



# EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE

## STATUS OF ARIZONA'S YOUNG CHILDREN: A DATA SUMMARY





# EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE

## STATUS OF ARIZONA'S YOUNG CHILDREN: A DATA SUMMARY

### CONTENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS.....	4
EDUCATED YOUNG STUDENTS .....	12
HEALTHY KIDS.....	20

# DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

Family stability can affect the resources a child has that either support or restrict their optimal development. Poverty and its effects – including unreliable access to food, housing and child care – can impact a child’s physical and emotional development.

**The number of young children in Arizona grew much faster between 2000 and 2010 than in the nation as a whole.**<sup>1</sup>



**The percentage of households with young children in Arizona is about the same as in the U.S.**<sup>2</sup>



Arizona’s young children are more likely than their peers nationally to be born into challenging situations like poverty and being raised by single parents, teenage parents or grandparents. They also are less likely to receive the supports that can help mitigate the effects of poverty on their overall well-being. Compared to the U.S. as a whole:

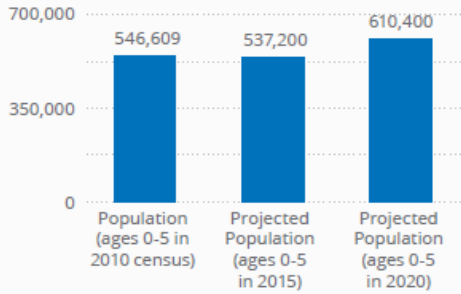
## MORE YOUNG CHILDREN IN AZ LIVE



First Things First helps strengthen families by giving parents options when it comes to fulfilling their role as their child’s first teachers, including kits for families of newborns with resources to support their child’s health and learning, community-based parenting education, voluntary home-based coaching for families with multiple challenges, support for families of children with special needs, and referrals to existing programs that meet the family’s specific challenges.

# THE POPULATION OF ARIZONA'S YOUNG CHILDREN

Arizona's population of young children is projected to grow by 2020.

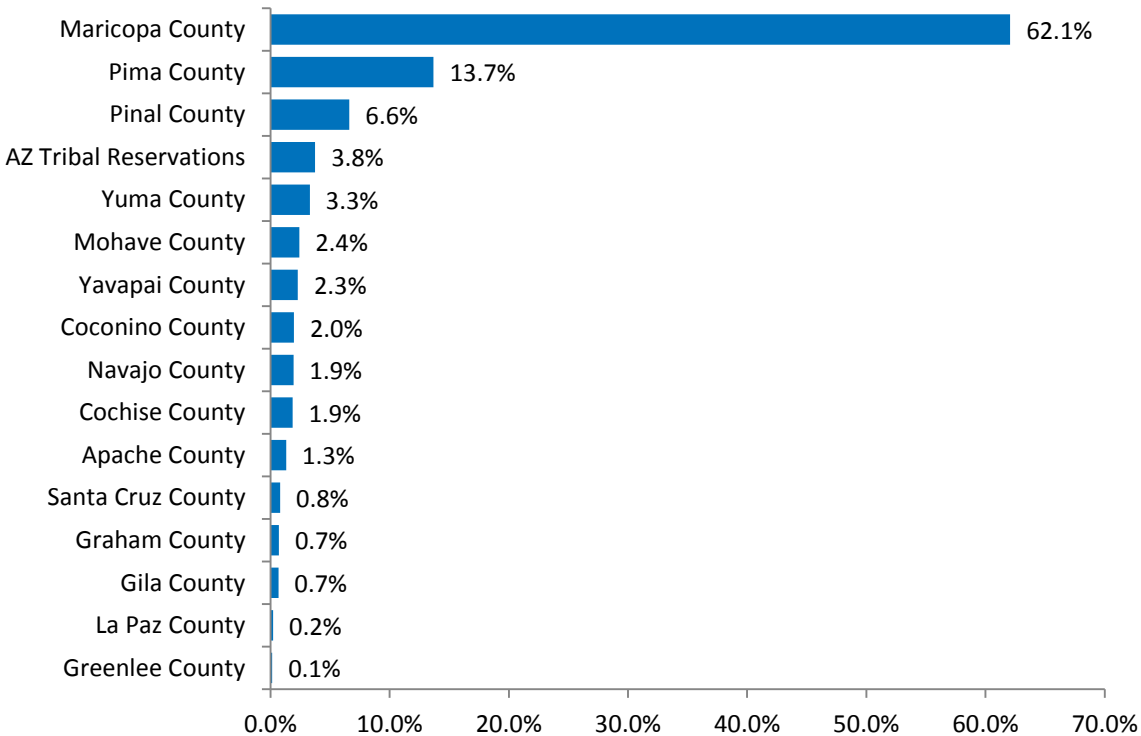


Population of Children (ages 0-5) in Arizona, 2010 to 2020. Arizona Dept of Administration, Employment and Population Statistics, "2012-2050 State and county population projections" & 2010 US Census.

Between 2010 and 2020 the population of children ages 0-5 is projected to grow.

Young children ages 0-5 represent 30% of Arizona's total population, similar to the proportion of young children ages 0-5 within the population of the United States (29%).

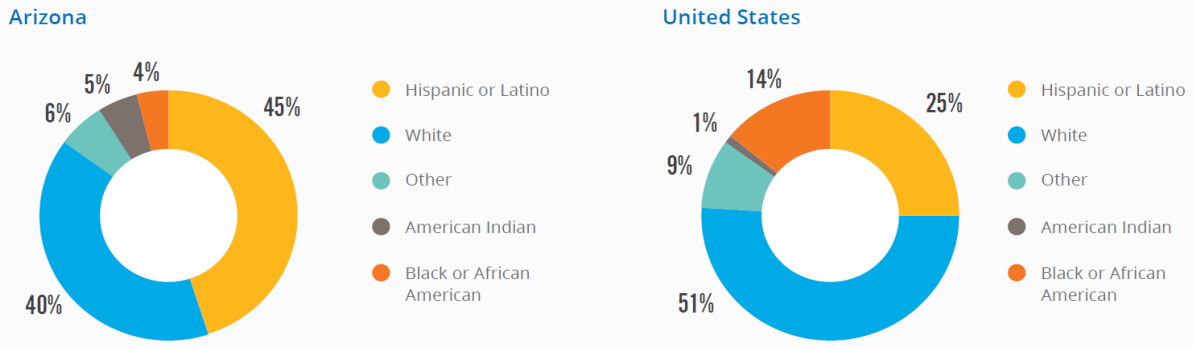
## Proportion of children ages 0-5 years living across Arizona



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). 2010 Decennial Census, Table P14  
Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

## RACE AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION

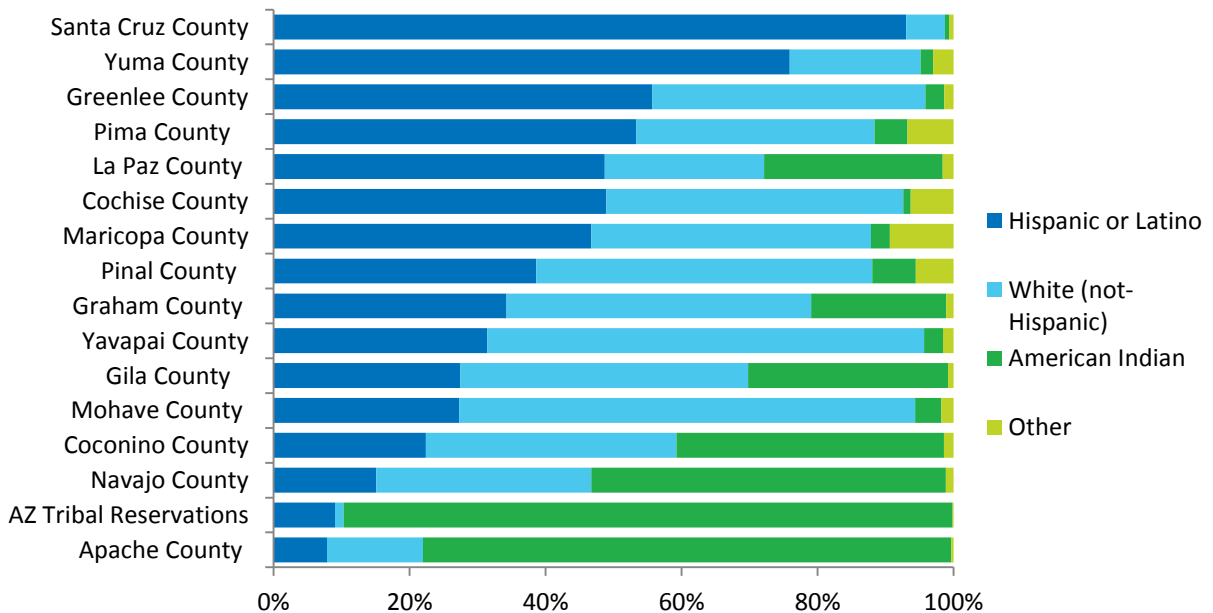
The pattern of ethnic backgrounds of young children in Arizona is different than that of young children in the U.S. as a whole.



Race/Ethnicity of Children Ages 0-5, 2010. United States Census Bureau (2010). 2010 Decennial Census, Summary File 1, Tables PCT12A-H.

The ethnic makeup of Arizona's youngest children differs from that of the nation as a whole. Almost half of children between birth and 5 years old in Arizona are Hispanic or Latino, compared to only a quarter across the country. Young American Indian children make up 5% of young children in the state, which is substantially greater than the 1% across the U.S. Within Arizona counties, there also exists a large variation of race and ethnic compositions, for example a very high population of Hispanic or Latino children living in the border counties of Santa Cruz (94%) and Yuma (76%) and a very high population of American Indian children living within the Navajo (77%) and Apache (52%) counties.

### Population of children birth to age 4 by ethnicity



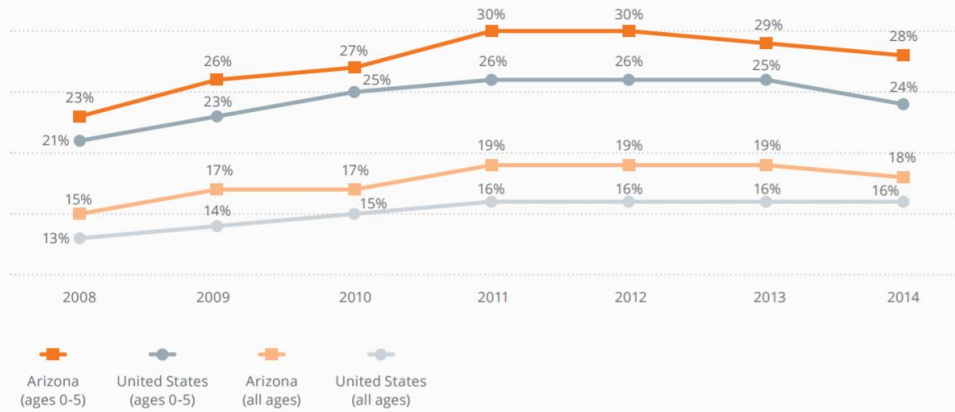
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). 2010 Decennial Census, Summary File 1, Tables P12A-1.

Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Note: The Other category includes African American and Asian American/Pacific Islander

## YOUNG CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

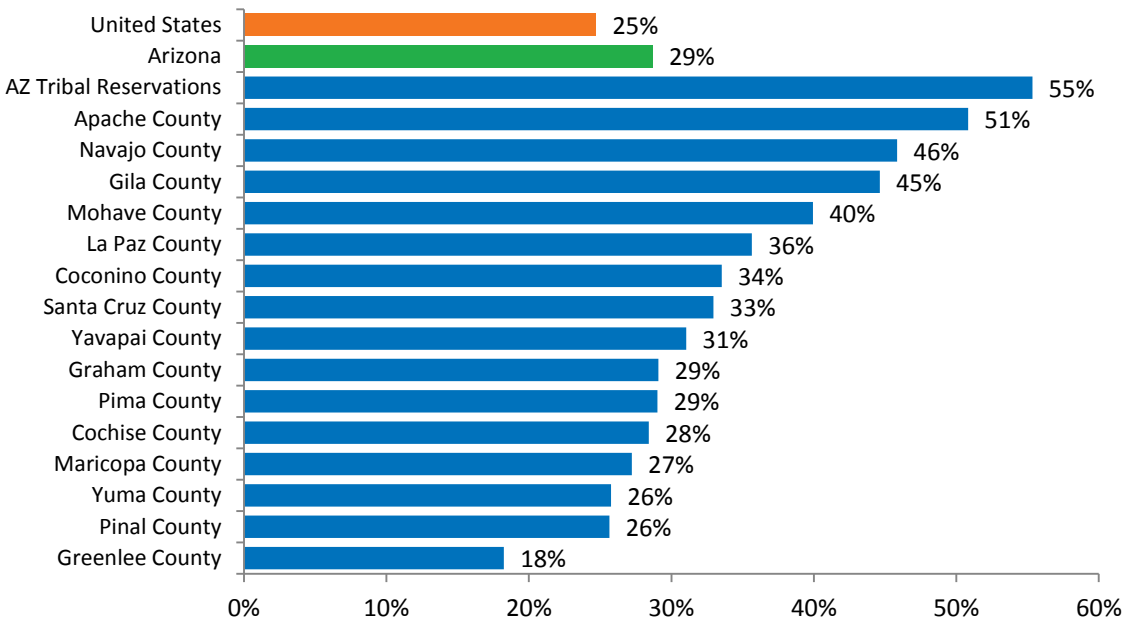
More young children live in poverty in Arizona than in the U.S. as a whole.



US Census Bureau (2014). 2008-2014 American Community Survey Single Year Estimates, Table B17001. \*Note: These are single-year estimates, which may differ from the five-year estimates presented elsewhere. Single-year estimates of county-level data are not sufficiently reliable.

Proportionally, more Arizona residents struggle with poverty than the nation as a whole. Whereas 18% of Arizona residents live below the federal poverty level (FPL), 16% fall beneath the threshold nationally. Distressingly, childhood poverty rates are higher than overall population poverty rates in both the state and the nation. Though rates of poverty for young children have begun to drop from the levels seen at the height of the Great Recession, a greater proportion of young children in Arizona live in poverty than their peers across the country.

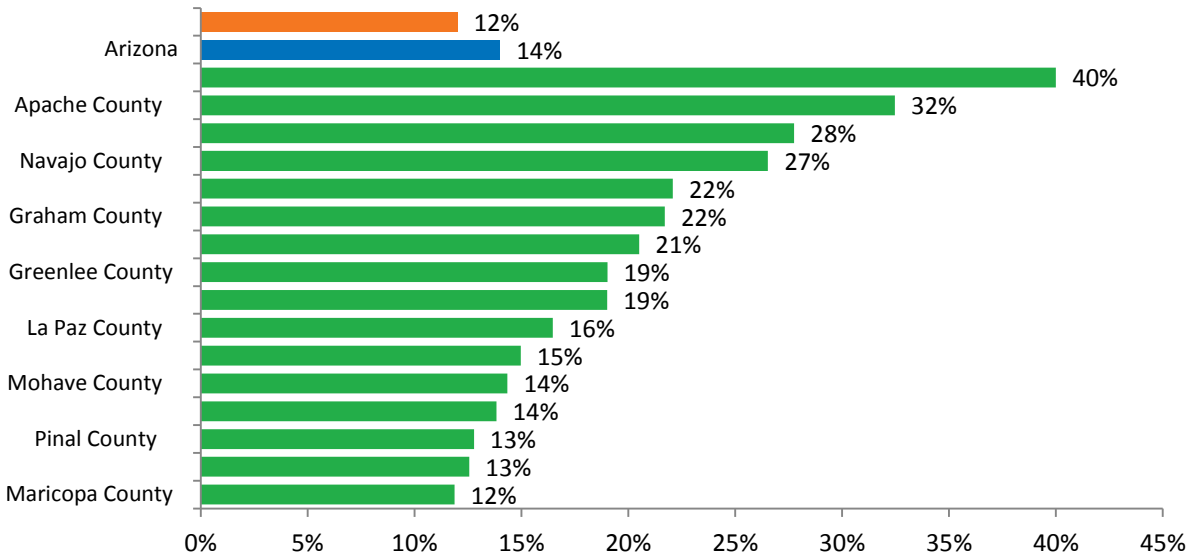
### Percentage of children birth through age 5 living in poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2014). 2009-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, Table B17001

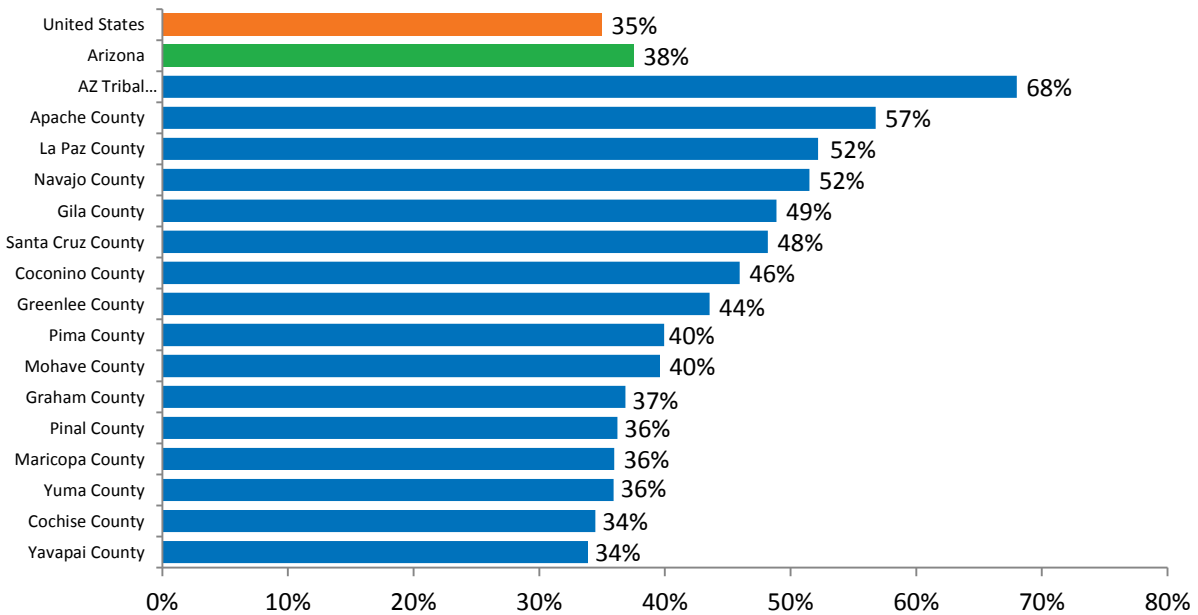
## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

### Percentage of children (0-5) living with grandparents



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). 2010 Decennial Census, Summary File 1, Table P41  
Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

### Percentage of children living with one, unmarried parent

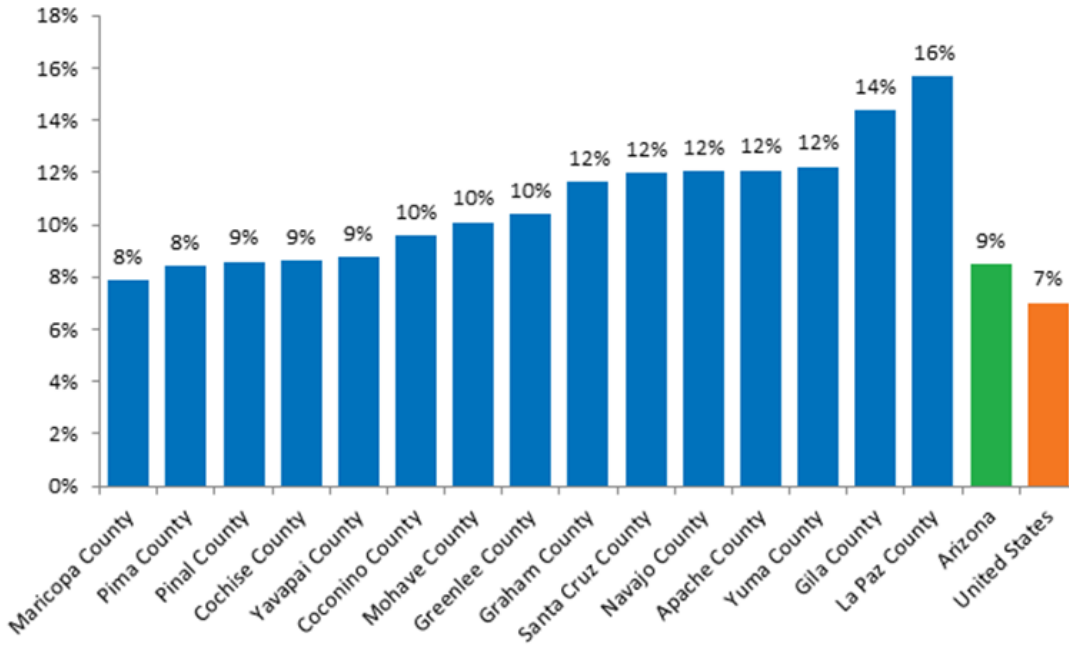


Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2009-2013), Tables B05009, B09001, B17006  
Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>



## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

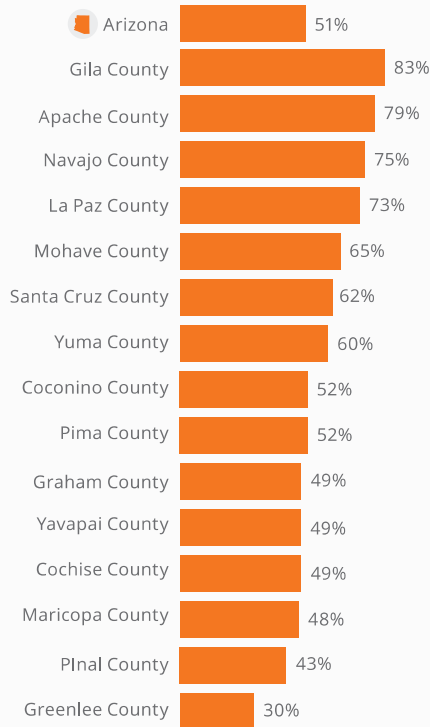
### Percentage of children born to a teen mother, 2013



Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2009-2013), Tables B05009, B09001, B17006  
Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

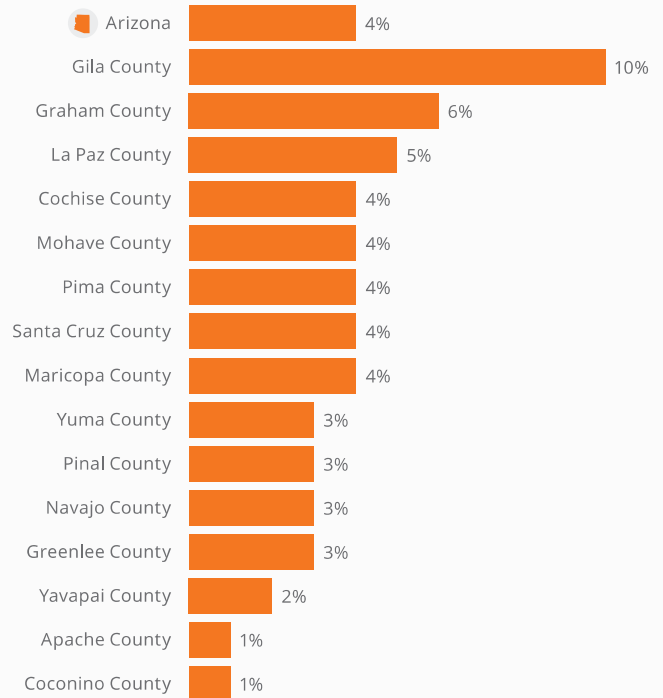
## FAMILY SUPPORT

Percentage of children birth to age 5 receiving SNAP in 2014



Estimated percentage of children enrolled in SNAP in 2014. Arizona Department of Economic Security. [SNAP Dataset]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

Percentage of children birth to age 5 receiving TANF in 2014



Estimated percentage of children enrolled in TANF in 2014. Arizona Department of Economic Security. [TANF Dataset]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.  
TANF is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

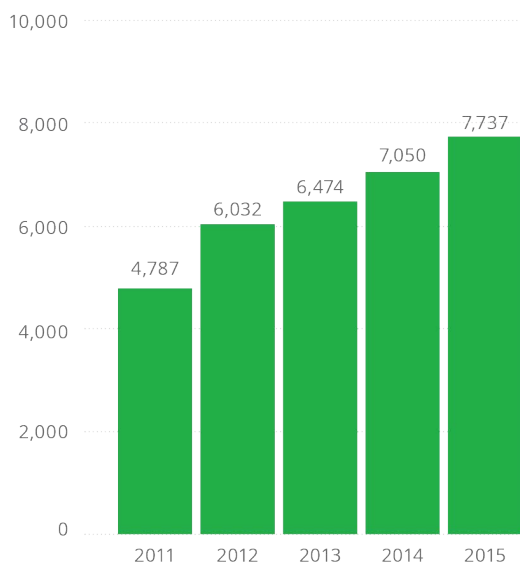
## FAMILY SUPPORT

### Non-fatal Emergency Department Visit Injuries: County Summary by Year

	2012	2013	2014
Apache County	373	330	320
Cochise County	1,140	1,083	1,010
Coconino County	842	805	790
Gila County	456	404	430
Graham County	492	414	498
Greenlee County	44	36	32
La Paz County	96	84	85
Maricopa County	31,903	29,448	29,427
Mohave County	1,439	1,351	1,338
Navajo County	561	539	605
Pima County	6,543	6,325	6,191
Pinal County	2,795	2,699	2,624
Santa Cruz County	470	461	460
Yavapai County	1,275	1,239	1,188
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>49,453</b>	<b>46,407</b>	<b>46,033</b>

Source: Unintentional injuries for children ages 0-5, 2012-2014. Arizona Department of Health Services (2015). [Unintentional Injury Report]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

### Number of children birth to age 5 in out of home care



Source: Department of Child Safety Reports. This figure represents the number of young children in out of home care on the last day of the reporting period (September 30 of each year represented).

## EDUCATED YOUNG STUDENTS

Quality early learning promotes success in school and in life. The quality of a child's early experiences impacts whether their brain will develop in ways that promote optimal learning. Research has demonstrated that children with access to quality early learning environments are more prepared for kindergarten: they have increased vocabulary, better language, math and social skills, have more positive relationships with classmates, and score higher on school-readiness assessments. They are less likely to need special education services or be held back a grade, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college.



Compared to the U.S. as a whole:

### Far fewer of Arizona's 3- and 4-year-olds attend preschool



Healthy development is important for school readiness. Early identification of developmental delays – through regular screenings starting at birth – is a critical first step to ensuring that children receive the intervention and support that can mitigate the impact of the delays on their future learning. Left unaddressed, many developmental issues can become learning problems later in a child's life.

### Fewer of Arizona's young children received developmental or sensory screenings

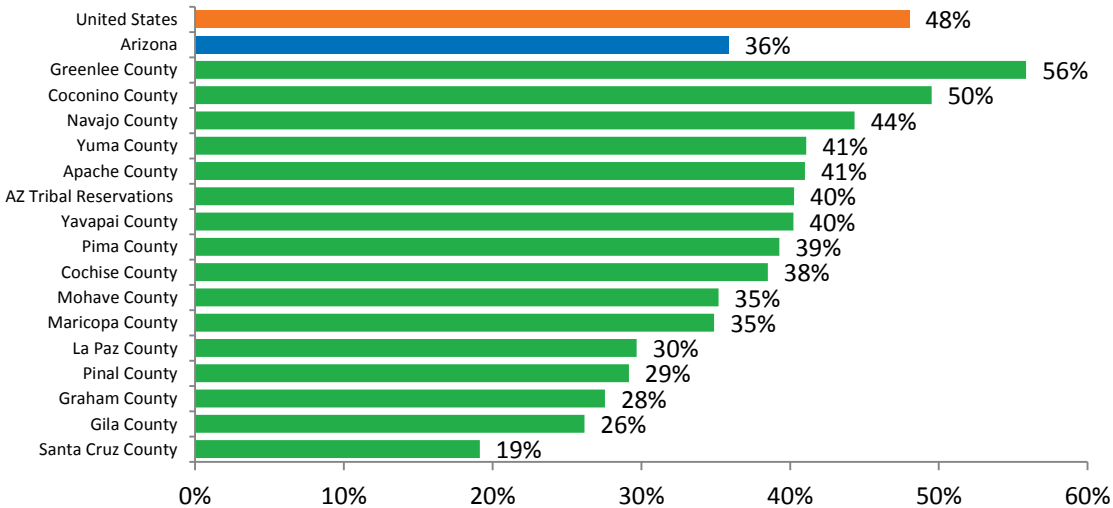


First Things First promotes early learning by: completing more than 31,000 screenings to detect developmental or sensory issues that can become learning problems later on; working with almost 1,000 child care and preschool providers statewide to enhance the quality of early learning programs for more than 50,000 young children statewide; funding scholarships helped more than 16,600 children access early learning in the past year alone; working with relatives and friends who provide child care to increase their knowledge of brain development and young children's learning; and helping early educators expand their skills working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: DEMAND

Research has overwhelmingly shown that young children exposed to quality early education have a better chance at succeeding academically in their early years and later in life. Unfortunately, far fewer 3- and 4-year olds in Arizona are enrolled in early education (36%) than same-aged children across the country (48%).

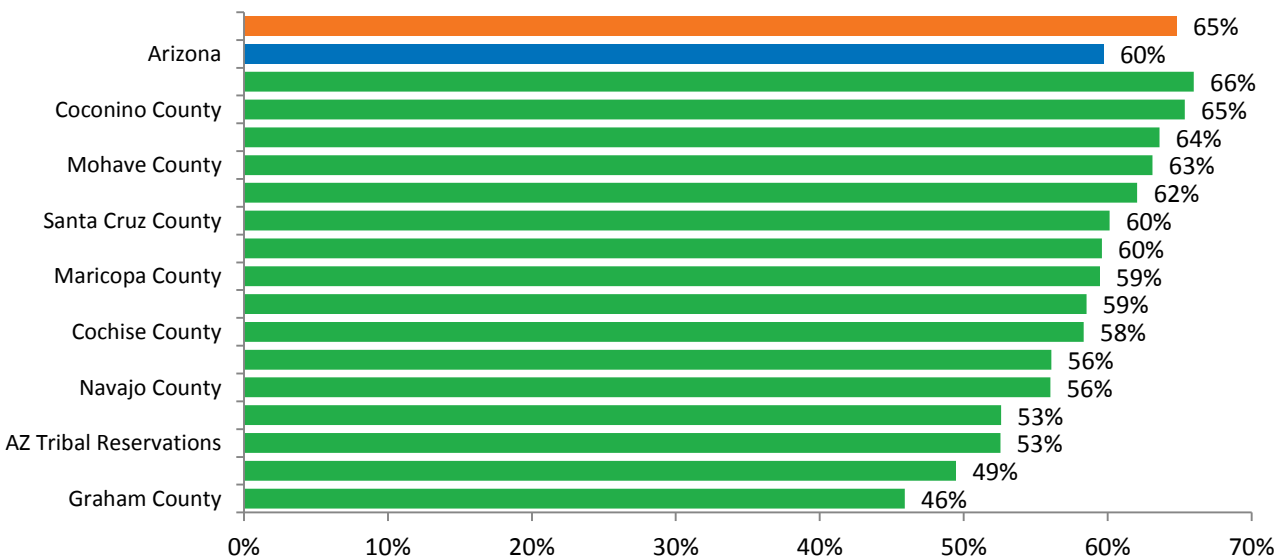
### Percentage of 3 and 4 year-olds attending preschool



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2014). 2009-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, Table B14003. Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Considering approximately 60% of children in Arizona have parents who are employed, the demand for early care in Arizona greatly exceeds the number of children currently enrolled.

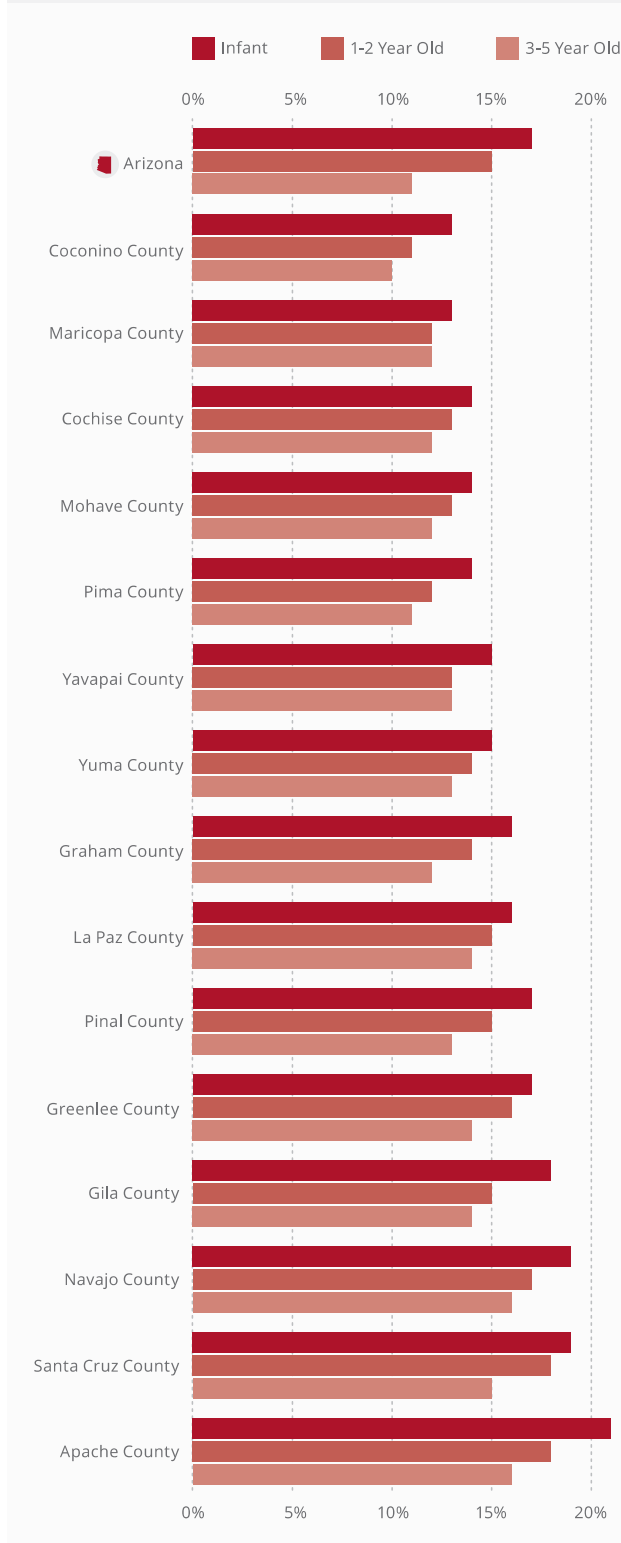
### Percentage of children with employed parents



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2016). 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, Table B14003. Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: COST OF CARE

Cost of child care in a center as a percentage of median income



The cost of child care may very well be a factor in this low enrollment, with center-based early care and education for a single infant, a toddler, or a 3- to 5-year-old costing an Arizona family an estimated 17, 15 and 11 percent of their income respectively. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their family income on early care and education. The cost for early care and education at a licensed child care center is considerably higher than in a family care setting, particularly for children under 3 years old. This may leave families who want an early learning program for their child with few affordable options.

### Estimated median annual charges by licensed child care providers

	Child Care Centers	Certified Group Homes	Approved Family Homes
Infants under 1 year old	\$10,080	\$6,480	\$5,280
Children ages 1 or 2	\$9,120	\$6,000	\$4,800
Children ages 3 to 5	\$6,480	\$6,000	\$4,800

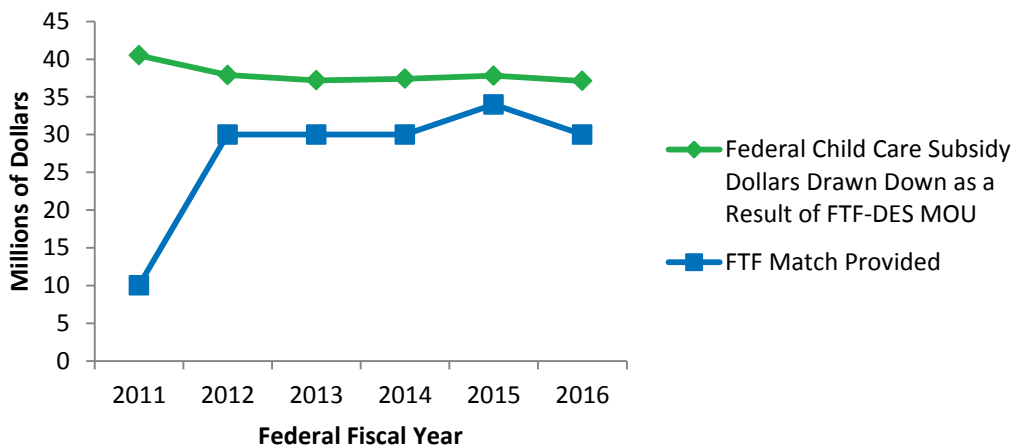
Source (left): US Census Bureau (2014). 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, Table B19126.

Source (above): Arizona Department of Economic Security (2015). [Child care market rate survey data]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: ARIZONA SUPPORTS

With half of young children in Arizona living below the Federal Poverty Level, the number in need of child care subsidies is likely much higher than those receiving them. The State of Arizona currently receives more than \$118 million per year in federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant funds. The CCDF grant requires that the State provide both Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and matching funds. Since the grant's inception, the Department of Economic Security (DES) has been designated by the governor as the lead agency for the CCDF. FTF collaborated with the Governor's Office and DES in establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to leverage FTF investments as the MOE and State match. Over the six years this MOU has been in place, Arizona has been able to leverage almost \$228 million in federal child care funds that otherwise would have been lost.

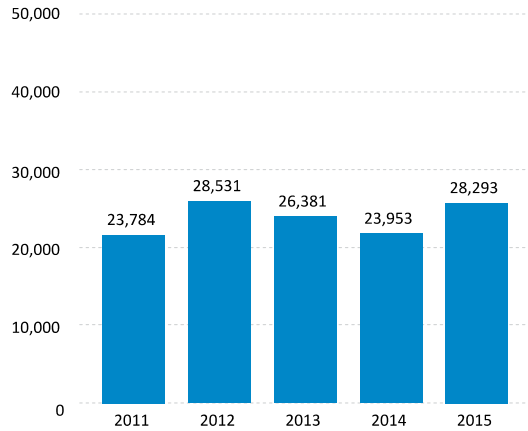
### Federal child care matching funds and draw down



Source: *First Things First (2016). 2016 Annual Report.*

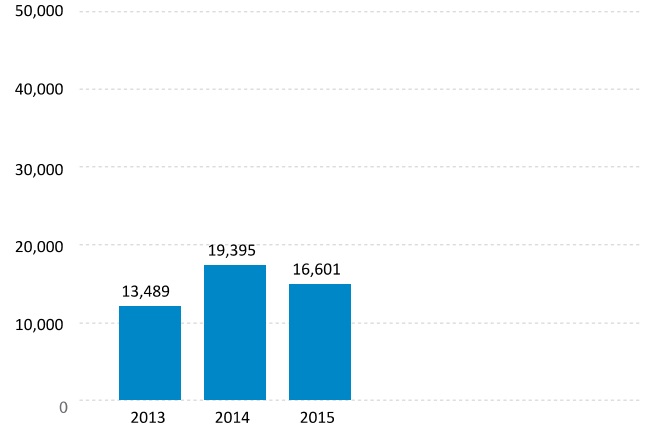
# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: QUALITY MATTERS

**Number of children birth to age 5 served by DES child care subsidy program**



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security [Child Care Administration]. Unpublished raw data received from the First Things First State Agency Data Request.

**Number of children birth to age 5 served by Quality First Scholarships**



First Things First [Quality First Scholarships]. Unpublished data.

## Number of regulated child care providers

Provider Type	Count
Child Care Centers*	2,195
Regulated Homes**	801

\*Child Care Centers: inclusive of Head Start, DHS Licensed Centers, Military and Tribally Regulated Centers

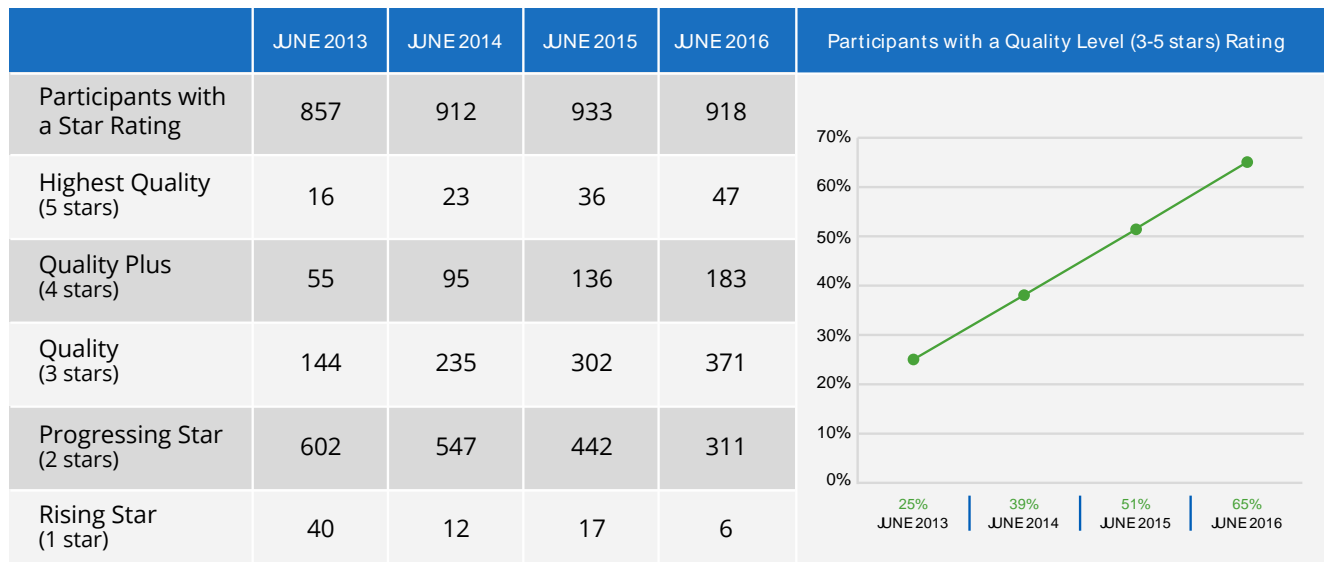
\*\*Regulated Homes: inclusive of DHS Child Care Group Homes, DES Certified Homes



## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: QUALITY FIRST

The child care options currently available in Arizona’s communities can contain vast differences as to the quality of care and education provided. That is why First Things First created Quality First - Arizona’s Quality Improvement and Rating System – to create a unified, measurable standard of care, inform parents on their local providers’ proximity to that standard, improve quality and promote school readiness. The latest data indicate that Quality First has significantly improved the quality of early learning options available to Arizona’s families. In fiscal year 2013, 25% of 857 participating providers met quality standards. Over the past three years, both enrollment and quality improvement have improved. In fiscal year 2016, 65% percent of 918 participating providers met or exceeded quality standards. When combined with providers who continue to work diligently on enhancing the quality of their child care and preschool programs, Quality First has ensured that more than 51,069 children throughout the state have access to a higher standard of early education.

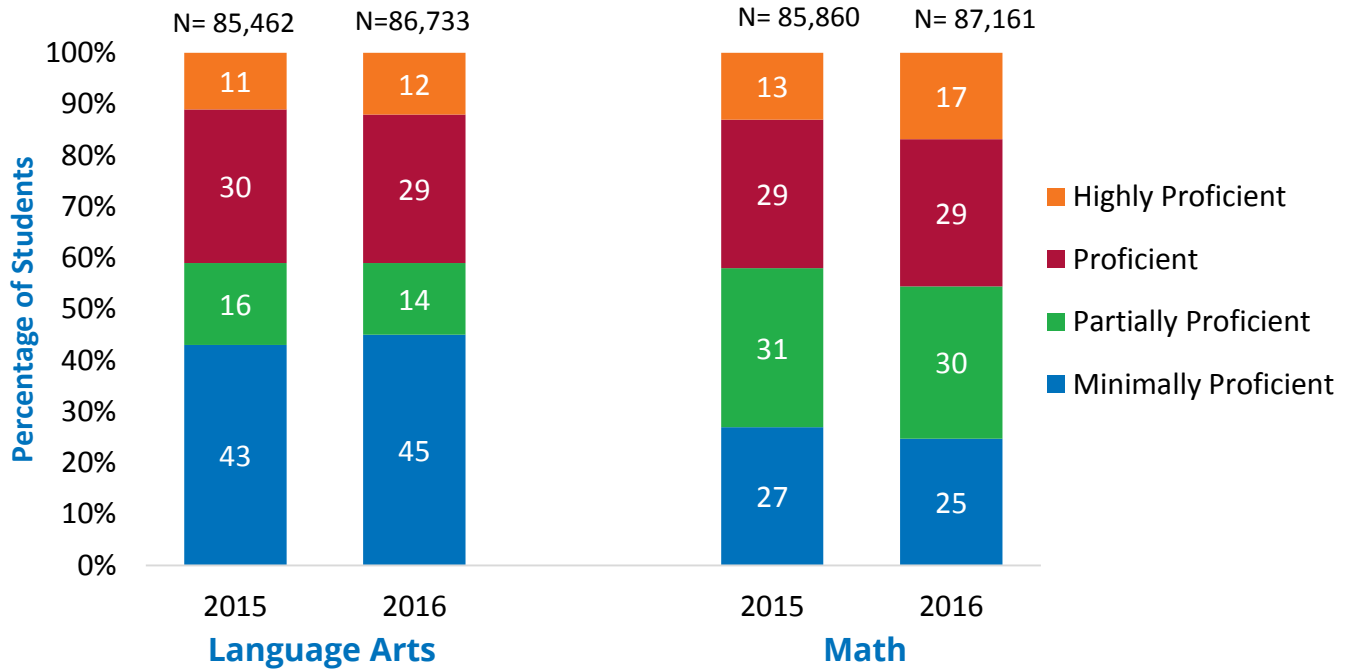
### An increasing number of child care providers are achieving a quality-level rating.



Source: First Things First (2016). Annual Report.  
Retrieved from [http://azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FY2016\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FY2016_Annual_Report.pdf)

# THIRD GRADE READING AND MATH ACHIEVEMENT

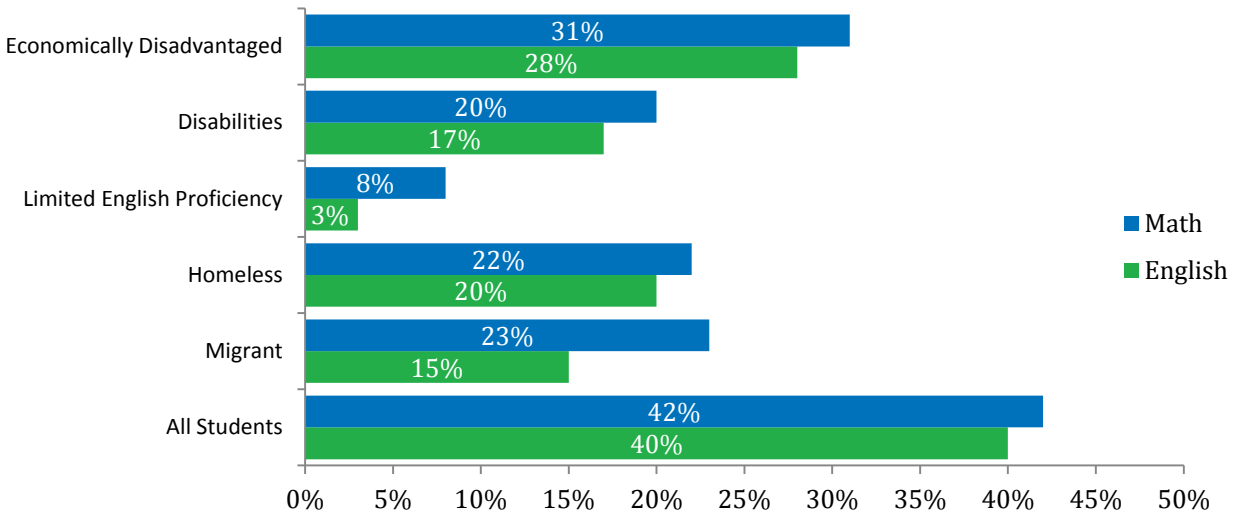
Third Grade AzMERIT Performance in 2015 and 2016



Source: The Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/> Note: Column totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

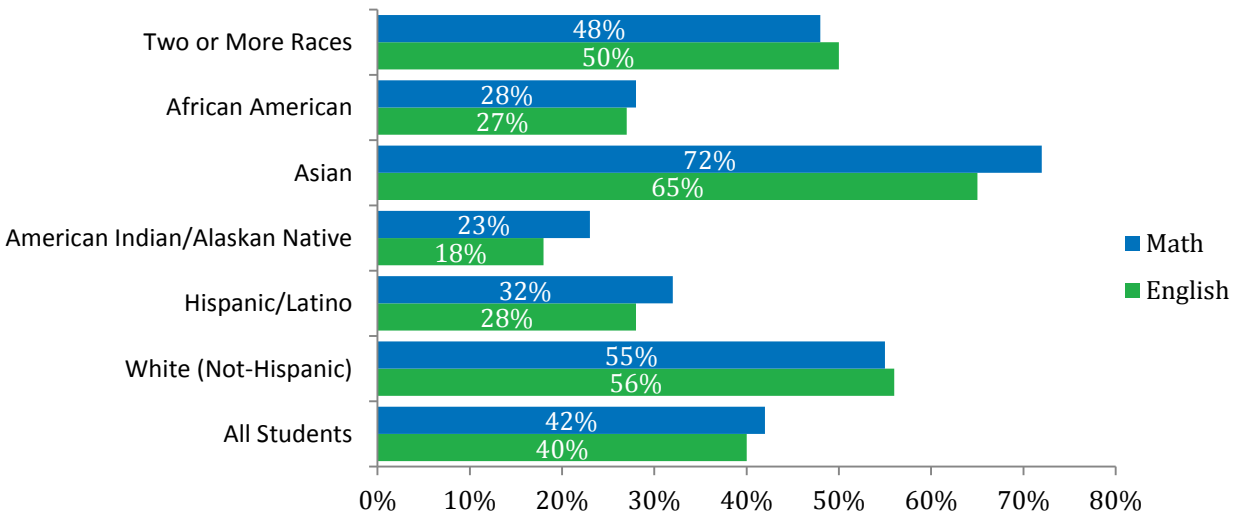
## THIRD GRADE READING AND MATH ACHIEVEMENT

Percentage of 3rd grade children passing AzMERIT in 2016, by risk factors



Source: The Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/>

Percentage of 3rd grade children passing AzMERIT in 2016, by ethnicity



Source: The Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/>

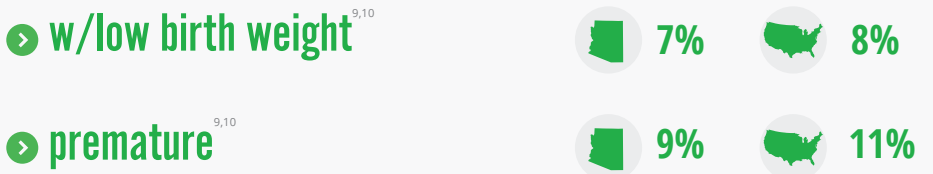
# HEALTHY KIDS

Children's health encompasses not only their physical health, but also their mental, intellectual, social and emotional well-being. Factors such as a mother's prenatal care, access to health care and health insurance, and receipt of preventive care such as immunizations and oral health care all influence a child's current health and also their long-term development and success.



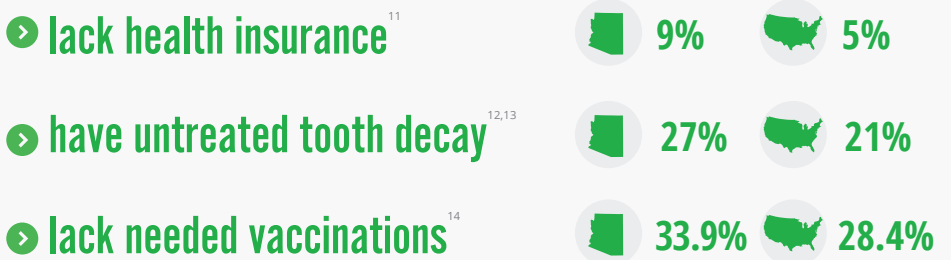
Arizona's babies are born healthier than their peers nationally, which is encouraging.

## FEWER AZ BABIES ARE BORN



Yet, too many children lack the necessary immunizations before they enter school, and many lack access to care to prevent dental problems – a key cause of school absenteeism later on.

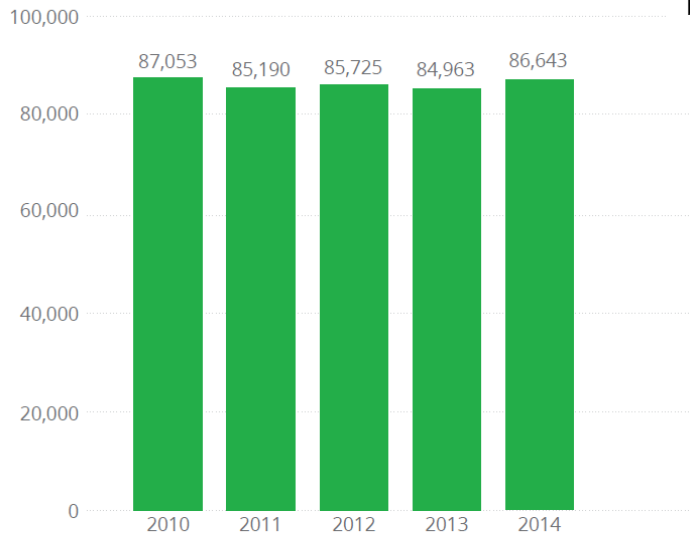
## MORE YOUNG CHILDREN IN AZ



First Things First supports healthier kids by supporting pregnant mothers; giving parents tools to promote good nutrition and healthy weight; expanding access to oral health screenings and preventive fluoride varnishes; building awareness of health insurance options available for families with children; helping early educators meet the social-emotional needs of kids in their care; and, improving health practices in home- and center-based child care settings.

## CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: BIRTHS

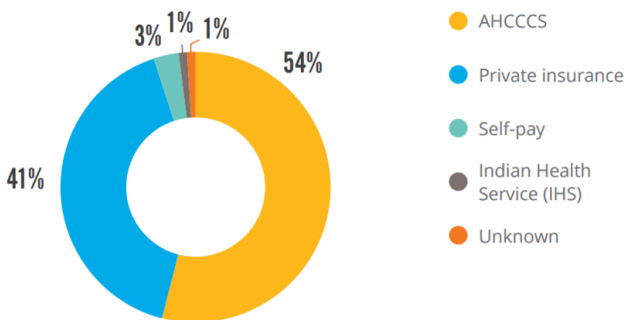
### Births by year



The decline in the birth rate appears to have stabilized, with a slight (2%) increase in births between 2013 and 2014.

Source: ADHS Population Health and Vital Statistics, "Monthly Vital Statistics"  
 Note: Number of births for 2014 are subject to revision.

### Births by payor, 2013



The majority of births (54%) in 2013 were publicly funded births, followed by births paid for through private insurance.

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2015). [Maternal and infant health dataset]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

## CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: BIRTH CHARACTERISTICS

### Characteristics of births and women giving birth, 2013

	AZ	US
Low birthweight (5.5 pounds or less)	7%	8%
High birthweight (8.8 pounds or more)	8%	8%
Fewer than 9 prenatal visits	19%	NA
Mother was 17 or younger	2.4%	2%
Mother was 19 or younger	9%	7%

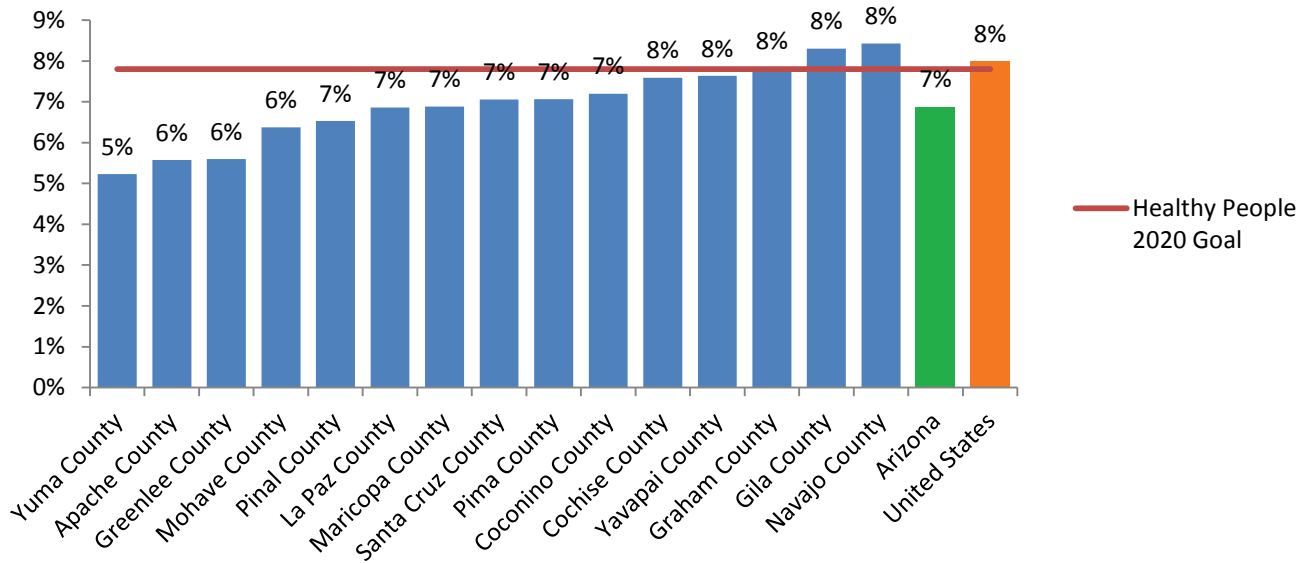
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2015). [Maternal and infant health dataset]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

In addition, in 2013, fewer Arizona's babies were born at low birth weight (7% AZ vs. 8% U.S.), or prematurely (9% AZ vs. 11% U.S.) than those across the nation. These indicators also represent success relative to the Healthy People 2020 target of less than 7.8 percent for low birth weight and less than 11.4 percent for premature births. The percentage of babies born in Arizona with high birth weight is similar to the nation (8% for both). While the concerns related to low birth rate are widely known, fetuses who are significantly larger than average, a condition known as macrosomia, are associated with health risks for both the mother and infant during birth. These children are also at increased risk for obesity and metabolic syndrome (which is linked to an increase risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes).

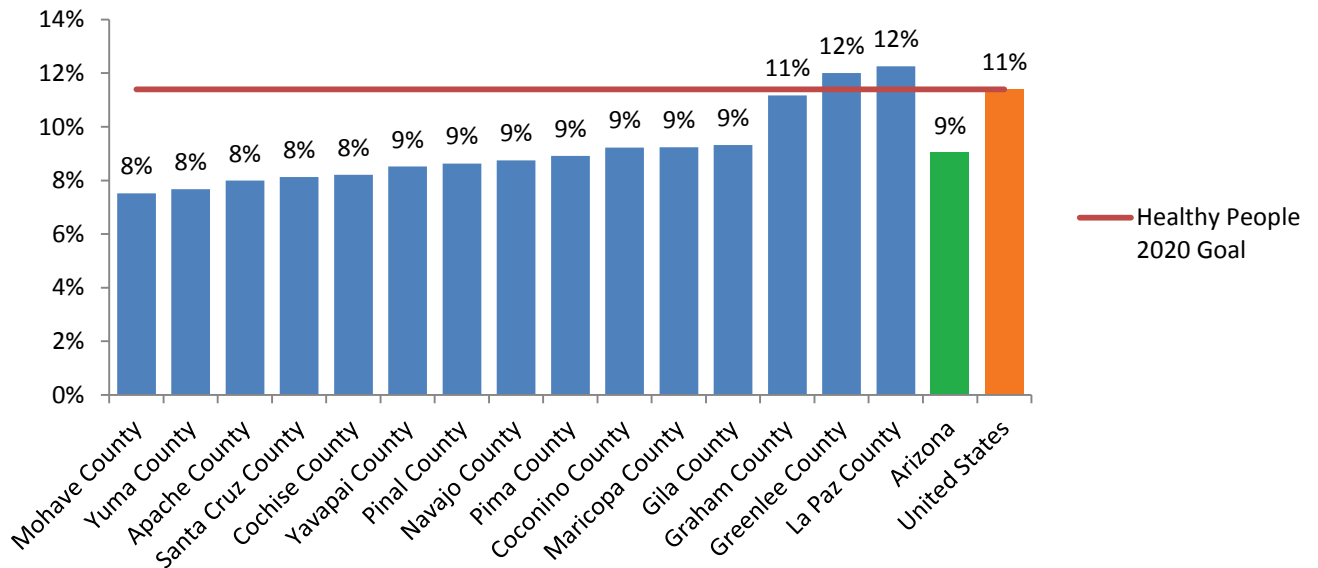
The number of teens becoming parents in Arizona remains a concern. The percentage of births to teen others is higher in Arizona than across the nation for both mothers under the age 17 and under the age of 19. In 2013, there were 2,056 births to mothers 17 or younger in AZ, and 7,222 births to mothers 19 or younger.

# CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: BIRTH CHARACTERISTICS

## Percentage of babies born with low birthweight in 2013



## Percent of babies born premature (<37 weeks) in 2013

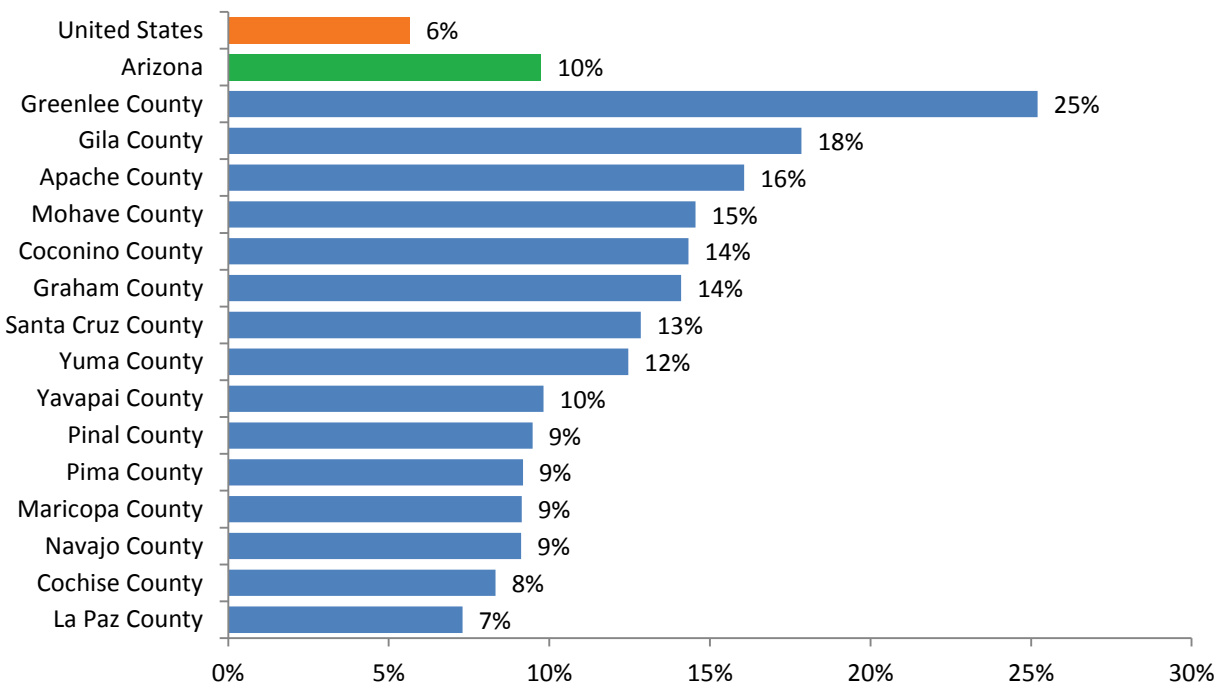


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2015). [Maternal and infant health dataset]. Unpublished raw data received from First Things First State Agency Data Request.

## CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: PREVENTIVE HEALTH

Children with health insurance are more likely than those without to have a regular and accessible source of health care. The American Community Survey five-year estimates cover the years 2010-2014. In that time period, approximately 10 percent of children ages birth to 5 were estimated to be uninsured. The percentage of uninsured children in Arizona remains greater than that of the nation, while the county disparities within show a large variation within the state.

### Percentage of children ages 0-5 without health insurance



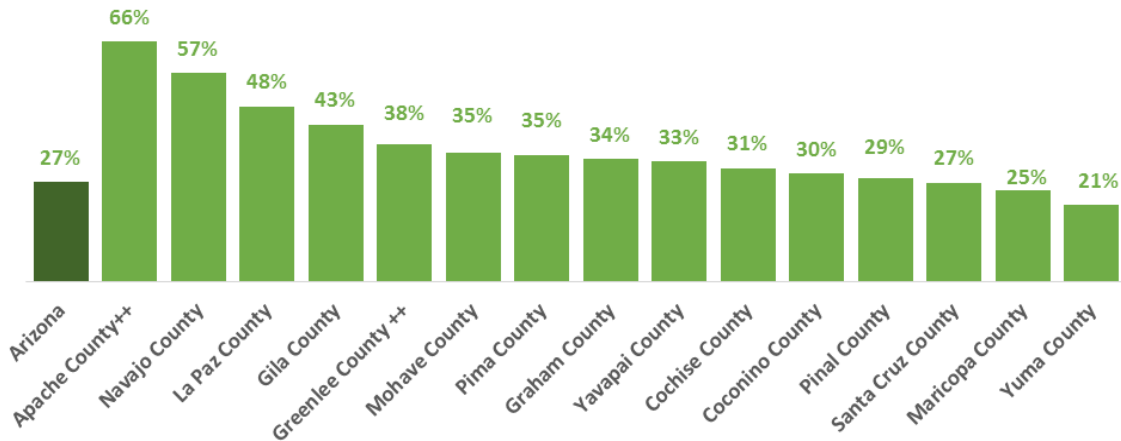
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2016). 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, Table B27001.  
Retrieved from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

A recent survey shows that the prevalence of decay in Arizona kindergarteners has decreased in the past several years, going from 35 percent to 27 percent. Similar to health insurance, county data shows how within the state, decay experience can widely vary.



## CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: PREVENTIVE HEALTH

### Prevalence of decay experience in kindergarten children by county



Source: First Things First (2016). Taking a bite out of school absences: Children's oral health report 2016. Retrieved from [http://azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF\\_Oral\\_Health\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Oral_Health_Report_2016.pdf)

### AzEIP Referrals and Children (0-5) Served in 2014

	Total Referrals	Total Served
Apache County	66	40
Cochise County	227	52
Coconino County	252	92
Gila County	80	37
Graham County	81	40
Greenlee County	N/A	N/A
La Paz County	12	N/A
Maricopa County	7,499	3,474
Mohave County	235	102
Navajo County	83	39
Pima County	1,749	668
Pinal County	733	407
Santa Cruz County	101	37
Yavapai County	268	116
Yuma County	331	95
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>11,741</b>	<b>5,248</b>

Intervening early is critical to ensuring Arizona's children are prepared for and ready to succeed in school. Within Arizona, AzEIP is currently serving just over 5,000 children meeting eligibility requirements for early intervention services. ("Children served" only includes those with a family service plan.)

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (July 2015). [Special needs dataset]. Unpublished data. Note: Entries of "N/A" indicate percentages which cannot be reported because of data suppression, or are otherwise not available.