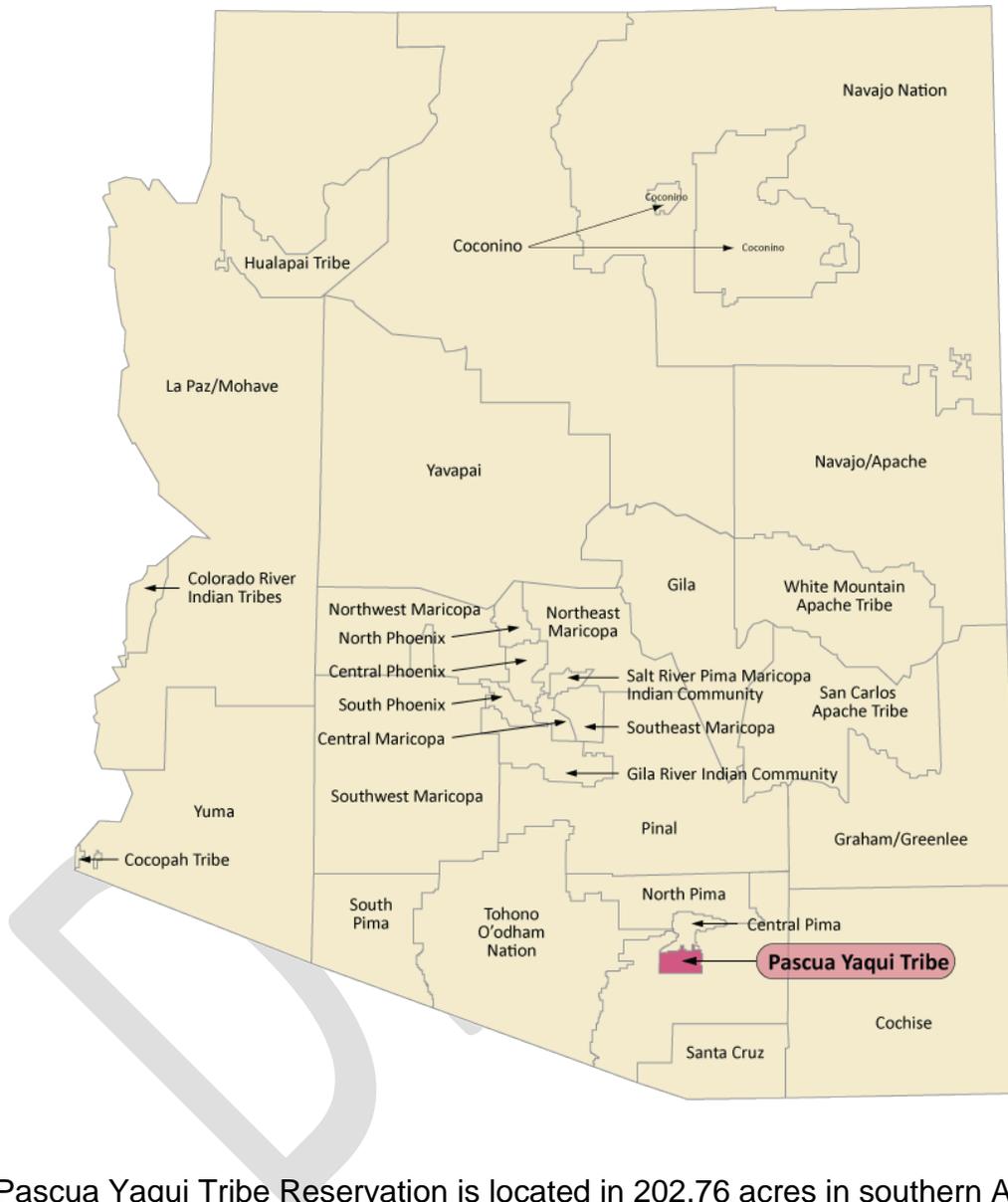


Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Needs and Assets Report 2009

Executive Summary



The Pascua Yaqui Tribe Reservation is located in 202.76 acres in southern Arizona, 15 miles southeast of downtown Tucson. Approximately 420 children five years of age and younger reside on the reservation. From 2000 to 2006, according to the US Census Bureau, the overall population of the Pascua Yaqui Reservation increased by 12 percent. In 2006, the majority of children within the Pascua Yaqui Reservation lived in a household with a single parent. The percentage of teen mothers was 28 percent for 2006 which increased to 32 percent for 2007 and is higher than the state's ratio of 13 percent. The region's average unemployment rate was 16.8 percent in 2008. In 2006,

the Pascua Yaqui median income of \$22,270 was only 53 percent of the Arizona median income in that same year.

According to Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) data reported from 2003 to 2007, the percentage of births to mothers without a high school degree in the Pascua Yaqui Reservation has remained the same at 50 percent. Approximately 68 percent of mothers received prenatal care as defined by ADHS at least 1 doctor's visit during the first trimester. This is slightly higher than the 62 percent rate for all American Indian mothers living within tribal lands in Arizona. The percentage of children under age five and families enrolled in KidsCare and AHCCCS in 2006 was 21 percent, which is the same rate for Arizona as a whole.

Through First Things First's Quality Improvement and Rating System common indicators of quality that are also relevant to tribes will be developed. The Pascua Yaqui region has one high quality preschool program that is operated by Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Education Division. The Early Childhood Program, Ili Uusim Mahtawapo, provides services to 130 children and is at full capacity with a current waiting list. This program is dually funded by Head Start and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has family child care homes in operation that serve children birth through five and school age children. There are very limited child care options for families with infants and toddlers.

Families frequently select child care based on cost and location. In 2008, in the Pascua Yaqui region and surrounding communities, the average cost per day for alternatively approved homes was \$20.67, infant care at licensed centers was \$30.50 and licensed centers averaged \$19.81 per day for preschoolers. Accessing child care in the community may be a significant challenge. Community stakeholders identified the lack of child care as a universal need on the reservation.

Data from the Tribal Education Division indicates that there are 8 teachers with a Child Development Associate (CDA) working in the Pascua Yaqui Head Start, 6 co-teachers with a CDA, 1 co-teacher with a high school diploma and 1 co-teacher with a bachelors degree. There are gaps in the data related to the number of family child care home providers and their educational levels. Educational opportunities exist through Pima Community College, University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University for early childhood professionals in the Pascua Yaqui region who are seeking to advance education.

Health care information is also limited at the regional level for young children. The region has no hospital and only one health clinic. Through Indian Health Services (IHS),

the tribe has a contract with El Rio Clinics to provide medical and prenatal care to tribal members on and off the reservation. Tribal members are requested to apply for AHCCCS before utilizing IHS funding. Indian Health Services covers services if the tribal member does not qualify for AHCCCS. IHS receives the denial letter from AHCCCS. The Tribe covers dental costs for tribal members and has an emergency fund program for extenuating circumstances.

There are a number of different media used to raise awareness and provide information to Pascua Yaqui families. The Indian Health Service distributes newsletters to the community with information about trainings, activities, and education materials. In addition, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe broadcasts and distributes tribal news, program and activity announcements, and other community information through Radio Station KPYT-LP and a tribal newsletter called The Yaqui Times. The tribe also has departmental newsletters and distributes flyers for events.

No systematic data have been collected to measure family support, including parents and caregivers' knowledge and utilization of resources. Healthy Families does provide family support on the Tribe in a very limited capacity. In addition, systematic data is not available on how services are coordinated in the Pascua Yaqui Region. These are areas for further inquiry and assessment.

The First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council and its community partners will work to create and sustain a coordinated network of early childhood programs and services for the young children of the region. This first Regional Needs and Assets Report highlights child and family indicators that illustrate children's health and readiness for school and life, and provides an introductory assessment of the current early childhood development and health system.