



Children in the States

ARIZONA

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Child Population

1,621,692 children lived in Arizona in 2014; 59 percent were children of color.

- 41 percent were White
- 43 percent were Hispanic
- 4 percent were Black
- 3 percent were Asian
- 4 percent were two or more races
- 5 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 4 (26.5 percent) of Arizona's children were poor in 2013, a total of 421,100 children.¹

- Arizona ranked 41st in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 8 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 3 in 10 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Arizona are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 3 in 10 Black children, nearly 2 in 5 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 2 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2013, compared to nearly 1 in 7 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Arizona leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- Nearly 31,000 Arizona public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Arizona and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- 28 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 37 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Arizona ranked 46th of 50 states in child food security and 47th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 34 percent of Arizona children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- 88 percent of Arizona children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Arizona 33rd of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Arizona's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage or access to care, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In FY2013, 81.2 percent of eligible children participated in Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System or KidsCare, Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 913,271 Arizona children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System, and 80,238 in KidsCare.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- Nearly 192,000 Arizona children ages 0-17 (11.9 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 3rd highest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 136,000 children ages 0-18 were eligible for Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System or KidsCare but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$9,166 – only 9 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Arizona.
- Arizona had 6,366 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 33 percent of Arizona’s 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 25 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Arizona’s state-funded preschool program met 5 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Arizona’s schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 72 percent of Arizona’s fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 81 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 76 percent could not compute.
 - 83 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 72 percent could not compute.
- 77 percent of Arizona public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Arizona 39th among states. 73 percent of Black students and 72 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 82 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 9 percent of Arizona public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Arizona 22nd among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 15 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Arizona, 13,171 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 8.1 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 14,523 Arizona children in foster care.

Too many Arizona children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 38,454 children were arrested in Arizona in 2012 – a rate of 5,323 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 936 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 12 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 46 percent were Hispanic, and 34 percent were White.
- 58 Arizona children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Arizona spent 2.5 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Arizona ranked 18th out of 41 states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 52 children and teens were killed by guns in Arizona in 2013 – a rate of 2.9 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits