

# ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 2009

## Arizona's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	6,338,755
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,669,866
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	14.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	20.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	19.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	16.5%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Arizona had 34,102 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,743 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 4,469 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arizona, a rate of 2.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 27.0% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 3,156 were neglected, 1,063 were physically abused, and 319 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 16 children in Arizona died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 9,731 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,685 children in 2005. In 2006, 40.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 17.2% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Arizona children in out-of-home care in 2006, 24.8% were white, 8.4% black, 39.5% Hispanic, 2.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.8% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,171 children exiting out-of-home care in Arizona in 2006, 48% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 1,400 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arizona, a 38% increase from 1,012 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 9,731 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 3,503 or 36.0% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 63,274 Arizona grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 9,731 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 23.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Arizona children in kinship care in 2006, 38.3% were white, 7.4% were black, 45.2% were Hispanic, 2.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.5% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona decreased from 76,561 in March 2007 to 75,996 in March 2008, a decrease of 0.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 35,830, a 0.6% increase from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arizona was at 40.0% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Arizona spent \$309,260,515 in TANF funds, including 44.3% on basic assistance, 2.1% on transportation, and 53.6% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Arizona spent \$79,686,234 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 186,470 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, Arizona collected and distributed \$306,245,961 in child support funds, an 8.0% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arizona was \$827 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.90 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Arizona had a monthly average of 30,200 children served by subsidized child care; 30,900 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 38,500 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona, a family of three could make no more than \$28,331, which is equivalent to 55% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, Arizona had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,175 Arizona children, a 2.4% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 662,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona—45.6% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 12,214 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Arizona on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 12,214 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, none received Targeted Case Management services, and 95 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, Arizona had 64,453 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 8.8% increase from 2006, when 59,250 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, Arizona had 234,000 uninsured children, representing 13.8% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 6,673 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Arizona a rank of 34 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 662 infants under age 1 died in Arizona, giving it a rank of 37 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Arizona was 34 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 97. This reflects a total rate of 58 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 10,396 adults and adolescents, as well as 46 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arizona.<sup>36</sup>



- In 2006, an estimated 46,000 children ages 12–17, and 430 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arizona.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 518 children aged out of out-of-home care in Arizona.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 34,000 Arizona teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 11% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 17% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 26,000 children ages 12–17 in Arizona needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 100 Arizona children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.54 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 38 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arizona, a 19% increase from 32 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 52,173 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona, a 2.8% increase from 50,744 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,551 were for violent crimes and 570 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,737 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Arizona spent \$455,807,056 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, and 44% from state funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$255,126,056 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 16% from the Social Services Block Grant, 28% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 9,731 children in out-of-home care in Arizona in 2006, only 4,474, or 46.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## ARIZONA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.<sup>51</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>52</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>53</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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