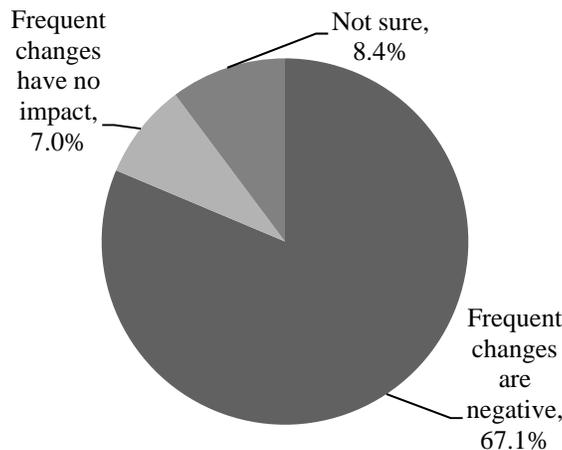
Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Figure 40: Average Wages for Child Care Professionals in Gila Region

Position	2004	2007
Teacher	\$16.24	\$19.31
Assistant Teacher	\$7.20	\$8.45
Teacher/Director	\$13.52	\$16.01
Admin/Director	\$16.88	N/A

Source: First Things First. (2007) *First Things First Gila Region 2007 Needs and Assets Report*.

Figure 41: Parent Perception of the Impact of Frequent Changes in Child Care Providers on Infant Development, Gila Region, 2008



Children with Disabilities

Supporting children and adults with disabilities helps to make sure these individuals are not left behind in school, in employment, or in life. Early identification of children with special needs helps ensure these children get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.²⁴ Early screenings allow children with special needs to receive services quickly and helps ensure that they do not fall behind. In 2010, the Gila County Office of Health will be going out into the communities they serve to provide developmental, hearing, and vision screening, with the goal of reaching 250 children who are not being served by other programs.

In 2008, the Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc., which serves both Gila and Pinal Counties, reported that 15% of their enrolled students had a disability. While there appear to be a limited number of service providers in Gila County, all of the identified preschool students were receiving specialized services.

In 2009, 13 children in Gila County received services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), an increase from the four children who were receiving services in 2007. An additional 71 children ages birth through five received services from the Department of Developmental Disabilities

²⁴ Steele, M.M. (2004). *Making the Care for Early Identification and Intervention for young Children at Risk for Learning Disabilities*, *Early Childhood Education Journal*, Vol. 32, 2, 75-79.

(DDD) in 2009. Only children who are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism qualify for DDD services (in addition to AzEIP services).

One critical component of AzEIP services is the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of referral to AzEIP. In Gila County, the percentage of children receiving these services dropped from 59% to 47% between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years. The percentage of Gila County children receiving services at home or in programs for typically developing children (children who are not receiving special education services) decreased between 2006/07 and 2007/08, from 35% to 69%. Residents in Gila County who have received AzEIP services reported in 2008/09 that these services have helped them to know their rights and helped them to meet the needs of their children.

Figure 42: Head Start Reported Disabilities, Gila and Pinal Counties

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Children with a Disability Receiving Services	14.1%	16.5%	16.5%	14.5%
Number of Children Receiving Specialized Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Head Start, Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. (2008) *Program Information Report for the 2006-2007 School Year*. (Unpublished data).

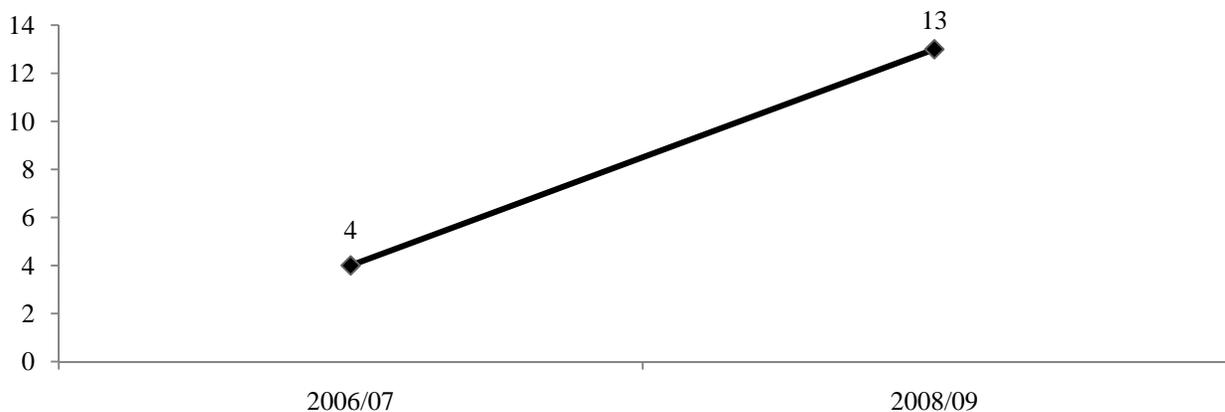
Note: Data are presented for Pinal Gila Community Child Services, Inc. which includes Gila and Pinal Counties.

Figure 43: Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, Gila Region, 2010

Type of Provider	Number of Providers
Audiologists	1
Speech Language Assistant	0
Speech Language Pathology	6
Speech Language Pathology Limited	3

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Division of Licensing Services, Provider Databases*, Data retrieved May 2010 Database from (Unpublished data).

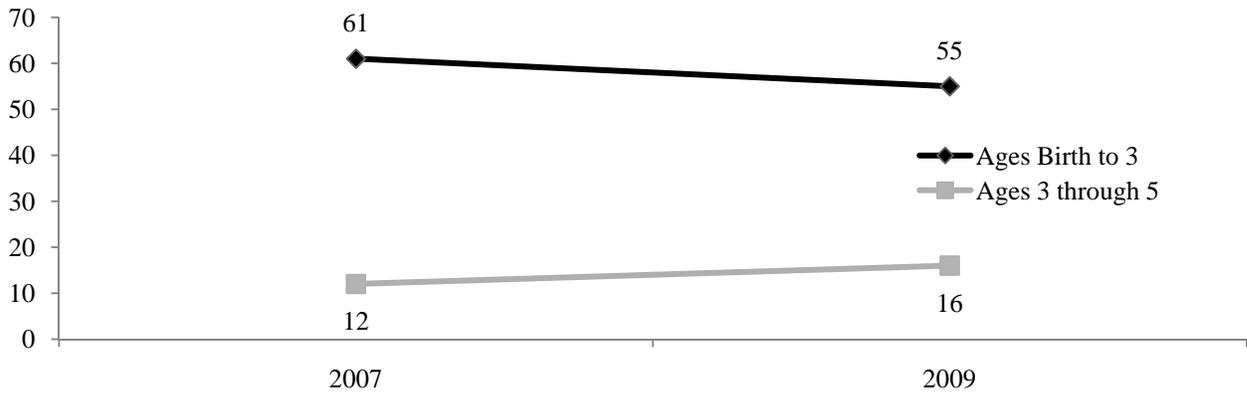
Figure 44: Children Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. *Arizona Early Intervention Program*. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 Database from (Unpublished data).

Note: 2006/07 data includes cases serviced between 07/01/2006 and 06/30/2007. 2008/09 data includes cases serviced between 07/01/2008 and 06/30/2009.

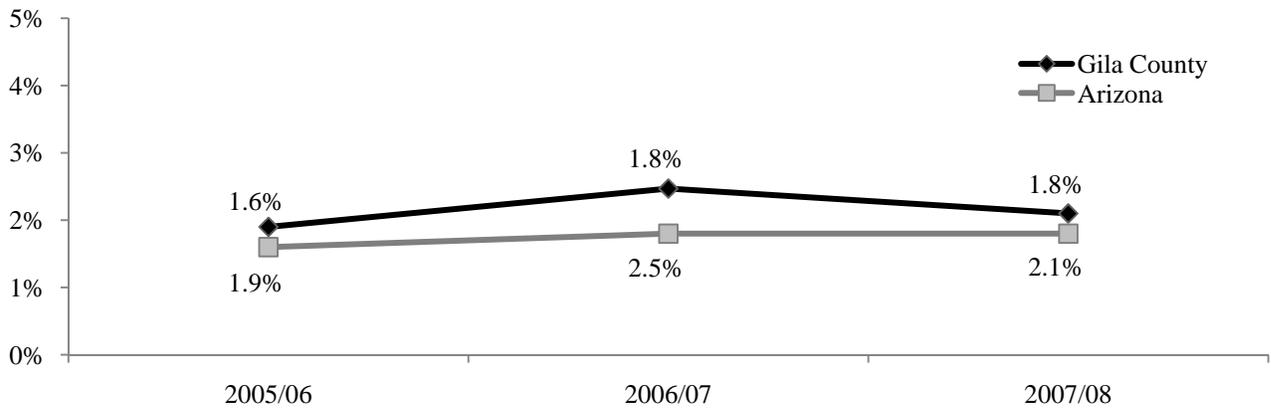
Figure 45: Children Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. Division of Developmental Disabilities. (2007, 2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 Database from (Unpublished data).

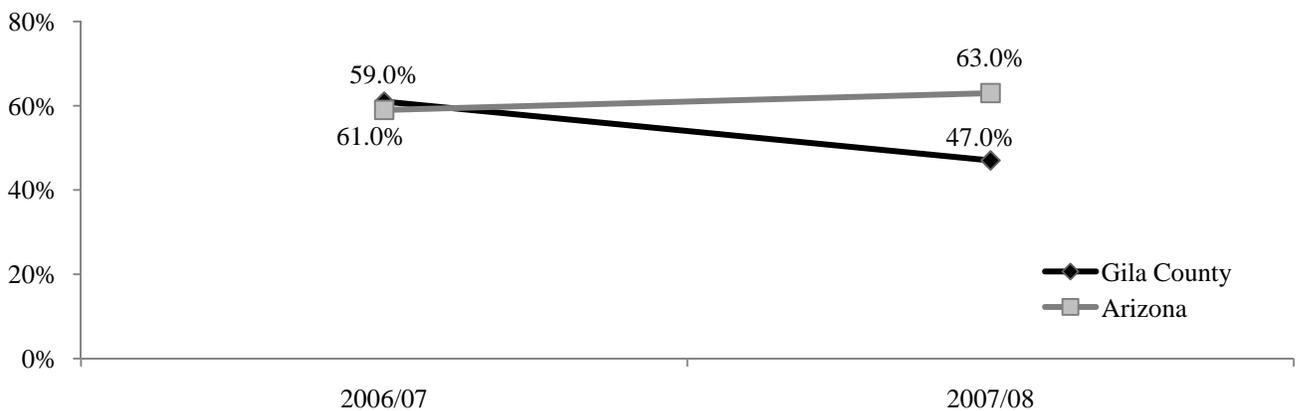
Note: Children are eligible for DDD services if they are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism.

Figure 46: Infants Ages Birth through 3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



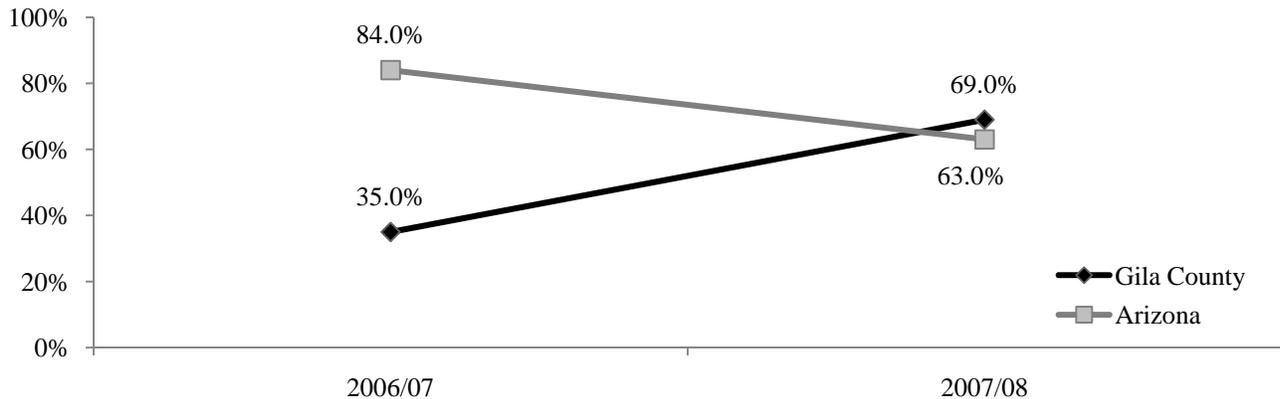
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Figure 47: Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Received an Evaluation Assessment and IFSP Within 45 Days of Referral



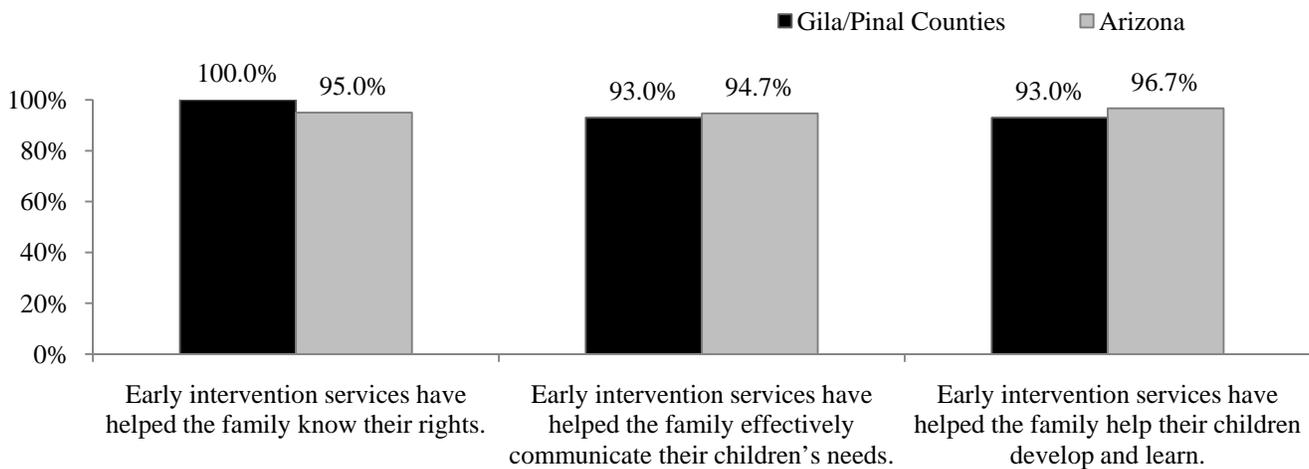
Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Figure 48: Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Primarily Receive Early Intervention Services in the Home or in Programs for Typically Developing Children



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Figure 49: Perceptions of Families Participating in Early Intervention Services, 2008/09



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). *Early Intervention Program Reports*, Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Supporting Families

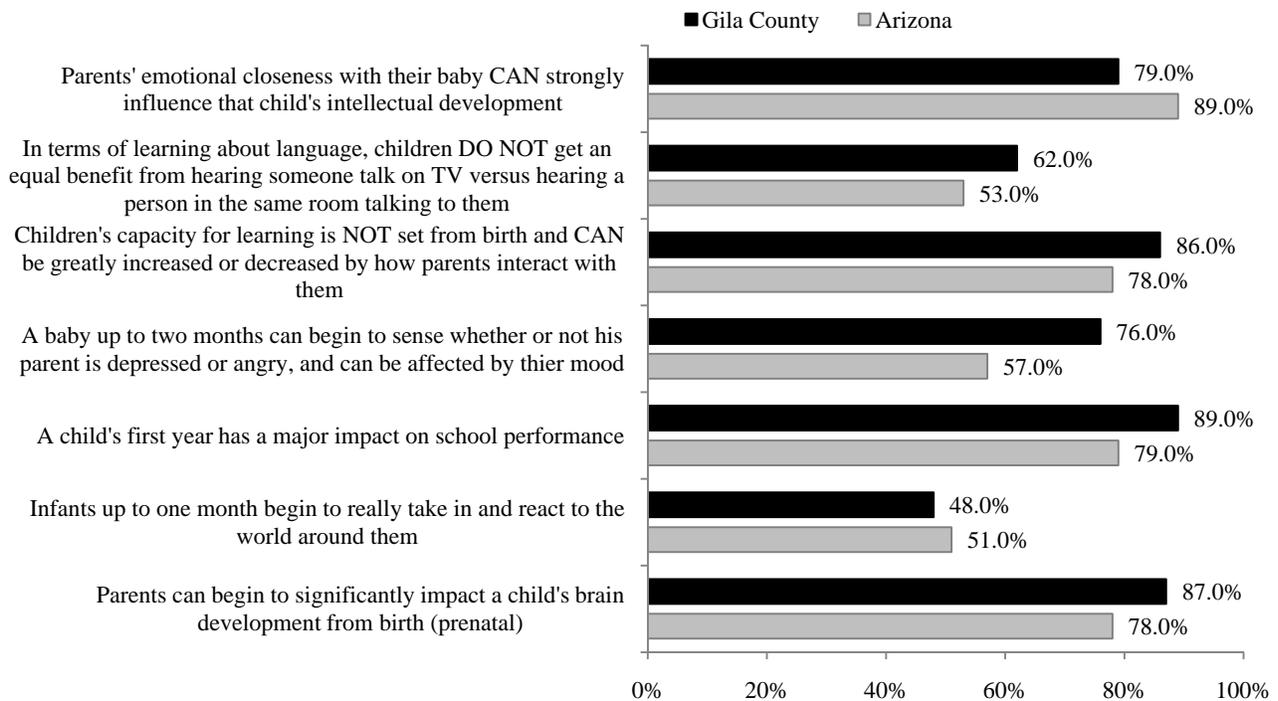
Parents are their children’s first teachers and all parents can benefit from networking with other parents, sharing ideas with them, and hearing from experts about a range of topics such as child development, nutrition needs, positive discipline, managing a crying baby, and building a child’s self-esteem.

Communities in the Gila Region offer many supports for parents and families to assist with the growth and development of their children. Arizona First Things First provides Parent Kits to new parents in hospitals that include a parent guide, an infant board book, and DVDs covering six parenting topics. Beginning in September 2010, the kits will be available at local libraries.

Parent Knowledge of Child Development

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.²⁵ Parents and community members from the Gila Region that participated in the Arizona State First Things First Family and Community Survey had a strong understanding of their children’s cognitive development. The survey sample of 84 Gila County parents and 20 members of the general population may not be representative of the region as a whole especially those families living poverty, teen parents, and other families at risk. The survey participants responded correctly on many developmental questions particularly when it came to understanding their own ability to impact their child’s development. The large majority (89%) of Gila respondents knew that the first year of a child’s development could affect their future school success, in comparison to only 79% of all Arizona parents. Parents in the Gila Region did not have as clear of an understanding of children’s emotional development, though 78% of parents agreed that a 3-year old child is too young to be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so.

Figure 50: Parents Who Accurately Responded to Questions Regarding Their Child’s Cognitive Development, 2008

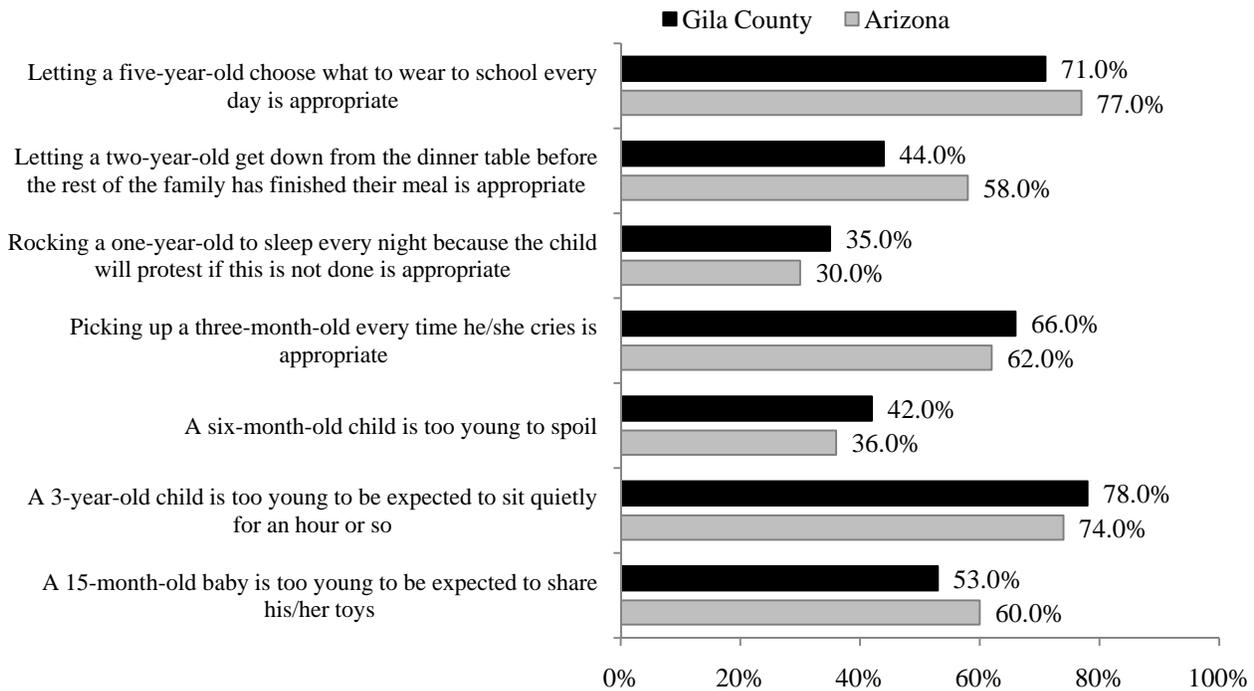


Source: Arizona First Things First, *Regional Profile*, Received 2010. (Unpublished data).

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

²⁵The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. In *Child Development Institute*. Retrieved <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>

Figure 51: Parents Who Accurately Responded to Questions Regarding Their Child’s Social and Emotional Development, 2008



Source: First Things First, Regional Profile, Received 2010. (Unpublished data).

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

Child Abuse

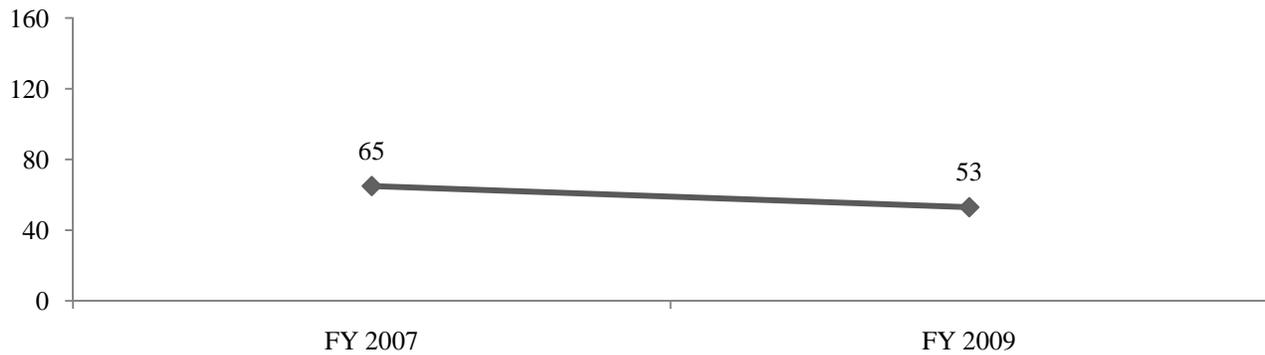
Child abuse and neglect is found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all risk factors that may contribute to child abuse.²⁶ Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children.²⁷ It is therefore essential that communities work to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.

The number of children removed from the home by child protective services decreased between 2007 and 2009, from 65 to 53. The number of substantiated cases of abuse decreased from 35 in 2006 to only 5 cases in 2009. The largest number of substantiated cases of abuse between 2006 and 2009 was for neglect.

²⁶ Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2004, February). *Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect*. Retrieved from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/pdfs/riskprotectivefactors.pdf>

²⁷ Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims, 11*, 113-128; and Child abuse: The hidden bruises. (2008, May). American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Retrieved June 2010 from http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruires

Figure 52: Number of Children Removed from the Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), Gila County



Source: Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009) *Child Protective Services*. Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Gila County. DES multidata pulled May 4, 2010 from Database. (Unpublished data).

Figure 53: Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Gila County

Type of Maltreatment	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Emotional Abuse	0	0	0	0
Neglect	19	12	8	3
Physical Abuse	15	3	2	1
Sexual Abuse	1	2	0	1
Total	35	17	10	5

Source: Department of Economic Security (2005- 2009) *Child Welfare Reporting Requirement, Semi-Annual Report*. Retrieved August 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/.../Reports/>

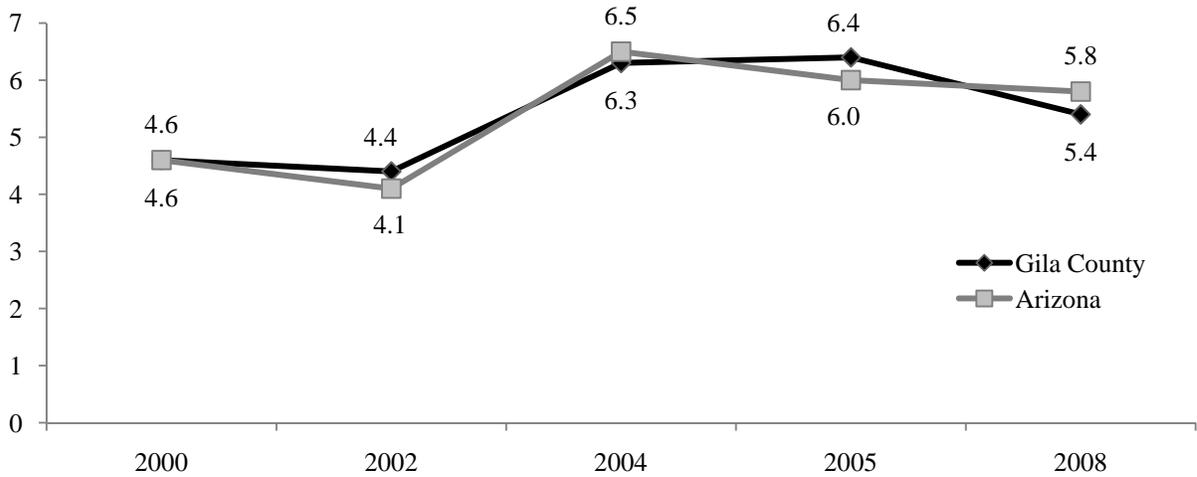
Foster Care

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is for children ages 0 to 17 who are removed from their parents’ or guardians’ homes and placed in a different setting such as a family foster care home, relatives’ home, group residential home, or an institutional care facility. It is generally held that the child’s best interests are served by remaining with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues of abuse and neglect in the home so that the child may reunite with their family.²⁸

There are 23 foster homes in Gila County, licensed by the Arizona Children’s Association, Providence Home Care Client (HCTC), Arizona Partnership for Children, and the Central Arizona Council on Developmental Disabilities. The rate of children in out-of-home care in Gila County was 5.4 per 1,000 children in 2008, slightly lower than the state of Arizona at 5.8 per 1,000 children.

²⁸ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Family Preservation Services*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>

Figure 54: Children in Out-of-Home Care (Rate per 1,000 Children)



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 children. Data represent the number of children in substitute care arrangements on June 30 of the specified year. Substitute care arrangements can include shelters, homes with foster parents or relatives, group homes, residential treatment centers, and other locations.

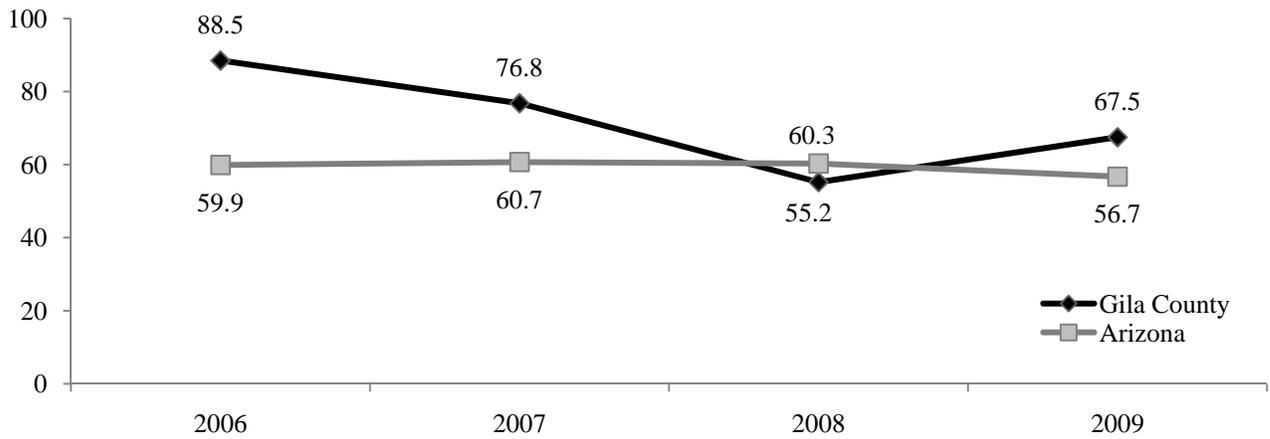
Juvenile Justice

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety. It is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.²⁹ To reduce juvenile crime, it is important that the community promote youth assets and positive attitudes by providing opportunities for education, mentoring, employment, and leadership.

Overall juvenile arrest rates for Gila County are high. The rate of all juvenile arrests in Gila County decreased between 2006 and 2008, and appears to be back on the rise, increasing slightly between 2008 and 2009, from 55.2 to 67.5 per 1,000 youth. This rate was higher than Arizona as a whole, with a rate of 56.7 per 1,000 in 2009. The rate of juvenile arrest for drug crimes in Gila County (11.6 per 1,000) was almost double the rate for Arizona (6.0) in 2009.

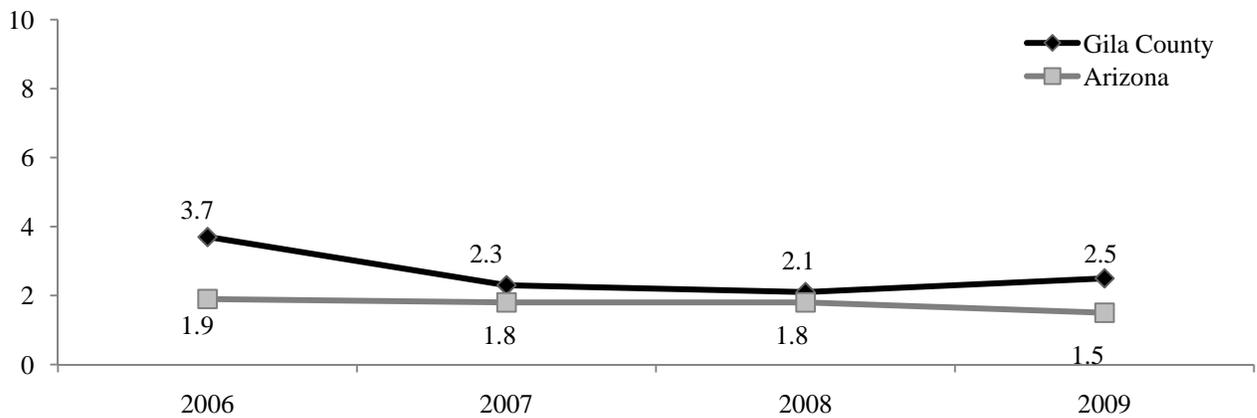
²⁹ Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and Preventing Youth Violence: An Analysis of Causes and an Assessment of Successful Programs, *Harvard Education Review*, 65, 189-212. .

Figure 55: Juvenile Arrests for All Crimes, Ages 8 to 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)



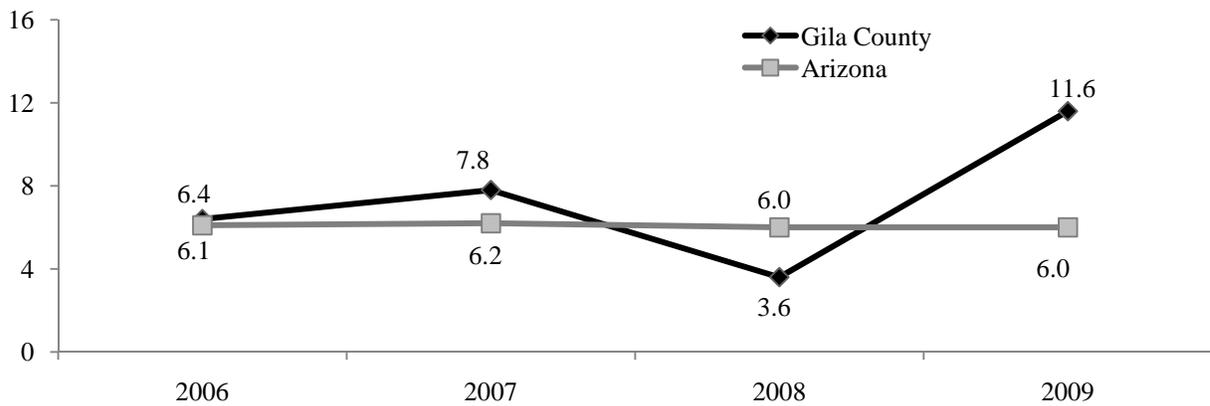
Source: Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Figure 56: Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes, Ages 8 to 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Figure 57: Juvenile Arrests for Drug Crimes, Ages 8 to 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Children in out-of-home care (such as foster care)*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=AZ>.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Arizona has the highest rate of incarceration nationally. There are an estimated 95,669 minor children in Arizona who experience the hardships of parental incarceration, and an additional 80,398 children have at least one parent on probation. Overall, it is estimated that on any given day, 176,067 children have a parent involved in the Arizona criminal justice system.³⁰ In Gila County, more than 300 children had a parent in the county jail and about 1,200 children had a parent in the Gila County Probation system in 2007. About 20% of these children were under age four.

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability. They are more likely to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested.³¹ These children may need additional supports from the community to encourage their healthy growth and development.

Figure 58: Estimated Daily Number of Children of Arrested and Incarcerated Parents, 2007

	Number of Minor Children*	Children Under the Age of 4
Correctional System		
Gila County Jail	320	70
Federal Prison System in Arizona	5,681	1,250
Arizona State Prison	63,050	13,871
Arizona Correctional System Total	95,669	21,047
Probation Department		
Gila County Probation	1,234	247
Federal Probation	8,500	1,870
Arizona State Probation Total	80,398	17,688

Source: The Prima Prevention Partnership. (2007, December). *Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents* Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2010 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf

* On average, every inmate in Arizona has 1.7 minor children.

 No New Data Available

³⁰ Prima Prevention Partnership. (2007, December). *Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents* Arizona: Bill of Rights Project. Retrieved 2010 from http://thepartnership.us/newsite/pdfs/Final_report.pdf.

³¹ Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). *Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers* (New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2009). Retrieved June 29, 2010 from http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf

Health

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development and helps children to become successful, healthy, and thriving adults. In comparison to other counties in Arizona, Gila County ranked the lowest in health outcomes according to the 2010 County Health Rankings. This ranking is largely due to low-birth weights among children and the overall health status of residents. Gila County also ranked poorly in terms of health factors due to a large number of residents engaging in unhealthy behaviors (i.e., smoking, binge drinking, high rates of Chlamydia, and teen births).³²

The health status of children and families in the Gila Region is maintained through the efforts of a number of medical facilities and health organizations. Gila County has two general hospitals including the Payson Regional Medical Center and the Cobra Valley Community Hospital in the city of Globe. San Carlos offers the only U.S. Public Health Service Indian Hospital in the area. There are Veteran's Administration Clinics in both Globe and Payson. The Gila County Health Department has locations in both Globe and Payson and houses a number of offices and service providers. Having offices at both ends of the region allows for less travel to services by community members.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care for pregnant women, including screening and treatment for medical conditions and identification and interventions for behavioral risk factors like tobacco, alcohol, and substance abuse that are associated with poor birth outcomes. Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes, such as full term births and babies born weighing more than 5.5 pounds. Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at a low-birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds), and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care.³³ Lack of prenatal care is often associated with lack of health insurance and other barriers to health care, including communication difficulties, lack of child care, and transportation obstacles.³⁴

It is essential for women to receive prenatal care early in their pregnancy (first trimester) and to have regular prenatal visits throughout the pregnancy (nine or more visits). Timely and regular visits allow for the identification of medical problems early on, provides pregnancy and delivery education and service referrals, and helps prevent maternal deaths.³⁵

The number of women in Gila County receiving adequate prenatal care was lower than the percentage of women statewide. Only 61% of women in Gila County received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy and 30% of women did not receive the recommended number of prenatal visits (nine or more visits) in 2009. However, the percentage of women who did not receive any prenatal care in Gila County was less than 1%, slightly lower than women across the state of Arizona at 2%.

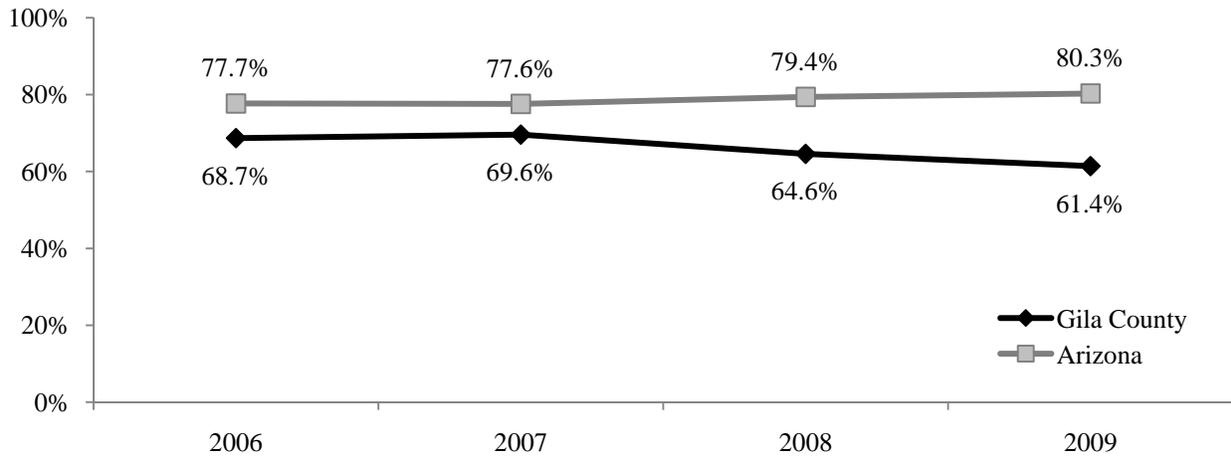
³² County Health Rankings (2010). Snapshot 2010: Gila, Arizona. Retrieved Aug. 2010 from <http://www.countyhealthranking.com>

³³ U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) *A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born*. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>

³⁴ American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). *Universal maternity care*. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893

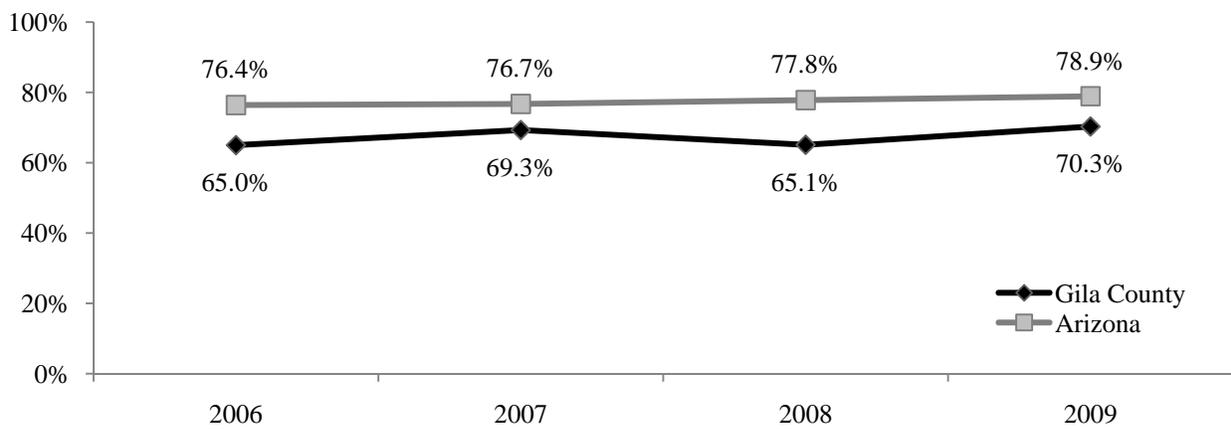
³⁵ Kotelchuck, M. (1994). An Evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a Proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index. *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 84, No. 9, 1414-1420. Retrieved June 23, 2010 from <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/84/9/1414.pdf>

Figure 59: Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



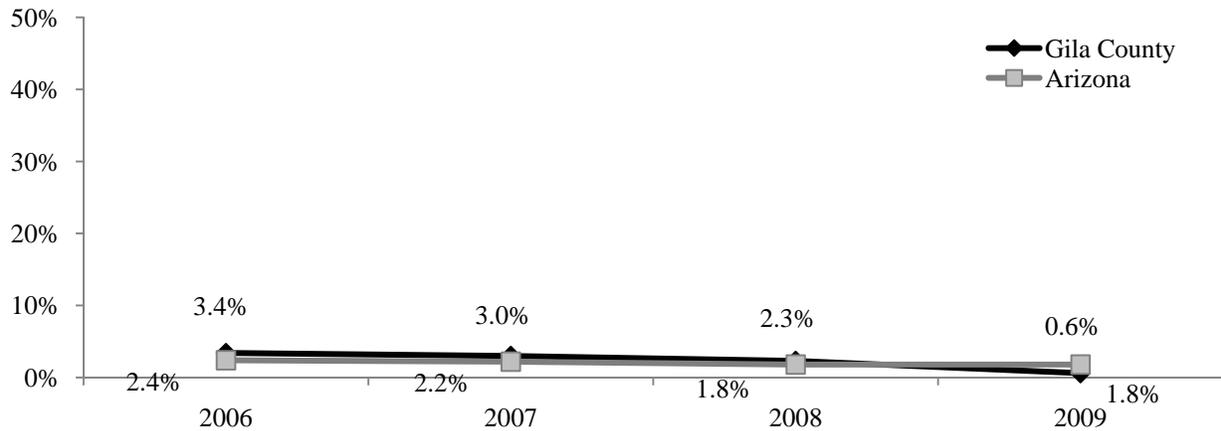
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 60: Women Who Had Nine or More Prenatal Visits



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 61: Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Birth Characteristics

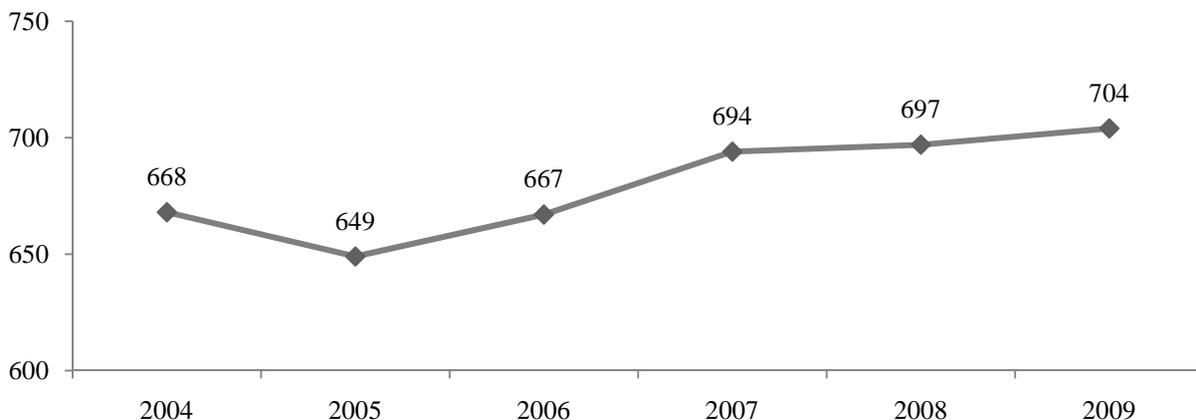
There are many factors surrounding a child's birth that are related to infant and child survival, health, and development. Low birth weight in particular is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.³⁶ Low birth weights are commonly associated with pre-term births, which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.³⁷ It is important for a family to be prepared for the birth of a child. In addition to adequate prenatal care, parents can gain essential information from books or classes in the community.

The total number of births in Gila County increased from 668 in 2004 to more than 700 births in 2009. Eleven percent of births in Gila County were preterm and 8% experienced low birth weights. Over one-third (36%) of births had medical risk factors and 33% experienced complications of labor and delivery. A higher percentage of mothers in the Gila County (15%) used tobacco during their pregnancy than mothers in all of Arizona (5%). While the number of women in the county who drank alcohol during their pregnancy decreased between 2004 and 2008, it was still higher than the percentage of women in Arizona as a whole (0.5%).

In 2009, the majority of births (54%) in Gila County were paid for through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), similar to Arizona as a whole (54%).

There are a number of programs for pregnant mothers in the Gila region that focus on prenatal support and pregnancy care. For example, the Gila County Health Department office in Globe offers the Health Start Program to new families, which provides home visitations, immunizations, information on family planning, nutrition, child development, and health and safety. New Beginnings is an independent faith based organization in Payson which also provides information and classes to new parents. Additionally, the Mommy Program and Pregnancy Center is available in Hayden-Winkelman for new mothers. The Young and Tonto-Basin communities do not currently have any programs for pregnant and new mothers.

Figure 62: Total Births, Gila County

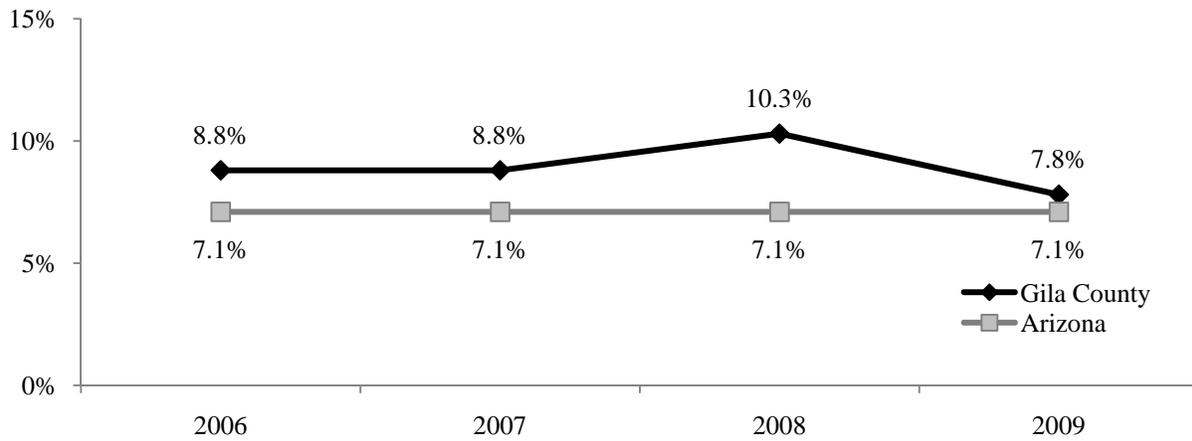


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Community Vital Statistics*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/cvs/index.htm>.

³⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). *Child health USA 2008-2009*. Retrieved from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

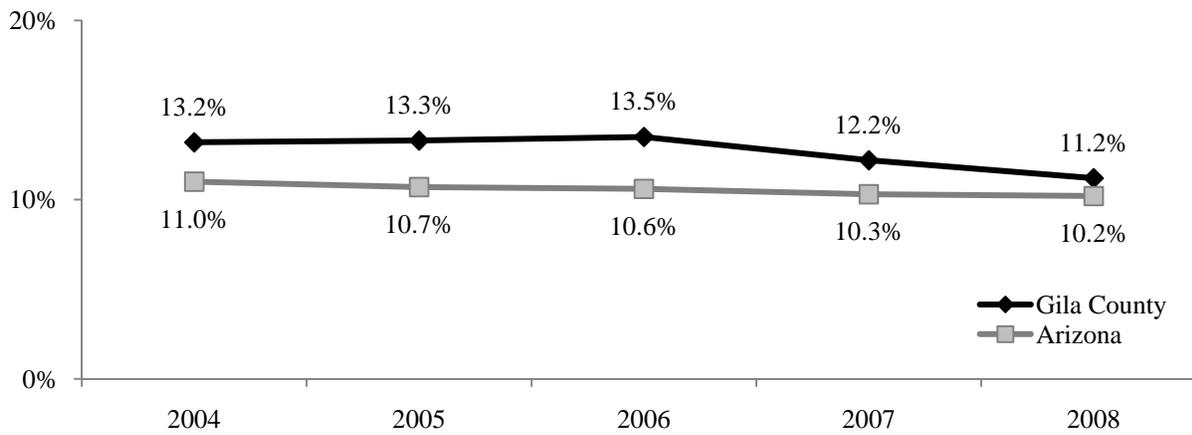
³⁷ March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). *Preterm Births*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4

Figure 63: Births with Low Birth Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams)



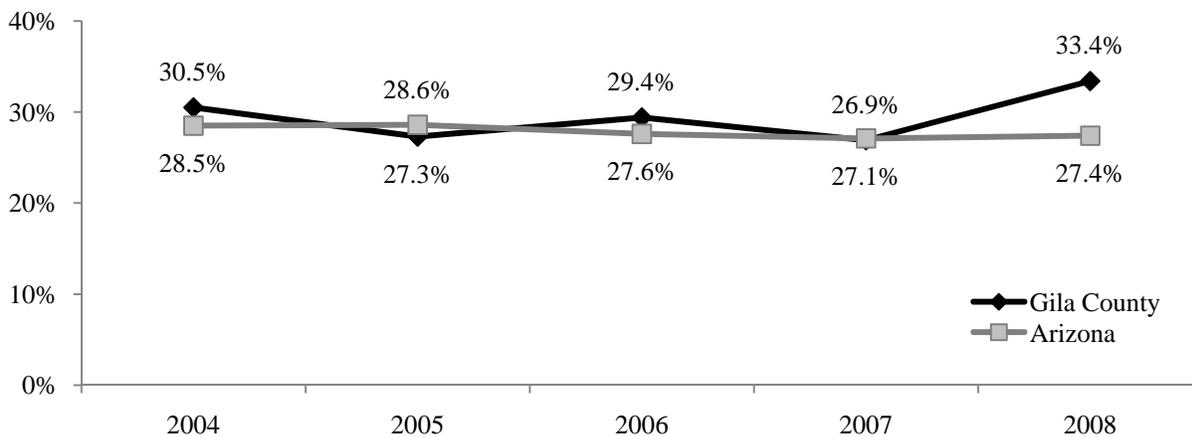
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 64: Preterm Births (Gestational Age of Less Than 37 Weeks)



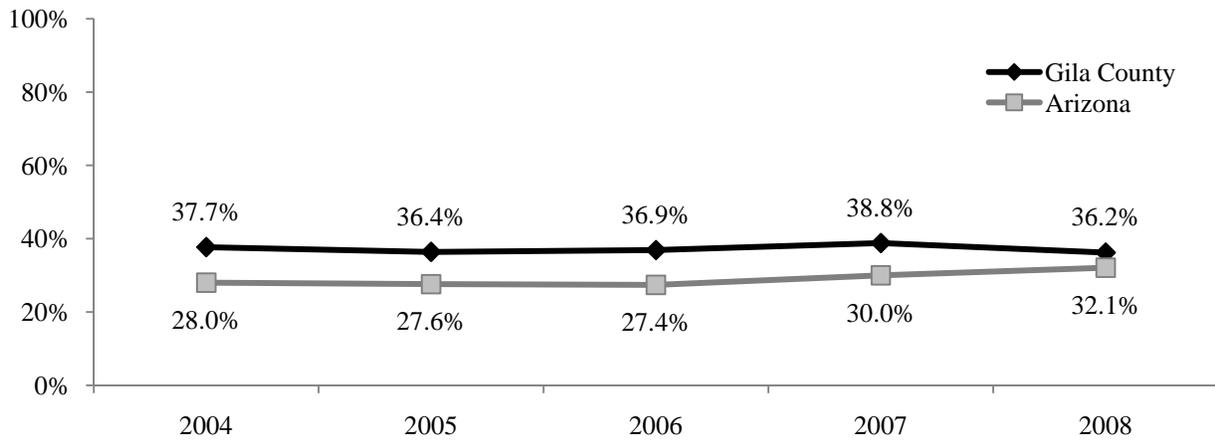
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 65: Births with Complications of Labor and Delivery



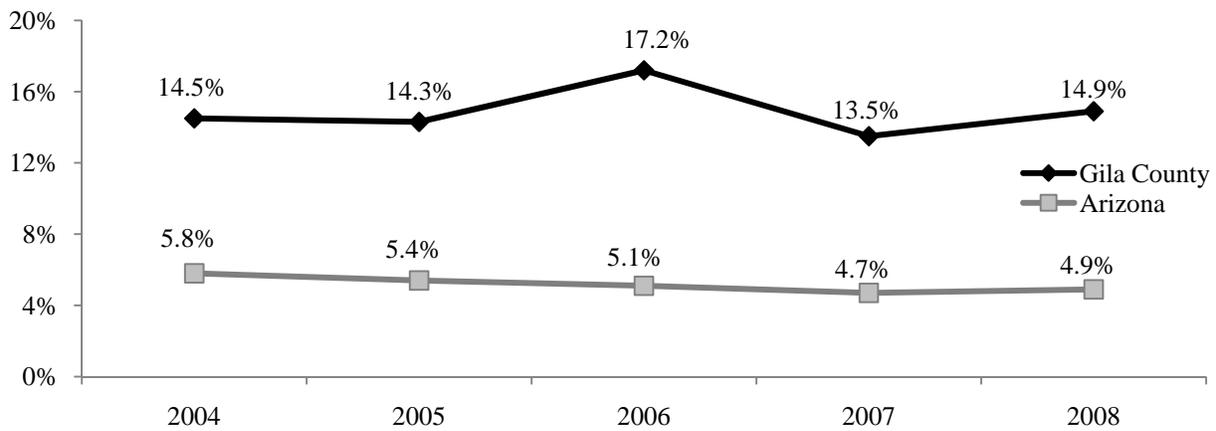
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 66: Births with Medical Risk Factors



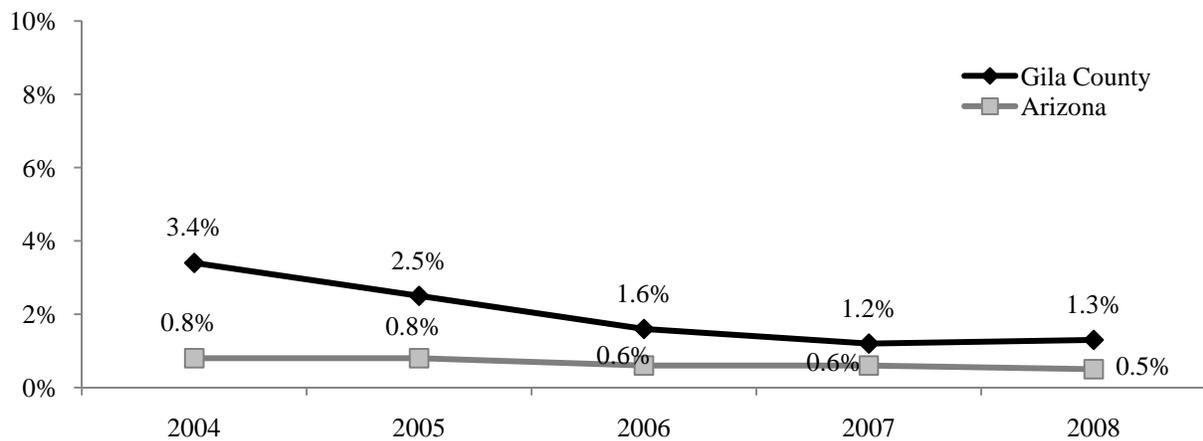
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 67: Births To Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 68: Births To Mothers Who Used Alcohol During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 69: Source of Payment for Labor and Delivery

Payee	2006	2007	2008	2009
AHCCCS				
Gila County	58.3%	53.6%	53.2%	53.7%
Arizona	52.1%	52.2%	52.5%	53.5%
Indian Health Service				
Gila County	20.4%	22.5%	22.5%	23.9%
Arizona	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
Private Insurance				
Gila County	18.1%	21.0%	20.8%	20.6%
Arizona	42.3%	42.0%	42.0%	41.0%
Self				
Gila County	3.0%	2.2%	3.2%	1.7%
Arizona	3.0%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%
Unknown				
Gila County	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%
Arizona	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Teen Births

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay parenthood. Teen mothers, many of whom are single, often have more difficulty providing the economic and emotional support and nurturing that promote a child's emotional and social development.³⁸ Additionally, research from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy links teen pregnancy to premature births and low birth weight, and indicates that children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.³⁹

Gila County had the second highest rate of teen pregnancies in Arizona in 2009.⁴⁰ Births to teen mothers represent more than 21% of all births in the region.

The local health department received \$135,000 federal grants to address teen pregnancy. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition will use the grants to fund community-based programs for education and outreach. Additionally, the Teen Outreach Program in Globe and Miami works with youth to teach about puberty and pregnancy prevention. This program also has a traveling show every other year for 8th, 9th and 10th graders in the county called the Teen Maze, which provides outreach and education to local teens. These efforts will be countywide, providing teen pregnancy prevention programs to many communities in the area that have not traditionally had such programs.

Figure 70: Births to Teen Mothers (19 Years or Younger), by Selected Community

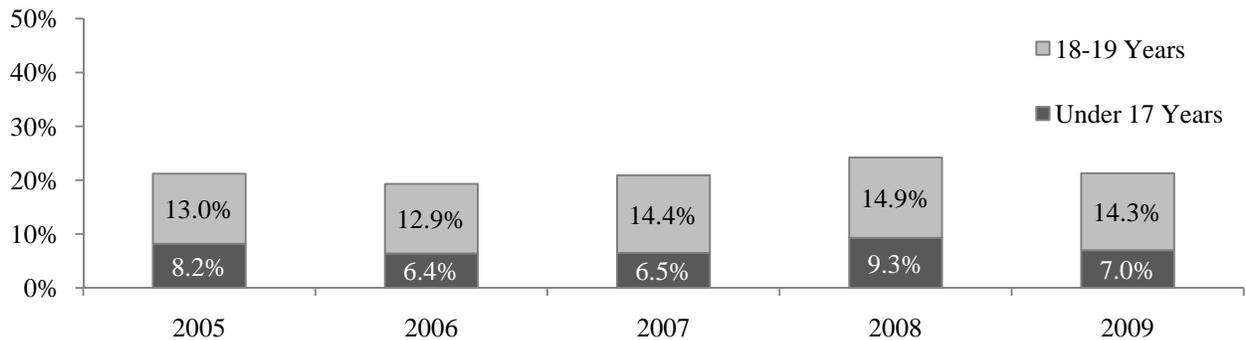
Community	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Globe	17.6%	14.8%	19.5%	24.7%	18.4%
Payson	16.9%	16.1%	15.5%	35.6%	20.3%
Gila County					
Percent	21.3%	19.3%	20.9%	24.2%	21.3%
Total Number of Teen Births	138	129	145	169	150
Arizona	12.5%	12.7%	12.6%	12.3%	11.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

³⁸ Klein, J.D., & the Committee on Adolescence. (2005). Adolescent pregnancy: Current trends and issues. *Pediatrics*, 116(1), 281-286. doi:10.1542/peds.2005-0999.

³⁹ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2002). *Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues*. Retrieved 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resoures/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Payson Roundup. (Aug. 13, 2010). County's teen birth rate 2nd in Arizona. Retrieved August 2010 from <http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2010/reg/13/>

Figure 71: Births to Teen Mothers by Age, Gila County

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health and Vital Statistics*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding offers multiple health advantages to the infant and the mother. Breast milk contains properties that increase immunity, lower the risk of infection, and decrease susceptibility to chronic illness. Mothers who breastfeed have fewer postpartum problems and a reduced risk of osteoporosis, ovarian cancer, and breast cancer.⁴¹ While there are no data on the number of women breastfeeding in Gila County, the Gila County Health Department located in Globe does have one lactation consultant and four breastfeeding counselors. However, the Gila Region is lacking breastfeeding support groups or programs such as La Leche League.

Health Insurance

A key measure of access to the health care system is whether a child has health insurance. Research has shown that children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.⁴² Children who don't have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.⁴³

In 2006, 12% of children under 19 years old in Gila County had no health insurance. In comparison, 16% of children ages 18 and younger in Arizona as a whole didn't have health insurance. In August of 2010, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) provided health insurance coverage to 15,594 people in Gila County. A total of 302 children in Gila County were insured through KidsCare in January 2010, fewer than in previous years, a decline likely caused by reduced funding, and recent changes to state legislature.

⁴¹ Schack-Nielsen, L, Larnkjær, A & Michaelsen, K. F. (2005) Long Term Effects of Breastfeeding on the Infant and Mother. In *Early Nutrition and its Later Consequences: New Opportunities*. (pp16-23), Springer Netherlands doi: 10.1007/1-4020-3535-7_3

⁴² Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004) Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative • In *Brief Number 4*, Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHIimproves.pdf>

⁴³ American Academy of Pediatrics. (n.d.). *MediKids Fact Sheet*, Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>,

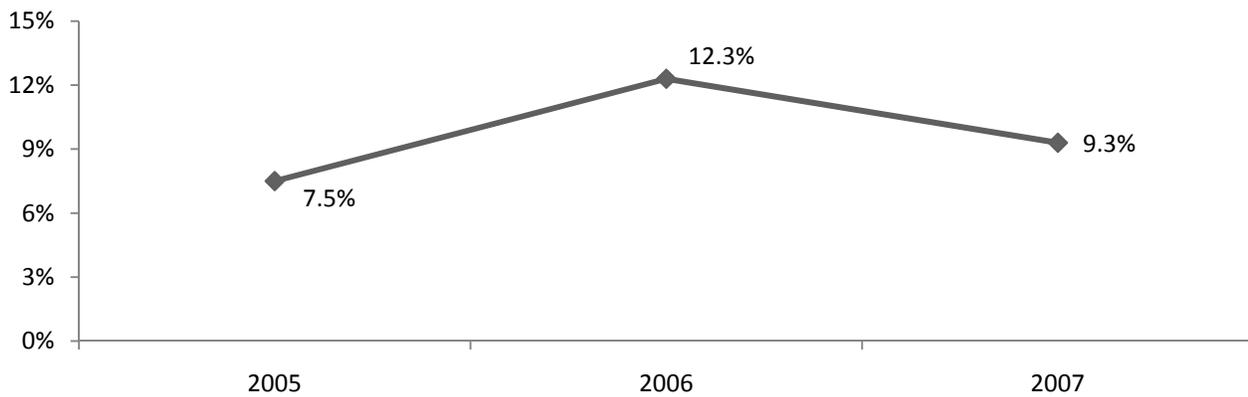
Figure 72: Health Insurance Coverage Under 19 Years Old

	2000	2006
Gila County		
Number Uninsured	2,230	1,439
Percent Uninsured	17.2%	11.6%
Arizona		
Number Uninsured	226,220	279,363
Percent Uninsured	15.8%	16.1%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2006). *Small Area Health Insurance Estimates*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

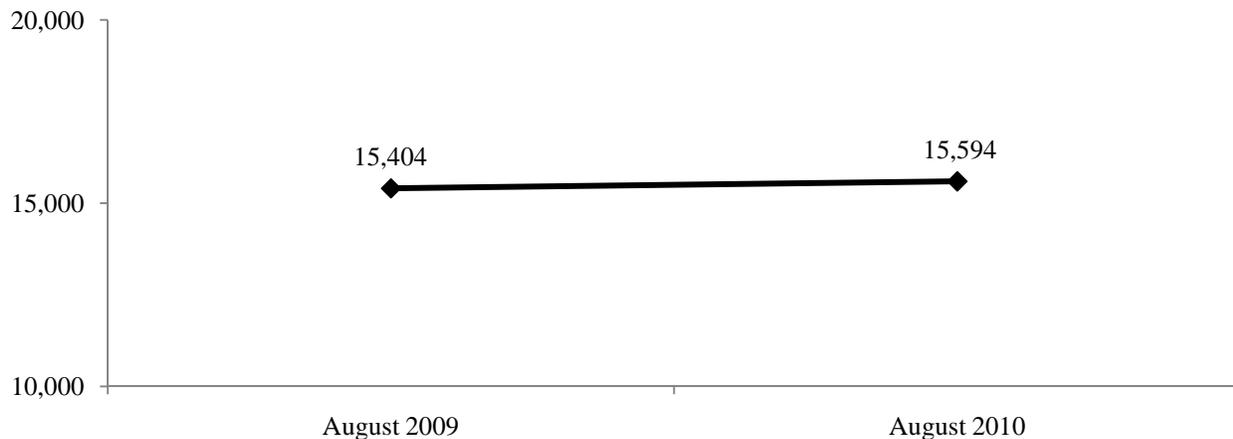
⌚ No New Data Available

Figure 73: Percent of Uninsured Children Under 18 Years of Age Below 200% Poverty Line, Gila County



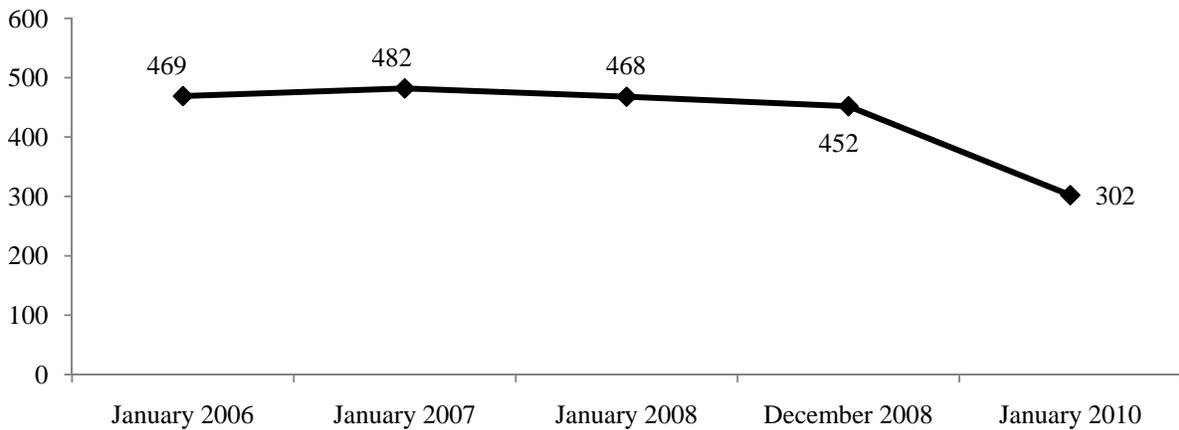
Source: U. S. Census Bureau. (2006). *Small Area Health Insurance Estimates*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.factfinder.census.gov/>.

Figure 74: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Enrollment, Gila County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, *AHCCCS Population by County*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

Figure 75: KidsCare Enrollment, Gila County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2010). *KidsCare Enrollment*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/population.aspx>.

Health Providers

Communities across the nation are facing shortages of healthcare professionals. As the population ages and continues to increase in number, concern over provider shortfalls are increasing. The Arizona Healthcare Workforce is working to track and find ways of addressing these shortfalls across the state. The ratio of primary care providers to population in Gila County was 1:908 in 2009, which was much lower than the state ratio of 1:639. In 2008, there were a total of 63 primary care providers in the region and 395 registered nurses.⁴⁴

Figure 76: Provider to Population Ratio, Gila County, 2009

Area	Ratio
Gila County	1:908
Arizona	1:639

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association. Healthworks. Retrieved August 2010 from http://www.azhha.org/workforce/arizona_healthcare_workforce_data_center.aspx

Figure 77: Type of Health Care Providers (Non-Tribal Areas), Gila County, 2009

Type of Provider	Number
Personnel	
Primary Care Physicians (MDs and DOs)	63
Physician Assistants	7
Nurse Practitioners	13
Registered Nurses	395
Dentists	24
Midwives	1
Emergency Medical	280
Clinics and Hospitals	
General Hospitals	2

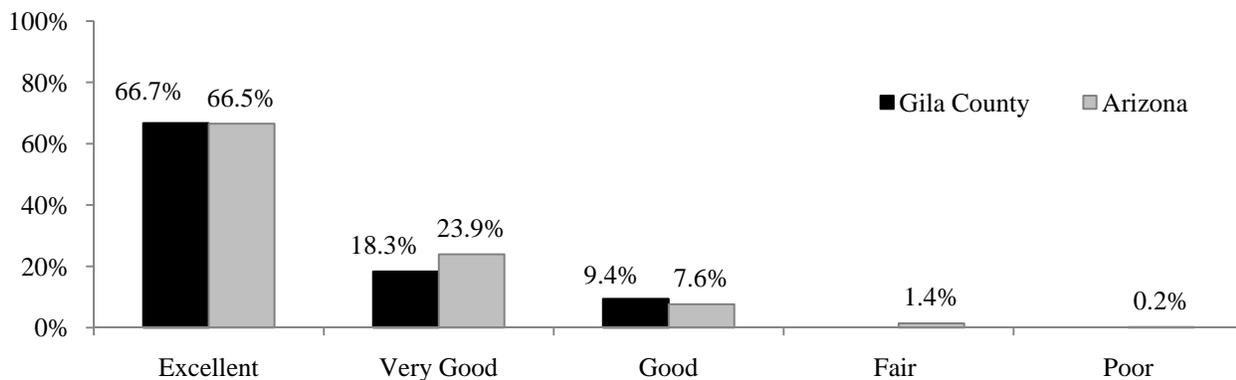
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2009). *Gila Primary Care Area Statistical Profile*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datadocu.pdf>.

Primary Care

Access to health care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation and proximity, language, and education.⁴⁵ Children’s access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more severe health problems.

According to the Arizona First Things First Family and Community Survey in 2008, parents perceived their children’s overall health as excellent. The majority of parents also reported that their children regularly saw the same physician and that their physician helped them to make healthy decisions.

Figure 78: Parent Perceptions of the Statement “Compared with Other Children Age 5 and Under, Would You Say that Your Child’s Health Is...,” 2008

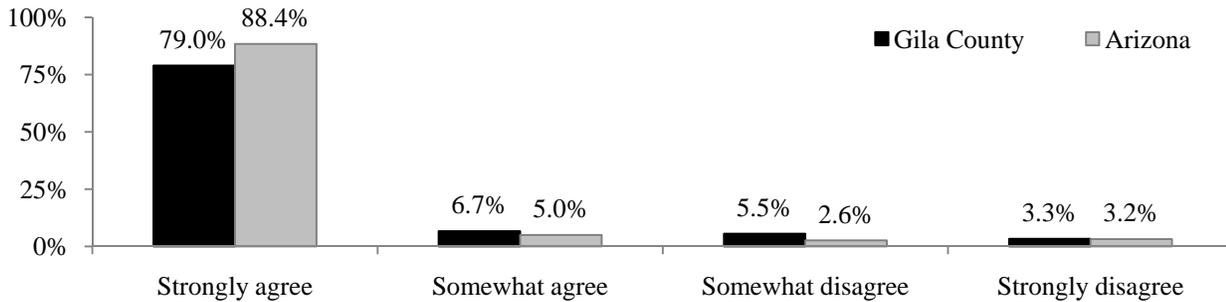


Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ

⁴⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003) *National Healthcare Disparities Report 2003*, Rockville, MD. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>

Figure 79: Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits at the Same Doctor’s Office,” 2008

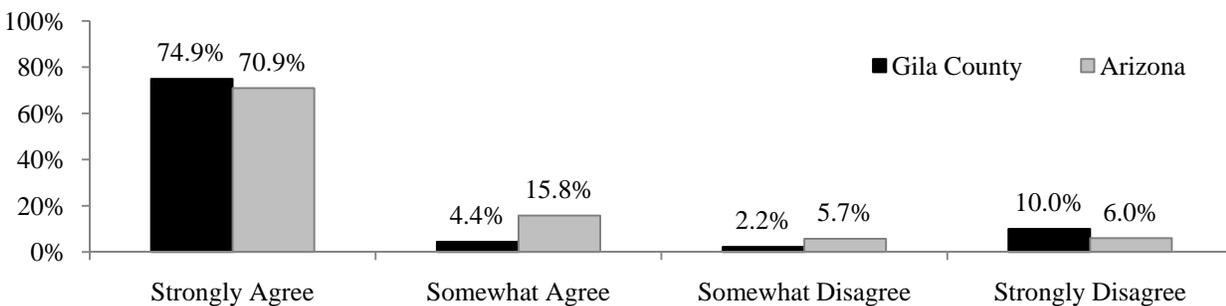


Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “not sure” or refusing to answer.

Figure 80: Parent Responses to the Statement “My Regular Medical Provider Knows my Family Well and Helps Us Make Healthy Decisions.” Gila County



Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

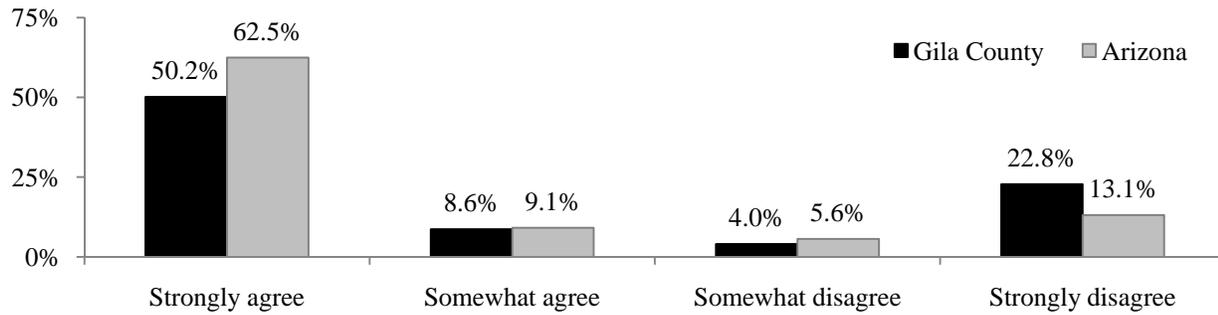
Oral Health

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem among low-income children. Dental and gum problems can be minimized through regular preventive dental services. Experts therefore recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for evidence of developing early childhood dental caries, the most common form of childhood oral disease.⁴⁶ In addition to providing an opportunity for early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of oral disease, regular dental visits can develop oral health knowledge and healthy dental practice habits for parents and children.

According to the 2008 First Things First Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood, 50% of respondents in the Gila Region reported that their child has regular dental visits with the same dental provider, and most parents reported that they do not have to travel far for their children’s dental care. However, a large number of children in the Gila Region were experiencing dental problems in 2003; 64% of children 6-8 years old experienced tooth decay, 4% higher than the state average, and 20% higher than Healthy People 2010 target.

⁴⁶ American Association for Pediatric Dentistry. (2004). *Policy on the Dental Home*. Retrieved June 22, 2010 from http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf

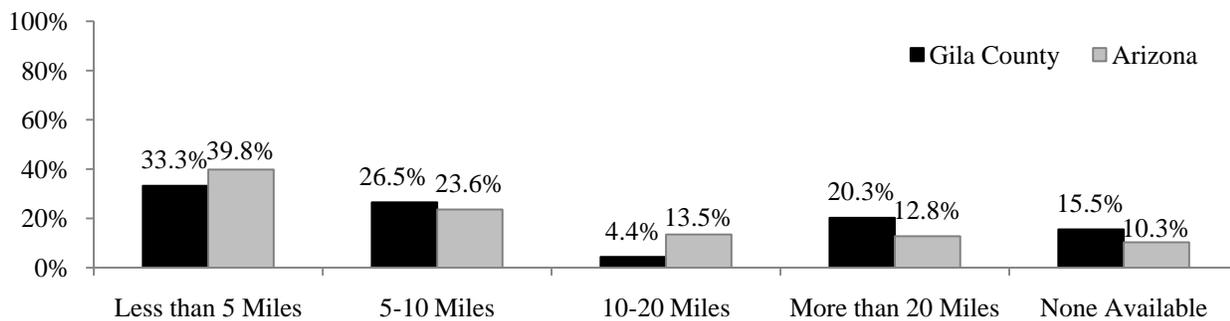
Figure 81: Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits with the Same Dental Provider,” 2008



Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

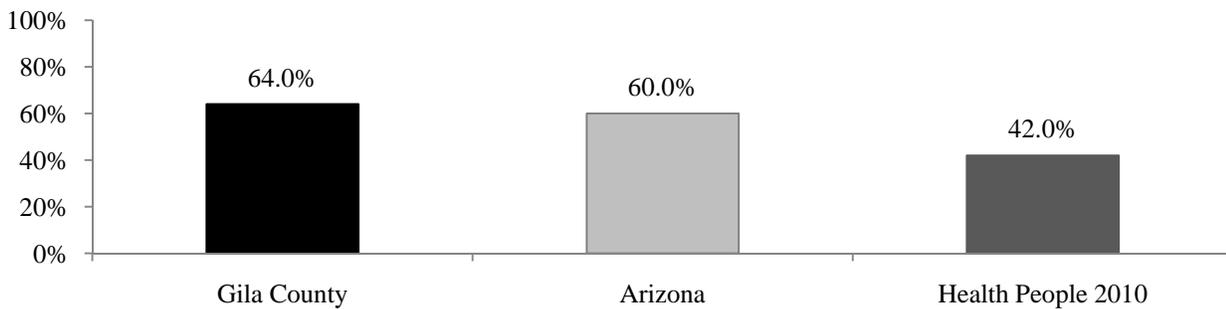
Figure 82: Distance Parents Travel to Get Dental Care for Children Ages Birth Through Five, Gila County



Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Figure 83: Children Ages 6 to 8 Who Have Experienced Tooth Decay, 2003



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, *Children’s Oral Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/cfhs/ooh/pdf/childrensoralhealthinaz.pdf>.

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

⊕ No New Data Available

Figure 84: Teeth with fillings and Cavities Needing Filling Among Children Ages 6 to 8 Who Have Experienced Tooth Decay, 2003

	Gila County	Arizona
Average number of decay and/or fillings, among children who have experienced tooth decay	5.2	4.8
Average number of cavities needing filling, among children who have experienced decay	5.6	NA

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *The Severity of Tooth Decay in Arizona's Children*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/cfhs/ooh/pdf/severitytoothdecay.pdf>.

 No New Data Available

Immunizations

Immunization requirements help to prevent a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care. The required vaccinations protect against hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox). Most require multiple doses to be administered between birth and kindergarten. Healthy People 2010 set a target for 95% of kindergarteners to be fully vaccinated.⁴⁷ In the 2007/08 school year, 97% of Gila County kindergarteners had received all of their required vaccinations. This was comparable to all kindergarten-aged children in Arizona.

Another standard measure of childhood vaccination completion, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.⁴⁸ This set of vaccinations is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule. In Gila County in 2009, 49% of children ages 19 to 35 months had completed this immunization schedule. In comparison, National Immunization Survey results from 2009 indicated that 74% of Arizona children had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.⁴⁹

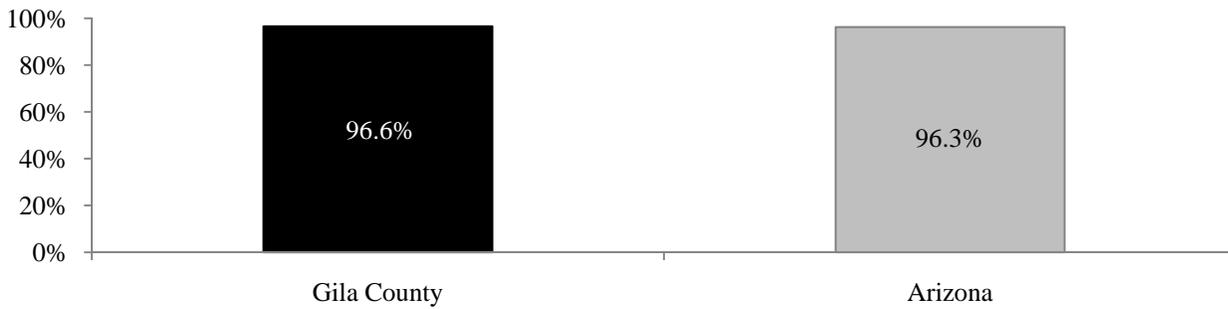
For parents looking to immunize their children, immunizations are administered by registered nurses at County Health Department in both Globe and Payson. Immunizations are also available the first Friday of every month at Hayden/Winkelman Elementary School. All immunizations are free to children under the age of 18 years.

⁴⁷ The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Kindergarteners with Required Immunizations*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org>.

⁴⁸ U.S. Centers for Disease Control. (n.d.). *National Immunization Survey*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>.

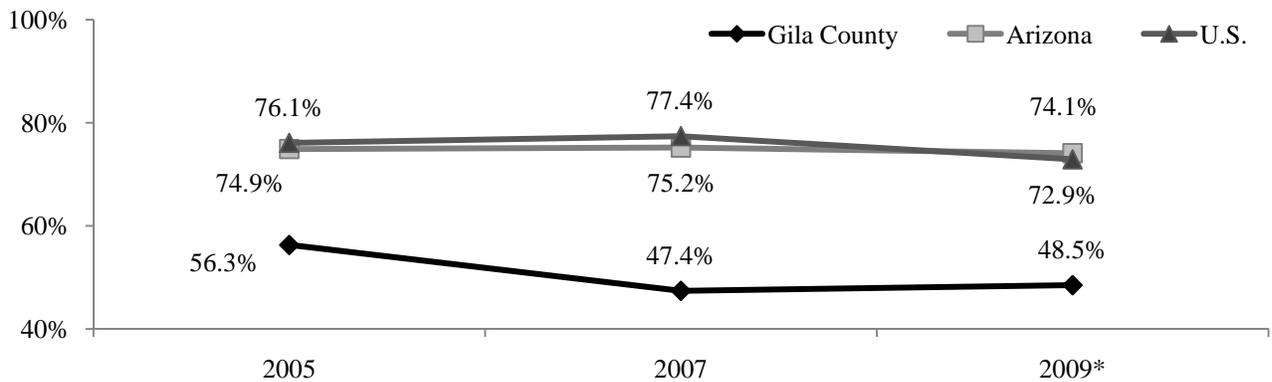
⁴⁹ Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Immunizations: A Publication of the Arizona Immunization Program Office*, Summer 2009.

Figure 85: Kindergarteners with All Required Immunizations, 2007/08 School Year



Source: The Healthy Communities Institute. (2010). *Kindergartners with Required Immunizations*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.arizonahealthmatters.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=NS-Indicator&file=indicator&iid=6948>.
 Note: Required immunizations include 4+ DTP, 3+ Polio, 2+ MMR, 3+ Hep B, and 1+ Var or physician documented varicella disease.

Figure 86: Children Ages 19 to 35 Months with Completed Vaccination Schedule, Gila County



Source: For Gila County: Arizona Department of Health Services (2005, 2007, 2009). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIS) data pulled on May 4, 2010 (Unpublished Data). For Arizona and U.S.: Center for Disease Control, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, (July 2008-June 2009, 2007, 2005). U.S. National Immunization Survey, *Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by State*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#chart>
 Note: Children with completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.
 *2009 data for Arizona and the U.S. actually reflects data from Q3 2008 to Q2 2009.

Injuries

Injuries among children can be intentional or unintentional. Intentional injuries, including child abuse, assault, and self-inflicted injuries, require intervention by the authorities to protect the child and prevent recurrence. Unintentional injuries, or accidents, are more common, and are generally preventable. Parent education on the importance of child-proofing the home, appropriate use of car/booster seats, placing fences around pools and yards, bicycle helmet use, animal safety, and safe storage of firearms can reduce the likelihood of accidents. However, there are very few safety technicians in the region who check for proper car seat installation.

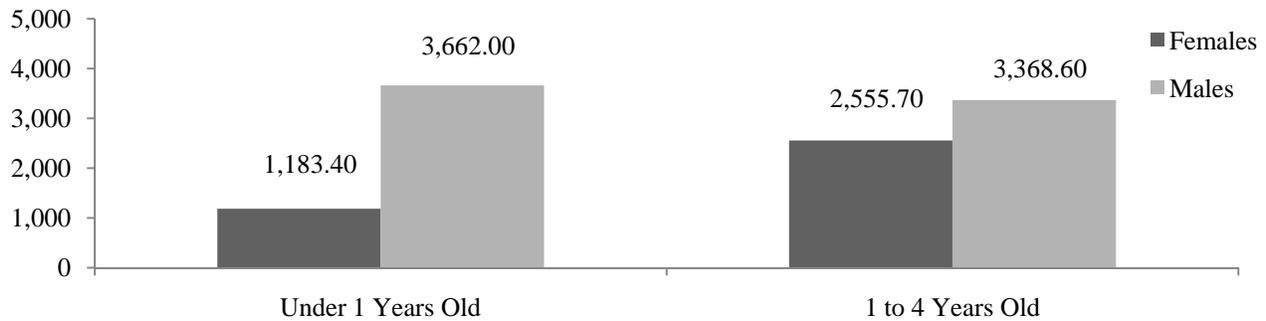
In Gila County in 2008, there were a total of 997 injury-related emergency department visits, 19 injury-related hospitalizations, and three injury-related.

Figure 87: Injury-Related Outcomes, Children Birth Through 15, Gila County

Injury-Related Outcome	2007	2008
Emergency Department Visits	1,109	997
Inpatient Hospitalizations	17	19
Deaths	3	1

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/publicat.htm>.

Figure 88: Unintentional Fall-Related Emergency Department Visits, Rates per 100,000, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/publicat.htm>.

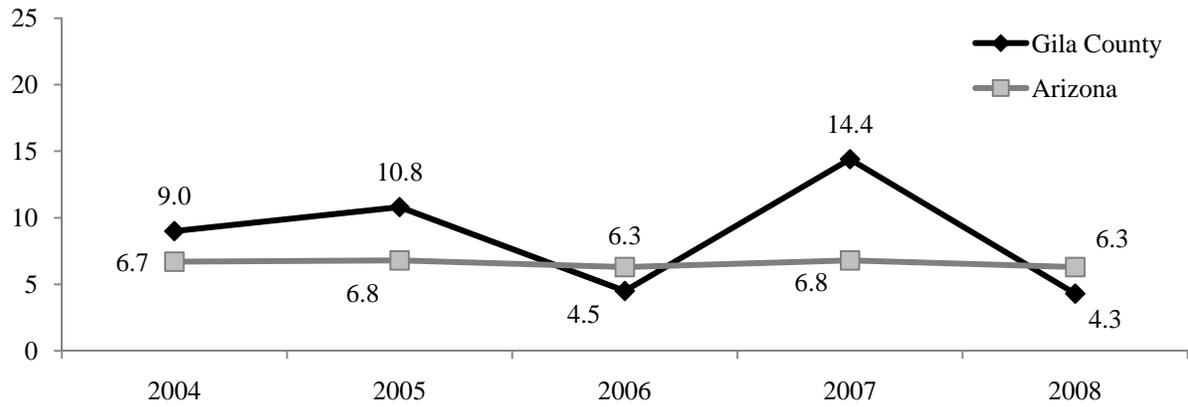
Leading Causes of Death

Infant mortality rates are an overall indicator of children’s health and community development. Infant mortality rates measure deaths within the first year of age and are estimated per 1,000 live births. The national infant mortality rate in 2008 was 6.5 per 1,000 live births.⁵⁰ In 2008, the infant mortality rate in Gila County was 4.3.

For children ages birth through four, there were a total of four deaths in 2009. The leading cause of infant death for children in Gila County was “certain conditions originating in the prenatal period,” and the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 was accidents.

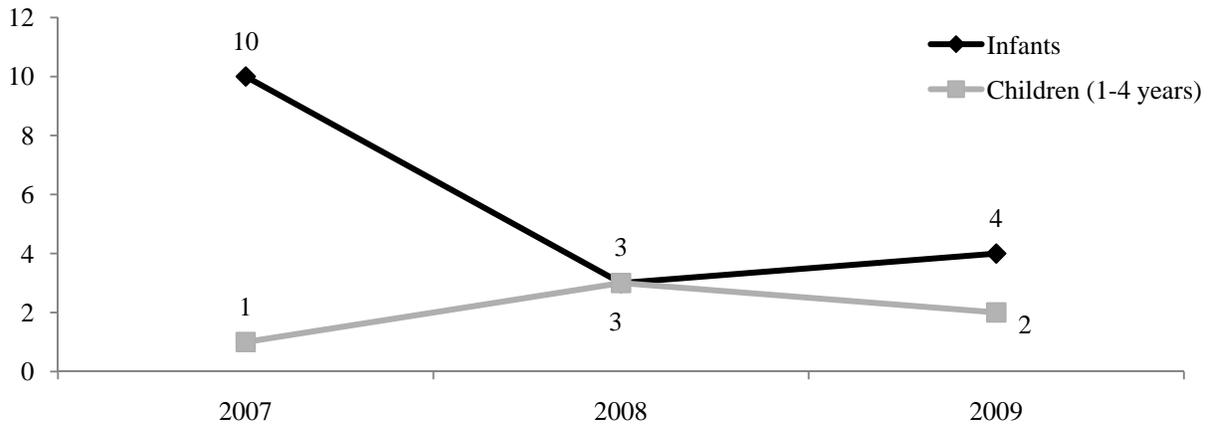
⁵⁰ The World Bank. (2010). *Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)*. Retrieved August 3, 2010 from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN>.

Figure 89: Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics Report*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 90: Number of Deaths for Children Ages Birth Through Four, Gila County



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics Report*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 91: Leading Causes of Infant Death, Gila County

Cause of Death	2007	2008	2009
Certain Conditions Originating in the Prenatal Period	7	1	2
Congenital Malformations	1	1	1
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	1	0	0
Diseases of the Nervous System	1	0	1
Other Causes	0	1	0
Total (all causes)	10	3	4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics Report*, Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Figure 92: Leading Causes of Death for Children Ages 1 Through 14, Gila County

Cause of Death	2007	2008	2009
Accident (unintentional injury)	3	1	1
Congenital Malformations	0	0	1
Malignant Neoplasms	1	1	0
Diseases of the Heart	0	1	0
Other Causes	1	4	2
Total (all causes)	5	7	4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2010). *Health Status and Vital Statistics Report*. Retrieved 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/index.htm>.

Public Awareness and Collaboration

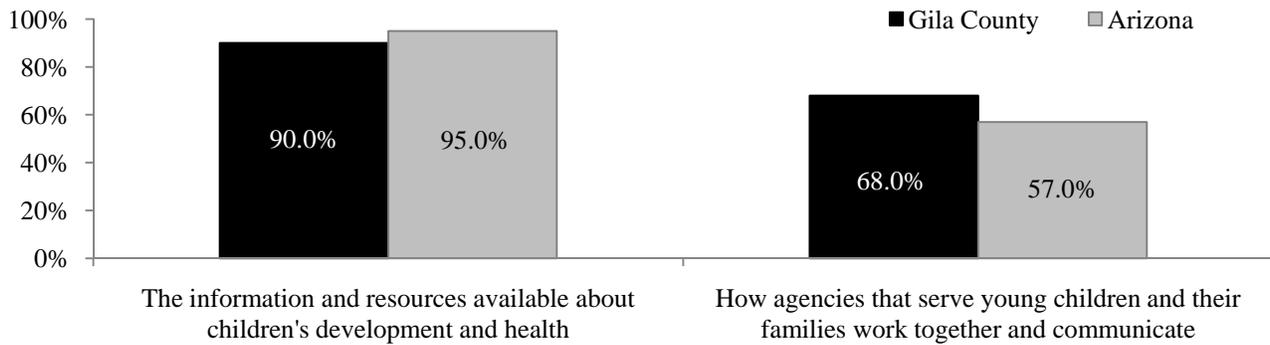
First Things First believes that “All Arizonans have a shared responsibility to help kids grow up healthy and ready to learn.” Awareness of community concerns and needs, as well as community assets, is essential in order to gain the necessary momentum to tackle community problems and form solutions. Effective collaboration among agencies helps families more easily access and receive services, and helps to ensure that services are more responsive to the specific needs of the families.

Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services

Parents were asked to provide their perspectives about the quality of, and access to, information and services provided by Arizona agencies that serve young children and their families. Nearly all (90%) parents surveyed in the Gila Region were satisfied with the information and resources available to them regarding children’s development and health, but only 68% of parents were satisfied with the collaboration between agencies serving children and families.

In general, Gila Region parents agreed that services were very good (100%), that providers spoke their language (92%), that the services in their community were easy to locate (73%), and were available at convenient times and locations (62%). In most cases, parents in the Gila Region rated the services available more favorably than parents in Arizona as a whole. While most parents in the Gila Region were able to access services, many still encountered difficulties. Over three-fourths (76%) of parents felt that the available services met some of their needs but not all, almost two-thirds (63%) did not know if they were eligible to receive services, and a little less than half (48%) of parents felt that the services did not reflected their cultural values.

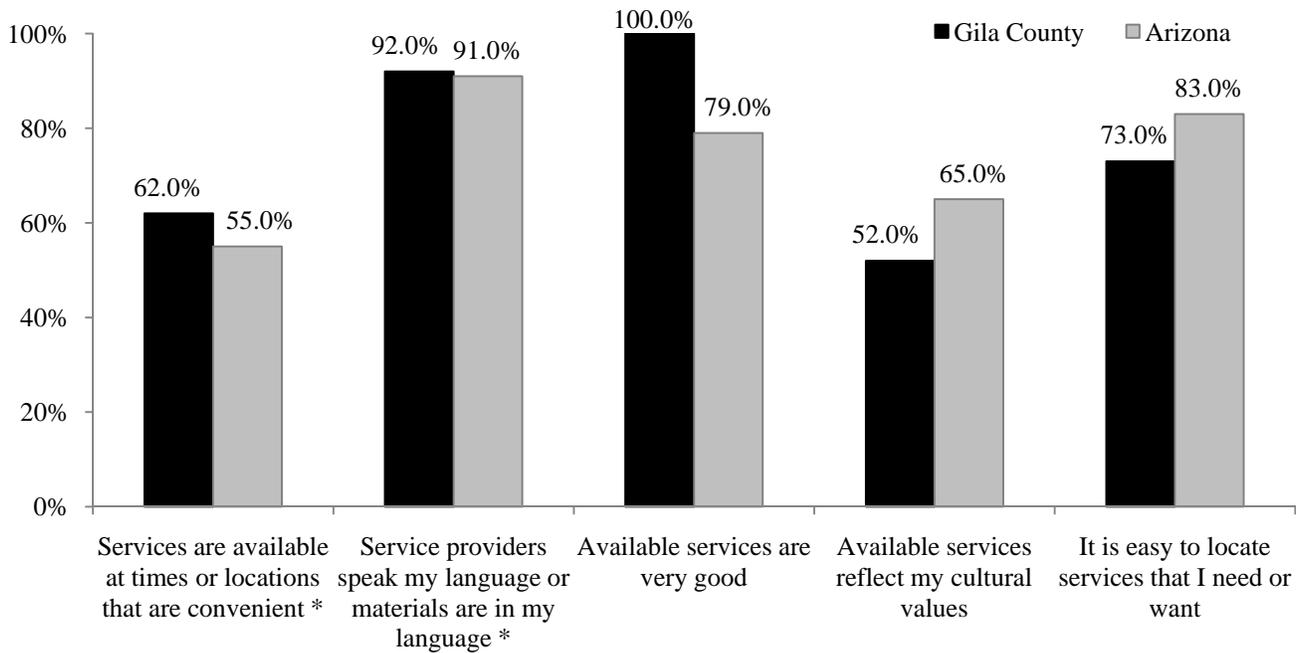
Figure 93: Parents Who Responded “Somewhat” or “Very Satisfied” to the Following Statements



Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Figure 94: Early Childhood Services: Parents that “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008

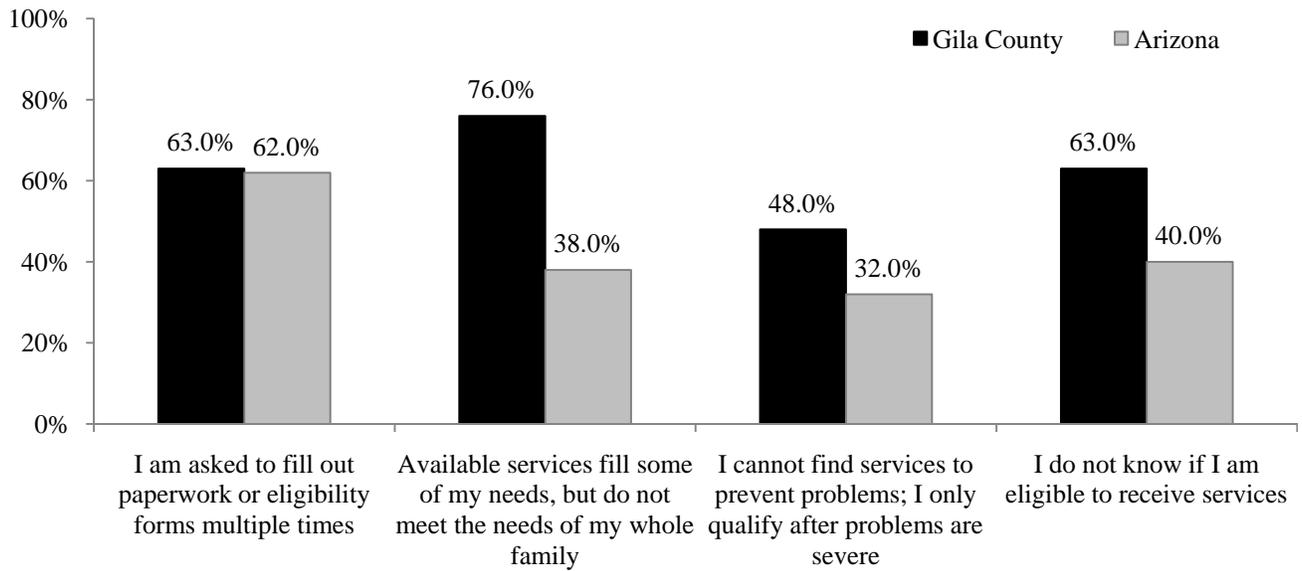


Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

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

Figure 95: Early Childhood Services: Parents that “Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” with the Following Statements, 2008



Source: Gila Region N= 104, Arizona N= 5,193

Source: First Things First (2009, March). *Family and Community Survey on Early Childhood: A Baseline Report on Families and Coordination*. Report presented at the meeting of First Things First – Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board, Phoenix, AZ.

Conclusion

The families and children living within the Gila Region

According to 2009 estimates, there were nearly 3,000 children ages birth through five live in the Gila Region. The total population for the region was projected to be approximately 52,199 in 2010. The population of the region was largely white and English-speaking; according to the 2006-2008 estimates, 41% of children ages birth through four identified as “White alone not Hispanic,” 27% were “Hispanic,” and 29% identified as “American Indian or Alaska Native Alone.” Nearly 5% of the population five to seventeen years of age lived in homes in which all members 14 years and older had at least some difficulty with English.

Community Assets and Areas of Strength

There are many people and organizations in the Gila Region dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children ages birth through five and their families, and they appear to be having a positive effect. Despite the economic recession and the increasing unemployment rate, the numbers of foreclosures in Gila County appeared to be lower than in Arizona as a whole. Many families in Gila County are accessing nutritional and economic support programs. Local organizations like First Things First and community churches are stepping in to help families whose needs are not being met by state and federal programs.

In the area of health, parents perceived that their children’s overall health was excellent. They reported that their children regularly see the same physician and that their physician helps them to make healthy decisions. Nearly all (97%) of kindergarteners had received their required vaccinations. Immunizations are offered at both county health offices and are free to all children under 18. While the number of teen births in Gila County remains high, the local health department recently received \$135,000 in federal grants to create community-based programs for education and outreach across the county to teen mothers. These local efforts will provide outreach to many communities in the area that have not previously had pregnancy prevention programs.

There are also efforts underway to increase literacy and expand educational opportunities within the Gila Region. There are ten county libraries in the Gila Region and each sponsors Early Literacy workshops. Local libraries house Seven New Directions Institute *Brain Box* sets which are used in the Early Literacy programs, and offer workshops on using the tools to librarians, preschool teachers, parents, caregivers, and story time presenters. Gila County libraries have received Dolly Parton Imagination Library funds which allow parents who attend the workshops to register their children ages birth through four to receive a free book each month.

This commitment to literacy, and education in general, is reflected in the majority of 3rd grade students meeting national standards for reading, writing and math. Graduation rates are generally high and the Gila Community College has campuses in Globe, Payson and San Carlos for community members interested in pursuing higher education close to home. There has also been an increased emphasis on educating early childhood educators working in the region. First Things First has expanded their T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for individuals wishing to pursue further professional development in the Early Childhood Education field.

Additionally, Gila Region parents felt that services for children and families were very good (100%). In most cases, parents in the Gila Region rated the available services more favorably than parents in Arizona as a whole.

Community Challenges and Areas for Improvement

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

- Many children are living in poverty

While there seems to be some economic growth in the region, unemployment remains high (10% countywide). In 2007, one in five children in the Gila Region ages birth through four lived below the federal poverty level. More than 90% of children under the age of five in Winkelman were living in poverty. The median family income for single-mother householders in Gila County was substantially lower than the Self-Sufficiency Standard. While the food assistance programs in the communities will help families and children, families would likely benefit from additional assistance. Support for household costs aside from food, such as housing subsidization, and additional scholarships for higher education and job training programs to increase earning potential could be beneficial.

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

In Gila County in 2009, 49% of children ages 19 to 35 months had completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.⁵¹ In comparison, about three-quarters of children in both Arizona and the U.S. as a whole had completed this schedule. However, by kindergarten, nearly all children were up to date on their immunizations. Increasing education among parents regarding the importance of staying on track with the recommended immunization schedule and increasing the availability of vaccinations may help to increase immunization rates among younger children.

- Many children are not attending preschool

According to the 2006-2008 U.S. Census estimates, the percentage of three and four year olds enrolled in school in 2008 was 24%. This was lower than the percentage of all three and four year olds enrolled in Arizona and substantially lower than the national percentage. Recent funding cuts have made preschool scholarships difficult to obtain and parents are being forced to pay for or supplement preschool payments. Children who are enrolled in preschool in the Gila Region are no longer receiving full day services due to this lack of funding. Parents working full time therefore face the challenge of finding or paying for other means of child care. More affordable quality centers and homes need to be established to meet the needs of the community.

- There are a lack of services provided to support children with incarcerated parents

Arizona has the highest rate of incarceration nationally. In Gila County it is estimated that more than 70 children under the age of four had a parent in the county jail and about 247 had a parent in the Gila County Probation system in 2007. Additional supports are needed for children of incarcerated parents.

⁵¹ 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule: 4 or more doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine (often paired with mumps and rubella into MMR), 3 or more doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

- There is a lack of parenting classes focusing on at risk families such as teen parents, parents with substance abuse issues and parents living in poverty.

Gila County faces issues of poverty, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. Although the Arizona State First Things First Parent and Community Survey showed that parents in the region do have some knowledge of child development and the importance of the early years, additional support and parenting skills education is needed with a focus on families living in poverty, living with substance abuse issues, and teen parents.

- There is a lack of health providers for children

The Gila Region has a large shortage of health providers for children and for the population as a whole. The ratio of primary care providers to the population in Gila County was 1:908, which was much lower than the state ratio of 1:639. These shortfalls extend to special needs providers as well. The County Health Department has only one developmental learning specialist and service providers are only available in the larger cities of Payson and Globe. Due to the shortage of medical professionals, new physicians and specialists who move to the area are eligible for loan repayment and stipend programs. Additional outreach within the community as well as to universities and colleges within Arizona and neighboring states regarding these repayment and stipend programs may help to bring more providers to the region.

- Women are not receiving adequate prenatal care and teen birth rates remain high

More women in Gila County are not receiving adequate prenatal care and more women are engaging in risky behaviors such as smoking and drinking during pregnancy than in Arizona as a whole. Also, the percentage of births with complications and medical risk factors in the county was high. Gila County was ranked second highest in the state for the percentage of births to teen mothers. There are outreach programs dedicated to teen pregnancy prevention and parental support in the region and these high rates are being taken very seriously by local community groups. Continued outreach and marketing to increase knowledge of the current available programs is recommended to increase program enrollment.

- Many children do not have health insurance

While the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) covers many children in the Gila region, nearly one in five (17%) children did not have health insurance coverage in 2000. KidsCare enrollment decreased between 2008 and 2010, likely due to budget cuts. When children and their families do not have health insurance, the emergency departments are utilized more frequently for health conditions and illnesses that could have been prevented or managed with regular primary care access. Given that health insurance is linked to many other educational and health indicators, re-authorizing funding to ensure that all children have health insurance is essential to the future of the community.

Conclusion

This Needs and Assets report on the health and well-being of children ages birth through five in the Gila region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. In general, Gila Region children and families appear to be struggling to meet some of the health, economic and social needs of their children, particularly in regards to prenatal care, education, and vaccinations. In light of these challenges in the Gila Region, targeted efforts, such as those highlighted above, and continued collaboration are needed to help improve the situation of children and families.

First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the Gila Region to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.

Appendix A: Data Development Agenda – What We Want to Know

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

- **Children with Disabilities** – The data available regarding the number of Head Start children receiving developmental screenings and the number of children referred to and receiving AzEIP and DDD services do not give a comprehensive picture of the children with disabilities in the Gila Region. More cohesive data regarding the number of children by disability type would help to identify the level of need and which services are needed.
- **Obesity** – Obesity data are only available for adults living in Gila County. There are no current data available regarding the number of children and in particular the number of children ages birth through five who are considered to be overweight or obese.
- **Asthma** – The Arizona Department of Health Services collects data on hospital use for children with asthma. There are no specific data regarding the number of children actually diagnosed with asthma.
- **Oral Health Data** – The Arizona Department of Health Services conducted a study of children’s oral health in 2003. Although the data are useful, they are out of date. Therefore up-to-date data on the dental health of children in Gila is needed.
- **Cost of child care** – These data are collected through the Department of Economic Security’s Market Rate Survey. While the survey is conducted within all regions, the data are presented at only the district level, which for Gila includes Gila and Pinal Counties.