State Population 2  6,828,065  
Population, Children Under 18 4  1,621,528  
State Poverty Rate 6  17.4%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 3  24.7%  
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 5  23.9%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 7  26.7%  

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Arizona had 61,603 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 43,961 reports were referred for investigation. 8

- In 2015, there were 11,955 victims of abuse or neglect in Arizona, a rate of 7.4 per 1,000 children, a decrease 13.9% from 2014. Of these children, 93.1% were neglected, 9.1% were physically abused, and 2.9% were sexually abused. 9

- The number of child victims has increased 37.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011. 10

- In 2015, there were 51 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Arizona 11

- 17,738 children in Arizona lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 10,883 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 7,114 aged 5 or younger, and 1,727 were 16 or older. 12

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 63% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011. 13

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Arizona, 36% were white, 9% were black, 40% were Hispanic, 5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, <.5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 9% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity. 14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 10,007 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Arizona, 52% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers. 15

- 3,236 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Arizona in 2015, an increase of 4.7% from 3,090 in 2014. 16

- Of the 17,738 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 4,060 or 22.9% waiting to be adopted. 17
• In 2015, approximately 67,242 grandparents in Arizona had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18
• 7,335 of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care.19

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT
• The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arizona decreased from 24,869 in 2015 to 20,512 in 2016, a 21.2% change. There was a 9,922 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 16.4% from 2015.20
• In Arizona in 2015, 787,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21
• $468,866,557 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Arizona, including 5.8% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.4% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.22
• $91,321,845 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arizona, serving 167,072 participants.23
• In 2014, Arizona distributed $317,199,298 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.7% from 2013.24
• 545,000 children in Arizona lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25
• In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Arizona was 4.8.26
• 15.4% of households in Arizona were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.27

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START
• In 2015, Arizona had a monthly average of 24,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 21,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 22,800 were recipients in 2013.28
• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arizona, a family of three could make no more than $33,168 at application, which is equivalent to 61% of the state’s median income.29
• As of early 2016, Arizona had 4,865 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30
• In 2015, Head Start served 14,413 children in Arizona, an increase of 2.4% from 2014.31
• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Arizona made 30,167 home visits to 4,394 parents and children in 2,261 families, as well as enrolled 1,963 new parents and children to the program.
**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- 942,546 children in Arizona were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 1.1% from 2014.32
- In 2015, Arizona had 38,811 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 40.1% from 2014, when 54,361 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, Arizona had 134,247 uninsured children.34
- 6,128 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arizona in 2015.35
- 469 infants under age 1 died in Arizona in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Arizona was 11.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 48.2 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 13,987 adults and adolescents and 49 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arizona.38
- In 2015, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 227,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Arizona.39
- In 2014, approximately 17,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2014, approximately 22,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.41
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Arizona reached $698,537,803.

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- 943 children in Arizona aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 75% of high school students in Arizona graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 34,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Arizona were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 112,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 34.9% of young adults in Arizona ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46
- In 2015, there were 12 reports of children in Arizona aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 63 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 59 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arizona in 2015, compared to 52 in 2014.\footnote{58}
- 21,510 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arizona in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 618 of the arrests in 2015.\footnote{49}
- 882 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona in 2013.\footnote{50}

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE\footnote{51}

- 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.\footnote{52}
- According to a 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.\footnote{53}
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\footnote{54} Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\footnote{55}
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.\footnote{56}
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between $30,000 and $49,999.\footnote{57}
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master’s degree.\footnote{58}
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.\footnote{59}

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Arizona’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $23,578,305. The most utilized service in Arizona was Foster Care Services for Children totaling $6,007,373.\footnote{60}

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARIZONA’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Arizona spent $613,625,800 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $374,053,600 was from federal funds and $239,572,200 was from state and local funds.\footnote{61}
In 2014, of the $374,053,600 in federal funds received for child welfare, 54.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 8.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 29.6% was from TANF, and 3.9% came from other federal sources.62

Arizona received $97,323,800 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $48,034,100 for maintenance payments and $49,289,700 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.63

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
7 Ibid.
11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
20 Ibid.
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28 Ibid.
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42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Ibid.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
56 Ibid.
57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
59 Ibid.
60 Ibid.
61 Ibid.
62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.

Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.


Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.


27 Ibid.
The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

workforce turnover and selection.


63 Ibid.

information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public

such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for this agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

62 Ibid.


Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for this agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

62 Ibid.

61 Ibid.