

Arizona's Results

for Children and Youth

Governor's Children's Cabinet

2007



Arizona's Results for Children and Youth 2007
A Report from Governor Janet Napolitano's Children's Cabinet

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Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts
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Governor's Children's Cabinet

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A Message from Governor Janet Napolitano



On behalf of the Children's Cabinet, I am pleased to release this inaugural report on the state of Arizona's children. I have made protecting vulnerable children and families a hallmark of my administration, and while I am proud of what we have accomplished, there is still much left to do.

Within this report we highlight innovative initiatives underway within state government and begin to track progress toward improving outcomes for children in Arizona.

Since its establishment in 2003, the Children's Cabinet has provided a forum to discuss a wide array of systems issues relating to the well-being of children in Arizona. In the years ahead, the Children's Cabinet will continue to function as a "barrier buster," breaking down administrative and systemic obstacles that stand in the way of improved outcomes for Arizona's children and families.

I want to recognize the members of the Children's Cabinet, and the dedicated employees in their individual agencies and departments, for their contributions to this report and for their ongoing commitment to public service and improving the lives of Arizona's children and families.

I hope you will join me in our collective effort to ensure that every child in Arizona is safe, healthy, and prepared to succeed in a world of competition and innovation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Executive Summary

Arizona is the fastest growing state in the nation. Between 2000 and 2005, Arizona's population grew by 15.8 percent, almost three times faster than population growth nationwide. Arizona is also a young state. In 2004, more than a quarter of the Arizona population was under the age of 18. The percentage of children in Arizona under age 18 and under age five are both higher than the national average, and growing. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of children grew by 2 percent nationally and 15 percent in Arizona.

Other characteristics that make Arizona unique include the high number of low-income families, the growing population of English language learners, and the impact of immigration on state systems. Immigration and the influx of people moving to Arizona from other states require the health care system, schools and social services to adapt rapidly to accommodate the growing population. Since 2005, the number of Arizona children living in immigrant families has increased by 17 percent.

Reports that compare one state to another or compare states to a national index overlook the many characteristics that make each state unique. This inaugural report from the Children's Cabinet provides a baseline for future reports that will help us measure trends and progress here at home.



The Children's Cabinet has adopted three goals:

HEALTH — Children and adolescents have access to affordable, high quality physical and behavioral health care and grow up in healthy environments

EDUCATION — Children start school ready to succeed and graduate from high school prepared for work and post-secondary education

SAFETY & SECURITY — Children and adolescents live in safe, stable and supportive families and neighborhoods

Working backward from these three comprehensive goals, the Children's Cabinet identified a set of targeted indicators to help measure progress. To be included in this report, an indicator had to be reflective of the priorities of Governor Napolitano and her state agencies, and data had to be readily accessible—the process helped shed light on those areas that are of critical importance but where there is a lack of reliable data.* Alongside each targeted indicator is a snapshot of most current data and a highlighted initiative currently underway in the state that is expected to have a positive impact on that particular measure of success.

* One other note about the challenges of data analysis— because data is collected and published on varying timelines, the most recent snapshots included in this report range from 2007 for information that is reported in real time, to 2004 for information which is collected less often or reported with a greater delay. Every effort has been made to include the most recent data available for each selected indicator.

Success Statistics

Voluntary Full Day Kindergarten Fully Phased In

Between the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 school years, the number of schools funded to provide voluntary full day kindergarten went up sevenfold as the program expanded across the state. Full funding will be available statewide for the 2007-2008 school year.

Making Child Care More Accessible

In her first term, Governor Napolitano fully funded child care subsidies so that every working family can access the child care they need and none are turned away or put on a waiting list.

Raising Teacher Pay

Governor Napolitano fought for and received a long-due teacher pay raise during the 2006 legislative session, in recognition of the critical role teachers play in our state. The 2007 legislative session brought \$46 million to improve teacher pay and benefits.



Supporting Children's Safety and Security

Strengthening families helps keep children safe at home, and since 2003 the number of children served safely at home has increased by 67 percent. When children cannot return safely to their parents, adoption and guardianship provide permanency and stability. Since 2002, there has been a 70 percent increase in adoptions and a 66 percent increase in permanent guardianships.

Investing in Children's Health Insurance

Governor Napolitano's leadership in the 2007 legislative session led in to an increase in funding for KidsCare outreach and enrollment. This funding gives the state the ability to reach eligible but uninsured families to educate them about state health coverage programs for children, and to cover the caseload growth that will occur as more families become aware of the program.

One Book for Every First and Fourth Grader

Each year since 2003, Governor Napolitano has collaborated with corporate sponsors to give a book to every Arizona first grader. In 2005 the program was expanded to include fourth graders. Since 2003, more than 500,000 books have been given to Arizona students.

Increasing Domestic Violence Shelter Capacity

To ensure that no woman in need is turned away, Governor Napolitano has invested \$7.3 million in domestic violence shelter capacity as part of a plan to fund Arizona shelters to full capacity by FY 2010.

Fewer Children Living in Poverty

Between 2000 and 2005, Arizona saw a 13 percent improvement in the number of children living in poverty. Since 2003, the number of low income families claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has nearly tripled, and the total refunds have increased by 80 percent.

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Healthy Families Arizona is a voluntary program that reaches out to new parents at risk for child abuse or neglect. Since 2002, the Healthy Families program has nearly doubled to include 58 sites throughout the state.

Juvenile Crime Rate Trending Downward

In spite of an 11 percent growth in the number of Arizona youth age 8-17 since 2004, juvenile crime rate has been in decline. Between 2004 and 2006 there was an 11 percent decrease in the number of juveniles referred to the court system.

Reductions in Underage Drinking

The Arizona Youth Survey revealed a 25.8 percent decrease between 2002 and 2006 in the number of teens who reported drinking alcohol in the 30-day period prior to being surveyed, the beginning of a promising trend.

Targeted Indicators

HEALTH

Children and adolescents have access to affordable, high quality physical and behavioral health care and grow up in healthy environments

- Percentage of children with health insurance
- Number of emergency room visits for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician
- Percentage of 2 year old children that are immunized
- Percentage of Medicaid/KidsCare children 3-6 receiving well-child visits
- Percentage of children who live in communities with a shortage of primary care medical, dental and mental health providers
- Number of children with serious emotional disturbance enrolled in the Arizona Department of Health Services behavioral health system
- Teen pregnancy rate
- Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who drink alcohol
- Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who use methamphetamine
- Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who smoke cigarettes
- Percentage of high school students who are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight
- Hospital visits for asthma

EDUCATION

Children start school ready to succeed and graduate from high school prepared for work and post-secondary education

- Percentage of licensed child care centers that are nationally accredited
- Percent of lower-income children entering kindergarten below the benchmark for literacy-related skills
- Percentage of early childhood education teachers with bachelor's degrees
- Number of schools receiving state funding to provide voluntary full day kindergarten
- Percentage of students in grade 4 and grade 8 scoring at or above basic levels on the NAEP test in reading, math and science
- Percentage of eighth graders taking Algebra, Algebra II or Geometry
- Percentage of high school students who enter grade nine and graduate within four years
- Percentage of high school students who drop out

- Percentage of high school graduates who take the ACT and SAT
- Average teacher salary and average starting teacher salary
- Number of master teachers

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Children and adolescents live in safe, stable and supportive families and neighborhoods

- Number of licensed foster family homes
- Percentage of children in out-of-home care living with relatives
- Number of children in congregate care
- Percentage of eligible families served by Healthy Families Arizona
- Number of Healthy Families Arizona sites
- Number of children with a finalized adoption
- Number of children who achieve guardianship
- Estimated number of children with one or both parents in prison
- Number of women and children receiving shelter for domestic violence
- Percentage of children living in poverty
- Per capita income
- Child support collections (Title IV-D)
- Number of paternity establishments
- Hospital paternity establishment compliance growth rate
- Number of unduplicated TANF individuals who obtain employment
- Number of TANF individuals who retain employment after 90 days
- Number of low-income households assisted into homeownership through the homeownership program
- Number of households receiving eviction or foreclosure assistance in order to prevent homelessness
- Number of homeless school-aged children
- Rate of juveniles referred to the court system
- Percentage of youth released from ADJC Safe Schools who showed a gain in reading and mathematics
- Percentage of ADJC Continuous Case Plans completed on time
- Percentage of youth whose families and caregivers are identified as participants in the youth's secure care treatment plan
- Percentage of families reporting satisfaction on the ADJC Family Satisfaction Survey

Health

Children's Cabinet Goal #1: Children and adolescents have access to affordable, high quality physical and behavioral health care and grow up in healthy environments

Indicator	Baseline Data	Most Current Data
Access to Health Care		
Percentage of children with health insurance	85.4% (2003) ¹	83.3% (2005) ¹
Number of emergency room visits for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician	6,725.5 visits per 100,000 children ages 1-14 (2004) ²	7,940.2 visits per 100,000 children ages 1-14 (2005) ²
Percentage of 2 year old children that are immunized	75% (SFY 2003) ³	82% (SFY 2006) ⁴
Percentage of Medicaid and KidsCare children ages 3-6 receiving well-child visits	52% (FFY 2004) ⁵	56.7% (FFY 2005) ⁶
Percentage of children birth to age 17 who live in communities with a shortage of primary care medical, dental and mental health providers	39% (2005) ⁷	46% (2007) ⁷
Percentage of children with serious emotional disturbance enrolled in the ADHS behavioral health system	22% (SFY 2004) ⁸	24% (SFY 2006) ⁸
Adolescent Risk Behavior		
Teen pregnancy rate	68.9 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19 (2003) ⁹	65.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19 (2005) ⁹
Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who drink alcohol	46.4% (2001-2002 school year) ¹⁰	34.4% (2005-2006 school year) ¹⁰
Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who use methamphetamine	2% (2001-2002 school year) ¹⁰	1.3% (2005-2006 school year) ¹⁰
Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who smoke cigarettes	16.5% (2001-2002 school year) ¹⁰	15.3% (2005-2006 school year) ¹⁰
Percentage of high school students who are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight	25% (2002-2003 school year) ¹¹	25.5% (2004-2005 school year) ¹¹
Environmental Health		
Hospital visits for asthma	921.8 per 100,000 children ages 1-14 (2004) ¹²	955.2 per 100,000 children ages 1-14 (2005) ¹²

SFY- State fiscal year (July 1-June 30) FFY-Federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30)
If not otherwise marked, data references a calendar year

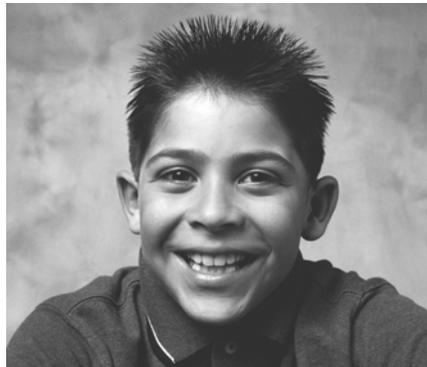
Sources and Notes
See pages 41-42

Health

Access to Care

Health Insurance

Children with health insurance are likely to receive necessary preventive care such as vaccines, and healthy children have better school attendance and come to school better prepared to learn. Children without health insurance coverage are more likely to be hospitalized for preventable conditions that could have been treated with timely outpatient care, and are less likely to be diagnosed with serious or life-threatening conditions. Emergency rooms are often the primary source of medical treatment for uninsured children, producing uncompensated costs for doctors and hospitals, which are shifted to the public through increased premiums.



Taking a Closer Look



The FY 2008 budget contains funding to raise awareness of and cover increased enrollment in KidsCare (Arizona's State Children's Health Insurance Program) for the more than 100,000 children who are eligible for public programs but going without health insurance. Governor Napolitano's FY 2008 executive budget also proposed a bold initiative to provide significantly

more children in Arizona with the opportunity to have health insurance. This would have expanded eligibility for the federally matched program from 200 percent to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, extending the benefit to families of four making less than \$60,000. While this initiative was not funded during the 2007 legislative session, Governor Napolitano is committed to finding solutions to Arizona's health care challenges and ensuring that children have access to quality health care.



Targeted Indicators

Percentage of children with health insurance

Current Snapshot: 83.3% (2005)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey

Number of emergency room visits for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician*

Current Snapshot: 7,940.2 visits per 100,000 children 1-14 (2005)

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services Emergency Department Discharge Database

* This indicator refers to those conditions known as ambulatory care sensitive conditions which, if treated early in a primary care setting, would not likely require hospitalization. Severe ear, nose and throat infections make up 60% of these visits.

Health

Access to Care

Childhood Immunizations

Immunizations are critical to ensuring protection from common childhood diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the goal for immunization coverage is 90 percent by 2010. Arizona has adopted a goal that 90 percent of all children will be immunized at the standard coverage level by 2010. Between 2003 and 2006, the immunization rate for 2 year old children improved 9.3 percent, from 75 to 82 percent.



Taking a Closer Look

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

Arizona Immunization Program is working to meet the year 2010 goal for childhood vaccination and to raise immunization rates for all children and adults. Cost has been removed as a barrier for uninsured and underinsured children whose vaccinations are covered by a combination of federal and state funds. ADHS also utilizes a computer database to generate lists of children 18 months of age who are behind on their vaccinations, and distributes this list to local health departments who use them to improve vaccination rates.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) health plans are targeting outreach efforts to parents of children who are not up to date on vaccinations at 15 months, and AHCCCS is also identifying physicians whose patients are not being immunized and developing measures to impact individual physician office performance. The FY 2008 budget includes a \$10.7 million increase in state and federal funds for AHCCCS and AHDS to cover an increase in vaccinations for children and high-risk adults.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of Arizona's 2 year old children that are immunized

Current Snapshot: 82% (SFY 2006)

Source: Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, *2007-2008 Master List of State Government Programs*, Department of Health Services Performance Measures

Health

Access to Care

Preventive Health Care

“Well child” visits provide preventive care and allow pediatricians to assess young children’s physical and emotional



health and development. These visits build a trusting relationship between family and pediatrician and help parents know what to expect from their developing child. Health screening for children is not only cost-effective, but serves to identify health issues that can be addressed before they become a problem that is carried into adulthood and may be life-altering.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of Medicaid and KidsCare children ages 3-6 receiving well-child visits

Current Snapshot: 56.7% (FFY 2005)

Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Division of Health Care Management, *Progress Report on Targets for Children's Preventive Health*

Taking a Closer Look



In response to recommendations in the Governor's School Readiness Action Plan, AHCCCS and its contracted health plans are working to increase the number of children who receive well child visits through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. AHCCCS and ADHS are also evaluating ways to integrate tools like the Parental Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) tool recommended by the School Readiness Board for developmental screening. ADHS appropriated funds to support physician training in the use of this tool. AHCCCS is working with contractors to develop and utilize focused educational material and outreach activities with specific messages that have been found to be effective with Medicaid populations, and is collaborating with the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase developmental screenings and services throughout the pediatric provider community. ADHS compiled and published a resource guide of developmental services to assist physicians in connecting children to developmental service providers in their area.

Health

Access to Care

Access to a Primary Care Physician

702,477 Arizona children live in medically underserved communities that have been federally designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. Communities qualify for this designation if they meet a set of federal criteria relating to shortage of dental, mental and primary health care providers. This designation is used to qualify for state and federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations. As the state works to ensure that all children have health insurance, it is important to also ensure that there are providers available to meet communities' health care needs.



Taking a Closer Look

The Department of Health Services (ADHS) is working to improve access to primary care, particularly among the state's vulnerable and underserved populations. The ADHS Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment for primary health care providers who practice in medically underserved areas. The new University of Arizona medical school in Phoenix will increase the number of medical school graduates in Arizona, and efforts are underway to secure funding for additional residency slots statewide with particular financial support for rural programs. The FY 2008 budget contains \$9 million in new state and federal funds for the Graduate Medical Education program which supports medical residency programs, on top of the \$12 million expansion which occurred in FY 2007.

In response to Arizona's nursing shortage, Governor Napolitano signed a bill in 2005 that appropriated an additional \$20 million for nursing education. This and other investments in nursing are paying off—since 2002, nursing school enrollment in the state has risen by 26 percent and the number of applications for nursing licenses have doubled.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of children who live in communities with a shortage of primary care medical, dental and mental health providers*

Current Snapshot: 46% (2007)

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Systems Development

* This indicator measures the percentage of Arizona children birth to age 17 who live in federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. Population estimates are from 2004 U.S. Census projections.

Health

Access to Care

Behavioral Health Care

Children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) typically experience among the most severe and chronic behavioral health conditions which result in functional difficulties in areas such as family life, school and social activities. Diagnoses in this category include major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenic conditions. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) provides a variety of treatment and support services to these children through age 18 and is working toward increasing the percentage of children with serious emotional disturbance enrolled in the system by 2 percent each year. ADHS was successful in increasing the percentage of eligible children served from 21 percent in 2005 to 24 percent in 2006.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of children with serious emotional disturbance enrolled in the ADHS behavioral health system

Current Snapshot: 24% (SFY 2006)

Source: Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health

Taking a Closer Look



The Department of Health Services/Behavioral Health Services has launched the statewide "Meet Me Where I Am" campaign to expand availability of support and rehabilitative services for children enrolled in behavioral health services. The goal of the campaign is to increase service access for children and improve the quality of wrap-around support services. Components of the initiative include:

- ◆ Statewide provider training in delivery of quality support and rehab services.
- ◆ Intensive recruitment of non-traditional and alternative providers, including family organizations and culturally distinct organizations, to deliver support and rehab services.
- ◆ Development of a case manager workforce for high needs SED children.
- ◆ Monitoring of campaign implementation by Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) through service utilization targets, network expansion goals and providing incentives to agencies to participate in the support and rehab training.

Health

Adolescent Risk Behavior

Teen Pregnancy

Teen mothers are less likely than their peers to complete school and more likely to end up on public assistance.

Experts attribute a 36 percent decline in the US teen



pregnancy rate since 1990 to both increased abstinence and changes in contraceptive use. Even with this progress, however, the U.S. teen birthrate remains one of the highest in the developed world.*



Targeted Indicator

Teen pregnancy rate

Current Snapshot: 65.6 per 1,000 females ages 15-19 (2005)

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Vital Records, *Pregnancy Rates by Pregnancy Outcome, Age Group and Year, Females 19 or Younger, 1995-2005*

Taking a Closer Look



The Interagency Work

Group on Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention is an initiative of the Children's Cabinet, and consists of representatives from many of Arizona's child-serving agencies. The work group seeks to improve reproductive health outcomes with a focus on reducing pregnancy among youth in care. Plans include training staff to respond effectively to reproductive health issues and instituting comprehensive reproductive health care education for youth in the care of the state and/or under the jurisdiction of the courts. The task force is the first formal opportunity for representatives from these agencies, which all provide funding for teen pregnancy and STD prevention, to come together and develop coordinated strategies to reduce teen pregnancy. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) administers federal, state and lottery dollars to promote teen pregnancy prevention in Arizona, funding community based organizations, county health departments, behavioral health providers and tribes to provide classroom education, parent education, service learning and youth development activities, family planning and tutoring services to over 20,000 youth annually.

* National Campaign to End Teen Pregnancy, www.teenpregnancy.org/

Health

Adolescent Risk Behavior

Underage Drinking

Underage alcohol use kills more young people than all illegal drugs combined. The average age of first alcoholic drink in Arizona is 12 years, seven months,* and research shows that kids who drink before the age of 15



are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21. Alcohol related car crashes are the number one killer of teens, and alcohol use is also associated with homicides, suicides and drowning—the next three leading causes of death among youth.** However, between 2002 and 2006 the Arizona Youth Survey reveals a 25.8% decrease in the number of respondents who reported drinking alcohol in the 30-day period prior to being surveyed, (from 46.4% to 34.4%), the beginning of a promising trend.



Targeted Indicator

Percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who drink alcohol***

Current Snapshot: 34.4% (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Arizona Youth Survey State Report 2006*

Taking a Closer Look



The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families' Interagency Underage Drinking Committee is engaged in a multi-year campaign to reduce underage drinking. The committee has brought together state level agencies, advocacy organizations and city law enforcement entities to identify evidence-based strategies to reduce access, ensure that stores are not selling alcohol to minors, increase prevention education efforts and engage young people in the leadership of statewide efforts. In 2005 the committee unveiled a focused media campaign during the prom and graduation season, and this year a social norms media campaign will be launched statewide. This campaign bridges the gap between previous independent efforts and creates a strong partnership with local coalition efforts. Through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant, eleven coalitions are funded to combat substance abuse, with a focus on underage drinking. These coalitions will be critical in the success of any statewide endeavor.

* Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Arizona Youth Survey

** Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, www.pire.org

*** This indicator reflects alcohol use on at least one day in the 30 days preceding the survey.

Health

Adolescent Risk Behavior

Methamphetamine Use

Methamphetamine is a drug that disproportionately impacts the welfare of children. Research suggests that children prenatally exposed to meth may be at developmental risk, both due to the direct effects of drug exposure and to the chaotic and neglectful environment associated with meth use. A child living in a clandestine meth laboratory is also exposed to immediate health and safety dangers and to the ongoing effects of chemical contamination. In addition to being passive victims of meth, youth are also among the drug's users. According to the latest Arizona Youth Survey, the average age of first methamphetamine use is 14.1 years old. But despite meth's growing notoriety, Arizona's efforts to curtail youth meth use have reaped strong results over the last four years, with 35% fewer students reporting use over the previous 30-day period in 2006 than in 2002.



Targeted Indicator

Percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who use methamphetamine*

Current Snapshot: 1.3% (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Arizona Youth Survey State Report 2006*

Taking a Closer Look



The Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families fund 22 anti-meth coalitions around the state. The initiative funds six tribes and coalitions in every county to start or enhance work aimed at addressing meth prevention, enforcement, and treatment. In the 2006 legislative session, \$8 million was appropriated for meth interdiction, treatment, and prevention.

The Methamphetamine Task Force, with diverse representation from state agencies, local government, businesses, and community groups hosted a first-ever statewide anti-meth conference in spring of 2006. In May 2007 a set of comprehensive recommendations and action steps to fight methamphetamine through enforcement, prevention, and treatment was published in "A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona."

* This indicator reflects methamphetamine use on at least one day in the 30 days preceding the survey. The category included methamphetamines, speed, crank and crystal meth.

Health

Adolescent Risk Behavior

Tobacco Use

Tobacco use, the nation's number one cause of preventable death, is a childhood-onset disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every day approximately 4,000 American youth age 12-17 try their first cigarette. Cigarette smoking subjects young people to immediate and long term health risks, and the earlier a person starts smoking, the more likely they are to become addicted. Children are also at particular risk from the chemicals in secondhand smoke, which can cause severe respiratory damage to children's still-developing lungs.



Targeted Indicator

Percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who smoke cigarettes*

Current Snapshot: 15.3% (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, *Arizona Youth Survey State Report 2006*

Taking a Closer Look



The Department of Health Services' Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (TEPP) funds programs and projects throughout the state, ranging from public education on the dangers of secondhand smoke to a comprehensive, innovative, and diverse campaign to prevent youth from beginning tobacco use. Through contracts with statewide organizations, county health departments, tribes and community health centers, TEPP provides tobacco prevention education to children from fourth grade through eighth grade. TEPP also provides training and conducts compliance checks with merchants to ensure that they are not selling to minors. The Smoke Free Arizona Act passed by voters in November 2006 significantly limits the places where children can be exposed to secondhand smoke.

* This indicator reflects cigarette use on at least one day in the 30 days preceding the survey.

Health

Adolescent Risk Behavior

Teaching Healthy Habits to Prevent Obesity

The rate of overweight children and adolescents has nearly tripled in the last 20 years. Overweight and obese youth are more likely to become overweight and obese adults with



significant health problems. Being overweight is tied to an increased risk of diabetes, an emerging epidemic in Arizona—the number of Arizona adults diagnosed with diabetes rose by 77 percent between 1995 and 2006.* Diabetes is growing at an even higher rate in the Native American population.



Targeted Indicator

Percent of Arizona's high school students who are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight**

Current Snapshot: 25.5% (2004-2005 school year)

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention/
Department of Health Services, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005*

Taking a Closer Look



The Department of Health Services has taken a proactive approach to addressing adolescent obesity, developing a statewide plan recommending that schools help combat obesity by providing adequate opportunities for physical education and by making nutrition a higher priority. The Department's Office of Women's and Children's Health funds community-based projects that provide classes to middle and high school students on healthy weight, exercise, and healthy eating. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and food stamp programs in Arizona also include nutritional education and social marketing around making healthy food choices. In 2005, Governor Napolitano signed a bill banning the sale of soft drinks, candy and gum in elementary and middle schools during the school day. This law went into effect in July 2006.

* Arizona Department of Health Services

** Data breaks down as 11.9% overweight and 13.6% at risk for becoming overweight

Health

Environmental Health

Childhood Asthma

For decades, asthma sufferers moved to Arizona for its clear skies and dry air. However, rapid growth in Arizona has brought with it big-city pollution which can aggravate asthma, especially among children whose lungs are still developing and who spend more time outside and at higher activity levels than adults. Asthma is one of the most chronic childhood diseases and is the most common cause of school absenteeism due to chronic disease.*



Targeted Indicator

Hospital visits for asthma**

Current Snapshot: 955.2 per 100,000 children ages 1-14 (2005)

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Hospital Discharge Database and Emergency Department Database

Taking a Closer Look



The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Office of Children's Environmental Health seeks to improve statewide air quality to reduce respiratory illnesses. With the Arizona Asthma Coalition, ADEQ created and is distributing a DVD educating drivers on the health impact of diesel exhaust on children as part of the innovative School Bus Idling Project. 158 school districts statewide are participating in the program, which impacts approximately 5,000 school buses and 700,000 children. ADEQ, ADHS and ASU are studying the correlation between elevated particulate matter (PM) and hospital discharge data in hopes of improving the alert system. ADHS and ADEQ are also working on a system to alert school nurses of high pollution advisories. ADE and ADEQ are raising awareness of environmental asthma triggers and proper asthma medication use. With the Maricopa County Asthma Coalition and Arizona Head Start Association, ADEQ is working on an asthma reduction plan that can be implemented by all Arizona Head Starts. AHCCCS is working with health care providers to increase the use of appropriate asthma medication and better manage childhood asthma.

* American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org

** Includes emergency room visits and in-hospital admissions

Education

Children's Cabinet Goal #2: Children start school ready to succeed and graduate from high school prepared for work and post-secondary education

Indicator	Baseline Data	Most Current Data
Early Childhood Education		
Percentage of licensed child care centers that are nationally accredited	13% (2004) ¹³	18% (2006) ¹⁴
Percent of lower-income children entering kindergarten below the benchmark for literacy-related skills	N/A	87% (2005-2006 school year) ¹⁵
Percentage of Arizona's early childhood education teachers who hold a bachelor's degree	N/A	32% (2004) ¹⁶
Kindergarten — 12th Grade		
Number of schools receiving state funding to provide voluntary full day kindergarten	137 (2004- 2005 school year) ¹⁷	1,027 (2007-2008 school year) ¹⁷
Percentage of students in grade 4 scoring at or above basic levels on the NAEP test	Math: 70% (2003) Reading: 54% (2003) Science: 55% (2000) ¹⁸	Math: 70% (2005) Reading: 52% (2005) Science: 53% (2005) ¹⁸
Percentage of students in grade 8 scoring at or above basic levels on the NAEP test	Math: 61% (2003) Reading: 66% (2003) Science: 55% (2000) ¹⁸	Math: 64% (2005) Reading: 65% (2005) Science: 49% (2005) ¹⁸
Percentage of eighth graders taking Algebra, Algebra II or Geometry	N/A	38% (2005) ¹⁹
Percentage of high school students who enter grade nine and graduate within four years	70.8% (SFY 2003) ²⁰	75% (SFY 2006) ²¹
Percentage of high school students who drop out	18% (2000) ²²	9% (2005) ²²
Percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT	26% (Class of 2002) ²³	18% (Class of 2006) ²⁴
Percentage of high school graduates taking the SAT	36% (Class of 2002) ²³	33% (Class of 2005) ²³
Teacher Support		
Average starting teacher salary	N/A	\$30,258 (2005-2006 school year) ²⁵
Average teacher salary	\$40,328 (2002-2003 school year) ²⁶	\$42,967 (2005-2006 school year) ²⁶
Number of master teachers	0 (FY 2005) ²⁷	68 (July 2007) ²⁷

SFY- State fiscal year (July 1-June 30) FFY-Federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30)
If not otherwise marked, data references a calendar year

Sources and Notes
See pages 41-42

Education

Early Childhood

Child Care Quality

Compelling data coming out of the latest brain development research tells us that 80% of a child's brain develops by age 3, and that stimulating learning experiences during this period of rapid growth lay the groundwork for a lifetime of learning. A high quality early childhood education program supports positive social, emotional and intellectual development.



Taking a Closer Look



Children may spend 30-40 hours per week for as long as five years in out-of-home care before they start kindergarten. High-quality early childhood education is one of the most effective strategies to ensure children begin school ready to succeed, and is associated with higher reading skills, better test scores and fewer behavioral problems. Accredited early care and education providers are likely to be of higher quality than unaccredited providers. The School Readiness Board began implementing an action plan to improve the quality of early care and education in Arizona, including the pilot of a child care quality rating system, investments in subsidies so that working parents can afford child care, and the development of the Arizona Early Education Funds which raise and grant private dollars to communities statewide. In 2006, Arizona voters passed Proposition 203 which created the Early Childhood Development and Health Board and places an 80¢ tax on tobacco products which will generate approximately \$150 million annually to bring these efforts to scale.



Targeted Indicators

Percentage of licensed child care centers that are nationally accredited

Current Snapshot: 18% (data represents August 2006)

Percent of lower-income children entering kindergarten below the benchmark for literacy-related skills*

Current Snapshot: 87% (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, *Safe, Healthy and Ready to Succeed: Arizona School Readiness Key Performance Indicators*

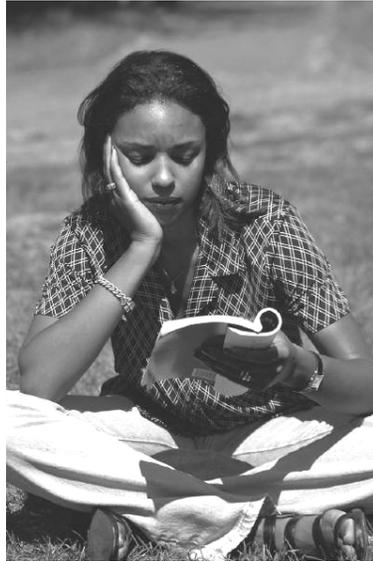
* As measured by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment. Includes only those 5,824 children beginning kindergarten in an Early Reading First/Reading First classroom during the 2005-2006 school year.

Education

Early Childhood

Professional Development

The quality of an early childhood education program is directly linked to the skills, experience and education level of its teachers. Children who attend an early childhood education program with a well-qualified teacher score better on cognitive tests, have more developed language abilities, are more adept at social interactions, and have fewer behavioral problems. In Arizona, early childhood workers only need a high school diploma or GED and six months of child care experience to work in this field, but research shows that positive outcomes for young children are highest when their early childhood education teacher has a bachelor's degree.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of early childhood education teachers who hold a bachelor's degree

Current Snapshot: 32% (2004)

Source: *Compensation and Credentials: A Survey of Arizona's Early Education Workforce*

Taking a Closer Look



The Governor's Office has implemented the Statewide Early Education Development Scholarships (SEEDS), funded through Workforce Investment Act dollars as an initial step towards building a statewide scholarship program for early childhood teachers. The SEEDS program provides grants to community colleges to pay for coursework and related expenses for early childhood practitioners seeking higher education. Over the past three years, 351 teachers have been supported in achieving their Child Development Associate (CDA), benefiting 4,252 children each year. Arizona's community colleges and universities are currently working on an agreement to ensure that the CDA degree will articulate into the four-year bachelor's degree programs. More than 75 early education leaders have graduated from the JP Morgan Chase Emergent Leaders program. The Governor's Office will work with the Early Childhood Development and Health Board to expand leadership skills and build a statewide scholarship program.

Education

Kindergarten — 12th Grade

Voluntary Full Day Kindergarten

National studies show that students who attend full-day kindergarten programs are more likely to arrive in first grade reading at grade level, and that strong readers continue to do well in all academic subjects in school. A full day allows teachers and students time to cover the kindergarten academic standards that will set students on the right track to compete in the knowledge-based economy of tomorrow. Full day programs also provide more opportunities for individual work, cooperative group work and child-initiated activities in addition to group activities.



Taking a Closer Look

In 2003 the School Readiness Board recommended the phasing in of voluntary full day kindergarten (VFDK) statewide to enhance students' chances of academic success. This program began in our highest-need schools— in FY 2005, schools where at least 90% of

students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch program (FRL) received \$21 million in VFDK appropriations. The FY 2006 budget included an additional \$17 million to expand VFDK to schools where at least 80% of students were eligible

for FRL, doubling the number of children with access to VFDK. The FY 2007 budget included \$143.4 million and the FY 2008 budget included an additional \$80 million to fully phase in VFDK. Full day kindergarten funding will be available to all elementary school districts and charters statewide for the 2007-2008 school year.



Targeted Indicator

Number of schools receiving state funding to provide voluntary full day kindergarten

Current Snapshot: 1,027 (2007-2008 school year)

Source: Governor's Office for Strategic Planning and Budgeting analysis of data from the Arizona Department of Education

Education

Kindergarten — 12th Grade

Tracking Academic Success

Standardized tests provide a mechanism to measure how well a student is doing in any given subject and make sure that students who are struggling get extra help right away when it can make a real difference. To ensure that test data is a useful tool, Arizona's FY 2008 budget included funds to transition to real time test results which will ultimately allow parents and teachers to better track their children's progress in school.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of students in grade 4 scoring at or above basic levels on the NAEP test

Current Snapshot: Math: 70% (2005)
Reading: 52% (2005)
Science: 53% (2005)

Percentage of students in grade 8 scoring at or above basic levels on the NAEP test

Current Snapshot: Math: 64% (2005)
Reading: 65% (2005)
Science: 49% (2005)

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, *The Nation's Report Card: The Official Site for Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress*

Taking a Closer Look

Strong literacy skills lay the foundation for success in math, science, history, and other school subjects. Many poor readers end up in costly remedial programs



or dropping out of school altogether. Arizona is the recipient of federal Reading First (K-3) and Early Reading First (child care and preschool) grants which

support teacher professional development and the practice of proven methods of literacy instruction in the classroom. To continue that literacy education at home, Governor Napolitano has collaborated with corporate sponsors to give a book to every first grade student each year since 2003, and in 2005 expanded the program to include fourth grade students. This project promotes the value of books and reading and encourages parents to play an active role in their child's learning process. Since 2003, more than half a million books have been distributed to students across Arizona.

Education

Kindergarten — 12th Grade

Preparing Students for Success in High School

In order for students to be prepared to enter the 21st century workforce, we must ensure that they are held to rigorous academic standards which are aligned as students move from one grade to the next. A child's mind does not grow and flourish in neatly defined segments. A young person's mental development is occurring constantly, building upon everything he or she has learned before. Aligning standards and curricula from early childhood education through elementary and middle school helps students enter high school ready to succeed. One measure of success in aligning K-8 standards is the number of eighth grade students who take algebra, a "gateway" course which is required in order to take the advanced high school mathematics classes that prepare students to go on to succeed in college and the workforce.



Taking a Closer Look

The Education Alignment Committee of the Governor's P-20 Council has recommended a review of elementary and middle school math standards to ensure that they align with high school

expectations. In addition, Governor Napolitano has asked the P-20 Council and State Board of Education to collaborate on the development of a "core curriculum,"

aligned with increased standards, to ensure that students across the state are receiving an equitable education regardless of what school they attend. Not only is this a matter of equality for students, it also allows colleges to spend their resources enhancing student achievement and giving students skills to succeed, rather than spending those resources on remediation.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of eighth graders taking Algebra, Algebra II or Geometry

Current Snapshot: 38% (2005)

Source: Achieve, Inc. American Diploma Project Network

Education

Kindergarten — 12th Grade

High School Rigor and Graduation Rates

Every high school senior must be prepared for work and post-secondary education in the 21st century, and graduating from high school is a critical step.

Arizona students must be challenged with increased graduation requirements, particularly in the areas of math and science, which will better prepare them for the future. Higher expectations, combined with the right support systems, will increase student success and improve the graduation rate.



Targeted Indicators

Percent of high school students who enter grade nine and graduate within four years

Current Snapshot: 75% (SFY 2006)

Source: Joint Legislative Budget Committee Appropriations Report

Percent of high school students who drop out

Current Snapshot: 9% (2005)

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation *Kids Count Data Book*

Taking a Closer Look



Arizona has seen some measurable success in reducing high school dropouts - the percentage of Arizona teens ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts decreased by 50 percent, from 18 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2005. The Governor's P-20 Council is focused on closing the "expectations gap," the substantial difference that exists between the knowledge and skills required to earn a high school diploma, and the more rigorous skills required for college and work. Along with recommending

increased math and science requirements, the Council recommended personalized graduation plans for all Arizona students beginning in the 6th grade. These graduation plans would include recommendations for course sequencing and action steps to prepare students for higher education and the workforce. The State Board of Education is in the process of adopting new policies to address high school graduation requirements and personalized graduation plans in an effort to improve the graduation rate and ensure that high school graduates are prepared for their futures.

Education

Kindergarten — 12th Grade

Preparing to Attend College or University

In the 21st century economy, a high school diploma is not what it used to be. The majority of jobs in growth industries, and even jobs paying fairly modest incomes, require some postsecondary education or training. The percentage of students who take either the ACT or SAT test is an indicator of how many Arizona high school students plan on moving on to college and university education.



Targeted Indicators

Percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT

Current Snapshot: 18% (class of 2006)

Source: ACT, Inc.

Percentage of high school graduates taking the SAT

Current Snapshot: 33% (class of 2005)

Source: SchoolMatters, A Service of Standard and Poor's

Taking a Closer Look



The importance of an advanced degree cannot be underestimated in the 21st century knowledge economy. Arizona's challenge is to keep that advanced education accessible, affordable and excellent. The FY 2008 budget includes an additional \$2.8 million in university student financial aid to help students afford the cost of postsecondary education. It also includes \$30 million directed toward keeping top-notch faculty and helping raise retention and graduation rates. Universities must continue to increase the number of graduates, especially in the areas of greatest need, such as teachers, health care professionals, engineers and researchers.

Education

Teacher Support

Teacher Salaries

Aside from the immediate family, there is no stronger predictor of academic success than the presence of an excellent teacher. However, public education's low salaries have the unfortunate effect of deterring many bright students from becoming teachers, or driving teachers out of the classroom in search of higher paying jobs.



Taking a Closer Look



The Teachers Committee of the Governor's P-20 Council, building upon the work of the Governor's Committee on Teacher Quality and Support, has produced recommendations to address teacher pay and benefits in order to attract, prepare and retain high quality teachers in Arizona. These recommendations include installing a statewide minimum

starting salary of \$33,000 and raises beyond that, as well as salary incentives for teachers with expertise in areas of particular need like math and science. The FY 2008 budget includes \$46 million in new funding to improve teacher pay and benefits, as well as \$150,000 appropriated to the State Board of Education to study and recommend statewide standards for teacher professional development.



Targeted Indicator

Average beginning Arizona teacher salary*

Current Snapshot: \$30,258 (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Governor's Office for Strategic Planning and Budgeting using Arizona Department of Education's *FY 2006 School District Employee Report*

Average Arizona teacher salary**

Current Snapshot: \$42,967 (2005-2006 school year)

Source: Arizona Office of the Auditor General, *Arizona Public School Districts' Dollars Spent in the Classroom*

* Data was collected from 145 districts with 3,622 first year teachers.

** Salary amount includes Proposition 301 funds.

Education

Teacher Support

Master Teachers

Attrition and turnover are problems within public education, and are costly both for students and for schools. Beginning teachers, particularly those without a strong network of



professional support, are at especially high risk of leaving the field. Matching new teachers with experienced educators has been proven to increase job satisfaction, teacher retention and student achievement. The FY 2008 budget includes \$2 million for the Governor's Master Teacher program to continue cultivating and training excellent teachers and to keep them on the job.



Targeted Indicator

Number of master teachers

Current Snapshot: 68 (July 2007)

Source: Arizona K-12 Center

Taking a Closer Look



The Governor's Master Teacher program run by Northern Arizona University's K-12 Center places experienced, accomplished teachers into leadership roles in schools as mentors for their peers, with a focus on new teachers in their first or second year in the classroom. These master teachers are relieved of some teaching duties in order to commit to at least half-time mentoring duties for three years. The goal is to place a master teacher in every school in Arizona, beginning with those schools most in need. Currently this includes schools participating in the Arizona Teacher Excellence Project (designed to recruit and retain teachers in Native American communities), and schools meeting specific criteria such as high teacher turnover or poverty rates. The results of a spring 2007 statewide teacher working conditions survey sponsored by the Governor's Office and the Arizona Education Association reveal that teachers are generally positive about their working conditions but would like more time to plan and collaborate and a greater role in decision making.

Safety and Security

Children's Cabinet Goal #3: Children and adolescents live in safe, stable and supportive families and neighborhoods

Indicator	Baseline Data	Most Current Data
Child Welfare		
Number of licensed foster family homes	1,778 (April—Sept. 2002) ²⁸	3,177 (Oct. 2006— March 2007) ²⁹
Percentage of children in out-of-home care living with relatives	26% (April—Sept. 2002) ²⁸	32% (Oct. 2006— March 2007) ²⁹
Number of children in out-of-home care living in shelters, group homes and institutions	1,895 (April—Sept. 2002) ²⁸	1,712 (Oct. 2006— March 2007) ²⁹
Percentage of eligible families served by Healthy Families Arizona ³¹	8% (SFY 2002) ³⁰	19.3% (SFY 2007) ³⁰
Number of Healthy Families Arizona sites	23 (2002) ³⁰	58 (2007) ³⁰
Number of children with a finalized adoption	777 (FFY 2002) ³¹	1,322 (FFY 2006) ³²
Number of children who achieve guardianship	608 (FFY 2002) ³¹	1,011 (FFY 2006) ³²
Safe and Stable Families		
Estimated number of children with one or both parents in prison	N/A	35,801—40,931 (2005) ³³
Number of women and children receiving shelter at domestic violence shelters	8,422 (SFY 2002) ³⁴	9,483 (SFY 2006) ³⁵
Economic Stability		
Percentage of children living in poverty	23% (2000) ³⁶	20% (2005) ³⁶
Per capita income	\$26,472 (2002) ³⁷	\$31,458 (2006) ³⁷
Child support collections (Title IV-D)	\$254.0 million (SFY 2002) ³⁸	\$336.2 million (SFY 2007) ³⁹
Number of paternity establishments	14,101 (SFY 2002) ⁴⁰	13,562 (SFY 2007) ⁴⁰
Hospital paternity establishment rate	65% (SFY 2003) ⁴⁰	77% (SFY 2007) ⁴⁰
Number of unduplicated TANF individuals who obtained employment	15,490 (SFY 2003) ⁴¹	15,732 (SFY 2006) ⁴¹
Number of TANF individuals who retained employment after 90 days	7,234 (SFY 2003) ⁴¹	7,551 (SFY 2006) ⁴¹

SFY- State fiscal year (July 1-June 30) FFY-Federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30)
If not otherwise marked, data references a calendar year

Sources and Notes
See pages 41-42

Safety and Security

Indicator	Baseline Data	Most Current Data
Number of low-income households assisted into homeownership through down payment and closing cost assistance program	317 (SFY 2005) ⁴²	403 (SFY 2006) ⁴²
Number of households receiving eviction or foreclosure assistance in order to prevent homelessness	3,806 (SFY 2005) ⁴²	6,694 (SFY 2006) ⁴²
Number of homeless school-aged children	16,968 (2004-2005 school year) ⁴³	19,554 (2006-2007 school year) ⁴³
Juvenile Justice		
Rate of juveniles referred to the Arizona court system	58.7 per 1,000 youth age 8-17 (SFY 2004) ⁴⁴	52.2 per 1,000 youth age 8-17 (SFY 2006) ⁴⁴
Percentage of youth released from ADJC safe schools who showed a gain in reading and mathematics	27% (Oct.—Dec. 2006) ⁴⁵	37% (Jan.—March 2007) ⁴⁵
Percentage of ADJC Continuous Case Plans for youth in secure care completed on time	60% (Oct.—Dec. 2006) ⁴⁶	90% (Jan.—March 2007) ⁴⁶
Percentage of ADJC Continuous Case Plans for youth in the community completed on time	33% (Oct.—Dec. 2006) ⁴⁶	86% (Jan.—March 2007) ⁴⁶
Percentage of youth whose families and caregivers are identified as participants in the youth's secure care treatment plan	23% (FY 2003) ⁴⁷	32% (FY 2005) ⁴⁸
Percentage of families reporting satisfaction on seven key measures of the ADJC Family Satisfaction Survey	N/A	59% 79% 72% 87% 85% 81% 70% (August 2006) ⁴⁹

SFY- State fiscal year (July 1-June 30) FFY-Federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30)

If not otherwise marked, data references a calendar year

Safety and Security

Child Welfare

Family Foster Care

When children cannot live safely in their homes with their families, the Department of Economic Security attempts to place them in the most family-like setting, such as foster care.

Placement with a relative is often the best option and the best

way to ensure continuity with the child's past and to promote ongoing relationships with extended family.

Placement with family members allows for stability by often permitting children to remain in their communities, continue attending the same schools, and maintain relationships with parents, siblings and friends.



Taking a Closer Look



The Department of Economic Security is actively recruiting new foster families and providing support to existing ones through the addition of six staff dedicated to the recruitment effort. In addition to recruiting new foster families, the

Department of Economic Security is also increasing foster care reimbursement rates to increase retention of current foster families.

The percentage of children who are in out-of-home care and are placed with either relatives or with foster parents has been above 70 percent since

March 2005, and reached

almost 76 percent during the period of October 2006 through March 2007. Legislation passed in 2006 further encourages kinship placements by requiring children who are in the temporary custody of the state, or whose parents have had their parent-child relationship terminated, to be placed with a relative when possible. These relative caregivers receive monthly financial assistance to help provide for the daily needs of the child.



Targeted Indicators

Number of licensed foster family homes

Current Snapshot: 3,177 (October 2006–March 2007)

Percentage of children in out-of-home care living with relatives

Current Snapshot: 32% (October 2006–March 2007)

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements—Semi-Annual Report*

Safety and Security

Child Welfare

Children in Shelters, Group Homes and Institutions

Experts agree that healthy development depends in large part on the quality and reliability of a child's relationships with the important people in his or her life. The Department of Economic Security recognizes this and works to place children in family foster care, but a small number of children do end up living in shelters or other group home environments. While congregate care is not the ideal placement for very young children, these facilities still play a valuable role in helping to keep Arizona's children safe from harm. The best way to keep children out of congregate care is to keep them safe at home or ensure that enough family-like placements are available.



Targeted Indicator

Number of children in shelters, group homes and institutions

Current Snapshot: 1,712 (October 2006–March 2007)

Source: Department of Economic Security, *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements—Semi-Annual Report*

Taking a Closer Look



The Department of Economic Security is realigning resources and implementing strategies that strengthen families in order to avoid the crises that necessitate removal from the home. Funding traditionally only available for services for children in out-of-home care now enables children to, when safe, rejoin their parents through intensive in-home support, wrap-around services and

connections to community support systems. Since July 2003, the number of children served safely in their own homes has increased by 67 percent. In May 2006, Arizona was selected as one of 15 anchor sites for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family initiative, which involves biological families, resource families, community-based organizations, service providers and faith communities in its efforts to keep children safe in their own neighborhoods, and whenever possible, in their own homes.

Safety and Security

Child Welfare

Child Abuse Prevention through Family Support

Child abuse prevention is an integral part of Arizona's child welfare system. Healthy Families Arizona is a voluntary program that reaches out to new parents experiencing multiple stressors that place them at risk for child abuse or neglect. Over ten years of evaluation has demonstrated Healthy Families to be highly effective in preventing child abuse and neglect and improving child health and safety.



Taking a Closer Look



Healthy Families Arizona's home visitation staff provides a continuum of support services including parenting education, transportation, information and referral, and emotional support to enhance parent/child interaction, promote child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect. In 2005, the Healthy Families Arizona program expanded from 23 to 51 sites, and today there are 58 sites across Arizona. With a change in legislation, the program began serving families prenatally and families with substantiated child abuse and neglect reports. The program is currently serving more than 160 communities statewide, but there is continued need for expansion.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of eligible families served by Healthy Families Arizona

Current Snapshot: 19.3% (SFY 2007)

Source: Healthy Families Arizona

Number of Healthy Families Arizona sites

Current Snapshot: 58 (2007)

Source: Healthy Families Arizona

Safety and Security

Child Welfare

Permanent Family Relationships

Brain development research tells us that children need secure attachments with primary caregivers, generally parents, in order to develop the persistence, motivation, and curiosity for future exploration and learning. A child's nurturing, supportive and protective relationships with his or her primary caregivers in the first few years of life lay the foundations for lifelong mental health. For this reason, the child welfare system seeks to limit the time children spend in foster care placements in favor of more permanent and stable arrangements such as family reunification when appropriate, placement with other relatives, adoption, or permanent guardianship.



Taking a Closer Look

The Department of Economic Security is committed to finding more permanent homes more quickly for children entering out-of-home placement through adoption, if parental

rights have been terminated, or guardianship if they have not. Building system capacity to place children in family-care settings and to provide family-centered practice are important to reducing the number of children in out-of-home care. The

Department of Economic Security continues to expand the pool of qualified adoptive parents and permanent guardians. Since 2002, there has been a 70 percent increase in adoptions and a 66 percent increase in permanent guardianships. The FY 2008 budget contains an additional \$7.8 million to support the special needs of children, and to support families who adopt or become permanent guardians.

Targeted Indicators

Number of children with a finalized adoption

Current Snapshot: 1,322 (FFY 2006)

Source: Department of Economic Security, *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements—Semi-Annual Report*

Number of children who achieve guardianship

Current Snapshot: 1,011 (FFY 2006)

Source: Department of Economic Security, *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements—Semi-Annual Report*

Safety and Security

Safe and Stable Families

Children of Incarcerated Parents

As Arizona's prison population grows, so too will the number of children of incarcerated parents, and child-serving institutions must be prepared to respond. In addition to all their basic needs— food, medical care, a safe place to live— children of prisoners need information, as appropriate, about their parent's incarceration, and to talk to other people who have experienced what they are going through. Perhaps most importantly, they need contact with their incarcerated parent.



Taking a Closer Look

To assist in reentry, the Department of Corrections (ADC) supports all inmates with intensive transition planning and preparation which includes training in literacy and job-skills, counseling and treatment, self-improvement, and for those inmates with children, a focus on parenting. A report commissioned by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families in 2004 found that 68 percent of Arizona's female inmates resume primary parenting responsibilities upon release. Playground equipment has been installed in all female housing units as part of the Strengthening Families program which is designed to enhance visitation and teach parents how to better interact with their children. The program will eventually be expanded to other appropriate ADC units. The Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention is currently funding the design of a "bill of rights" for children of incarcerated parents, which will lay out multidisciplinary protocols for meeting the unique needs of this population.



Targeted Indicator

Estimated number of Arizona children with one or both parents in prison*

Current Snapshot: 35,801—40,931 (2005)

Source: Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families/Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention, *An Epidemiological Study of the Prevalence and Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents within the State of Arizona*

* Data was gathered using a voluntary self-reporting survey of all women in the custody of the Arizona Department of Corrections and a statistically representative sample of male inmates. Because self reporting is not the most reliable source of data, the number of children with parents in prison in Arizona is generally assumed to be closer to the higher end of the estimated range.

Safety and Security

Safe and Stable Families

Shelter from Domestic Violence

One in three Arizona women will be the victim of domestic violence during her lifetime.* Families, workplaces and entire communities feel the impact of domestic violence, with children often bearing the brunt of the trauma — children who witness domestic violence are at higher risk for long-term, negative consequences including depression, anxiety, poor performance in school and a perception that abusive relationships are the norm. Domestic violence shelters provide a safe and supportive environment for victims of abuse and their children— on any given night, an average of 50% of domestic violence shelter beds are filled by children. FY 2006 data provides a baseline to compare against as we begin to see the benefits of the four year plan to bring shelters to capacity.



Targeted Indicator

Number of women and children receiving shelter at domestic violence crisis shelters

Current Snapshot: 9,483 (SFY 2006)

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security,
Welfare Reform Report

Taking a Closer Look



In FY 2005, domestic violence shelters statewide reported serving 9,029 clients and having to turn away approximately 14,000 (two-thirds) because shelter was unavailable at the time of the request.** This unmet need illustrates the urgency around providing more safe shelters and permanent housing options for women experiencing domestic violence. To address this critical need, Governor Napolitano fought in FY 2006 for an increase of \$1.5 million to fund the creation of new shelter beds, and then in FY 2007 added an additional \$2.8 million. The FY 2008 Executive budget provides \$3 million in new funding for 238 additional shelter beds. These additional resources help provide safety for women in crisis, offering a safe and stable environment in which they can begin to rebuild their lives. These investments are part of a plan to fund Arizona domestic violence shelters to full capacity by FY 2010.

* Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, *State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence*

** The reported turn-away rate of 14,000 may represent some duplication because each shelter reports its numbers independently of other shelters.

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Children Living in Poverty

The 2007 Kids Count Data Book reports that Arizona is maintaining the progress made over the past five years in decreasing the percent of children living in poverty. The number of Arizona children living in poverty has decreased 13% since 2000. Nationally, child poverty actually increased over that same period. While the Kids Count data reaches back prior to the beginning of the Napolitano administration, it is reflective of a positive trend for children in our state. This improvement is likely due to Arizona's rising per capita income and faster economic recovery from the recession than the nation as a whole.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of Arizona children living in poverty

Current Snapshot: 20% (2005)

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation *Kids Count Data Book*

Per capita income

Current Snapshot: \$31,458 (2006)

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Taking a Closer Look



The Governor's Office continues to provide leadership in promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable tax credit for low-income workers. The EITC is one of the largest anti-poverty programs in the country and, when coupled with proven financial educational strategies, has been credited with lifting more children out of poverty than any other federal aid program. The Governor's Task Force on

EITC develops strategic messages and materials to promote the EITC and provides leadership and support to local EITC and other wealth promotion efforts. In 2006 the EITC program garnered an estimated \$12.8 million dollars for more than 57,000 Arizona families, an increase of 80 percent over the amount claimed in 2003.

Another measure of a family's economic security is per capital income. Between 2002 and 2006, the per capita income in Arizona increased by nearly 19 percent, from \$26,472 to \$31,458.

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Child Support

According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, after the mother's earnings, child support payments are the second largest income source for poor families receiving child support. Establishing a legal father for a child born to unmarried parents and collecting regular, monthly payments for child support are the first steps in securing a child's future. Collection of child support is critical in enabling families to maintain financial independence and emotional stability. Child support collections in Arizona rose by 32 percent between 2002 and 2007.



Taking a Closer Look

Paternity establishments are on the rise in Arizona. The Department of Economic Security, Division of Child Support Enforcement administers the

Voluntary Hospital Paternity Program which works directly with the Department of Health Services Office of Vital Records, county offices of vital records, and hospitals and birthing facilities statewide to assist parents in establishing legal paternity for children born out-of-wedlock. Research

shows that instituting voluntary processes for establishing paternity in hospitals increases the rates of voluntary paternity acknowledgement. Between 2003 and 2007, hospital paternity establishment rates improved by 18 percent.



Targeted Indicators

Total child support collections

Current Snapshot: \$336.2 million (SFY 2007)

Source: Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, *Master List of State Government Programs— Department of Economic Security Performance Measures*

Number of paternity establishments

Current Snapshot: 13,562 (SFY 2007)

Hospital paternity establishment rate

Current Snapshot: 77% (SFY 2007)

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Child Support Enforcement

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Stable Employment

Stable employment is a major predictor of economic stability and well being for families. Parents who are steadily employed are more likely to have access to health insurance for themselves and for their children. The number of individuals who remain employed after 90 days is a significant indicator for the success and economic stability of their family. When parents have secure, permanent employment, they achieve better outcomes for themselves and their families.



Taking a Closer Look



Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) is a block grant which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program in 1996 as part of a federal effort to “end welfare as we know it..” Federal law requires TANF recipients to be engaged in some kind of work-related activity as soon as possible, and failure to comply can result in reduction or termination of benefits. The JOBS program at the Department of Economic Security supports TANF clients who have found work and are no longer eligible for cash benefits in order to support job retention and prevent a return to welfare. The newly privatized JOBS contracts will enhance case management services to continue after clients’ cases close and provide ongoing, concentrated services such as assistance obtaining wrap-around services, job skills training for career advancement opportunities, information about tax credit programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other services that support long-term self-sufficiency.



Targeted Indicators

Total number of unduplicated TANF* individuals who obtained employment

Current Snapshot: 15,732 (SFY 2006)

Total number of TANF individuals who retain employment after 90 days

Current Snapshot: 7,551 (SFY 2006)

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services

* Temporary Aid to Needy Families

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Homeownership

Homeownership is a foundation of the American dream and a key indicator of a stable home life for children. Children who come from stable homes do better in school, are better adjusted socially, and have a greater chance for success as they move into adulthood.

Additionally, homeowners are more likely to be involved in their communities and participate in civic activities such as voting. Homeownership also provides families with an opportunity to build wealth and create a stable economic future.



Taking a Closer Look



In 2007, Governor Napolitano directed the Arizona Department of Housing to increase financial assistance to first-time rural homebuyers through the Homes for Arizonans Initiative. This initiative provides first-time homebuyers down payment and closing cost assistance, which has proven to help families over the initial hurdles of purchasing a home. Assistance is administered by a network of nonprofit agencies and Arizona Department of Housing staff depending on the location of the home to be purchased. The program is available in all areas of Arizona outside of Maricopa and Pima counties. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of households receiving assistance through the Homes for Arizonans initiative increased by 27 percent. In 2006, 403 families received over \$5 million in assistance helping to leverage approximately \$44.6 million in mortgages.



Targeted Indicator

Total number of low-income households assisted into homeownership through down payment and closing cost assistance

Current Snapshot: 403 (SFY 2006)

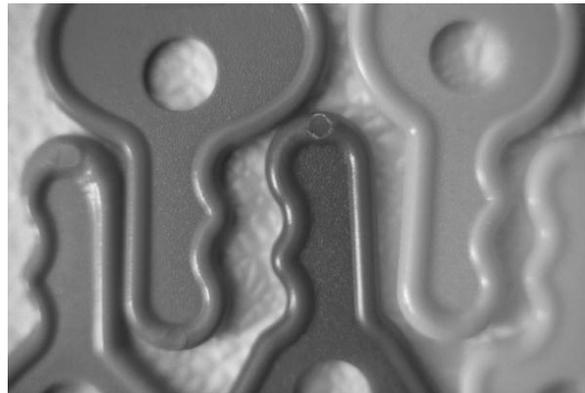
Source: Arizona Department of Housing *2006 Annual Report*

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Preventing Eviction and Homelessness

Avoiding homelessness through eviction or foreclosure prevention assistance not only provides families the stability they need, but is also a cost-effective measure. Every \$1 spent in prevention saves \$8 on the services needed to get a family back into permanent housing once they become homeless, which does not include the funding for educational services their children would need to be successful again in school.



Targeted Indicator

Total number of households receiving eviction or foreclosure assistance in order to prevent homelessness

Current Snapshot: 6,694 (FY 2006)

Source: Arizona Department of Housing 2006 Annual Report

Taking a Closer Look



Eviction Prevention/ Emergency Housing (EPEH) grants are available through the Arizona Department of Housing State Housing Fund, through an annual competitive process. EPEH grants are made to selected local governments and nonprofit agencies that provide housing counseling and financial assistance to individuals and families at risk of homelessness. Services under this program include grants for security deposits, rent and mortgage foreclosure assistance, utility payments, moving and storage fees, landlord-tenant mediation, and budget counseling. Between 2005 and 2006 the number of households receiving eviction or foreclosure assistance increased by 75 percent. To help those individuals and families already facing homelessness, the FY 2008 budget allocates up to \$1 million in state lottery funds for homeless shelters and related support services.

Safety and Security

Economic Stability

Educating Homeless Students

Children are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of homelessness. Homeless children show high signs of anxiety and depression and are far less likely to be on track with immunizations than their housed peers. One of the most significant problems faced by homeless children is a disruption in schooling when they are forced to change schools repeatedly. Many homeless children lack basic school supplies and a quiet environment in which to study.

Research shows that it takes 4-6 months for a child to recover academically from a change in schools and that 66% of children who miss 20 or more days of school in first, second or third grade will drop out of school.*



Targeted Indicator

Number of homeless school-aged children

Current Snapshot: 19,554 (2006-2007 school year)

Source: Arizona Department of Education, School Effectiveness Division

Taking a Closer Look



According to the Arizona Department of Education, there were 19,513 homeless school-age children in Arizona during the 2005-2006 school year.** Seventy-four percent of those were "doubled up" living with relatives or friends. Five percent (nearly 1,000) were unsheltered (living on the street), 4 percent (nearly 800) were in hotels or motels,

and 16 percent (over 3,100) were in shelters. In recognition of the special challenges faced by this population of students, the Arizona Department of Education employs

a full time program coordinator who works to develop and implement a state plan for the education of homeless children and youth and provide technical assistance to social service agencies, community based organizations and to a designated homeless liaison in each school district.

* Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

** At the time of this publication, information on the sheltered/unsheltered breakdown for the 2006-2007 school year was not yet available.

Safety and Security

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Trends

Like every other segment of Arizona's population, the number of youth ages 8 through 17 is growing. Since 1998 the number of juveniles in Arizona has grown by more than a third, with an 11 percent increase just since 2004. In spite of this population growth the juvenile crime rate has been in decline, and there was an 11 percent decrease in the number of juveniles referred to the court system between 2004 and 2006. This is part of a positive seven year trend which also includes a reduction in the number of juveniles transferred to the adult court system and committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.



Taking a Closer Look



Since 2002, the Governor's Division for Children, in partnership with the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, has awarded over \$13 million in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention funds to

state, local and community-based organizations around Arizona to support prevention and intervention programs. In 2006, nearly 10,000 youth were served by a prevention or intervention program that

worked to prevent truancy, substance use, and other status or delinquent acts. Over 70 percent of youth served by these prevention efforts reported an increase in school attendance or a positive change in antisocial behavior. The Division for Children also supports the Arizona Supreme Court and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections in enhancing statewide information sharing systems and programming options that are evidence-based and accountable.



Targeted Indicator

Rate of juveniles referred to the court system

Current Snapshot: 52.2 per 1,000 juveniles (FY 2006)

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts Juvenile Justice Services Division, JOLTS Extracted Database

Safety and Security

Juvenile Justice

Education of Committed Youth

When the average youth is committed to the care of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), he or she will have already had 6-8 previous interactions with the county courts. These frequent detentions result in a significant amount of missed school— as a result, 72 percent of students arrive at ADJC testing below grade level, and 20 percent arrive three or more years behind. In addition, more than one third of incoming students are diagnosed with a learning disability, which also contributes to a lack of classroom progress. To measure increases in knowledge and skills in reading and mathematics ADJC administers the nationally standardized Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) during the youth's first 30 days and again within their last 45 days in the secure facility.



Taking a Closer Look



Education is integral to success for youth within the ADJC system. Youth are required to

spend six hours a day, five days a week in an education

program. ADJC offers youth a

wide variety of academic subjects including English,

mathematics, social studies, science

and fine arts. Career and technical

education is also available and

provides youth with job readiness

and vocational skills to better

prepare them for the job market.

These classes include: automotive,

building trades, and culinary arts.

Students report seeing relevance in

learning through “hands on”

projects. ADJC has formed a

Workforce Development Committee

which works with community

groups, businesses and industry to

identify job training and employment

opportunities for youth transitioning

into the community.



Targeted Indicator

Percentage of youth released from ADJC Safe Schools who showed a gain in reading and mathematics as measured by the TABE test*

Current Snapshot: 37% (January—March 2007)

Source: Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Education Division and Research & Development Division

* To measure this target, all juveniles that were in secure care for a minimum of six months and released during the quarter will have their TABE pre-test and post-test scores compared. The total number of youth who demonstrate increased test scores will be compared to the total number of youth who demonstrate decreased test scores to achieve the percentage.

Safety and Security

Juvenile Justice



Taking a Closer Look

ADJC's goal is to successfully transition youth from secure care to the community. The Continuous Case Plan (CCP) is an integral part of the treatment process both in secure care and the community and includes a comprehensive treatment planning

component. The CCP outlines the treatment and transition goals for the juvenile while s/he is in secure care until reintegration into the community, where the plan will continue. Treatment teams update a youth's CCP every 30

days both in secure care and the community in order to effectively monitor the youth's progress.

The youth's CCP is maintained electronically using the YouthBase system. YouthBase captures the total number of CCPs required, completed on time, completed late and incomplete during a month. The monthly data will be used to determine the percentage of CCPs completed on time for this performance measurement.

Successful Reintegration into Families and Communities

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) manages only the most challenging juveniles, who have repeatedly failed to change their behavior despite the best efforts of Arizona's 15 county juvenile courts. Although all youth committed to ADJC have individual strengths, many struggle with challenges including substance abuse, peer problems, truancy, mental health issues, learning disabilities, emotional needs and family problems. ADJC's goal is to assist in changing delinquent thinking and behaviors and help these youth go on to lead productive lives.



Targeted Indicators

Percentage of Continuous Case Plans for youth in secure care completed on time

Current Snapshot: 90% (January—March 2007)

Percentage of Continuous Case Plans for youth in the community completed on time

Current Snapshot: 86% (January—March 2007)

Source: Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections YouthBase

Safety and Security

Juvenile Justice

Family Involvement and Satisfaction

Families are the most important resource in any child's life, and perhaps even more so for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Research shows a correlation between family involvement during incarceration, and successful transition and reduced recidivism upon release. ADJC recognizes the valuable role families play in supporting positive change within their children, and actively seeks family feedback on how to better serve the youth in its care.



Targeted Indicators

Percentage of youth whose families and caregivers are identified as participants in the youth's secure care treatment plan

Current Snapshot: 32% (FY 2005)

Source: Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, *Master List of State Government Programs, Department of Juvenile Corrections Executive Budget Performance Measures*

Percentage of families reporting satisfaction on seven key measures of the Family Satisfaction Survey*

Current Snapshot: Families felt their child was safe: 59%
 Families understood facility rules: 79%
 Families felt rules were fair: 72%
 Families feel staff shows families respect: 87%
 Families feel staff answers questions and explains rules: 85%
 Families are satisfied with their child's medical care: 81%
 Families are satisfied with their child's education: 70%

Source: ADJC Family Satisfaction Survey (August 2006)

Taking a Closer Look

ADJC works proactively to involve families in the development of treatment goals and objectives when their child is



first committed to ADJC. During the intake assessment process, the youth's family is assessed as



to their ability to provide care and support for their child. Family Service Coordinators provide information and referral services in both Maricopa and Pima Counties. In addition, each secure care school has a Family Liaison whose primary function is to advocate and be a resource for the family. They provide numerous opportunities for the families to work with their child during their treatment so that a successful transition home will occur. ADJC gives a Family Handbook to each family which addresses many of the questions they may have.

* ADJC conducts a family satisfaction survey in English and Spanish which asks family members for feedback on such topics as basic care, relations with the department, treatment quality, education and visitation.

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