

Arizona's Children, Youth and Families April 1998*

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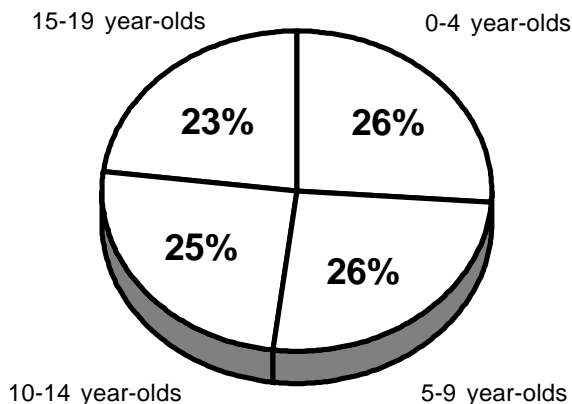
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Children and Youth

There were 4,595,379 people in Arizona in 1997. The population was projected to increase by 126,718 people in 1998 bringing the total to 4,722,097. Of the 4,595,379 people in 1997, 1,349,427 were youth between the ages of 0-19. Here is the age breakdown of the youth population.

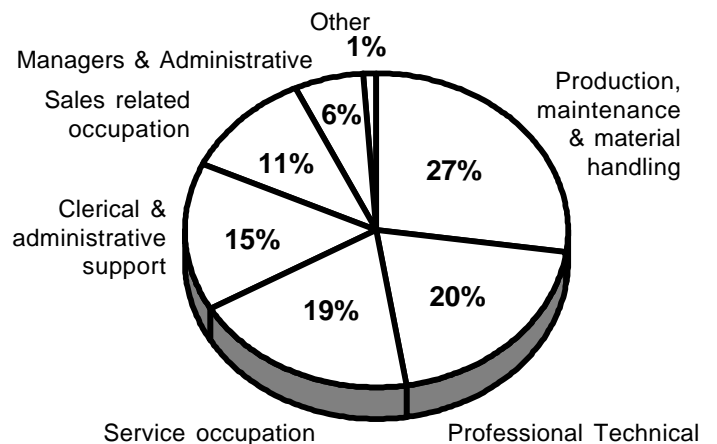


Source: AZ Center for Health Statistics—based on statistics from the Department of Economic Security.

Work

In 1996, there were 2,157,800 people in Arizona in the labor force. The unemployment rate at that time was 5.1%. In January 1998, unemployment rate in Arizona was 3.7, among the lowest in the nation (national unemployment rate=4.7%).

Employment by occupation for Arizona's workers is shown in the following chart.



Source: AZ Department of Commerce, 1997.



Source: Arizona Department of Education, Division of Adult Education

Education

In 1996...

- 8% of all adults in Arizona had less than a 9th grade education.
- 14% of adults had between 9th and 12th grade education.
- 8% of adults had limited English proficiency.

In 1997, 15,543 GED test batteries were scored. Of those, 9,632 diplomas were issued.

*The data presented in this report are the most current source of public data available for each content area. Due to a lag time in data compilation, much of the data represents statistics from 1996-1997.

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Economic Indicators

Arizona enjoys a very low unemployment rate at 3.7% in January, 1998. However, there is more to this picture.



Source: The State of Arizona's Children 1997, Children's Action Alliance.

Children Poverty

The child poverty rate in Arizona (22.9%) is consistently worse than the national average (19.2%). More than one in five children lived in poverty in 1996 (family income was below \$12,500 for family of three). The table below indicates the percentage of all children receiving public service in Arizona.

Children Receiving Public Services in Arizona	1996 Rate
Children approved for free or reduced price lunch	46.0%*
Children in families receiving AFDC	10.2%
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	20.1%
Children enrolled in AHCCCS	22.2%
Births covered by AHCCCS	44.6%
Eligible students receiving migrant services	56.0%
Average monthly participation in WIC (infants and children only)	31.6%

*The 1996/97 school year.



Social Indicators



Source: Arizona Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics.

Teen Pregnancy

In 1996, 13,521 young women 19 years of age and under became pregnant and 11,247 gave birth. Nearly one-third (28%) of teen mothers in 1996 had experienced at least one prior pregnancy and 80% were unmarried. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) paid for 71% of all births to teens in 1996 at the cost of over \$35,000,000. The following table list the number of pregnancies and actual births by age groups.

Age	Pregnancies	Actual Births
Under 15 years	293	216
15-17 years old	5,262	4,340
18-19 years old	7,966	6,691

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 1997 there were 38,229 reports of child abuse and neglect. Eighty-four percent (84%) of these were investigated and nearly half (45%) were substantiated. This means that 14,394 children or 1.25% of our total child population were found to be abused or neglected in one year.

Community Indicators



School Achievement and Dropout

Since 1992, the US Department of Education has conducted a National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) study of 4th and 8th grade students. Results indicated that AZ students were consistently below the national average in math, reading, and science scores. The following table outlines results from the NAEP 1996 state assessment in mathematics.

**In 1996,
29,298 youth
dropped out
of Arizona
schools.**

Source: US
Department of
Education, National
Center for Education
Statistics.

Mathematics	Average scale score (range 0-500)		Percent performing at or above	
	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States
4th grade	218	222*	15	20*
8th grade	268	271	18	23*

*Statistically significant differences

**Students reaching the proficient achievement level have demonstrated competency in subject matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.

While students across the nation increased in their mathematics score from 1992-1996, the average scale score of 4th grade students in Arizona did not change significantly during

this time. However, in Arizona scores for 8th grade students improved significantly over this same time period.



Youth in Juvenile Justice System

There were 73,047 juvenile (ages 8-17) arrests in Arizona in 1996. That is 23% of all

arrests in Arizona. Of all juvenile arrests, 7,019 (9.6%) were 12 years-old and under.

Most Common Reasons for Juvenile Arrests	
Runaway, curfew violations	17,596
Theft	12,544
Burglary	2,962
Drug related	5,436
Violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault)	2,239
Motor vehicle theft	1,599

Source: Crime in Arizona 1996, Department of Public Safety



Source: Arizona
Department of Health
Services

Teen Deaths (15-19 years)	
Total teen deaths in 1996	353
Gun related deaths	110
Teen homicides	75
Motor vehicle related deaths	114
Teen suicides	56



Injury is the leading cause of death among children and adolescents both nationally and in Arizona.

Injury surpasses all major diseases as the cause of premature death among children of all ages (1-19 years). Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Injury Mortality Among Children and Adolescents, Arizona, 1984-1994

In 1996, 282 Arizona children and adolescents died due to unintentional injury. That is over one third (39%) of all deaths among children and adolescents.

A 1995 comparative study sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation—Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being—ranked 33 states better than Arizona in injury death rates among adolescents ages 15-19. The same study noted that only eight states had worse total mortality rates than Arizona for children ages 1-14.

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Injury Mortality Among Children and Adolescents, Arizona

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