



Children's
Action Alliance



2024
**ARIZONA
KIDS COUNT
DATA BOOK**

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Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Regional Center for Border Health
Santa Cruz County Family Resource Centers
United Way of Northern Arizona

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OUR VISION

An Arizona Where All Children and Families Thrive



All children and families have
affordable and quality health care
when they need it



All children and their families have
access to a high quality system of
child care and education



All children and youth are safe and
supported with resources to
promote stability and family unity



All children and families
are economically secure

INTRODUCTION

There are 1.6 million children growing up in Arizona. Children's Action Alliance works for an Arizona where each of these children and their families thrive. Statewide and countywide data does not tell us the whole story but knowing the data can draw our attention to important needs. Children's Action Alliance has gathered data here – for our state and each of Arizona's counties – as a reference tool for parents and leaders across the state.

This 2024 Arizona Kids Count Data Book also includes four stories of community coming together to meet the needs of children and parents. These stories remind us of the powerful impact that can be created when forces join together – non-profit, government, philanthropic, business, and higher education – for the success of children and their parents. This year's stories include three in rural Arizona and one in a tribal community. Children's Action Alliance thanks them for allowing us to highlight how their work makes a difference for children and families, for their communities, and also for Arizona's economy.

Setting a Roadmap for the Future

Children's Action Alliance presents this context, data, and examples of Arizona leadership to inform policymakers, parents, and community about the state of children in Arizona so that together we can take action that supports their ability to thrive. Whether parents or grandparents working to feed their families, young adults who have experienced foster care struggling to keep a roof over their head, or a family needing child care to build their own economic prosperity, their experiences must guide the policy direction of our state. Children's Action Alliance continues to work alongside community throughout Arizona to build this roadmap. When children and families succeed, Arizona will succeed.



STATEWIDE TRENDS FOR ARIZONA CHILDREN

Comparison of Rates Over Time (2018–2023)

Economic Well-Being



16.7% Children Living in Poverty

4.4% LOWER



50.3% Rent Burdened Households

1.5% HIGHER

Health



8.8% Children Without Health Insurance

0.2% HIGHER



39.2% Children With Public Health Insurance

0.8% HIGHER

Hunger



18.5% Households With Children Receiving SNAP

3.3% LOWER



18.5% Children With Food Insecurity

0.5% LOWER

Education



35.7% 3–4 Year Olds Enrolled in School

2.5% LOWER



77.5% 4-year High School Graduation Rates

0.9% LOWER

Comparisons are based on the change from 2018 to 2023, except that Children With Food Insecurity is based on the change from 2018–2022. Sources can be found under Sources for Statewide Trends and County Data Snapshots in the Appendix.

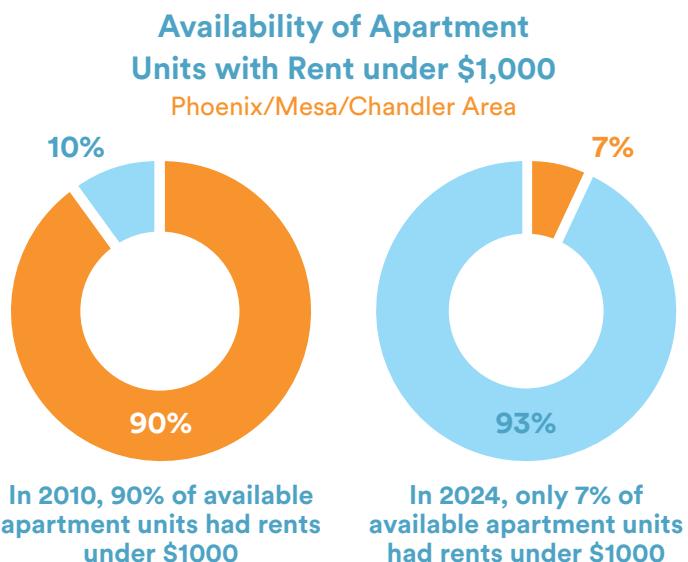
POLICY ALERT

Economic Struggle and Children and Families

The data throughout this publication tells the story of hardworking parents and caregivers struggling to take care of their families. While wages rose overall, rising costs often overshadowed any benefit of wage gains.

Rising Housing Costs

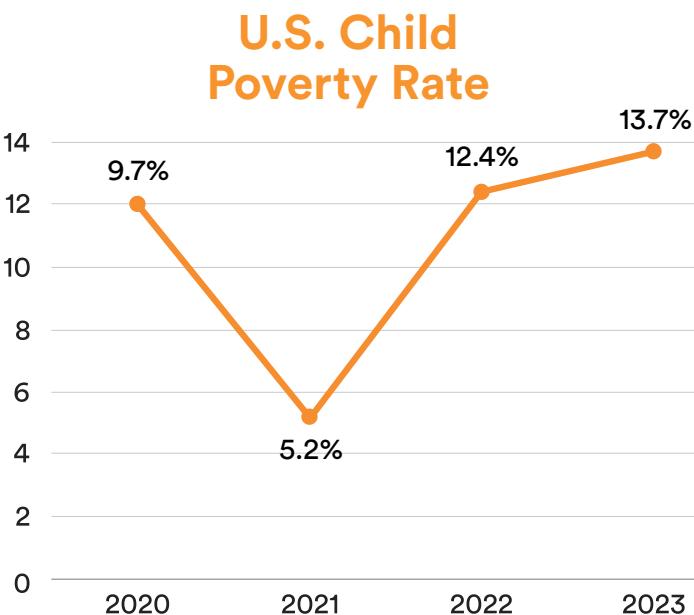
One example of a rising cost is rent. In the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler area, availability of apartments with rent under \$1000 dropped from over 90% in 2010 to only 7% in 2024, a stunning change of circumstances for Arizona families.¹ The data tell us that economic struggle shapes the lives of hundreds of thousands of Arizona's children. Low family income is linked with many other risk factors, including higher risk of eviction, frequent changes to new schools, inadequate health care, low education attainment, higher reports of abuse and neglect, and increased levels of stress. Policy strategies are critical to improving opportunity for children and families facing economic challenges.



The data tells us that challenges for all households peaked early in the pandemic and then improved by summer 2021; however, adults living with children consistently reported more difficulty paying daily household expenses, providing adequate food for their family, and making housing payments compared to other households.²

Expanded Child Tax Credit

During this pandemic era, a bi-partisan expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) was passed at the federal level. This temporary expansion of the CTC reduced child poverty by a historic 46 percent,³ improved food security, and helped address longstanding racial inequities in the tax code. However, child poverty rates soared once again when the expanded CTC was allowed to expire.⁴



The Pandemic Era Created Difficult Challenges and Promising Solutions That Were Allowed to Expire

During the pandemic and after, parents and children in Arizona suffered disruption to work and school, decreased opportunity for socialization, increased stress, lack of access to child care, and economic struggle.

A bi-partisan expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit drove down child poverty in 2021. Child poverty increased when the expansion expired.

POLICY ALERT

Economic Struggle and Children and Families

Child Hunger Solutions

Similarly, as food insecurity rose, federal funding allowed for schools to offer school meals to all students at no charge. When this funding expired, less students had access to food through their school meals. However, in this case, Arizona stood firm against child hunger by allocating funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to close the funding gap. As a result students in Arizona continue to find a hunger solution through access to school meals.

Child Care Solutions

In addition, the pandemic era brought significant increases in funding to keep the nation's child care system from collapsing. This boost of funding meant that child care providers could stabilize, increase compensation for the child care workforce, and be accessible so parents could maintain or start employment opportunities that boost their own and Arizona's economic strength. In addition, the federal funds prevented Arizona from putting a waitlist in place for child care assistance to families. As expected, however, when the federal funds expired and state funding did not meet the need, a waitlist was implemented in August of 2024, once again placing child care out of reach for many families. For many families, especially with more than one young child, the cost of child care exceeds their housing costs and the cost of college tuition.⁵

Paid Family Medical Leave

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was passed with bi-partisan support to ensure that certain employees would be provided with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for pandemic-related reasons. While targeted to specific employers and situations, the passage of the FFCRA was an important acknowledgment that our economy and workforce is more secure when employees are afforded paid time off to care for themselves or a loved one when illness strikes. Hundreds of thousands of Arizonans need paid leave, but there is no established state paid family and medical leave program. When paid leave is not available, Arizonans often take an economic loss to care for themselves or a child or family member. In 2020, 35.3% of Arizonans took unpaid leave to care for a new child, with many also taking unpaid leave to care for their own health (29.4%) or to be a family caregiver (25.2%).⁶



Children's Action Alliance raises this data as a Policy Alert in need of urgent policy solutions. Strategies at all levels of government are important to lower costs that have dramatically increased, and to support families in affording the basics for their children, including a roof over their head, health care, enough food to eat, and child care.



STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

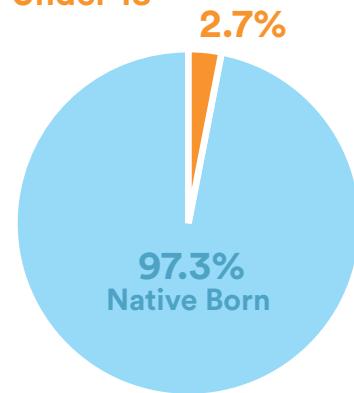
Child Total Population Under 18, 2023

Arizona's 15 counties vary greatly in population size, including how many children are living, learning, and growing in each. Consider that Maricopa County has more than a million children, while Greenlee County and La Paz County have less than three thousand. Out of all children in Arizona, 97% were born in the United States.

Child Total Population by County, Under 18	
Apache	17,740
Cochise	26,698
Coconino	30,030
Gila	10,385
Graham	10,528
Greenlee	2,592
La Paz	2,639
Maricopa	1,077,317
Mohave	36,690
Navajo	28,203
Pima	218,634
Pinal	102,274
Santa Cruz	13,188
Yavapai	38,805
Yuma	53,104

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health and Vital Statistics, Table 10D-4, 2023

Nativity/Country of Birth of Children Under 18



Of Arizona's child population, 97% were born in the United States

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-year Estimates Subject Tables, "Children Characteristics," Table S0901, 2023



STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

Child Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2023

	White non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander
Arizona	40.2%	44.8%	6.4%	4.9%	3.8%
Apache	13.3%	10%	1.4%	74.8%	0.5%
Cochise	41.9%	49.8%	5.1%	1%	2.3%
Coconino	39.9%	20.4%	1.9%	36.2%	1.6%
Gila	41.2%	27.7%	1.1%	29.1%	1%
Graham	48.2%	35.2%	1.2%	14.4%	0.7%
Greenlee	41.8%	51.4%	2.5%	3.9%	0.4%
La Paz	25.8%	50.6%	2.2%	20.6%	0.8%
Maricopa	41.3%	44.1%	7.8%	2%	4.7%
Mohave	64.8%	28.1%	2.1%	3.4%	1.6%
Navajo	31.7%	15.4%	1.4%	50.8%	0.7%
Pima	34.9%	53.9%	4.8%	3.4%	3%
Pinal	43.9%	42.6%	6.5%	5.2%	1.8%
Santa Cruz	6.7%	91.9%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%
Yavapai	65.8%	28.8%	1.7%	2.3%	1.5%
Yuma	15.7%	80.4%	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health and Vital Statistics, Table 10D-4, 2023

POLICY ALERT

Health Care Coverage and Children

Every child should have access to health care. Being able to see a health care provider for preventative health care and to treat illness is essential to the ability of a child to thrive. Yet, Arizona has the second highest rate of uninsured children in the United States.⁷

Arizona has the second highest rate of uninsured children in the nation.

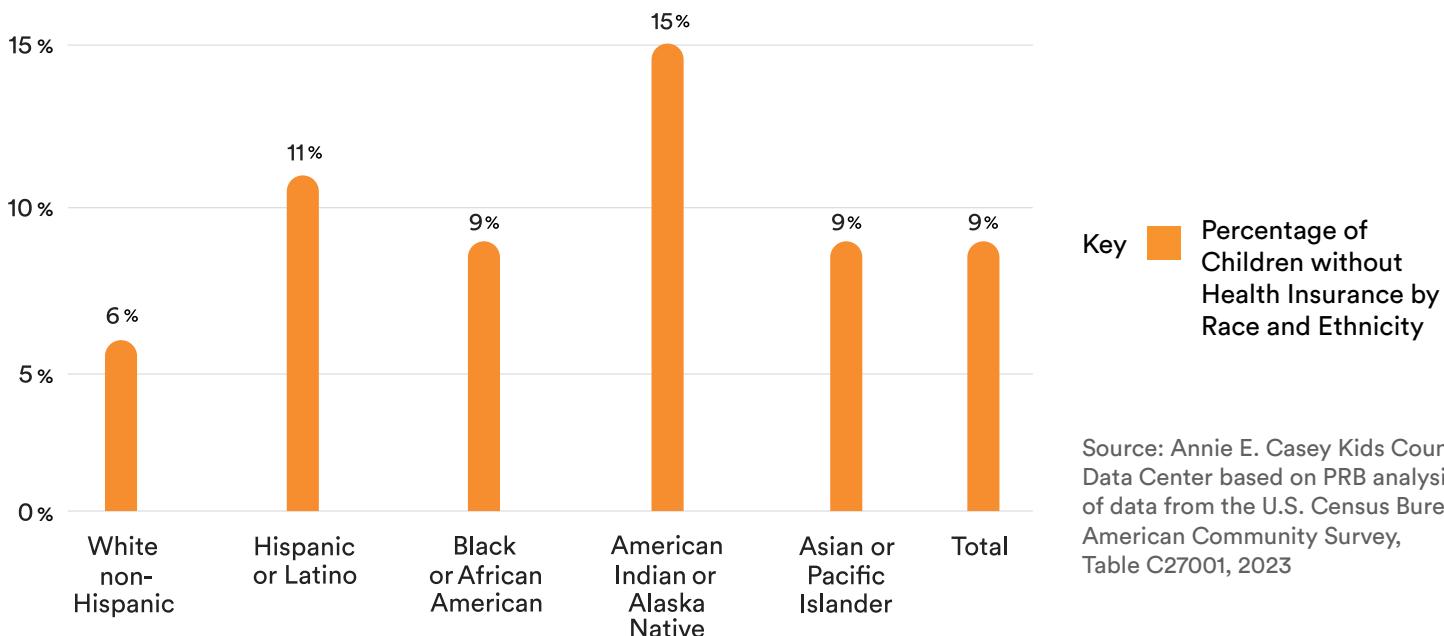
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey Brief-021, State Health Insurance Coverage: 2013, 2019, and 2023.



The consequences of children going without health insurance affect their health, school performance, and financial security throughout their lifetime.⁸ Uninsured children are more likely than those with private insurance or public insurance to go without needed care due to cost, and a nationwide survey found that over a quarter (27.4%) of uninsured children went a full year without seeing a doctor, compared to 4.8% of children with public coverage and 3.7% of those with private coverage.⁹

In 2022, Arizona took a step in the right direction when the state legislature and Governor Katie Hobbs passed a bi-partisan expansion of KidsCare to increase eligibility for more children in working families. This expansion was approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2024, which allowed implementation to begin. KidsCare is the Children's Health insurance Program (CHIP) in Arizona. In addition to KidsCare, children in Arizona may receive coverage through the private market via employer-sponsored insurance or direct purchase, through Arizona's Medicaid agency (the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or AHCCCS), or through other public programs.

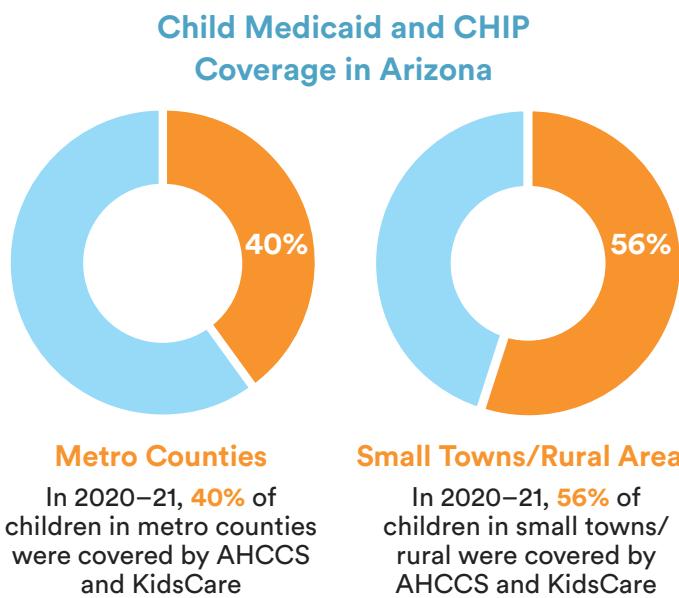
As is true nationally, Arizona has work to do to address inequities in health insurance coverage, especially among American Indian/Native American and Latino children.¹⁰



POLICY ALERT

Health Care Coverage and Children

Finally, there are also important regional trends regarding children and health insurance coverage. As county data snapshots in this book show, children in rural areas often have higher rates of being uninsured. Public health insurance options are important to all children, and that is especially true in rural areas. In Arizona, AHCCCS and KidsCare provide coverage to more than half of children in small towns and rural areas.¹¹



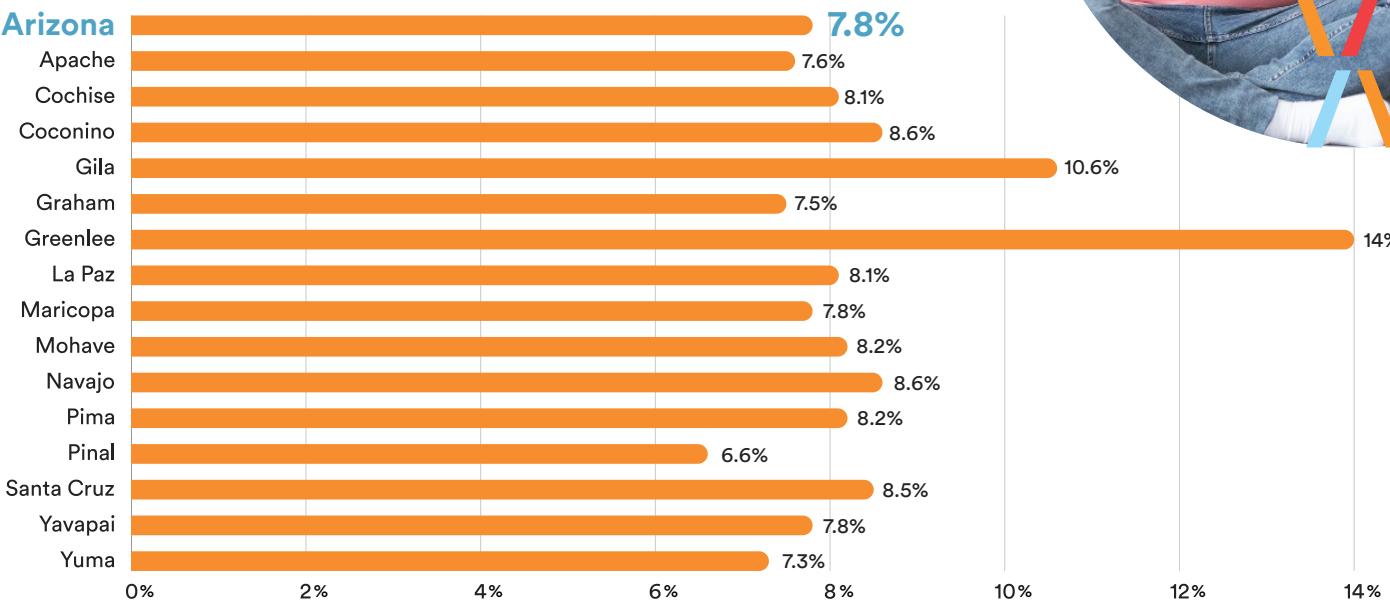
Children's Action Alliance raises this data as a Policy Alert in need of urgent policy solutions. Arizona has the second highest rate of uninsured children in the nation. Children's Action Alliance applauds an expansion of KidsCare eligibility to more children in working families. It is vital that Arizona preserves and strengthens AHCCCS and KidsCare coverage levels while advancing strategies for children to have access to affordable, quality health care coverage. Policy makers should make decisions that support healthy children throughout Arizona.

POLICY ALERT

Maternal Health and Percentage of Low Weight Births

The United States is confronted with a significant challenge in maternal health outcomes, holding the highest maternal mortality rate among developed nations, a trend that is on the rise and disproportionately affects Black and Indigenous women. In this context, Arizona's situation is particularly concerning. Arizona falls short in providing a consistent health care source or routine checkups for women of childbearing age, ranking among the lowest. The data tells us we have a crisis to address - the maternal mortality rate in Arizona surpasses the national average, and the state's infant mortality rate, previously better than average, has now deteriorated beyond the national rate.¹²

Between 2013 and 2023, the rate of infants born low birthweight in Arizona increased more than 17%, and Black infants were nearly two times as likely as White infants to be born low birthweight during 2021–2023.¹³



Key █ Percentage of Low-Birthweight Births by County, 2022

Source: Arizona Department of Health, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2022 Annual Report, Table 5B-17¹⁴



Children's Action Alliance raises this data as a Policy Alert in need of urgent policy solutions. Policymakers and health care providers must work together to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in Arizona. Health care coverage and increased access to health professionals in all areas of the state are two key policy priorities, including expansion of AHCCCS to reach more eligible members during pregnancy.

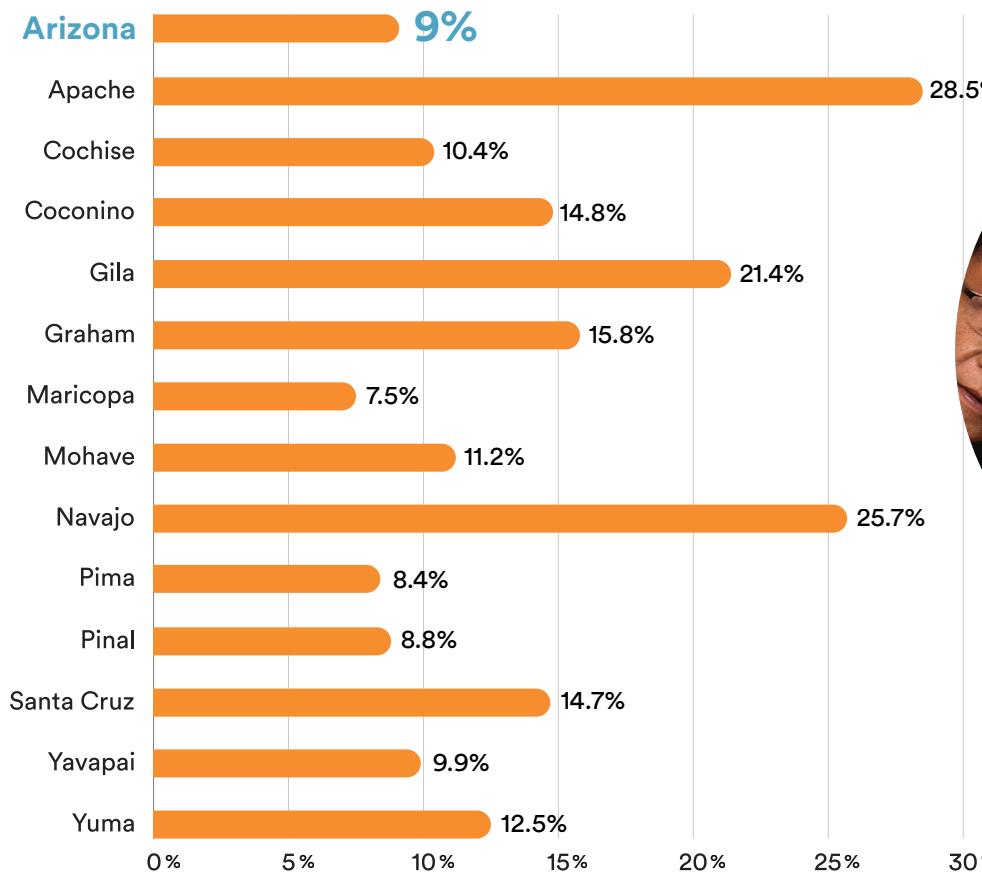
STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS

Children Under 18 Living in Households with Grandparents

States in the U.S. Southwest have a higher share of multi-generational, grandparent-grandchildren households than the national average. Nationally, American Indian and Alaska Native populations have among the highest percentages living with grandchildren.¹⁵ This remains true in Arizona, where Apache County, the county with the highest share of American Indian residents is also the county with the highest share of multi-generational

homes. In a recent survey, families identified some of the benefits of multi-generational homes including enhanced bonds or relationships among family members, making it easier to provide for the care of one or more family members, improved finances for at least one family member, and making it possible for at least one family member to continue school or enroll in job training.¹⁶



Key █ Percentage of Children Under 18 Living in Households with Grandparents

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Children under 18 years in Households with Grandparents, ACS Five-year Estimates Subject Table, Children Characteristics, Table S0901, 2023. Data excludes Greenlee and La Paz counties.

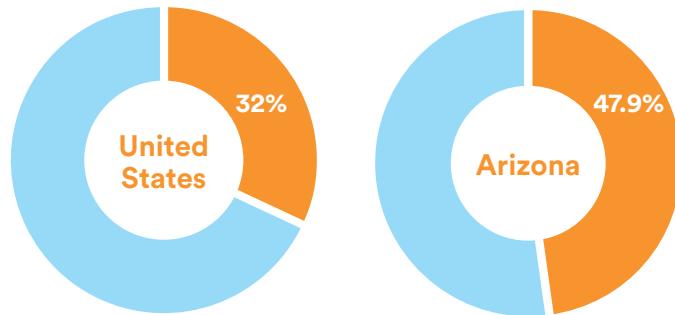
POLICY ALERT

Kinship Caregivers

In a subset of multi-generational homes, grandparents are not only living with their grandchildren, but they are also responsible for the care and financial support of their grandchildren. In Arizona, 57,000 children live in kinship families — families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children with no parents in the home.¹⁷ The Arizona Department of Child Safety has made progress in placing children with kinship caregivers when they cannot remain with their parents. At the end of the Fiscal Year 2024, Arizona reported that the percentage of children and youth placed with a relative (licensed and unlicensed) was 47.9%, well above the national rate of 32%.¹⁸ It is vital that Arizona continue to pursue a “Kin First” approach and that policies support the well-being of all children and their families, including when licensed or unlicensed grandparents and other kin step in to care for children.



Percentage of Children and Youth Placed With a Relative (Licensed or Unlicensed)



Source: Arizona Department of Child Safety, Annual Supportive Resources Report, State Fiscal Year 2024



Children’s Action Alliance raises the needs of Kinship Caregivers as a Policy Alert in need of urgent policy solutions. Policymakers in Arizona must work to reduce barriers to licensing and create equitable financial support for every child in Arizona’s foster care system, including those in kinship care, so that more grandparents and family can step in when needed. In addition, it is important to recognize that many children are being cared for by unlicensed kinship caregivers outside the scope of the foster care system. Arizona should provide financial assistance and support for these caregivers, including restoring TANF for children being raised by their grandparents and other kin outside of the foster care system.

POLICY ALERT

Children and the Foster Care System

When children experience the most vulnerable moments in life, it is critical that they are supported to be safe and to thrive. With the passage of the bipartisan Families First Prevention Act in 2015, policymakers and child welfare agencies across the country have worked to move supports and resources towards prevention so that children and families can safely stay together. As is true nationally, Arizona has experienced less children entering the foster care system.

Re-define Neglect so Poverty is Addressed With Resources Not Family Separation

The vast majority of children in Arizona's foster care system are in care due to neglect, and much of what is deemed neglect stems from poverty. Research shows that when families are financially insecure and have high parental stress due to issues like unemployment, housing instability, and food insecurity, children experience "neglect" at a rate seven times greater than other children.¹⁹ However, when families have access to concrete supports like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child care, and supportive housing, reports of neglect and entries into foster care decrease.²⁰ The definition of neglect in Arizona statutes should be clear that poverty does not equal neglect.

Arizona Places Too Many Children in Group Homes

Once a child is determined to need out-of-home care in the foster care system, much work remains to be done to reduce reliance on congregate care settings in Arizona. Arizona is an outlier and is the number one state in the nation that places the youngest children – under age 12 – in group homes. Children have poorer outcomes in group placements when compared to a safe family setting.²¹ Children's Action Alliance will continue to advocate for Arizona policymakers to act urgently and require the Arizona Department of Child Safety to drastically reduce placements of all children in group homes, especially children under 12.

Arizona Child Welfare Summary²²

Year	2018	2020	2022
Foster Care Entry Rate	5.6	5.8	4.3
Children in Foster Care on 9/30	13,419	13,717	12,358

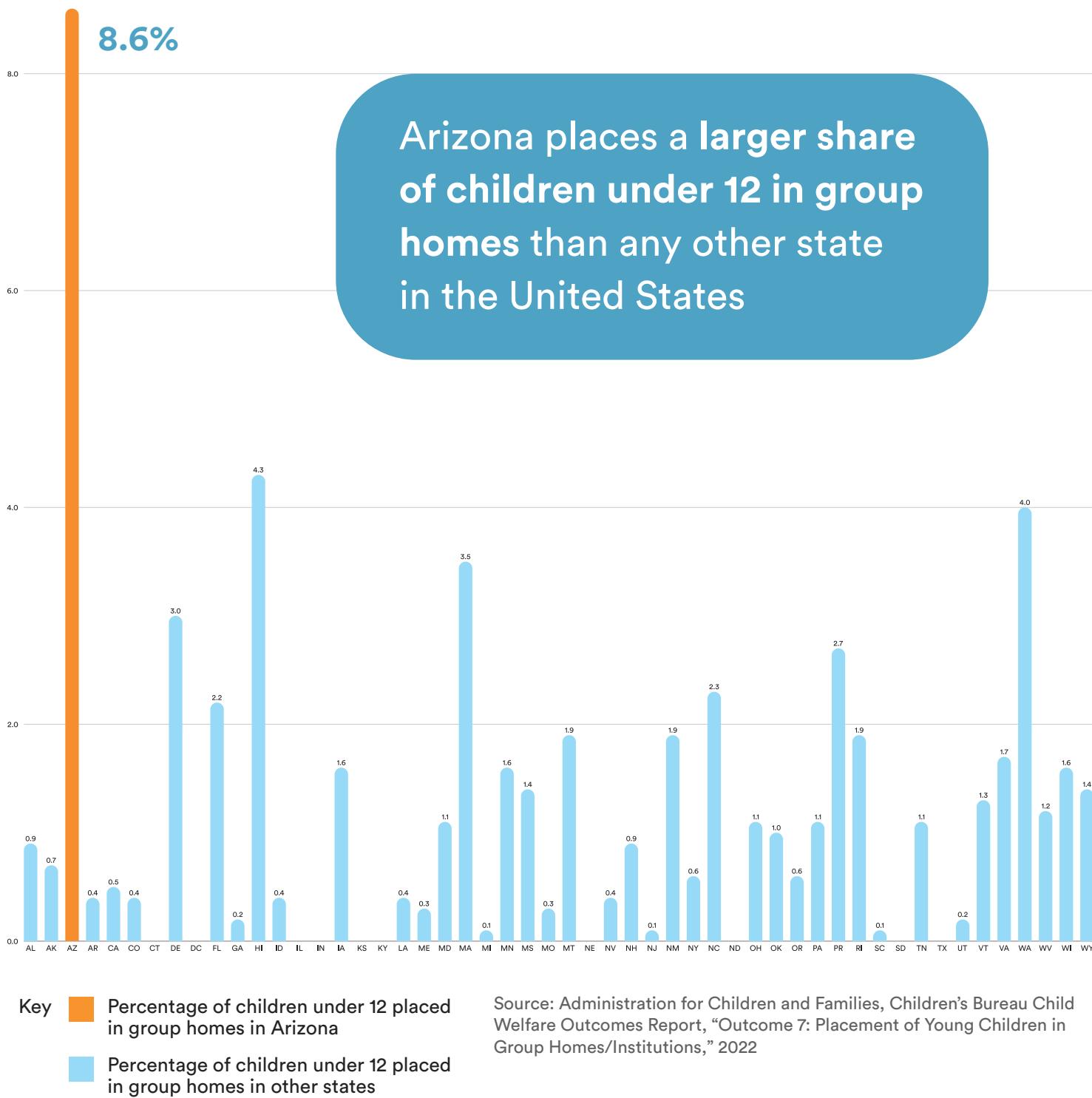
Maltreatment Types²³

Year	2018	2020	2022
Emotional Abuse	<.1%	<.1%	7.1%
Medical Neglect	N/A	N/A	0.1
Neglect	97.2%	97.0%	97.7%
Physical Abuse	8.2%	8.7%	10.8%
Sexual Abuse	4.0%	3.9%	4.8%
Number	15,504	9,954	12,324

POLICY ALERT

Children and the Foster Care System

Placement of Young Children in Group Homes (%)²⁴



POLICY ALERT

Children and the Foster Care System

Racial Inequalities Exist in Arizona's Foster Care System

Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children are historically overrepresented in Arizona's foster care system. Black and American Indian children in Arizona are disproportionately more likely to be reported to the Department of Child Safety hotline and to be removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Attention must continue to be paid until racial inequities are eliminated from child welfare practices and systems.

In 2022 data, while 6.4% of children in Arizona were Black, more than 10% of children in the state's foster care system were Black

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care²⁵

Year	2018	2020	2022
Alaska Native / American Indian	4.8%	5.0%	4.8%
Asian	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Black	11.2%	11.5%	10.1%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Hispanic (of any race)	38.5%	37.3%	31.9%
White	34.0%	33.0%	26.8%
Two or More Races	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%
Unknown	6.3%	8.4%	21.7%
Missing Race Data	0%	0%	0%

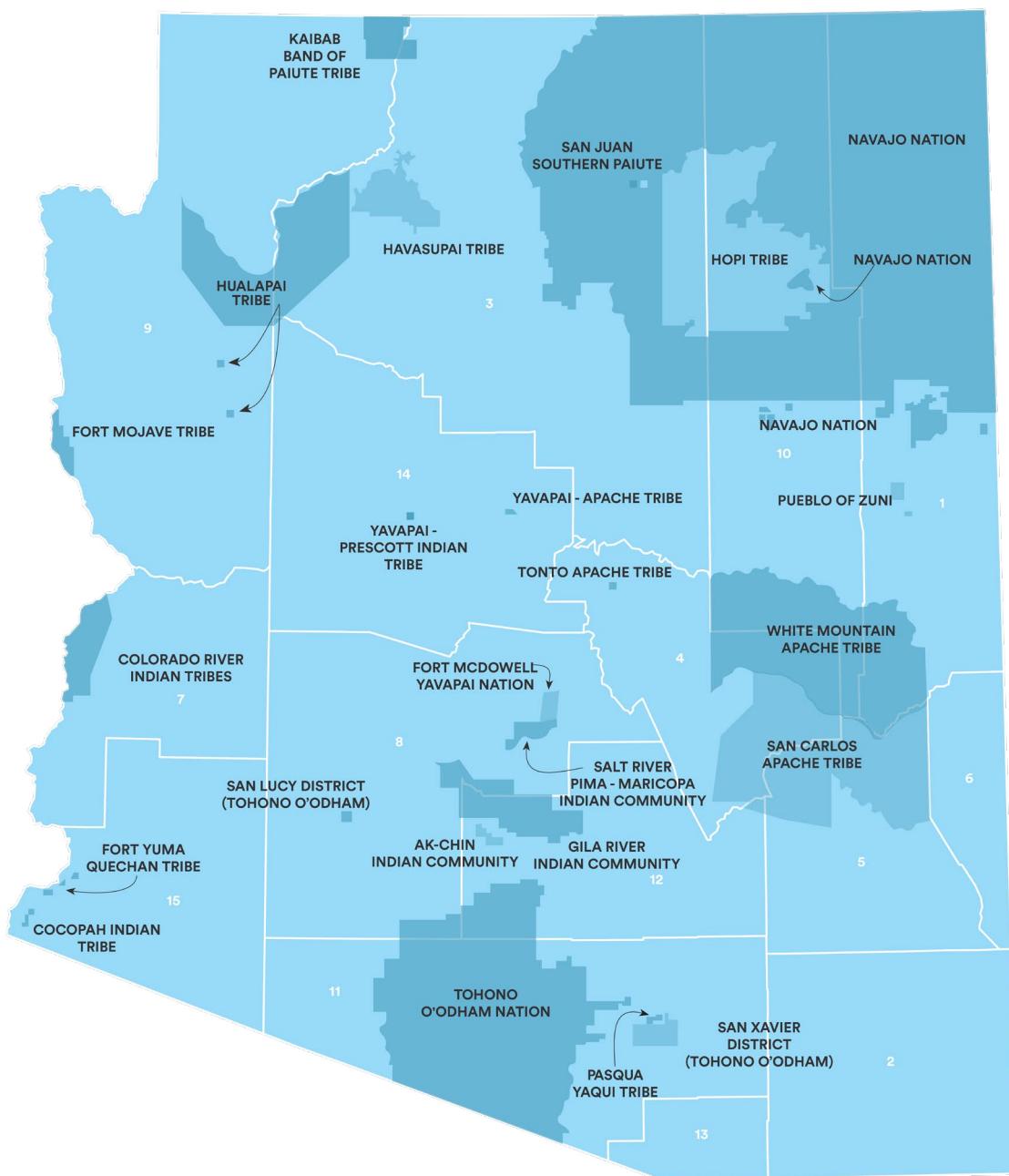


Children's Action Alliance will continue to advocate for Arizona policymakers to boost access to concrete supports for families like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child care, and supportive housing to ensure that children do not enter the foster care system due to poverty alone; to require the Arizona Department of Child Safety to drastically reduce placements of all children in group homes; and to bring change that eliminates racial inequities from the child welfare system.

COUNTIES AND FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN ARIZONA

Arizona's diverse regions and people each contribute unique traditions, cultures, and strengths

Arizona has 15 counties that are highlighted in individual county data snapshots in this book. In addition, there are 22 federally recognized Tribal Nations and Tribes located in Arizona. Each of these government entities plus many other municipal and local governments make decisions each day that impact the well-being of children and families.



Counties:

1. Apache
2. Cochise
3. Coconino
4. Gila
5. Graham
6. Greenlee
7. La Paz
8. Maricopa
9. Mohave
10. Navajo
11. Pima
12. Pinal
13. Santa Cruz
14. Yavapai
15. Yuma

THIS IS SACRED WORK

Culture and Language-Based Early Learning



Pascua Yaqui Tribe Itom Ili Tosapo Am Remtituane Early Childhood Learning Center

Born of more than two decades of visioning and advocacy, the Itom Ili Tosapo Am Remtituane Early Childhood Learning Center

(Center), or Our Little Nest of Enlightenment, broke ground in January 2024 with a planned Fall 2025 opening. Created directly with elders and community and focused on learning through deepened understanding of culture and language, the Center is designed for young learners of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

While the construction of the physical building is one component, it is the curriculum that establishes the Center as a learning experience steeped in cultural heritage. A collaboration of elders, parents, young people and Yaqui teachers participated to create a uniquely Yaqui curriculum that is designed to build a sense of community, pride and self-love.

Focused on the critical early years, the curriculum, being built in phases, is designed to address both prevention and intervention. Dr. Augustine Romero, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator within the Social Services Division of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, shares his role is largely as a facilitator within the community. Convening community members throughout the curriculum development process occurs to inform intention, content and desired outcomes. Dr. Romero describes this "empowerment project" as "sacred work."

Ensuring staff are prepared and supported when the Center opens in 2025, plans are in place to begin onboarding educators with enough time to not only train on pedagogical and curricular requirements, but also to provide two semesters of language courses. This will allow Center staff to acquire the language skills needed in time for the Center's first students.

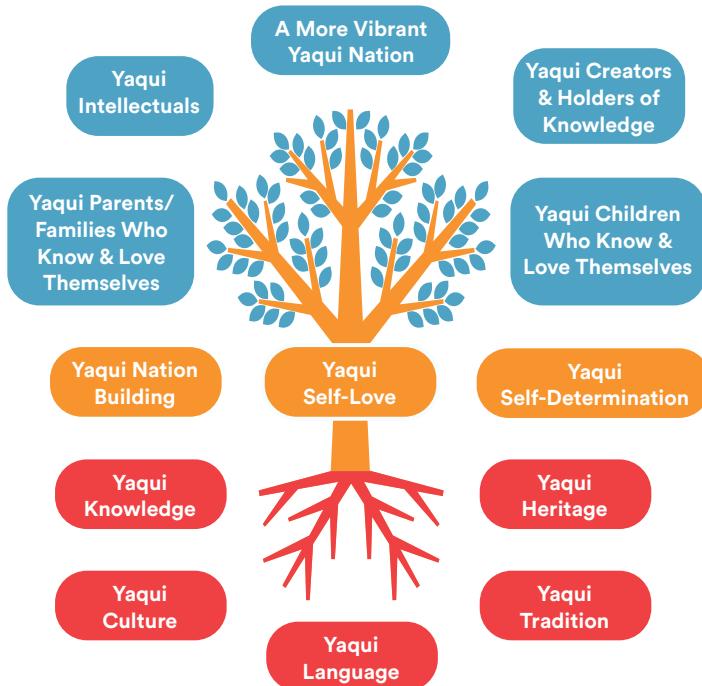
In support of this Pascua Yaqui Tribe initiative, supporters include an Arizona Child Care Infrastructure Grant, First Things First, United Way, and the Children's Museum of Tucson. Engagement with academic and national leaders has also included working with Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-

Mintz, founder and principal consultant of the First Light Education Project.

The mission for all education in the Pascua Yaqui tribes is, in part, to develop a path for lifelong learning while promoting Yaqui heritage and Tribal self sufficiency for members. The Early Learning Childhood Center will build on an already strong Head Start program - Ili Uusim Mahtawapo or Where Little Children are Taught - which serves both Head Start eligible children and other tribal members ages three to five. Their Head Start program integrates the Hiaki language and cultural traditions for language preservation and strong sense of self. In addition, Pascua Yaqui leaders also provide the Ili Uusim Hiapsi or Little Children's Hearts home visiting program supporting young children and their families. Building on this legacy of instilling culture, language and traditions into early childhood development and school readiness is central to building the future generations and leaders of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Pascua Yaqui Vision Statement

To Create Brilliant Yaqui Ewame (Thinkers) in a Safe and Compassionate Learning Environment Based of the Teachings of our Elders.



COUNTY SNAPSHOT



Apache

Cochise

Coconino

Gila

Graham

Greenlee

La Paz

Maricopa

Mohave

Navajo

Pima

Pinal

Santa Cruz

Yavapai

Yuma

APACHE COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	APACHE COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	26.3%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$48,758	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	39.8%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	21.7%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	41.9%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	29.5%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	17.7%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	60.6%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	44.6%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	76.4%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

COCHISE COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	COCHISE COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	20.9%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$71,610	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	20.6%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	46%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	26%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	22.4%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	8.4%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	44.3%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	41.3%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	79.4%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

COCONINO COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	COCONINO COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	19.8%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$82,564	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	18.4%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	52.4%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	21.7%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	19%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	8.8%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	41.1%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	45.7%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	85%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

LOCAL LEADERS PROVIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CARE IN NORTHERN ARIZONA

United Way of Northern Arizona,
KinderCamp™ & Elevate PreK

Coconino and Navajo Counties

Early learning is shown to make a difference in the development of young minds, and in growing the economic potential of families and communities. Recognizing the substantial need in Northern Arizona for early learning opportunities that serve families not traditionally able to access high-quality care, United Way of Northern Arizona (UWNA) partnered with a variety of donors, foundations and industries to support KinderCamp™ and Elevate PreK.

KinderCamp™

United Way of Northern Arizona's KinderCamp is offered free-of-charge in collaboration with the Flagstaff, Blue Ridge and Williams Unified School Districts. A model of partnership, the districts recruit, hire and train staff through an agreement with, and funding from, UWNA. Meals and snacks are provided by the USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs.

Over four weeks in June and July, students spend half-days together to prepare for school. Preschoolers registered to start kindergarten are provided an immersion experience that not only prepares them for their kindergarten year, but also works to engage their parents or caregivers, fostering an important partnership between school and home.

The program targets children who have had little to no preschool experience, are from lower-income households, often do not have English spoken as the primary language in their home, and are attending Title I schools. In 2024, KinderCamp served just over 150 Coconino County preschoolers.

KinderCamp is more than just an in-class experience. Each school also has special guests, depending on the location. A children's author visited the class in Pinetop-Lakeside, and students also met with fire, police and ambulance personnel from the town. Children in Williams



also met with emergency workers during their "Community Helper Day" and took a trip to Bearizona. Students in Flagstaff learned how to dribble and toss basketballs with some local experts - the Northern Arizona University men's and women's basketball teams.

Further, because engaged parents are key to great outcomes for kids, parent-teacher meetings and parent coaching are key components of KinderCamp's model. Working to introduce and reinforce literacy at home, each child takes home a literacy kit, and each parent meets with the program's teachers individually to share information and coaching about extending learning in the home. This includes how to creatively use everyday household items and existing resources to reinforce the learning happening during KinderCamp. This coaching also supports building a tradition of parents as a key part of the home-school partnership that benefits their child as they continue through school.

UWNA is also leveraging community partnerships to provide an extraordinary opportunity to the program's graduates. In what UWNA President and CEO Liz Archuleta describes as "a gamechanger," Coconino Community College (CCC) is offering KinderCamp graduates from 2024 forward a tuition waiver to provide for a two-year associate degree once those students complete high school. In a further expansion of post secondary opportunities for KinderCampers, Northern Arizona University subsequently pledged to provide those KinderCampers who earn their associates degrees at CCC an additional two years of tuition-free education to allow for completion of a four-year degree, thus providing these children an exciting higher education pathway that starts even before they begin their first day of school.

Elevate PreK

High-quality early learning not only builds a strong foundation for young children, it also benefits entire families by allowing parents to maintain stable employment; and entire communities and economies by allowing employees to be more engaged knowing their children are cared for.

Elevate PreK is open to 4-year-old children in households that have incomes between 101% and 250% of the federal poverty level. The program targets those families who traditionally fall into the child care gap – unable to qualify for child care subsidies or Head Start, but not able to afford high-quality child care. These parents often must

“I was able to get a higher paying job. I could put in more hours when (my child) is in EPK. I could work almost full days.”

“We’re absolutely thrilled to have NAU join us in our commitment to provide a tuition-free education for all KinderCamp graduates.”

– Eric Heiser, CCC President

choose between work and providing care for their family.

Elevate PreK is a demonstration pilot now in its fourth year serving children in Flagstaff at Evergreen Academy Preschool. It is a free, high-quality preschool program with an evidence-based curriculum and certified teachers, meeting First Things First requirements for high quality care. Classes have a maximum enrollment of 18 students.

In addition to a focus on high-quality learning, Elevate PreK also provides more expansive wrap-around services. The program employs a parent resource coordinator who not only plans community events such as family nights, but also builds ongoing relationships with families to help them identify and address family needs. This could include finding services such as food, workforce development or rent assistance. As noted by UWNA President and CEO Liz Archuleta, "We know there are multiple dynamics parents are dealing with every day that affect families and children." Elevate PreK seeks to address those dynamics.

Elevate PreK also provides parent education and ongoing communication between home and teacher. The program also offers longer care hours, stretching into the evening, to support employed parents. Elevate PreK is a win for children and early learning, for families, and for the local economy.



GILA COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	GILA COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	19%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$70,913	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	26.6%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	45%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	29.5%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	25.6%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	12.9%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	52.7%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	49.5%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	81.3%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

GRAHAM COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	GRAHAM COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	26.5%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$76,226	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	19.5%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	31.7%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	22.9%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	18.9%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	5.8%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	47%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	29.5%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	81.2%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

GREENLEE COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	GREENLEE COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	27.1%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$90,110	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	12.3%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	7.3%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	6.2%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	19.5%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	1%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	12.2%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	11.3%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	94%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

LA PAZ COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	LA PAZ COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	15.7%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$55,530	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	26.7%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	27.8%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	34.3%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	27%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	21.8%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	52.1%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	50.2%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	79.7%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

MARICOPA COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	MARICOPA COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	22.8%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$96,746	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	14.9%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	51.2%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	15.4%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	17.3%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	8.4%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	35.8%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	35%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	77.6%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

MOHAVE COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	MOHAVE COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	16.3%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$63,652	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	25.8%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	49.3%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	26%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	26%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	8.9%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	51.9%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	33%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	78.2%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

NAVAJO COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	NAVAJO COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	25.6%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$58,120	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	30.4%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	35.2%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	35.5%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	27.3%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	16.2%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	51.4%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	29.1%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	82.6%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

PIMA COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	PIMA COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	19.9%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$82,155	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	18.3%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	52.4%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	23.5%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	19.7%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	7%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	42.4%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	40.9%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	71.2%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

PINAL COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	PINAL COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	21.7%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$85,343	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	14%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	46.1%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	18.1%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	18.8%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	10.2%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	40.1%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	29.6%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	78.3%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	26.1%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$56,167	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	26.9%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	46%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	37.7%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	22.6%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	9.5%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	65.8%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	28.6%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	84.5%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

THE MAGIC OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Fostering Child Development, Family Support, and Parent Connections

Santa Cruz County Family Resource Centers

Santa Cruz County opened the state's first Family Resource Center (FRC) in 2010 and now has FRCs in the communities of Nogales, Patagonia, and Rio Rico. With funding provided by First Things First's Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council, University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension set up and staffed the FRCs to provide programming focused on families with children from infancy to age 5.

Collaboration and partnerships have been key from the beginning. Nogales Unified School District, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District, Patagonia Elementary School District and Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Alfredo Velásquez – the county's "Voice of Early Childhood" – have all been part of the program's evolution.

Serving over 400 parents with children through 700 workshops and referrals, the FRCs have zeroed in on a model that is both from the community and in response to the community.

Jennifer Argryos, Program Director for Santa Cruz County Family Resource Centers, shared that initially the FRCs were asking parents to complete a multi-page intake form designed to capture household interests and needs. However, they quickly realized the model was not working. Asking for such extensive information, often when parents were struggling with even the most basic needs, was a barrier to welcoming families in the door. As a result, they began asking of families, "what do they really need, what are they really looking for?" From this came what Argryos refers to as the "magic" of FRCs, which is that "this is all community-led."

Santa Cruz County FRCs have evolved into providing a continuum of classes that include adult-child opportunities for play and interaction and that create a sense of community. Classes are designed for specific age



groups, allowing parents to have one-on-one time with their child. The FRCs provide child care so parents can participate even if there is more than one child in the home. Further, all FRC curricula are available in a bilingual format and all staff members are bilingual.

The Abriendo Puertas class leverages cultural strengths and values and offers guidance on a variety of early childhood development topics as well as parental advocacy for young children. The Focus on Me class is designed to focus on parents of children up to age 5, specifically addressing self-care techniques to help manage the stress of parenting. While the FRCs do not have a formalized referral process, by creating a sense of comfort and ease, often families will begin to share struggles, and more organic referrals can occur.

There is high demand for classes which the FRCs are unable to meet. When registration is open for any given course, the spaces are often filled within one minute.

University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension engagement also allows for unique opportunities. Faculty are involved with curriculum creation and conduct research on parent satisfaction and outcomes. This creates feedback loops with participants, providing real-time response to programs. Santa Cruz Family Resource Centers are then able to apply that feedback to further hone their programming in response to community want and need.

FRC programs also allow parents to foster social connections and reduce isolation. Each year a survey is conducted of families who engage with FRC programming. A key question asks parents if they have a network of friends with children of similar ages. Prior to participating in an FRC class, 33% report having this social circle. After participating, this increased to 80%. The FRC's are about healthy and accessible spaces that support the growth of both the little ones and the parents and caregivers. This is evident in the smiles of those who participate.

“Teachers are very knowledgeable. As a first-time parent I've learned a lot. I've applied what I've learned at home too. It's been a great experience overall for myself and my son. Thank you! ”



“Great program, my child always looks forward to the class and the teachers are very knowledgeable and give us a new perspective of parenting.”



“All FRC (Family Research Center) curricula are available in a bilingual format and all staff members are bilingual.”

YAVAPAI COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	YAVAPAI COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	15.6%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$77,968	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	17.3%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	45.4%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	15%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	20.6%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	10.5%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	39.8%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	36.2%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	81.4%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

YUMA COUNTY

Kids Data Snapshot

	ARIZONA	YUMA COUNTY	U.S.
TOTAL CHILD POPULATION	22.9%	24.9%	22.2%
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	\$89,366	\$62,025	\$95,154
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY	16.7%	22.2%	16.1%
HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RENT BURDENED	50.3%	47.2%	50.4%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING SNAP	18.5%	30.4%	18.6%
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY	18.5%	26.2%	18.5%
CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	8.8%	11.8%	5.4%
CHILDREN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	39.2%	53.6%	41.1%
3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	35.7%	38%	45.6%
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	77.5%	89%	87%

Sources: The source for national, state, and county data is 2023 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates with three exceptions. The source for Children Experiencing Food Insecurity is Feeding America 2024 Map the Meal Gap Interactive Map based on 2022 data. The source for state and county 4-year graduation rates is Arizona Department of Education, Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data, and for the United States is the National Center for Education Statistics, 2022. See Appendix.

RURAL HEALTH CARE IS POWERFUL AND EMPOWERING

Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.

Serving La Paz, Mohave, and Yuma Counties

Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. (RCBH) is dedicated to serving rural communities and the medically underserved. With nearly 500 employees and 212,160 encounters across its clinics, RCBH operates in all three counties along Arizona's western border. As a fully financially self-sustaining entity, RCBH accepts a variety of coverage options, offers discounts, sliding-fee scales, and provides care for under and uninsured individuals.

RCBH operates twenty-one different primary care centers, including four licensed mobile units equipped for telemedicine. Its services are diverse, ranging from walk-in clinics and a medical discount network to family behavioral integrated health services and a center exclusively for children with special needs and autism. Behavioral health services are embedded across all areas

of practice, utilizing an integrated care model. Their commitment to integrating physical and behavioral services to meet the needs of all who come into their care is clear from children to veterans.

Amanda Aguirre, President and CEO of RCBH, shares that her team applies a social determinants of health lens to all its work. Alongside medical professionals, RCBH employs social workers, community outreach workers, and case managers to provide holistic care.

Indeed, Community Outreach Workers (CHOWs) and Family Care Coordinators (FCCs) play a crucial role at RCBH. They are essential in assessing and addressing the social determinants of health, ensuring that patients receive comprehensive care that extends beyond medical needs. These professionals work closely with individuals and families to connect them with resources and services, aiming to reduce barriers to health care access and improve overall community well-being.

During the pandemic, RCBH's doors remained open, leading efforts to provide testing and vaccination, particularly to farm workers and on tribal lands, ensuring that essential workers could continue their jobs safely. Over 500,000 COVID-19 tests and 110,000 vaccines have been administered by RCBH.

RCBH actively engages with the community through health fairs and other local events to enhance accessibility to care. Collaboration is key, and RCBH works with partners like the Western Arizona Council of Governments, and officials in and out of government.

RCBH also remains committed to innovation, particularly in growing the health care workforce in western Arizona. In response to a provider shortage, RCBH founded the College of Health Careers in 2017, focusing on recruiting and training Certified Nursing Assistants and medical assistants from the local community. With more than 3,000 graduates, the College provides opportunities for high school graduates and displaced workers to pursue careers that support their families, contribute to the local economy, and address the health care provider shortage. As CEO Aguirre notes, "This job creation fosters a synergy in the community that is both powerful and empowering."



APPENDIX

Sources for Policy Alerts

¹[Maricopa Association of Governments, Housing Update \(June 2024\).](#)

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³[U.S. Census Bureau. "Record Drop in Child Poverty." U.S. Census Bureau, September 13, 2022.](#)

⁴[Parrott, S. "Record Rise in Poverty Highlights Importance of Child Tax Credit; Health Coverage Marks a High Point Before Pandemic Safeguards Ended," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, \(2023\).](#)

⁵[Child Care Aware® of America's Child Care at a Standstill: Price and Landscape Analysis, 2023.](#)

⁶[Andrews, E., Mehta, S., & Milli, J., "Working People Need Access to Paid Leave," The Center for Law and Social Policy, \(2024\).](#)

⁷[Conway, D. "State Health Insurance Coverage: 2013, 2019, and 2023, American Community Survey Briefs," U.S. Census Bureau, \(2024\).](#)

⁸[Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Rate of Uninsured Kids Held Steady Nationwide and Improved in 17 States in 2022," \(2023\).](#)

⁹[Tolbert, J., Cervantes, S., Bell, C., & Damico, A, "Key Facts about the Uninsured Population," KFF, \(2024\).](#)

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¹¹[Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families, Medicaid's Coverage Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas, August 17, 2023 Table 2, Non-Elderly Adult \(19-64\) Medicaid/CHIP Coverage in Metro Counties and Small Towns/Rural Areas by State, 2020–2021.](#)

¹²[Commonwealth Fund, State Scorecard on Women's Health and Reproductive Care, 2024.](#)

¹³[March of Dimes, "State Summary for Arizona," \(2024\).](#)

¹⁴[Arizona Department of Health, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2022 Annual Report, Table 5B-17.](#)

¹⁵[Buck, C., Hayward, G. M., & Anderson, L. R., "Southern States Had Higher Than Average Share of Adults Age 30 and Over Who Lived With Grandchildren in 2021," United States Census Bureau, \(2024\).](#)

¹⁶[Generations United, "Multigenerational Households are on the Rise and Here to Stay," \(2021\).](#)

¹⁷[Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center, "Children in Kinship Care in Arizona," \(2024\).](#)

¹⁸[Arizona Department of Child Safety, Annual Supportive Resources Report, State Fiscal Year 2024.](#)

¹⁹[Sedlak, A.J., Mettenburg, J., Basena, M., Petta, I., McPherson, K., Greene, A., and Li, S. \(2010\). Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect \(NIS-4\): Report to Congress, Executive Summary. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.](#)

²⁰[Chapin Hall, "The Role of TANF in Economic Stability and Family Well-Being and Child Safety," \(2023\).](#)

²¹[Casey Family Programs, "What are the outcomes for youth placed in group and institutional settings?" June 29, 2022.](#)

²²[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, "Arizona Child Welfare Summary," \(2022\).](#)

²³[National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, "Maltreatment Types of Child Victims \(%\)," \(2022\).](#)

²⁴[Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau Child Welfare Outcomes Report, "Outcome 7: Placement of Young Children in Group Homes/Institutions," \(2022\).](#)

²⁵[National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, "Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care \(%\)," \(2022\).](#)

Sources for Statewide Demographics

Total Child Population Under 18 and Child Population by Race/Ethnicity

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Population Health and Vital Statistics, Table 10D-4, 2023.

Nativity/Country of Birth of Children Under 18

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-year Estimates Subject Tables, "Children Characteristics," Table S0901, 2023.

Children Under 18 Living in Households with Grandparents

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Children under 18 years in Households with Grandparents, ACS Five-year Estimates Subject Table, Children Characteristics, Table S0901, 2023. Data excludes Greenlee and La Paz counties.

Sources for Statewide Trends (Page 3) and County Data Snapshots (Pages 19-38)

Median Income for Families with Children

Definition

The median income is based on the distribution of the total number of households and families including those with no income.

Note: Income is adjusted for 2023 inflation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS).

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5- Year Estimates Detailed Tables, "Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years," Table B19125, 2023.

Poverty Status in Past 12 Months

Definition

The percentage of children whose household pre-tax income is less than the federal poverty threshold. The federal poverty threshold varies by family size and composition and is updated annually to reflect inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children under 18 years of age was \$31,812.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age," Table B17001, 2018-2023.

Households That are Rent Burdened

Definition

The percentage of households that are renting their homes and are spending 30 percent or more of their family income on housing. Households that spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing are considered to have a high housing cost burden.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, "Gross Rent as a Percent of Household Income in the Past 12 months," Table B25070, 2018-2023.

Households with Children Receiving SNAP

Definition

The percentage of children under age 18 that received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is a federally funded program to provide food assistance to low-income individuals and families. Actual values are likely higher due to underreporting of SNAP participation in American Community Survey.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, "Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," Table S2201, 2018-2023.

Children Experiencing Food Insecurity

Definition

The percentage of children living in households facing economic and social challenges that result in limited or uncertain access to sufficient, nutritious food. Most recent data available from 2022.

Source

Dewey, A., Harris, V., Hake, M., & Engelhard, E. (2024). Map the Meal Gap 2024: An Analysis of County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2022. Feeding America.

Children Without Health Insurance

Definition

The percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance. The American Community Survey measures health insurance coverage for the population based on whether people are insured at the point in time that they answered the survey during the year of collection.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, “Types of Health Insurance Coverage by Age,” Table B27010, 2018-2023.

Children with Public Health Insurance

Definition

The percentage of Arizona children (zero to age 17) who have public health insurance coverage (KidsCare (CHIP), AHCCCS (Medicaid) or Indian Health Services).

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, “Public Health Insurance Status by Sex by Age,” Table B27003, 2018-2023.

3 & 4-year-olds Enrolled

Definition

The percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children who are classified as enrolled in school. Children are considered enrolled if they are attending a public or private school of any type or being home schooled at any time during the three months prior to the time of the Census survey.

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate Subject Tables, “School Enrollment,” Table S1401, 2018-2023.

4-Year Graduation Rate

Definition

The percentage of students graduating with a high school diploma within four years of entering high school. Cohort years refer to the cohort a student is assigned to when they enter an Arizona public high school. For example, if a student enters 9th grade in 2018, they would be in the 2022 4-year cohort graduation data. Most recent data available for state and county rates is 2022-2023, and most recent available data for national rates is from 2021-2022 school year.

Sources

Arizona Department of Education, Accountability and Research, “Cohort 2018 Four-Year Graduation Data,” “Cohort 2023 Four-Year Graduation Data.”

National Center for Education Statistics. (2024). High School Graduation Rates. Condition of Education. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

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