

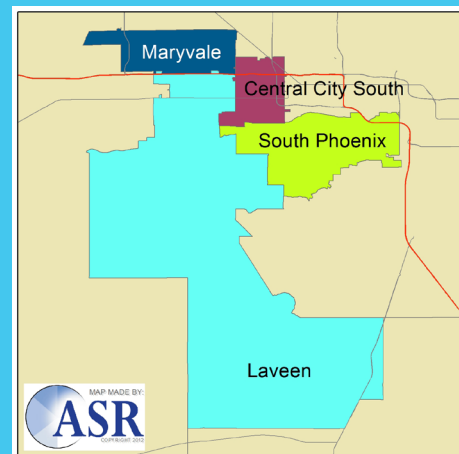
Neighborhood Spotlight South Phoenix

Overview of the Region

The South Phoenix Neighborhood starts at 48th street on the east side, 27th Avenue to the west, the Salt River to the north and South Mountain Park to the south. There were 14,782 children ages birth through five living in this neighborhood in 2010. These young children represented 12% of the neighborhoods' total population of 125,261 individuals, according to 2010 U.S. Census data. Most of the children from birth to five identified as Latino (72%), 12% Black/African American, 10% White, 2% Asian, and 4% American Indian. One in seven children (15%) ages 5-17 in the neighborhood were living in non-English speaking households, most often Spanish-speaking households.

The Neighborhood Economy

Approximately 24% of children under the age of 5 in Arizona were living in poverty. Although there is no reliable information on children under 5 in poverty in the South Phoenix Neighborhood, we know many local families were facing huge financial burdens. More than one-third (36%) of the children ages 5-17 in the area served by the Roosevelt Elementary School District were living in families in poverty.



FIRST THINGS FIRST SOUTH PHOENIX REGION

To better understand the diversity within the region, the South Phoenix Regional Council has divided the region into regional neighborhoods. They have defined four neighborhood areas in the region: Maryvale; a portion of Central City South; Laveen/Southwest Suburban; South Phoenix. These divisions are used to better identify and target the needs and assets of children in the region.



Graduation Rate and Educational Attainment

Graduation rate of 87% at South Mountain High School, the high school serving teens in the South Phoenix Neighborhood.

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success because those with at least a high school diploma have better employment opportunities. Limited education and employment can also impact other quality of life areas including access to health care and life expectancy. Nearly 31% of residents 25 years and over in the South Phoenix Neighborhood had less than a high school diploma or GED. Twenty-seven percent had completed high school, 24% had completed some college coursework, 12% held a bachelor's degree, and 6% held a graduate degree.

3rd Grade Reading Scores

Third grade reading scores are an excellent predictor of later school success, including high school graduation rates and career success. Fifty-seven percent of third graders in the Roosevelt Elementary School District were meeting or exceeding reading standards in 2010.

School Success

In the one district serving the South Phoenix Neighborhood, there were 101 children enrolled in preschool and 1,192 children in kindergarten. Research shows that children who have the early learning skills that allow them to be prepared to enter kindergarten, do better on standardized tests in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The DIBELS Assessment is one way to measure children's readiness for kindergarten.

At the beginning of the 2010/2011 school year, children in the Roosevelt Elementary School District were given the DIBELS assessment to measure their literacy skills. At that time, 18% of kindergarten children were at grade level, 15% needed strategic intervention, and 67% needed intensive intervention. At the end of the school year, the children's learning had increased, yet 18% still needed strategic intervention and 22% needed intensive intervention.

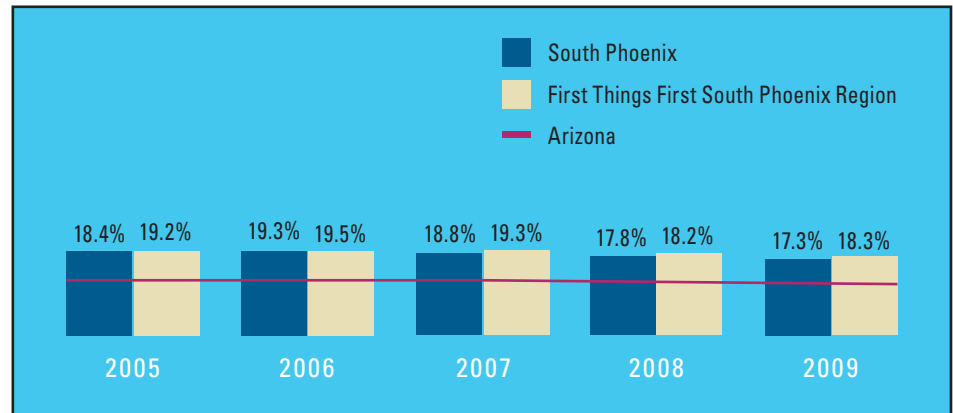
The Health of Mothers and Babies

There were 2,408 children born to mothers in the South Phoenix Neighborhood in 2009. Seventy-nine percent of mothers received prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy. Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes. 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. Eight percent of mothers in both the South Phoenix Neighborhood had babies born at less than 5.5 pounds.

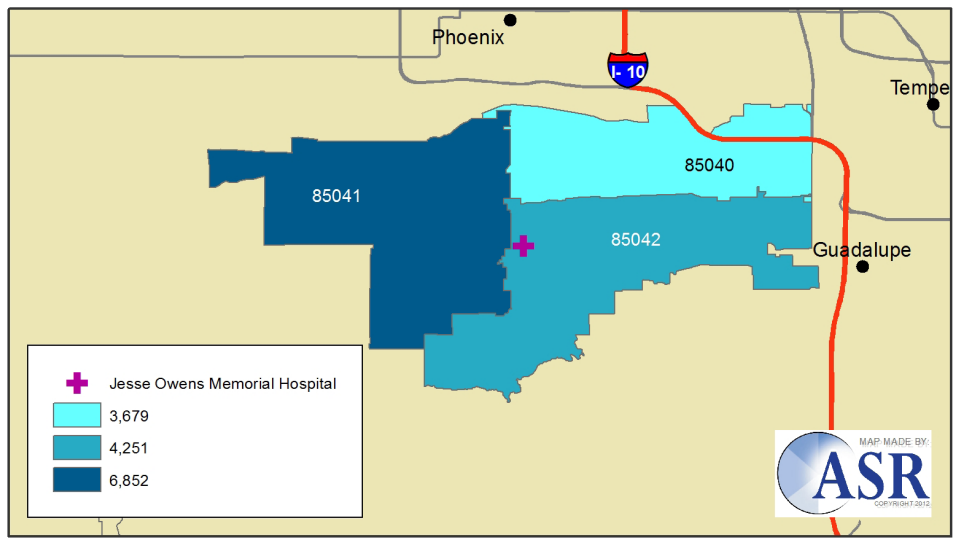
Seventeen percent of births in the South Phoenix Neighborhood were to teen mothers under the age of 20. This was similar to other neighborhoods within the region but higher than the state average (12%). This is alarming as Arizona had the 6th highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2009.

Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely, have babies born at low birth weights, are less likely to complete high school, and have lower earning power in their careers. 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.

South Phoenix, Teen Births



South Phoenix Neighborhood, Population Birth through 5, by Zip Code



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table QT-P2- Single years of age and Sex. Retrieved 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Food Insecurity

When children suffer from lack of food, it can lead to poor health, difficulty learning, more school absences, and lower test scores. Low income children may receive free and reduced price meals at school; 88% of children in the Roosevelt Elementary School District were eligible for free and reduced price meals in 2011. Over 80% (5,800) of families with children ages birth through five in the South Phoenix Neighborhood were receiving SNAP benefits (also known as Food Stamps) in January of 2011.

Special Needs

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. Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive, and hearing screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth, setting them up for success by identifying early on when services are needed. In 2010, 442 children in the South Phoenix Neighborhood were referred to Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services and 127 children received services.

Child Care

The first five years of a child's life are the most important years for a child's brain development. Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success. Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, also provides critical support for parents while they are at work. There were 93 child care programs that were capable of serving approximately 3,034 children in the South Phoenix Neighborhood in 2011. Sixty-five of the programs were licensed through ADHS which promotes quality care and safe classrooms. Twenty-eight of the child care programs (30%) are known as Quality First Programs, which means programs work with First Things First to provide safe, healthy environments; highly educated teachers; classrooms and materials that stimulate children at different stages of learning; and low staff to child ratios so that children get the attention and support they need.

SOURCES

For sources and neighborhood data, please view the complete First Things First South Phoenix Region 2012 Needs and Assets Report at <http://www.azftf.gov>.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

First Things First is committed to helping Arizona kids five and younger receive the quality education, healthcare and family support they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.



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