

2026

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT



 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Yavapai Region

Yavapai Regional Partnership Council 2026 Needs and Assets Report

Funded by the
First Things First Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

Prepared by the
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INTRODUCTION

Ninety percent of a child's brain growth occurs before kindergarten, and the quality of a child's early experiences impacts whether their brain will develop in positive ways that promote learning. Arizonans created First Things First (FTF) to help ensure that Arizona children have the opportunity to start kindergarten prepared to be successful. Understanding the critical role the early years play in a child's future success is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and in turn, impact all aspects of well-being in our communities and our state. This Needs and Assets Report for the FTF Yavapai Region helps us in understanding the needs of young children, the resources available to meet those needs and gaps that may exist in those resources.

The 2026 report has been redesigned in response to stakeholder feedback. The revised structure now consists of two parts: the primary report and supplementary sub-regional fact sheets.

The main report is structured around four domains relevant to young children, their families, and the professionals who support them in the region:

- Child, Family & Community Characteristics
- Early Education
- Education & Workforce
- Child Health & Development

This main report uses an infographic and figure-based approach to analyze regional-level data trends, as well as how these regional trends compare to statewide trends. Community-level data, illustrating similarities and differences within the sub-regions of the FTF Yavapai Region, is detailed separately in the Fact Sheets. The FTF Yavapai Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and ensuring that families and caregivers have options in supporting the healthy development and education of young children in their care. It is our sincere hope that this information will help guide community conversations about how we can best support school readiness for all children in the FTF Yavapai Region. To that end, this information may be useful to local stakeholders as they work to enhance the resources available to young children and their families and as they make decisions about how best to support children birth to age 5 in communities throughout the region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The FTF Yavapai Regional Partnership Council wishes to thank all of the federal, state and local partners whose contributions of data, ongoing support and partnership with FTF made this report possible. These partners included the Arizona Departments of Administration (Employment and Population Statistics), Child Safety, Economic Security, Education and Health Services; Child Care Resource and Referral; Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System; and the U.S. Census Bureau. We also want to thank parents and caregivers, local departments and service providers and members of the public who provided local data, attended regional council meetings and voiced their opinions, as well as all the organizations working to transform the vision of the regional council into concrete programs and services for children and families in the FTF Yavapai Region. Lastly, we want to acknowledge the current and past members of the FTF Yavapai Regional Partnership Council whose vision, dedication and passion have been instrumental in improving outcomes for young children and families within the region. As we build upon those successes, we move ever closer to our ultimate goal of creating a comprehensive early childhood system that ensures children throughout Arizona are ready for school and set for life.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The experiences in the first few years of a child's life lay the foundation for their future. Safe and healthy neighborhood environments, accessible educational opportunities, economically stable families and nurturing social contexts for young children have long-term, positive impacts. This Needs and Assets Report examines the current conditions for young children and their families—including social and economic contexts, early learning systems, education and workforce indicators, health outcomes and supports for children with special needs—in the First Things First (FTF) Yavapai Region.

Sources and Data: The data in this report come from a variety of sources including federal and state agencies and local agencies or service providers. Federal government sources include publicly available data from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (primarily 2019-2023). The 2020 Census faced unprecedented challenges in data collection, the foremost of which was the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruption of local institutions. Due to these challenges, the 2020 Census is widely known to have undercounted young children and particular populations such as American Indians residing on reservations.¹ Data in this report from the ACS summarize the responses from samples of residents taken between 2019 and 2023. Because these estimates are based on samples rather than the entire population, ACS data should not be considered exact. Estimates for smaller geographies, such as

regions or sub-regions, are less accurate than estimates for larger geographies, such as the state, because they are based on smaller sample sizes.

Data were provided to FTF by state agencies including the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). FTF strategy data related to quality early education, professional development and home visiting were also provided. FTF partnered with the Arizona State University Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR) to create custom tabulations of claims data for young children from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). In most cases, the data in this report were calculated specifically for the Needs and Assets process and are more detailed than the data that are published by these agencies for the general public. Whenever possible, this report will use data tailored to the region, but in some cases, there are only county-level or statewide data available to report. This report also includes publicly available data for the county and state, including from state agencies such as the Arizona Department of Commerce's Office of Economic Opportunity, Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) semi-annual child welfare reports. When more recent data from public or state agency datasets were not available, this report cites data from past Regional Needs and Assets Reports for the region.

The data in this report are as complete as possible, but there are cases when data for specific years were unavailable or unable to be reported. State agencies have varying policies about reporting small values. Labels such as <10, <6 or "DS" indicate that a count has been suppressed to protect privacy. When data were not available for a given year or geography, the label "N/A" is used.

Color-coding: This report uses color-coding to indicate the relevant geography for each number or percentage discussed in the text as follows: **Yavapai Region**, **Yavapai County**, **Arizona**, and the **U.S.** Additional important numbers in the text that do not correspond to one of these geographies have been **bolded**.

Data Interpretation Session: The data compiled in this report reflect one way of knowing about the status of young children and their families, but local perspectives on what works well and what needs improvement from community experts who live, work and care for children in the region provide another vital source of information about the needs and assets in the region. First Things First Regional Partnership Council members and other key community experts participated in a facilitated data discussion in the beginning of 2026 to review the data included in this report. During this session, participants shared local knowledge and perspectives to help interpret the data and add additional context about the region. These insights are included throughout the report, attributed to "local key informants" and "local community experts."

Limitations: This report was compiled in the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026 during a time of rapid changes in federal funding and policy. The data presented reflect a particular moment in time.

First Things First 2026 Needs and Assets Report

Where possible, potential impacts of currently known policy decisions grounded in high-quality research have been included, but the full extent of the impact of policies implemented in 2025 and 2026 on early childhood well-being will not be fully clear for years to come.

Throughout this report, state-level data is included to help understand how the region is doing in comparison to Arizona overall. For a more comprehensive discussion of needs and assets at the state level, please see the First Things First 2025 Statewide Needs and Assets Report – Building Bright Futures.^a

Analysis of data and reporting of findings contained in this report were completed by Kara Habershtock Tanoue, Rachel Leih, Madeleine deBlois, Deirdre Avery, Vicki Brown, Terrace Ewinghill, Rachel Gildersleeve, Anvi Bhakta, Beatriz Reyna, Deshawna Yazzie, April Horne, Lauren Moxley, Dora Valencia, Claudia Vega and Felicia Zhang from the Community Research, Evaluation & Development (CRED) team in the John and Doris Norton School of Human Ecology at the University of Arizona.

^a The full report can be found at <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-State-Needs-and-Assets-Report.pdf>

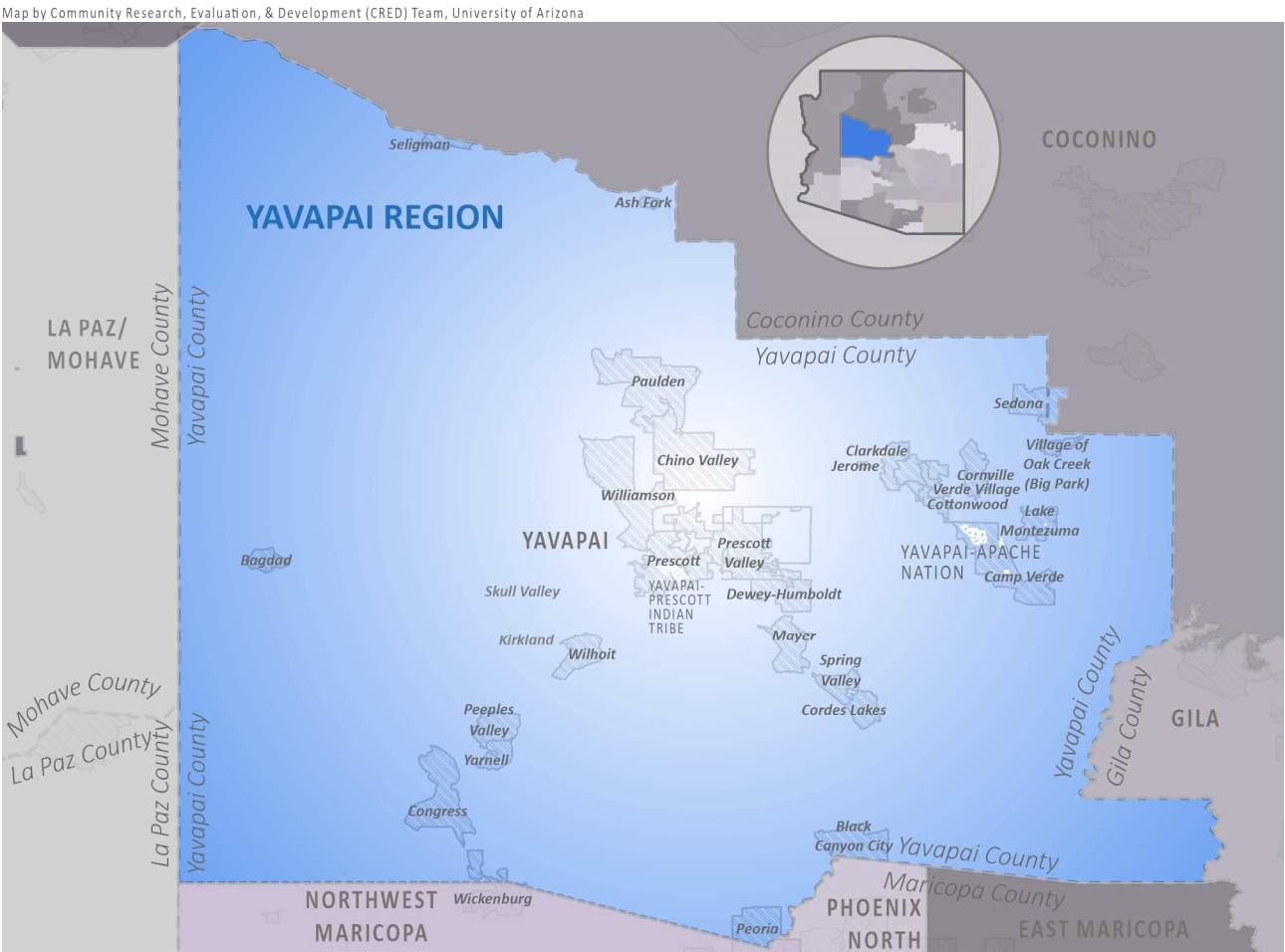
THE YAVAPAI REGION

The First Things First regional boundaries were established to create regions that (a) reflect the view of families in terms of where they access services, (b) coincide with existing boundaries or service areas of organizations providing early childhood services, (c) maximize the ability to collaborate with service systems and local governments, (d) facilitate the ability to convene a Regional Partnership Council, and (e) allow for the collection of demographic and indicator data.

The First Things First Yavapai Region covers all of Yavapai County, including the part of the city of Sedona that lies in Coconino County, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation which was federally designated to be shared by both the Yavapai and Tonto Apache people in non-contiguous parcels across 2,000 acres in Camp Verde, Middle Verde, Clarkdale, Tunlii and Rimrock. The region includes an unpopulated portion of the city of Peoria north of Lake Pleasant.

The map below shows the geographical area covered by the Yavapai Region. Additional information is available at the end of this report, including a map and table of the region's zip codes and a map of Arizona public school districts in the region in the *Maps & Methods* Appendix.

The First Things First Yavapai Region



FAMILY, CHILD & COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Young children in the region

While young children make up a small proportion of the overall population, their well-being has wide-reaching impacts on families, social service systems and the state's future population. Continued investment in children's well-being and the well-being of their families was deemed by the National Academy of Sciences as "the most efficient strategy" for strengthening the future workforce and supporting a thriving community.^{2,3} According to the 2020 Census, the Yavapai Region was home to **11,066** young children birth to age 5. Between 2018 and 2023, births in the Yavapai Region saw small fluctuations with a high of **1,815** births in 2019 and a low of **1,704** births in 2020, ending at **1,775** births in 2023.^b Statewide, births declined from 2018 to 2020, before increasing again over the next two years and ultimately declining in 2023.

Despite a relatively constant number of births in the Yavapai Region in recent years, the number of young children counted in the 2020 Census was notably lower than in 2010, decreasing by **13%** from **12,661** young children in 2010 to **11,066** in 2020. This decline was slightly larger than the decline observed statewide, where there was a **12%** decrease in the population of young children over the same ten-year period. This decline contrasted with the all-age population, which increased **12%** in both the region and across the state. Key informants noted the decline in young children may be due to families moving out of Yavapai County due to the high cost of living, limited employment opportunities and lack of activities for young children. To address some of these gaps, another key informant noted that Prevent Child Abuse Arizona is working to establish a family resource center aimed at increasing access to local activities and resources for families – a major need in the region.

^b Note that births are assigned to the region based on the address that parents list on the birth certificate form. This means that babies born to families residing in the region should be counted in regional birth numbers regardless of the location of the hospital where they were born.

Figure 1.

Young children in the region

The Yavapai Region is home to

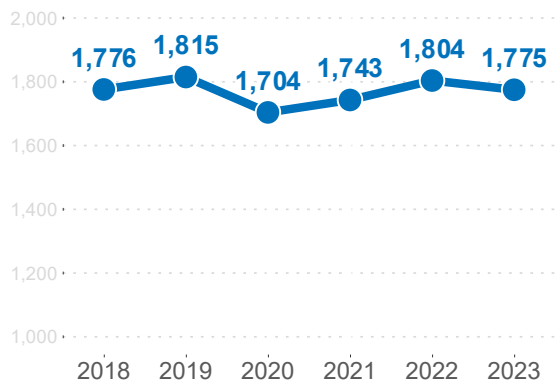
11,066

children birth to age 5 (2020)¹

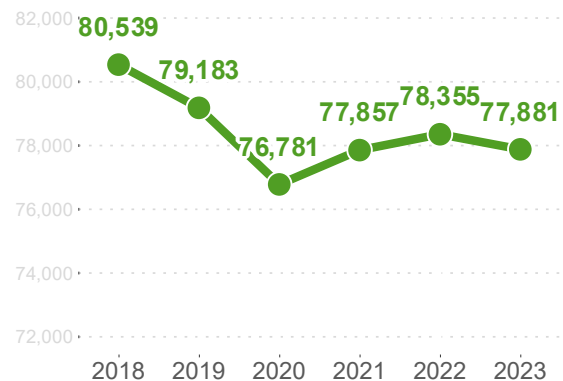


Number of births per calendar year²

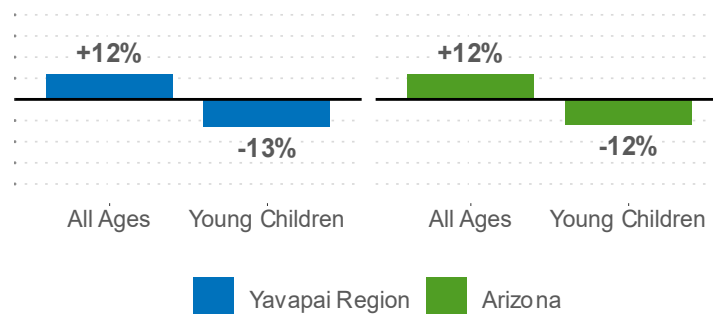
Yavapai Region



Arizona



Change in population between the 2010³ and 2020¹ Census



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). 2020 Decennial Census, Demographic and Housing Characteristics (DHC).

² Arizona Department of Health Services. (2024). [Vital Statistic dataset].

³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). 2010 Decennial Census.

Characteristics of young children and the population

According to the 2020 Census, approximately **238,756** people lived in the Yavapai Region, in **105,792** households. About one in 12 households (**8%**) in the region included a child from birth to age five, a lower proportion of households than across the state (**13%**) or nation (**13%**).

Understanding the racial-ethnic composition of communities can inform efforts to ensure equitable access to services and resources. According to the 2020 Census, most Yavapai Region residents identified as non-Hispanic White (**82%** of the total population, **66%** of young children birth to age 4). Young children in the region were more likely to be identified as Hispanic or Latino (**30%**) compared to the total population (**14%**). Of note, the proportions of both the young child and total population that were Hispanic or Latino in the region were lower than those observed statewide (**44%** of young children and **31%** of the total population identified as Hispanic or Latino).⁴ In addition, the majority of residents in the Yavapai Region spoke English only at home (**89%**), higher than the proportion across the state (**74%**).⁵ The remaining **10%** of region residents spoke Spanish (**8%**) or another language (**2%**), lower than the proportions across Arizona (**19%** and **6%** respectively). One local key informant noted that Latinos are the fastest growing racial-ethnic group in the U.S., in part due to higher Hispanic birth rates.⁶ Hispanic infants and toddlers are often less likely to be enrolled in early care and education compared to children of other ethnicities and enrollment can be influenced by immigration status.^{7, 8}

Caregivers for young children

Family structure has important effects on children's development.⁹ For example, living in a single-parent household is often linked to implications for poverty, access to health and education resources, parental health and the quality of a child's interactions with adult caregivers.^{10, 11, 12, 13, 14,}

¹⁵ The 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated that just over half of children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region lived with two married parents (**54%**), lower than the proportion statewide (**60%**). Young children in the region were slightly more likely to reside with one unmarried parent^c (**39%**) than children statewide (**36%**).¹⁶

Multi-generational households, where grandparents, parents and children live together, are also becoming more common across all racial and ethnic groups.^{17, 18, 19, 20} These living arrangements can offer financial and social benefits, but also stressors such as differing parenting styles and

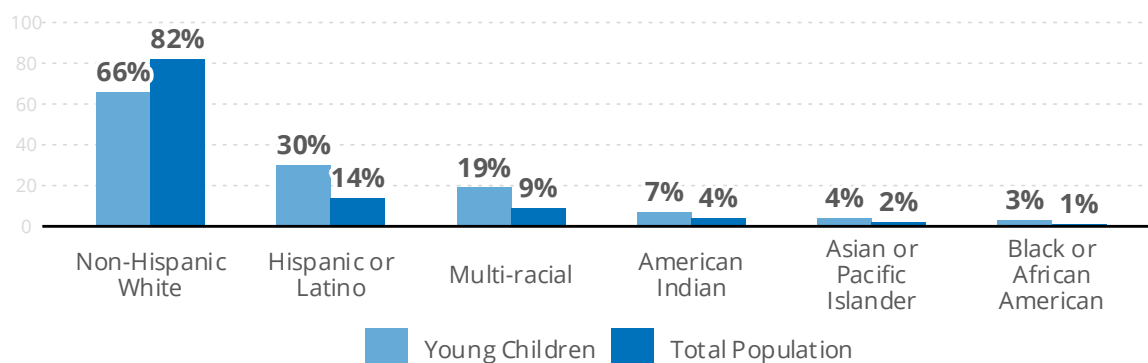
^c The term "parent" includes stepparents. Please note that due to the way the ACS asks about family relationships, children living with two unmarried, cohabitating parents are not counted as living with two parents (these children are counted in the 'one parent' category).

Figure 2.

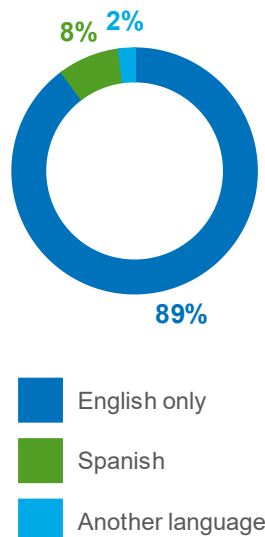
Characteristics of young children and the population

238,756 people live in the Yavapai Region (2020)¹

Race and ethnicity in the Yavapai Region (2020)¹



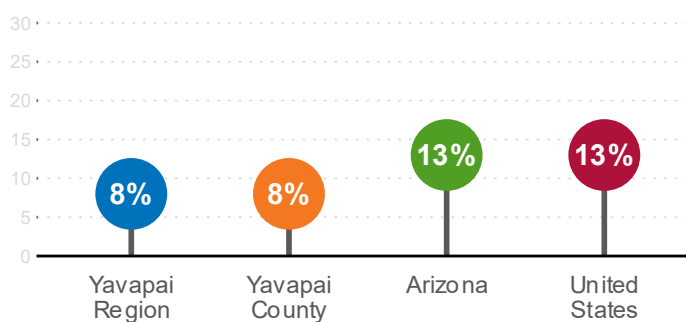
Language spoken at home in the region (2023)²



The region has

105,792
households (2020)¹

Households with young children (2020)¹



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). 2020 Decennial Census, Demographic and Housing Characteristics (DHC).

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Notes: Race and ethnicity data are non-exclusive, meaning that individuals are counted in each category in which they identify. Language data are for the population ages 5 and older. The American Community Survey (ACS) no longer specifies the proportion of the population who speak Native North American languages for geographies smaller than the state. In Arizona, Navajo and other Native American languages (including Apache, Hopi, and O'odham) are the most commonly spoken (2%), following English (73%) and Spanish (20%).

family roles.^{21, 22, 23, 24, 25} According to the 2020 Census, **14%** of young children in the Yavapai Region lived in a grandparent's household, with or without a parent present, just above the proportion across the state (**13%**). Overall, there were **1,269** grandparents in the region who reported that they were responsible for one or more grandchildren birth to age 17.

Kinship care, where children live with someone other than their parents (such as grandparents, other relatives or close friends), may bring challenges related to informal guardianship (e.g., difficulties in registering children for school), coping with parental absence and being an aging caregiver for a young child.^{26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32} In the Yavapai Region, **5%** of young children resided with relatives other than parents (e.g., grandparent, aunt or uncle), slightly larger than the proportion across the state (**3%**). An additional **2%** lived with a non-relative caregiver, the same proportion as across the state (**2%**).³³

Participation in the labor force can impact families in ways that affect children's health and well-being. For example, unemployment can limit access to resources that support children's physical and mental health.³⁴ An estimated **86%** of young children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region lived in families with at least one parent in the labor force. Nearly six in 10 young children (**59%**) lived with all parents in the labor force, making it likely that these families need some form of child care.

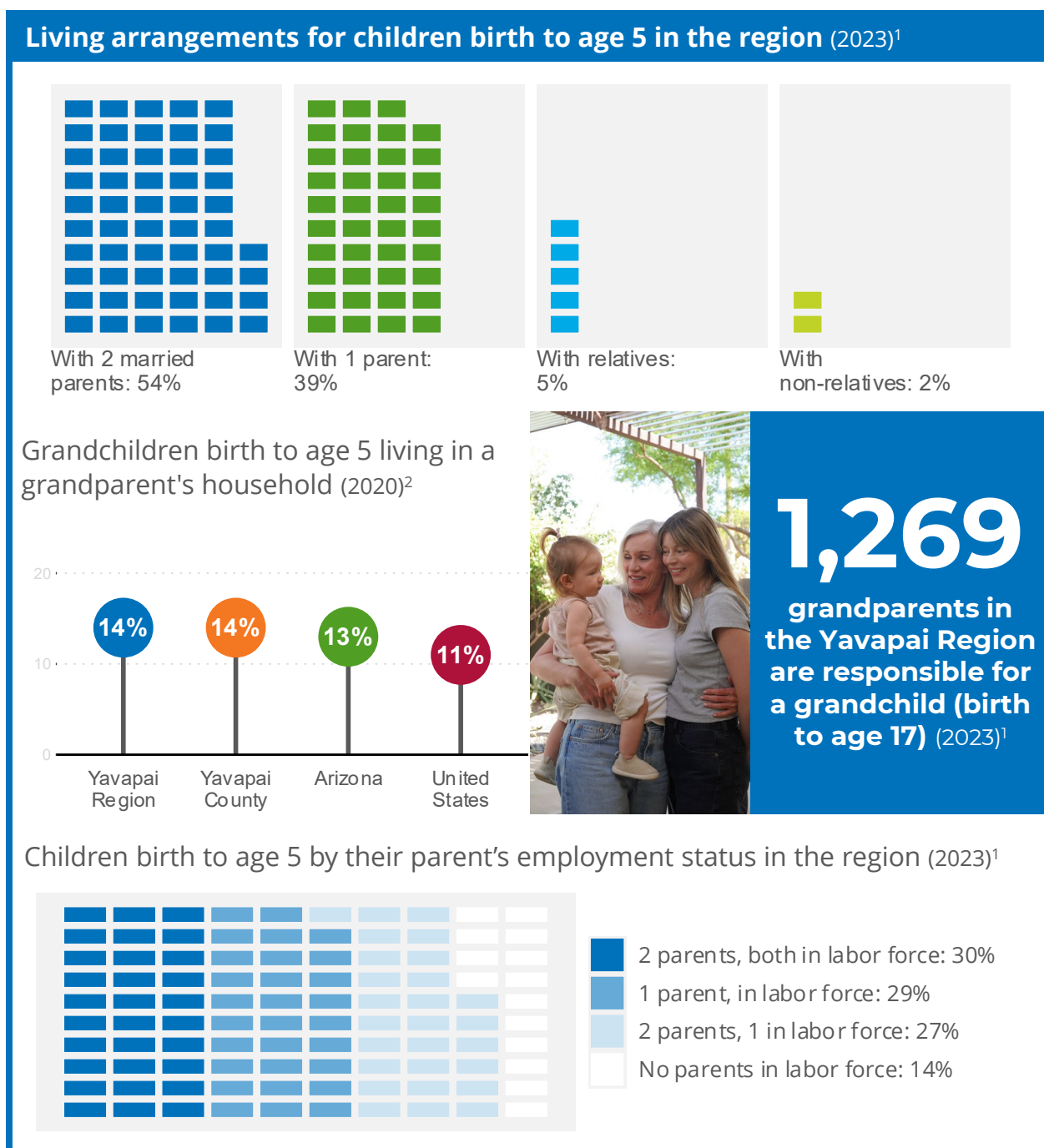
Income and poverty among families with children

Poverty is associated with reduced access to nutrition, green space and health care and greater exposure to psychosocial stress and environmental toxins; together, these factors may have implications for children's growth and brain development.^{35, 36, 37} According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2025, a family of two adults and two children was considered to be in poverty if their income fell below \$32,150, while for a single parent with one child the threshold was \$21,150.³⁸ Between 2019 and 2023, an estimated **21%** of young children in the Yavapai Region lived in poverty, a small decline from the region's poverty rate between 2014 and 2018 (**22%**). In contrast, young child poverty rates statewide decreased to a larger degree during this time, from **25%** to **18%**, a phenomenon largely attributed to pandemic relief funding and policies.³⁹

Overall, single-parent families across Arizona earned less than married-couple families in 2023. Married-couple family median incomes in Yavapai County (**\$97,929**) were just over double the median income for single-male-headed families (**\$48,354**) and just over two-and-a-half times those of single-female-headed families (**\$38,053**). In addition, across all family types, the median income in Yavapai County was lower than median income statewide.

Figure 3.

Caregivers for young children



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). 2020 Decennial Census, Demographic and Housing Characteristics (DHC).

Notes: The 4 percentages for living arrangements and employment status should sum to 100% but may not because of rounding. The term "parent" here includes stepparents. Due to the way the ACS asks about family relationships, children living with two unmarried, cohabitating parents are not counted as living with two parents (these children are counted in the 'one unmarried parent' category).

While median family income is a measure of how much families earn, the self-sufficiency standard^d attempts to estimate how much families actually need to earn to fully support themselves. These standards vary by family type and differences in costs of housing, transportation, child care and other budget items across counties and states.^{40, 41} In 2022, the self-sufficiency standard for two parents, one preschooler and one infant was **\$74,387** in Yavapai County, lower than the median income for married couples with children. The self-sufficiency standard for one parent and one preschooler in Yavapai County (**\$50,477**) was above both the median income for single-male-headed families with children (**\$48,354**) and for single-female-headed families with children (**\$38,053**). This data highlights the likelihood that many single-parent households in Yavapai County may not be earning enough income to support their families. Relatedly, key informants described that because of the “benefits cliff,” even a small rise in income can make families ineligible for programs such as food assistance or child care subsidies, and the value of those benefits often exceeds the value of their income earnings.⁴² Therefore, some families in Yavapai County may have to choose between a higher income and maintaining critical public assistance programs.

The Arizona self-sufficiency standards were updated in 2025 and reflected a significant increase in the cost of basic needs across Arizona since they were first published in 2002.⁴³ Yavapai County's self-sufficiency standards increased by **22%** for two parents, one preschooler and one infant (**\$90,605**) and **18%** for one parent and one preschooler (**\$59,765**) between 2022 and 2025.⁴⁴

These rising costs have real implications for families' well-being in the Yavapai Region. When housing costs consume a large percentage of family income, limited funds for basic needs such as food and utilities can influence young children's development.^{45, 46, 47} Traditionally, housing has been deemed affordable for families if it costs less than 30% of annual household income. Close to three in 10 households (**29%**) in the Yavapai Region were considered housing cost-burdened, spending 30% or more of their income on housing. Although lower than the **30.8%** of cost-burdened households statewide, the region did **not** meet the Healthy People 2030^e target of **25.5%** or fewer households with a high housing cost burden.⁴⁸ Renters are more likely to be housing cost-burdened, with **40.9%** of renters in Yavapai County paying more than 30% of their income on rent, which is slightly higher in cities and towns in the county (**43.2%** housing cost-burdened), compared to unincorporated areas (**35.1%**).⁴⁹ Key informants also emphasized high

^d For more information on the Arizona 2022 Self-sufficiency standard, please see https://womensgiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AZ2022_SSS_Web.pdf

^e Healthy People identifies science-based targets to guide national health promotion and disease prevention efforts. For more information see https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/healthy_people/index.htm

housing costs, pointing to limited affordable options across the county and generational wealth disparities as barriers to securing housing.

Internet access is a vital utility in homes in today's interconnected world. Reliable broadband enables access to education, employment, telehealth and social connection, highlighting its importance as a "super determinant" of health.⁵⁰ In the Yavapai Region, the vast majority (**94%**) of children under age 18 had access to a computer and internet at home, pointing to a strength of the region in connectivity for families.

Food security among young children and families

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC, provides food assistance, breastfeeding support, nutrition education and referral to other health and community services for women and children, starting in pregnancy until children turn age 5.^f WIC, along with other programs like free and reduced-price school meals, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can be a key resource for low-income families to ensure they have access to affordable, nutritious food that promotes well-being. Families in Arizona are financially eligible for WIC if their income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.^{g, 51} According to 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, there were **4,765** children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region living in households with qualifying incomes for WIC, which equated to **44%** of the young child population in the region. The region had a higher proportion of young children whose households financially qualified for WIC compared to Arizona (**38%**) and the U.S. (**35%**). As one key informant noted, heightened economic need in the region, evidenced by the proportion of households qualifying for WIC, and median incomes for single-parent households that fall below county self-sufficiency standards, indicate that many families with children in the region may face resource challenges.

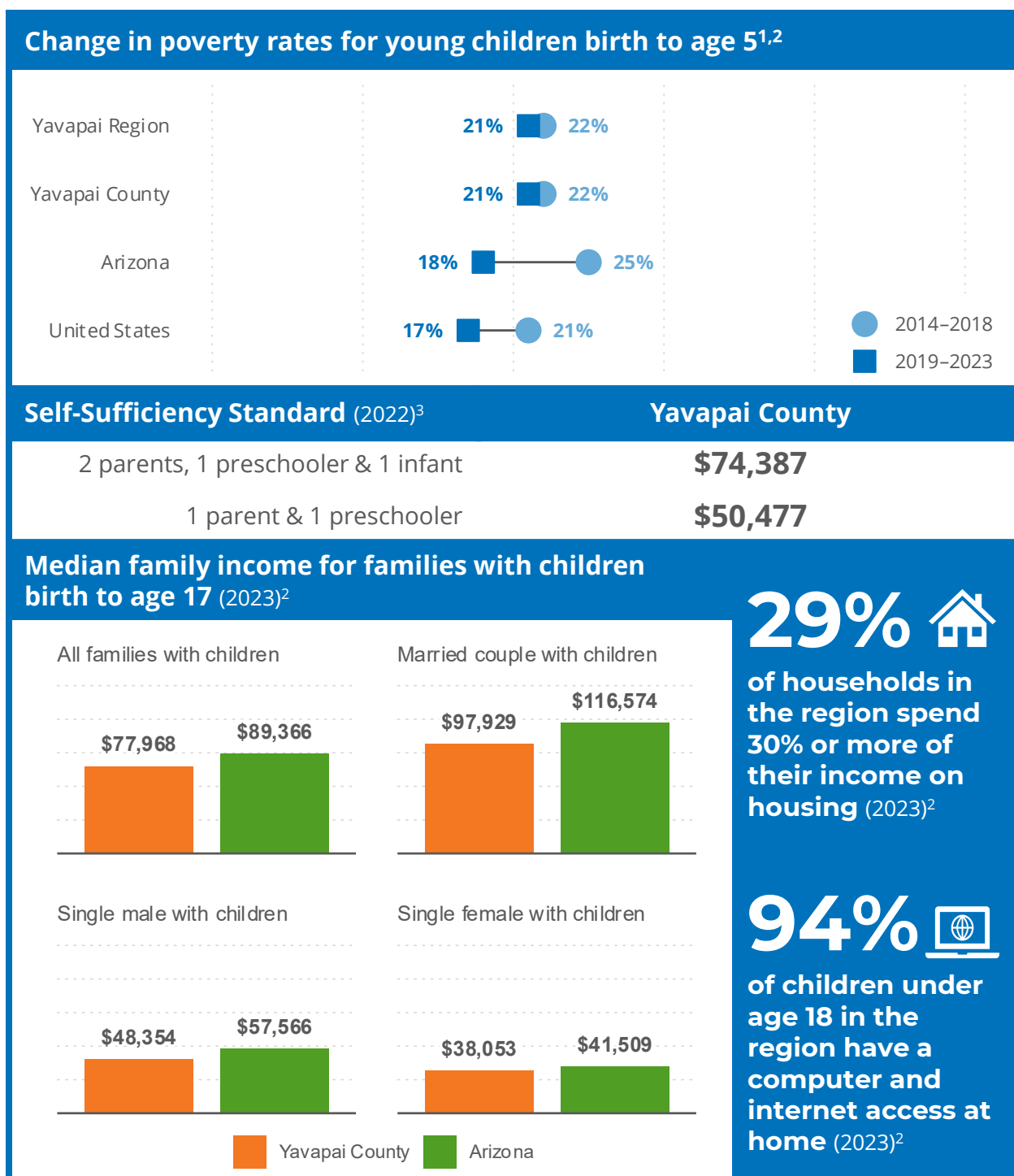
Between 2018 and 2022, the number of young children (birth to age 4) enrolled in WIC in the Yavapai Region steadily declined from a high of **4,485** in 2018, to a low of **3,608** young children enrolled in 2022. Enrollment then increased through 2024, reaching **4,204** young children that year. Participation rates among young children enrolled in WIC in the region steadily increased between 2018 and 2024 in the region, evident in the narrowing gap between the number of children enrolled versus the number of children participating in the program. These rates exceeded the already high participation rates among young children across the state in recent

^f For more information see <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

^g In 2026, the 185% FPL threshold was \$61,050 for a family of four and \$40,034 for a family of two. For more information, see <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/b1bfa16b20ae9b89d525bc35de7c1643/detailed-guidelines-2026.pdf>

Figure 4.

Income and poverty among families with children



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018.

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

³ Kucklick, A., Manzer, L., and Mast, A.. (2022). [The Arizona 2022 Self-Sufficiency Standard].

years, ending with **98%** of eligible young children in the Yavapai Region who participated in WIC in 2024 compared to **95%** of young children statewide.

Families' neighborhood environments also influence their access to affordable, nutritious food. Low-income, low-access areas, also known as "food deserts," are geographic areas with high rates of poverty and limited access to fresh food options, a challenge often compounded by limited access to adequate transportation.⁵² Almost three in 10 (**29%**) children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region^h lived in a community classified as a low-income, low-access area by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2019, nearly double the **15%** across the state.⁵³

Child maltreatment response and prevention

Traumatic or stressful life events experienced in childhood, referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs,ⁱ can have lasting impacts on health and life trajectory beyond childhood, with risk increasing as an individual's number of adverse childhood experiences increases.⁵⁴ In situations of abuse or neglect, the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) is required to intervene to ensure the safety and well-being of children. When DCS determines that the harm in remaining with their family is too great, a child may be removed from their home, either temporarily or permanently. In recent years, DCS has set an overarching goal of safely reducing the number of children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care.⁵⁵ In line with this goal, the number of children reported to DCS who were removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care substantially declined in recent years in Arizona, from a recent high of **13,465** children age birth to 17 in state fiscal year (SFY) 2021 to **8,305** in SFY 2024. Out-of-home placements for children birth to age 17 in Yavapai County also showed a similar pattern of decline, falling from **343** children in SFY 2020 to **205** children in SFY 2024.

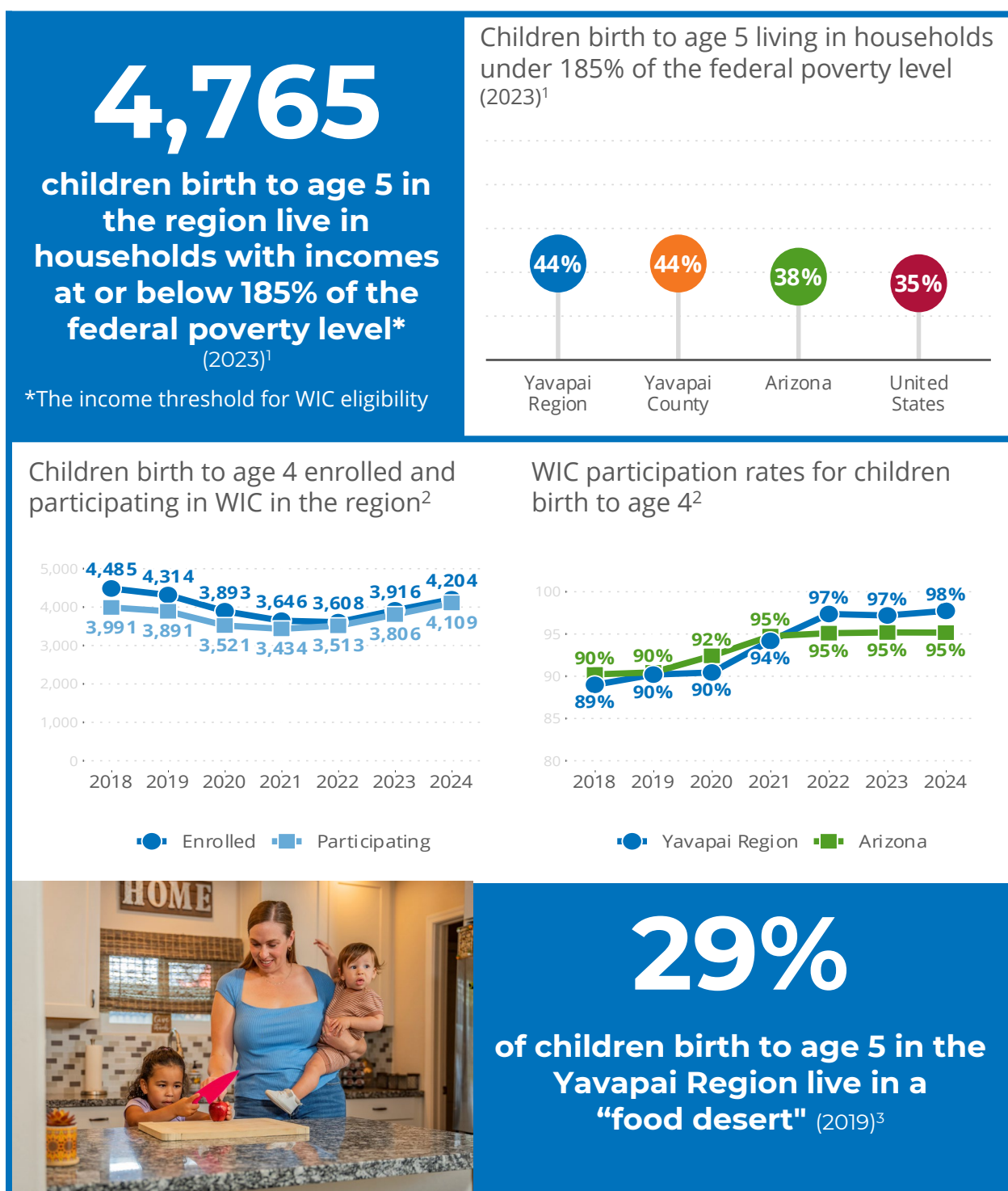
DCS also aims to place children into a permanent, stable housing situation within 12 months, whether that is through reunification, living with other relatives (known as kinship care) or any type of guardianship or adoption.⁵⁶ In SFY 2024, almost half (**47%**) of young children birth to age 17 exiting out-of-home care in Arizona were reunified with their families, one in four (**25%**) were

^h To view a map of low income and low access census tracts, see <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas>

ⁱ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include eight categories of traumatic or stressful life events experienced before the age of 18 years. The eight ACE categories are sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, household adult mental illness, household substance abuse, domestic violence in the household, incarceration of a household member, and parental divorce or separation.

Figure 5.

Food security among young children and families



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

² Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [WIC dataset].

³ Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2022). Food Access Research Atlas.

Note: WIC participation rates reflect the percent of children already enrolled in WIC who attend visits and receive benefits. These do not reflect the share of potentially-eligible children enrolled in WIC.

adopted^j and just over one in six (**16%**) were placed in guardianship.^k The other **12%** exited out-of-home care for some other reason, including children who aged out of the out-of-home care system, transferred to another agency, ran away or exited for another reason.

Home visitation programs are a proven strategy for equipping families with needed resources and referrals to promote healthy child development, reduce parental stress and prevent future child maltreatment.^{57, 58, 59, 60} In SFY 2025, **258** families in the Yavapai Region participated in home visitation programs, including the Healthy Families Arizona, Health Start, and High-Risk Perinatal programs.

^j Adoption by a relative, foster parent or other non-relative

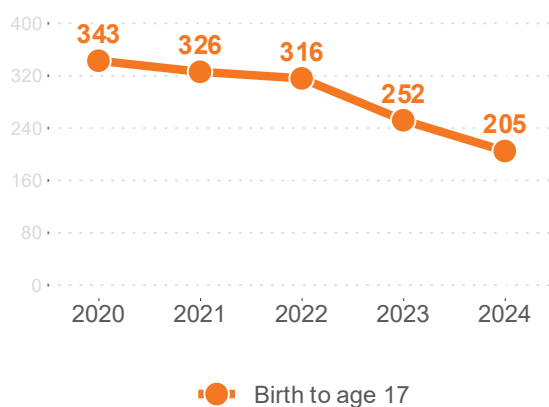
^k Guardianship by a foster parent or other non-relative

Figure 6.

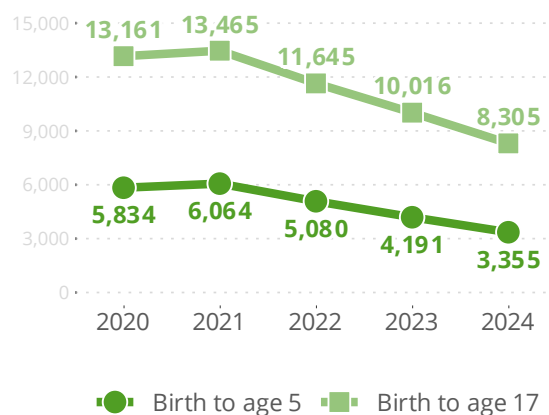
Child maltreatment response and prevention

Children in out-of-home placements with the Department of Child Safety¹

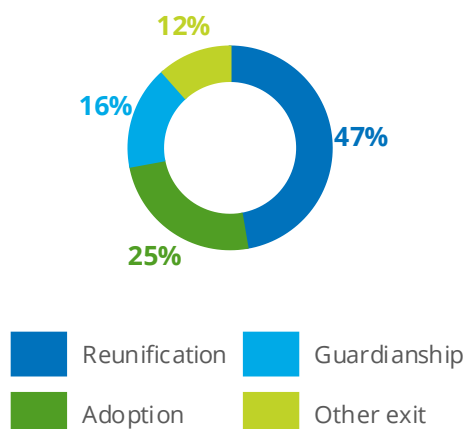
Yavapai County



Arizona



Case outcomes for children birth to age 17 exiting out-of-home care in Arizona (2024)¹



In the Yavapai Region,

258 families participated in home visitation programs (2025)²

¹ Arizona Department of Child Safety. (2025). Monthly Operational Outcomes Report, May 2025.

² First Things First. (2025). [Home Visitation & Screenings Reach datasets].

Note: Home visitation program data reflects families in the Health Start, Healthy Families AZ and High-Risk Perinatal Program. Families may participate in more than one program (and be counted more than once).

EARLY LEARNING

Availability of quality early care and education

Participating in quality preschool programs can result in between one-third and a full year of additional early learning gains in language, reading and math skills, increasing the academic readiness of children when they enter kindergarten.⁶¹ According to 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, **36%** of 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in school^l in the Yavapai Region, the same as the proportion across the state (**36%**).⁶² Public preschool enrollment fluctuated in Yavapai County over the last seven years, ending with **397** children enrolled in preschool in the 2024-25 school year. There is likely more capacity in school-based preschool programs in the county than reflected in these numbers. Not all preschool students are well-captured in ADE enrollment data, particularly typically-developing students in part-day programs and preschool students whose families pay a fee for care at a school.

In 2025, there were **110** early care and education providers in the region with the capacity to serve **6,950** children. Most of this capacity was provided by **94** child care centers with the capacity to serve **6,006** children, followed by **11** schools (n = **909**), and **5** home-based providers (n = **35**). Between 2023 and 2025, **8** new child care providers opened in the Yavapai Region, and **2** closed.

An area is labeled a child care desert if there are three times as many children as there are available child care slots (a ratio of 3.0 or more).⁶³ Communities in both urban and rural areas of Arizona face a gap between the number of young children and licensed child care slots.^{64, 65, 66} Collectively across all children birth to age 5, the Yavapai Region was not considered a child care desert, with a ratio of **2.5** children birth to age 5 per available slot, just above the ratio for children birth to age 5 statewide (**2.0** children birth to age 5 per available slot).⁶⁷ For 1-year-olds, the ratio was higher and above the child care desert threshold, with **5.9** 1-year-olds per available child care slot. The ratio for regulated infant care was the highest and well above the child care desert threshold, with **18.8** infants per available slot, indicating scarce licensed infant care in the Yavapai Region. Key informants noted that declines in Department of Economic Security (DES) child care assistance and FTF scholarships, combined with rising living and child care costs, have significantly impacted enrollment in early care programs. In addition, limited child care availability in certain parts of the region, such as Sedona or Prescott, often leads families to rely on unlicensed family child care homes or arrangements with grandparents who often commute from Phoenix to

^l School includes nursery school, preschool or kindergarten.

provide care. Importantly, key informants also noted that even when child care is available, their limited hours of operation are a barrier to working parents.

Increasing access to quality early care and education

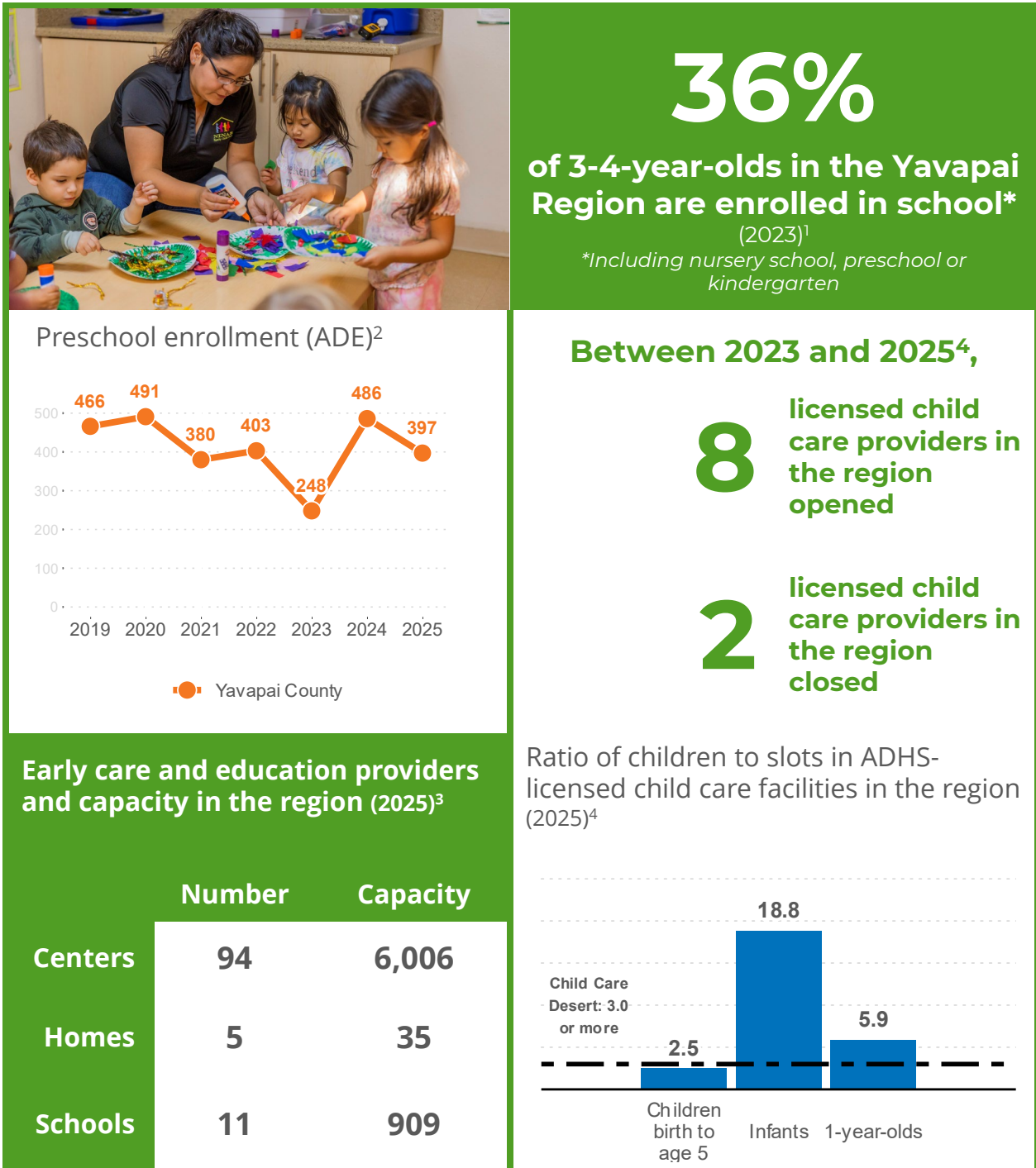
High-quality early learning experiences lay a strong foundation for children's success in kindergarten, elementary school and beyond.⁶⁸ One way that the quality of early child care and education is measured in Arizona is through the Quality First (QF) program.⁶⁹ The QF program rates the quality of child care providers and preschools on a scale from one to five stars, with providers considered high quality when they have received a 3-star rating or higher.⁷⁰ In the Yavapai Region, of the 110 regulated providers in the region, the **44** providers served by Quality First enrolled a total of **1,595** young children in 2025, and **36** of the 40 publicly-rated child care providers had 3-5-star ratings.^m Four-year-olds were most often enrolled in quality settings (n = **559**), followed by 3-year-olds (n = **400**), 5-year-olds (n = **263**), 2-year-olds (n = **197**), 1-year-olds (n = **129**) and infants (n = **47**).

Child care providers enrolled in QF offer scholarships to eligible families to allow those children to access care and to reimburse providers for some of their extra expenses for providing quality care. These scholarships are allocated based on the child care provider's capacity and QF star rating.⁷¹ However, due to the end of federal pandemic relief funds, statewide allocations for scholarships have decreased by over 3,000 slots from 2024 to 2025.⁷² The number of QF scholarships provided in the region followed the same downward trend from 2024 (n = **258**) to 2025 (n = **118**). While supporting families' use of quality child care settings, one key informant noted that provision of these scholarships to providers considered high quality can translate to less funding for other, likely under-resourced, providers. Research has shown that many providers choose not to participate in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (such as QF) because they lack resources and staffing needed to comply with system requirements.^{73, 74, 75}

^m Four of the 44 child care providers in the Yavapai Region served by Quality First are not publicly rated.

Figure 7.

Availability of quality early care and education



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

² Arizona Department of Education. (2025). [October 1 Enrollment, Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, State Assessment dataset].

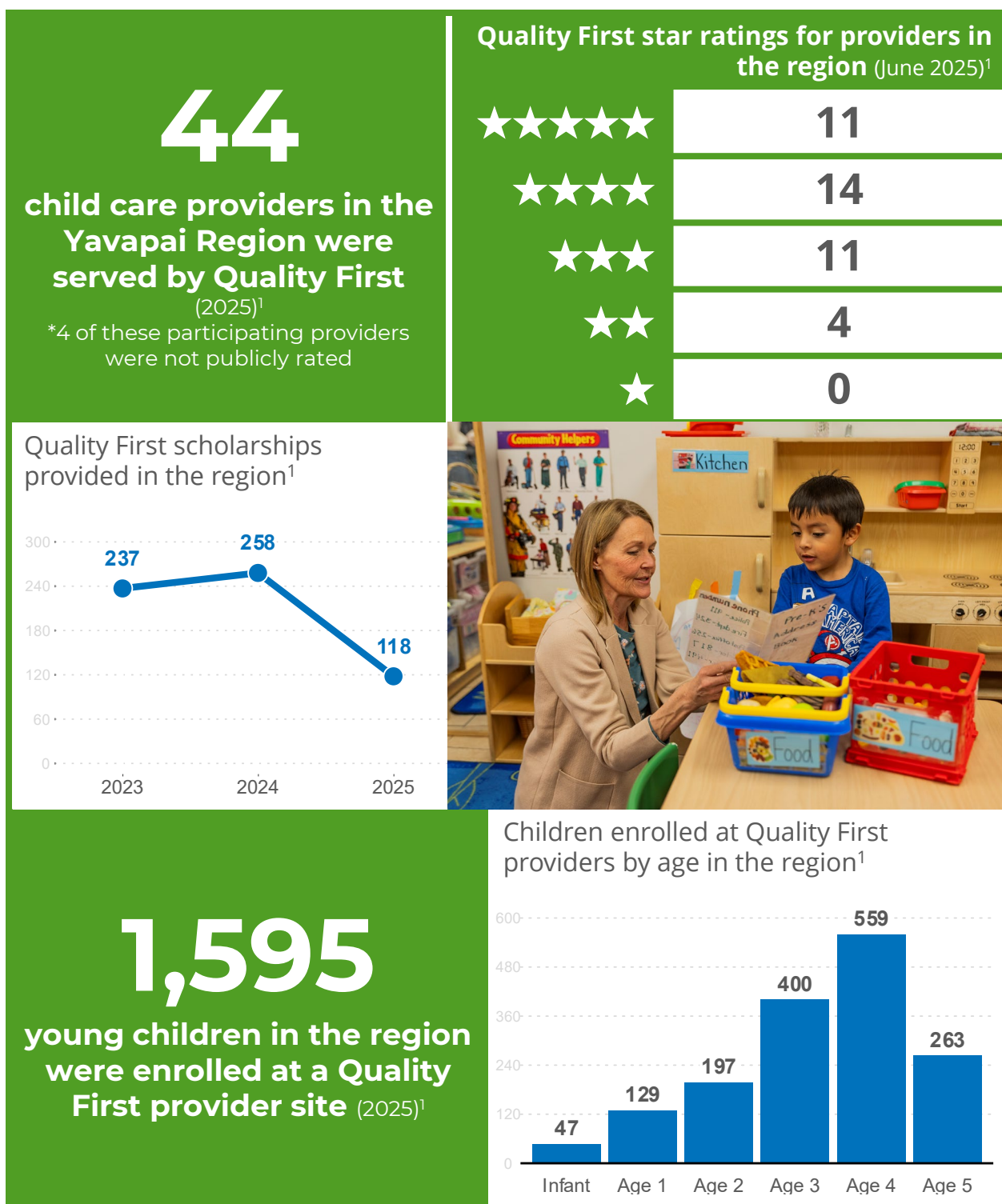
³ Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2025). [National Child Care Data System NCCRAwaredatabase extract].

⁴ Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [Child Care Licensing dataset].

Note: Please note that the capacity estimates are based on licensed capacity of the facility (frequently determined by physical building capacity) and may overstate the number of children that are actually enrolled in early education (due to staffing limitations and provider preferences).

Figure 8.

Increasing access to quality early care and education



¹ First Things First. (2025). [Quality First dataset].

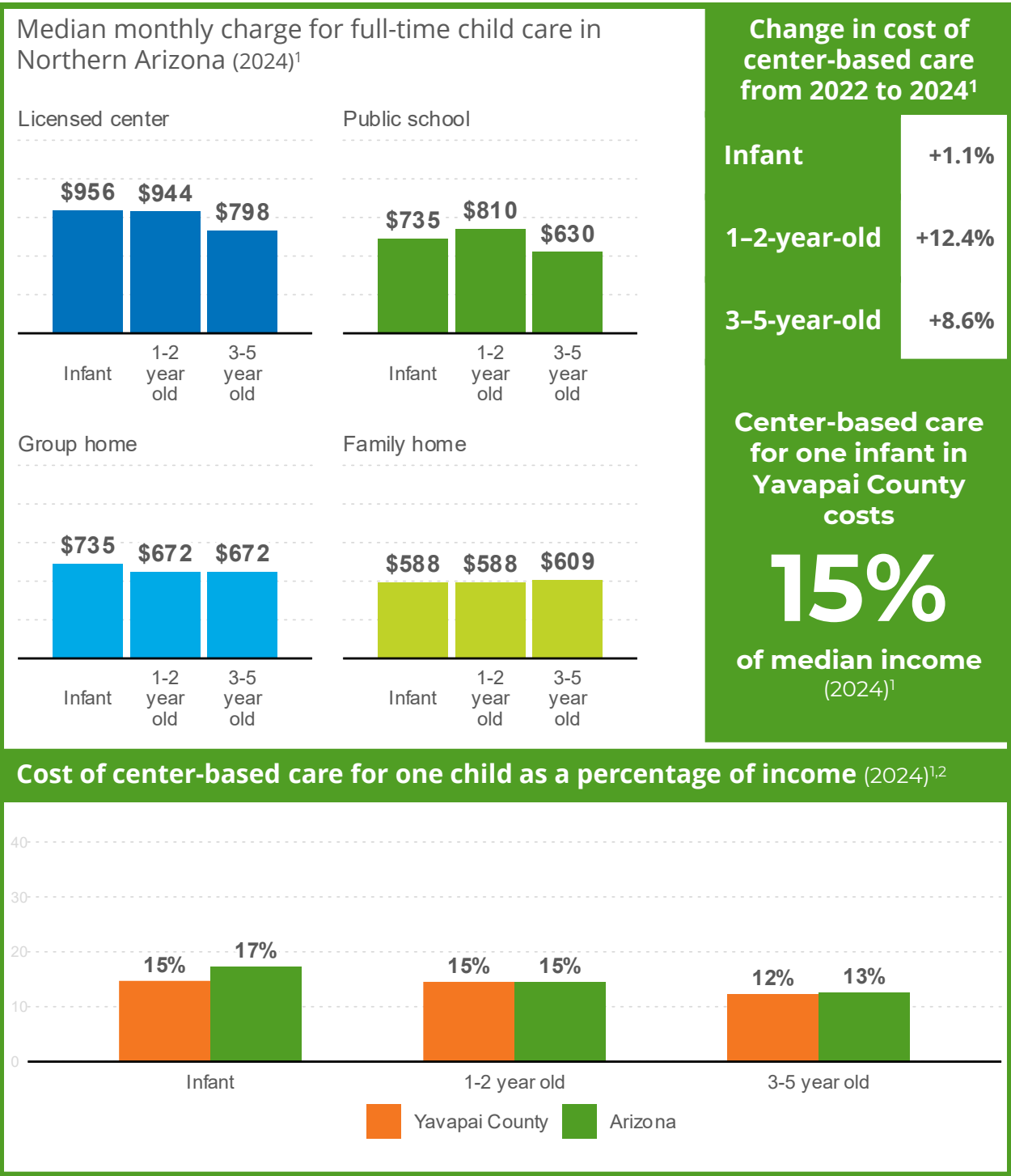
Cost of early care and education

The high cost of formal early care and education can place it out of reach for many families. The average cost of care in Arizona varies by the type of provider and the age of the child, with licensed centers and care for infants the most expensive, largely due to the higher operational costs of center-based care.⁷⁶ The median cost of care for an infant in a licensed center in Arizona was **\$1,289** per month.⁷⁷ In Northern Arizona (Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo and Apache counties), care for an infant in a licensed center was also the most expensive at **\$956** per month. Licensed centers were also the most costly settings for care for 1-2-year-olds (**\$944/month**) and 3-5-year-olds (**\$798/month**). The cost of care in family homes was lowest overall, where median charges ranged from **\$588** per month (for infants and 1-2-year-olds) to **\$609** per month (for 3-5-year-olds). As mentioned previously, there were only **5** regulated home-based providers in the Yavapai Region (compared to **94** child care centers and **11** public schools). This means that home-based providers, while the most affordable type of care in, may not be a realistic option for many families.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to be considered affordable, a family should spend no more than **7%** of their income on child care.⁷⁸ In Arizona, both married and single-parent families are estimated to spend well above the “affordable” share of their income on infant care.^{79, 80} In Yavapai County, center-based care for one infant cost **15%** of median income for families, just below the cost across Arizona (**17%**). The cost of care for older children in the county was comparable to the state, costing **15%** for 1–2-year-olds and **12%** for 3-5-year-olds compared to **15%** and **13%** statewide. Between 2022 and 2024, the cost of care for 1–2-year-olds increased the most (**+12.4%**). The cost of care for 3–5-year-olds increased by a lower percentage (**+8.6%**) during the same period, and infant care costs rose the least (**+1.1%**). As was noted by a local key informant, for single-parent families in Yavapai County whose median incomes already fall below the self-sufficiency standard, these costs for child care can be even more prohibitive. Resident feedback collected through local surveys on child care needs in Yavapai County emphasized child care affordability as a major issue, noting that costs have risen while availability has become more limited.^{81, 82, 83} This has had a variety of ripple effects in the workforce, where residents reported missing work, reducing hours, turning down promotions, working another job or leaving employment all together due to child care challenges. Most residents also shared that more affordable child care options would enable them to re-enter or remain in the workforce. According to survey results, these barriers also shaped family planning decisions. Residents noted delays in having children or choosing to have fewer children due to the cost, availability or quality of child care.

Figure 9.

Cost of early care and education



¹ Health Management Associates. (2024). 2024 Child Care Market Rate Survey. Arizona Department of Economic Security.

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Note: Northern Arizona includes Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo & Apache counties.

Early care and education assistance and quality

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) provides child care assistance to financially eligible families, including specific funding for families involved with the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS).⁸⁴ This assistance can make child care more accessible for families. Eligibility for and receipt of DES child care assistance among non-DCS-involved families recently reached record highs due to recent statewide investments.^{85, 86} The Yavapai Region mirrored these statewide trends, with a high of **520** non-DCS-involved children birth to age 5 found eligible and **471** of those children receiving DES child care assistance in 2024. In addition, **91%** of non-DCS-involved eligible families used child care assistance in 2024. However, the proportion of non-DCS-involved young children receiving child care assistance in quality environments in the region (**65%**) was lower than non-DCS-involved children across the state (**80%**). Unfortunately, due to insufficient funding, the DES child care assistance waitlist was reinstituted statewide in August 2024.ⁿ

Children are automatically eligible for DES child care assistance when they are involved with DCS.^o For DCS-involved children, the number of children eligible for child care assistance in the Yavapai Region decreased in recent years, from **332** children birth to age 5 in 2019 to **199** in 2024. The number of eligible DCS-involved children receiving child care assistance followed a similar declining pattern, with **156** receiving assistance in 2024. DCS-involved children in the region were also less likely to receive this child care assistance in quality environments (**72%**) compared to DCS-involved children across the state (**84%**).

To expand access to quality child care, DES provides enhanced reimbursement rates to child care providers that are considered high quality, including having a 3- to 5-star Quality First rating, national accreditation or applying Head Start Performance Standards. As of November 2025, quality child care providers across Arizona were reimbursed an additional **40%** above the standard reimbursement.

ⁿ As of May 1, 2026, there were more than 12,000 children waitlisted statewide. For more information, see <https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/how-apply-for-child-care-assistance>

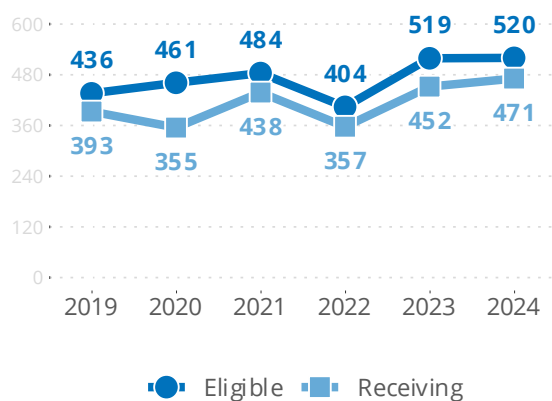
^o Children involved with DCS include children who have been removed by DCS and placed with a foster family or kinship caregiver as well as children who are residing with their own family but receiving services from DCS (such as in-home family support and counseling). Families of these children are not required to pay a co-pay for child care.

Figure 10.

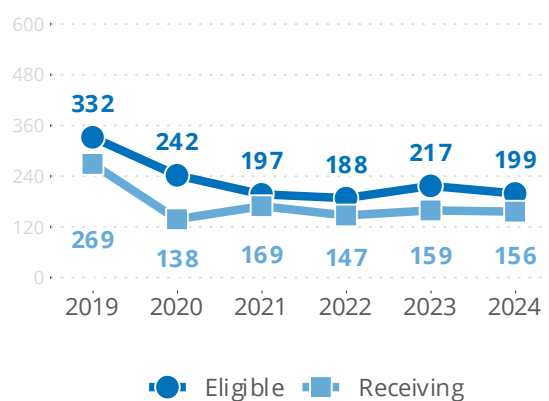
Early care and education assistance and quality

Children receiving child care assistance in the Yavapai Region¹

Non-DCS-involved children



DCS-involved children



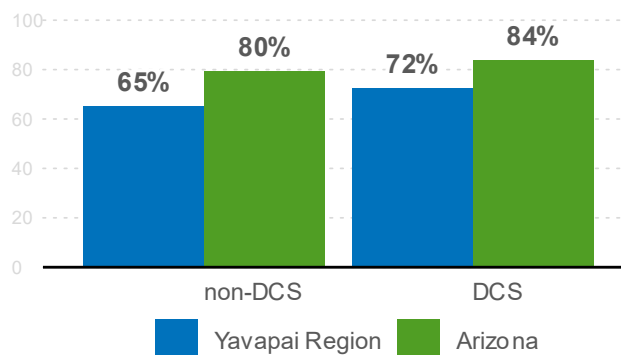
91%

of eligible families* in the region used child care assistance (2024)¹

*Non-DCS-involved families



Children receiving child care assistance in quality providers (2024)¹



+40%

Increased reimbursement rate for quality providers

defined by DES as providers with a 3-5 star Quality First Rating, national accreditation, or applying Head Start Performance Standards (Nov 2025)¹

¹ Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2024). [Child Care Assistance dataset].

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

K-12 education attendance and achievement

In addition to a quality early childhood education system, a community's K-12 education system can support positive outcomes for children, families and the overall well-being of the community. Individuals who have higher levels of education tend to live longer and healthier lives, and graduating from high school, in particular, is associated with better health, financial stability and socio-emotional outcomes.^{87, 88} Across Yavapai County, kindergarten through 3rd grade enrollment has fluctuated, but decreased overall since the 2018-19 school year, with **6,731** students enrolled in the 2024-25 school year, compared with **6,987** students enrolled in the 2018-19 school year.

Some Arizona families use Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) to pay for eligible educational expenses, including private or online school tuition, individual public school classes and extracurriculars.⁸⁹ This program was established in 2011 for students with disabilities and expanded to universal eligibility for children who would otherwise be in public school in 2022.^{90, 91} These funds can also be spent on other approved education costs, such as tutoring, technology, textbooks, supplies and national standardized test fees.^{92, 93} In the 2024-25 school year, **3,374** students (preschool through grade 12) in Yavapai County used ESAs, accounting for **3.6%** of Arizona's **94,600** ESA participants.⁹⁴ By comparison, there were **23,424** total students (preschool through grade 12) enrolled in public and charter schools in Yavapai County in the 2024-25 school year. Key informants highlighted the high use of ESA funds for homeschooling in the county. Many families transitioned to homeschooling during the COVID-19 pandemic, while others continue to use funds due to the high cost of center-based child care. They also suggested that FTF could benefit from tracking trends in preschool students using ESA funds for homeschooling to inform the development of clear policies about the level of FTF support provided to these young children.

Children's 3rd grade reading comprehension and proficiency skills can predict their future academic success, such as their likelihood of graduating high school and attending college.⁹⁵ Third grade math assessment passing rates in Yavapai County remained unchanged in recent years, while math passing rates increased statewide. Yavapai County's 3rd grade math passing rate remained at **40%** from the 2021-22 to 2023-24 school years, while the state math passing rate rose from **40%** to **43%**. Third grade reading assessment passing rates in the county decreased from the 2021-22 to 2023-24 school years (**42%** to **38%**) as did the statewide rates (**41%** to **39%**).

School attendance is an important factor in predicting the academic performance and future health of children. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% of school days in a school year, predicts a student experiencing academic difficulties and even dropping out of school entirely.⁹⁶ Following the COVID-19 pandemic, chronic absenteeism has become a major issue in school

districts nationwide.⁹⁷ More than one-quarter of kindergarten students (**26%**) and more than one in five 3rd grade students (**23%**) in Yavapai County were chronically absent from school in the 2022-23 school year, similar to statewide chronic absence rates that year (kindergarten, **25.5%**; 3rd grade **21.2%**) but much higher than the **15%** of kindergarten students and **10%** of 3rd grade students who were chronically absent in Yavapai County pre-pandemic in the 2018-19 school year. For both groups of students, these rates were lower than in the 2021-22 school year when chronic absences in the county peaked (**35%** of kindergarteners and **32%** of 3rd graders). Increasing attendance among kindergarten students presents a particular challenge because the state mandated age of school enrollment is 6 years, so absences in kindergarten are often not considered truancy, meaning schools have fewer resources to address them.

Graduation and adult educational attainment

Understanding current high school graduation and dropout rates within the state provides insight into the assets and challenges faced by a community and its future workforce. In contrast to adults who dropped out of high school and even those that received a high school equivalency diploma (HSE, also commonly referred to as a GED), adults who graduated from high school have higher rates of employment, higher incomes and better overall health.⁹⁸ Four-year graduation rates in Yavapai County have exceeded the state's rates in recent years.⁹⁹ In the 2023-24 school year, the four-year graduation rate was **81%** in Yavapai County, above the statewide rate of **78%**.¹⁰⁰ In that same year, the five-year graduation rate was **84%** in Yavapai County, again, above the **81%** statewide.¹⁰¹

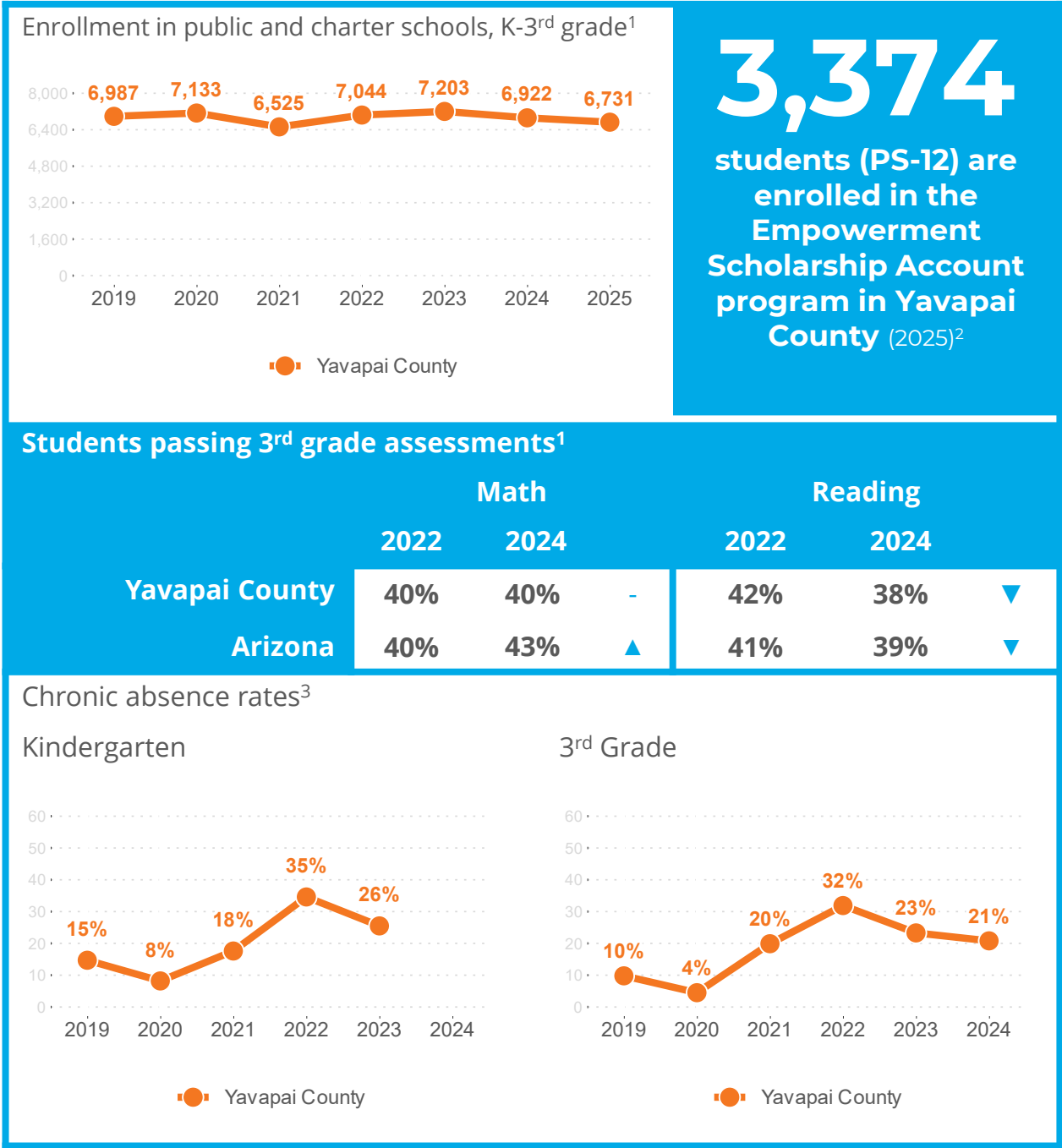
Compared to the U.S. as a whole, Arizona has a larger proportion of disconnected youth, defined as teenagers ages 16 to 19 who are neither attending school nor employed,^p which has been linked to negative physical and mental health outcomes and higher rates of unemployment.¹⁰² Dropout rates for 7th to 12th grade students in Yavapai County increased slightly since the COVID-19 pandemic, remaining at **5%** from the 2020-21 through 2023-24 school years. This was just below the statewide 7th to 12th grade dropout rate in the 2023-24 school year (**5.3%**).¹⁰³

Education is a key mechanism for upward economic mobility. As educational attainment in a population increases, wages increase and rates of unemployment decrease.¹⁰⁴ Of U.S. adults working full time in 2021, median earnings for those with a bachelor's degree were \$29,000 higher than those with a high school degree.¹⁰⁵ According to 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, **92%** of adults in the Yavapai Region had at least a high school education and **30%** had a bachelor's degree or more. Statewide, **89%** of adults had at least a high school education.¹⁰⁶ In

^p Age ranges for "disconnected youth" vary by source, with some estimates including both teenagers ages 16-19 and young adults ages 20-24 and others focusing on only teenagers or young adults.

Figure 11.

K-12 education attendance and achievement



¹ Arizona Department of Education. (2025). [October 1 Enrollment, Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, State Assessment dataset].

² Arizona Department of Education. (2025). [Empowerment Scholarship Account Enrollment].

³ Maricopa Association of Governments. (2026). [ReadOn Arizona MapLIT dashboard reports: enrollment, chronic absences, assessments].

Notes: Chronic absences are defined as children missing 10% or more school days. Schools reported absences data very differently in school year 2019-20 due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to remote learning. Absences data were not available for kindergarteners in school year 2023-24.

addition in the Yavapai Region, almost three in 10 (**28%**) adults had some college but no degree; this includes individuals who received a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or other similar post-secondary credential.

Adult employment

Unemployment and underemployment⁹ can impact families in ways that affect children's health and well-being.¹⁰⁷ Unemployment can limit access to resources that support children's physical and mental health, like health insurance, and can also contribute to family stress, conflict, homelessness and child abuse.^{108, 109} Children with parents who have lost their jobs may also experience poorer school performance and behavioral issues, resulting in grade repetition, suspension or expulsion.¹¹⁰ Unemployment rates in Yavapai County have followed the same trend over time as the state, and have consistently mirrored state rates. After the spike in rates during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, unemployment rates fell in both the county and state. In 2024, the unemployment rate was **4%** in Yavapai County, the same as across Arizona (**4%**). The labor force participation rate includes all persons who are working (employed) or looking for work (unemployed). Persons not in the labor force are largely students, stay-at-home parents, retirees and institutionalized people. According to 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, just under half (**48%**) of the population ages 16 and older participated in the labor force in the Yavapai Region, below the rate across the state (**61%**) and U.S. (**64%**). Conversely, the region's unemployment rate (**4%**) was lower than the state rate (**5%**). Some key employment sectors in Yavapai County include health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food service, construction and public administration.

Key informants identified barriers to employment in the Yavapai Region, noting that salaries do not match the cost of living and that there is a lack of sufficient job opportunities for young families. This often leads families to relocate or commute to adjacent counties due to inadequate employment, aligning with a report noting that almost half of Yavapai County's residents commute to Phoenix, Flagstaff or other surrounding areas for work.¹¹¹ However, the same report highlighted emerging opportunities for the development of firms supporting large-scale industrial chip manufacturing and data center campuses, potentially increasing local employment opportunities in the future.¹¹²

Quality early care and education programs rely on a strong workforce, but factors like low pay make it difficult to recruit and retain these educators. Early care and education is also a field with

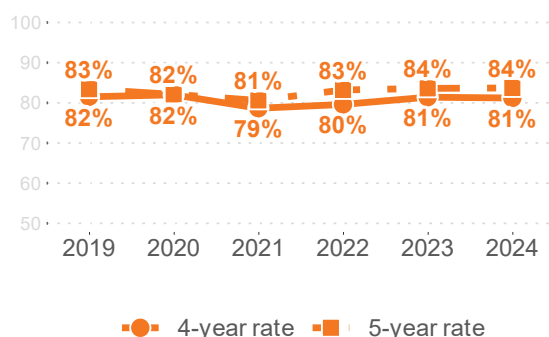
⁹ Underemployment means that someone works fewer hours than they would like or is in a job that does not require the skills or training that they have.

Figure 12.

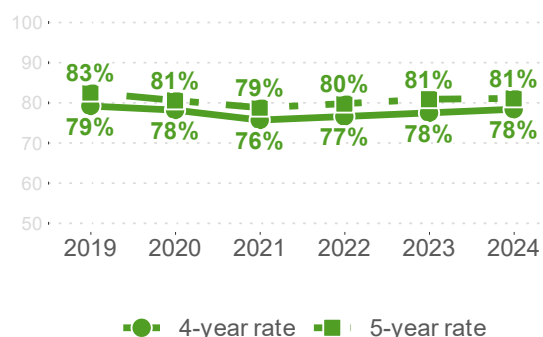
Graduation and adult educational attainment

Trends in 4-year and 5-year graduation rates¹

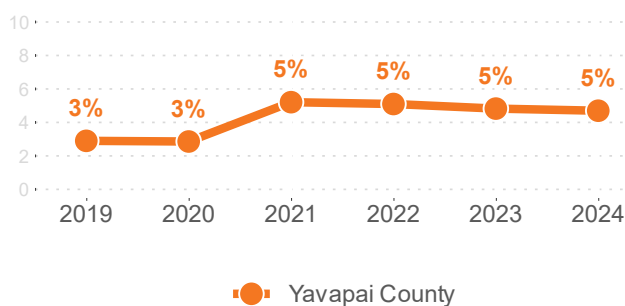
Yavapai County



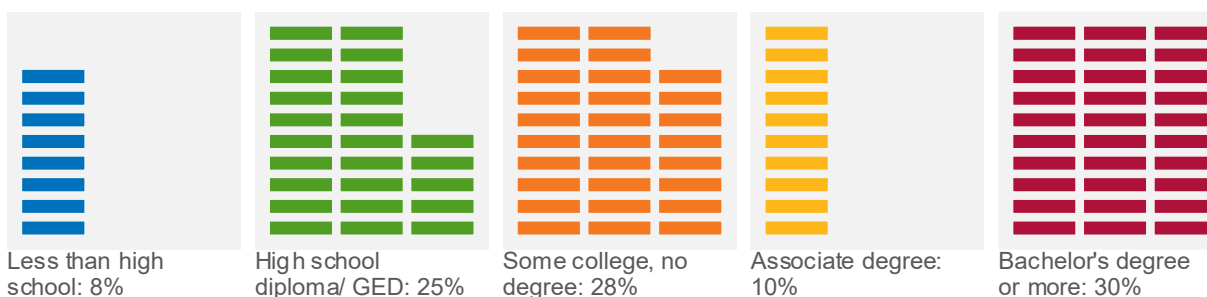
Arizona



Trends in 7th to 12th grade dropout rates¹



Level of education of adults in the Yavapai Region (2023)²



¹ Arizona Department of Education. (2025). [October 1 Enrollment, Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, State Assessment dataset].

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Notes: Graduation rates are calculated as the percentage of students in a cohort (typically those who enter ninth grade together) who graduate within 4 or 5 years. "Dropouts are defined as students who are enrolled in school at any time during the school year, but are not enrolled at the end of the school year and did not transfer, graduate or die" [State of Arizona Department of Education Graduation, Dropout & Persistence Rate Technical Manual].

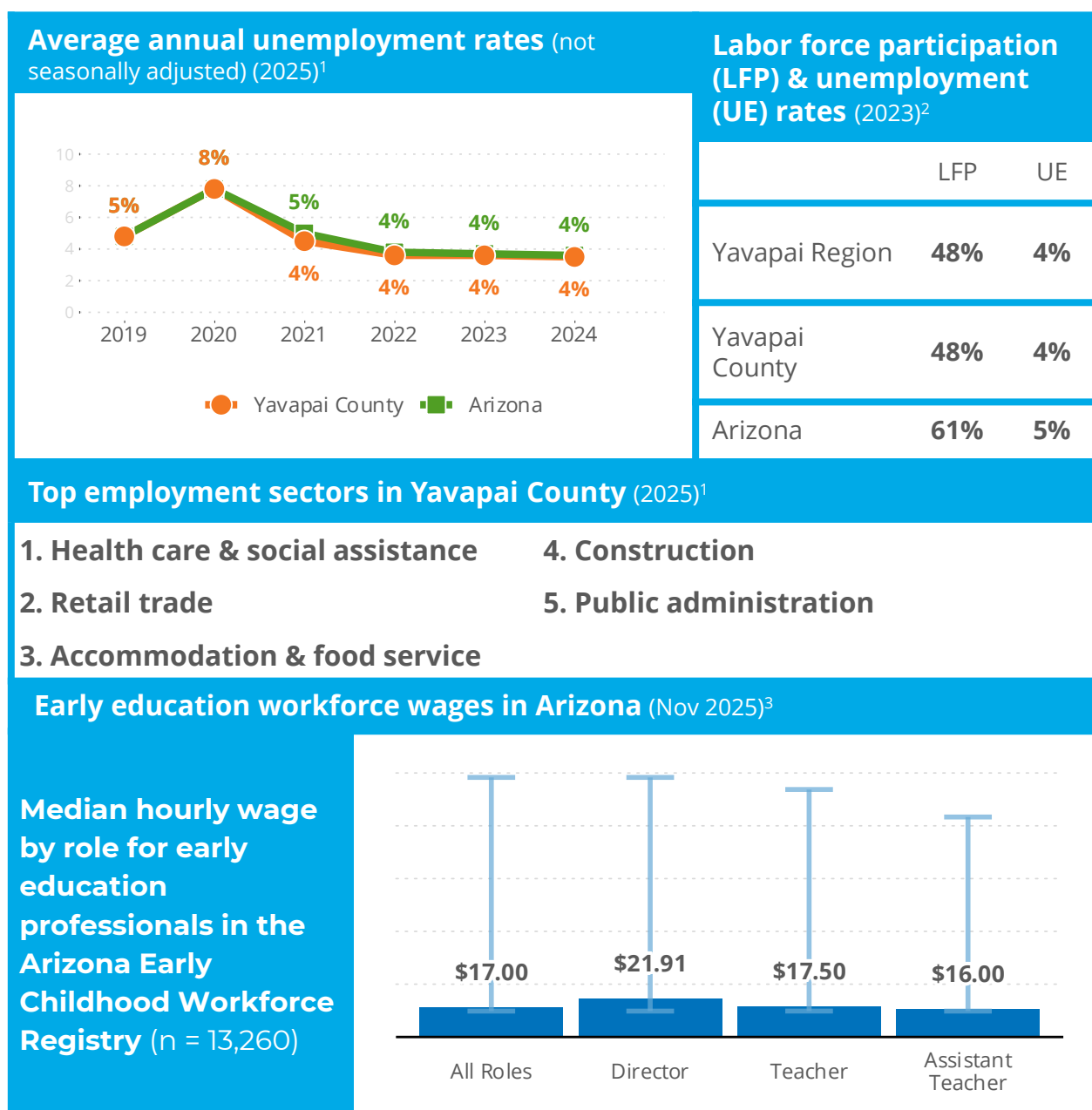
notable pay disparities;^r with those working as a home care provider, in a Head Start program or a public pre-K program getting paid varying amounts despite performing similar work. For example, the average kindergarten teacher's salary in Arizona is about twice that of an early educator for children birth to age 5.¹¹³ In Arizona, there were **13,260** early education professionals active in the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry^s in November 2025. The median wage for registered early education professionals in the state was **\$17/hour**, ranging from **\$21.91/hour** for directors to **\$16/hour** for assistant teachers. All median wages fell below the 2025 self-sufficiency standards for one adult and one infant in Yavapai County (**\$28.19/hour**).¹¹⁴

^r Programs such as Head Start and public pre-K programs receive federal funding supports that often allow for better wages and compensation in these settings compared to child care settings that don't receive these funds.

^s The Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry is Arizona's online hub for early childhood educators to track their employment, formal education, and professional development opportunities throughout their career. Early childhood educators access the registry to explore a directory of training, conferences, and other learning opportunities to support career development; fulfill state regulatory training requirements; apply for scholarships to pursue credentials, certificates, and degrees in early childhood education; and to establish career and professional development goals.

Figure 13.

Adult employment



¹ Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. (2025). [Local Area Unemployment Statistics & Industry Employment datasets].

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

³ First Things First. (2025). [Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry dataset].

Notes: The "labor force" is all persons who are working (employed) or looking for work (unemployed). The "labor force participation rate" is the fraction of the population who are in the labor force, whether employed or unemployed. Persons not in the labor force are mostly students, stay-at-home parents, retirees, and institutionalized people. The "unemployment rate" is the fraction of the civilian labor force who are unemployed. Educator wage data from the Early Childhood Workforce Registry reflect wages from a sample of early educators active in the registry including teachers (n=6,054), assistant teachers (n=5,535), and directors (n=1,671).

CHILD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

Maternal and infant health

Access to quality health care can promote positive health outcomes for mothers and infants.¹¹⁵ Prenatal care is associated with reduced complications during pregnancy and birth, while also providing expectant parents with an opportunity to engage with health professionals.^{116, 117} The rate of timely prenatal care (care initiated in the first trimester) in the Yavapai Region increased from 2019 (**73.1%**) to 2023 (**79.2%**), and was consistently above state rates during same time frame (**68.9%** and **71.4%**). The proportion of births to mothers receiving no prenatal care in the region decreased overall from **1.8%** to **1.6%** between 2019 and 2023, and births to mothers with some prenatal care (i.e., one to four prenatal visits) also decreased from **3.3%** to **2.9%** over the same period. These percentages were also consistently below those seen across the state. Statewide, **2.4%** of births were to mothers receiving no prenatal care and **7.1%** were to mothers with some prenatal care (i.e., one to four prenatal visits) in 2023.

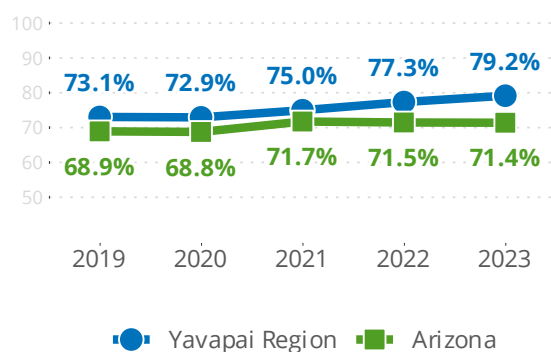
Outside of access to adequate prenatal care, other risk factors like low birth weight, preterm birth and the mother's age at birth can impact child health outcomes.^{118, 119} Low birth weight births (weighing less than 5 pounds and 8 ounces or 2,500 grams) and preterm births (those delivered before 37 weeks of pregnancy) can result in cognitive, respiratory, diabetes and gastrointestinal issues and are one of the largest drivers of infant mortality in the U.S.¹²⁰ The proportion of low-birth-weight births in the Yavapai Region increased slightly overall from 2019 (**7.4%**) to 2023 (**7.8%**), although ending below the state rate of **8.1%** in 2023. Pre-term births fluctuated but increased overall from 2019 (**9.3%**) to 2023 (**9.5%**). In 2019 through 2022, the Yavapai Region met the Healthy People 2030 target for preterm births (no more than **9.4%**) but failed to meet this target in 2023. Arizona has not met the Healthy People 2030 target since 2020, with **9.9%** of births in the state being preterm in 2023.

Teenage parents often experience increased stress and hardship in comparison to adult parents and other non-parent teenagers. They are less likely to complete high school or college and more likely to maintain a lower socioeconomic status and require public assistance to make ends meet.^{121, 122, 123, 124, 125} A larger proportion of births in the Yavapai Region were to teenaged mothers (ages 19 and younger) compared to the state in recent years, with a high of **6.3%** in 2019, a low of **4.6%** in 2021 and ending at **5.5%** in 2023. Across the state, births to teenaged mothers decreased from **5.5%** in 2019 to **4.5%** in 2023.

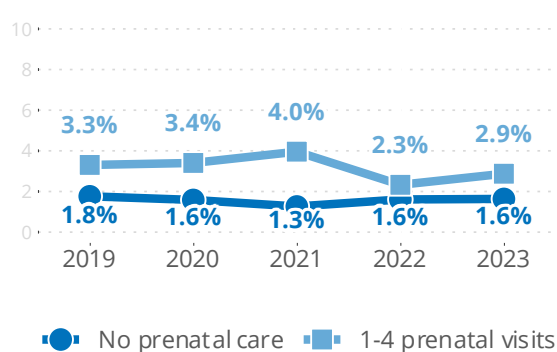
Figure 14.

Maternal and infant health

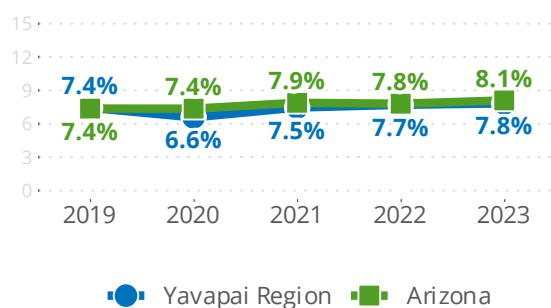
Births to mothers who began prenatal care in the first trimester¹



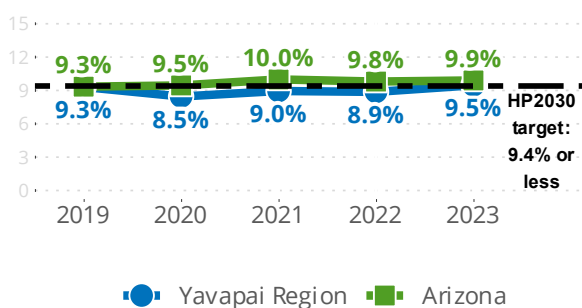
Births to mothers with inadequate prenatal care¹



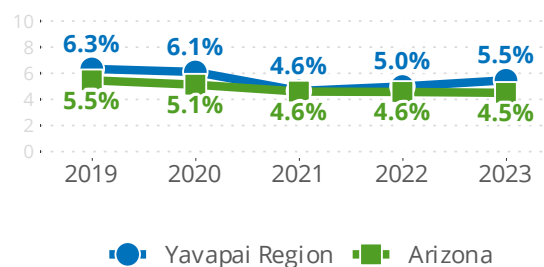
Low birth weight births (less than 2,500 grams)¹



Preterm births (less than 37 weeks gestation)^{1,2}



Births to teenaged mothers¹



¹ Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [Vital Statistic dataset].

² Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2025). [Healthy People 2030 Objectives: MICH-02, MICH-07].

Access to care and service navigation

Health insurance coverage is an important indicator of whether families can access, afford and utilize medical care, including access to well-child visits and developmental screenings at a lower cost. According to 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, **90%** of young children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region had health insurance, a smaller proportion than the **93%** of young children insured statewide.¹²⁶ Between 2019 and 2022, the number of young children birth to age 5 in the region enrolled in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS; Arizona's Medicaid program) steadily increased, reaching a high of **6,827** young children in 2022. Enrollment declined each year after 2022, following statewide trends and likely influenced by the post-pandemic requirement that all members enrolled in AHCCCS reverify their enrollment starting in April 2023.¹²⁷

Well-child visits provide scheduled opportunities for pediatricians to monitor growth and development, administer immunizations, observe familial dynamics and provide guidance to caregivers on essential topics and emerging milestones.^{128, 129, 130} Between 2019 and 2024, the percentage of children birth to age 5 enrolled in AHCCCS in the Yavapai Region with one or more well-child visits ranged from **63%** to **73%**, similar to trends among young children statewide (**66% - 72%**).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that providers ask parents about developmental concerns at all infant and well-child visits and have parents complete a standardized developmental screening at the 9-, 18- and 30-month appointments.¹³¹ Ensuring that children have access to timely and adequate screening and intervention services from birth to age 5 can be key for preparing children for kindergarten. In 2024, **730** developmental screenings for children birth to 5 in the region were covered by AHCCCS. In state fiscal year (SFY) 2025, **fewer than 10** children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region received a developmental screening funded by the First Things First (FTF) Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns strategy. Based on the 2020 Census, young children served through these two sources of developmental screening and assessments represented about **7%** of children birth to age 5 in the region.

According to key informants, while FTF conducted **29** developmental screening assessments, vision screenings and hearing screenings for Yavapai Region children served by the Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns strategy, they also provided vision and hearing screenings to more than **90** children in the broader community to address limited access to developmental screening resources in the region. In addition, they noted other important developmental screening efforts in the region. Little Learners provides at-home screening, Child Find provides age-specific screenings and Head Start programs provide vision, hearing and developmental screenings. A local survey conducted by a key informant further highlighted varying screening practices among medical providers in the Yavapai Region. Across 24 practices,

providers reported using a range of developmental screening approaches, including standardized screening tools, developmental checklists, selective use of standardized tools based on provider judgment and standardized autism screening and assessment tools. However, a local key informant noted that many providers may rely on their own judgement and not a standardized tool to identify developmental concerns.

Oral health is a fundamental component of overall health, well-being and self-confidence. Children with dental pain and lower quality of life due to poor oral health have more school absences and worse academic performance.^{132, 133, 134} In the Yavapai Region, the share of children birth to age 5 who had oral health services billed to AHCCCS generally increased between 2019 and 2024. The proportion of children with a claim for a preventative dental visit increased from **54%** to **58%**, suggesting that more than half of all children with AHCCCS coverage in the region were receiving preventative oral health care. The percent of children with claims for fluoride treatments also increased slightly from **51%** to **53%** during this time. Statewide, in 2024, **48%** of young children with AHCCCS coverage had a preventative dental visit claim and **56%** had a fluoride treatment claim. This suggests that children with AHCCCS coverage in the Yavapai Region had better access to oral health care than children statewide, but that there is room for improvement in the uptake of fluoride varnishes to promote early oral health. While the data reflects oral health services for children enrolled in AHCCCS, key informants also described a strong small business culture in the region, where dental insurance benefits may not be offered. As a result, parents without dental coverage may delay or forego regular dental visits for their children.

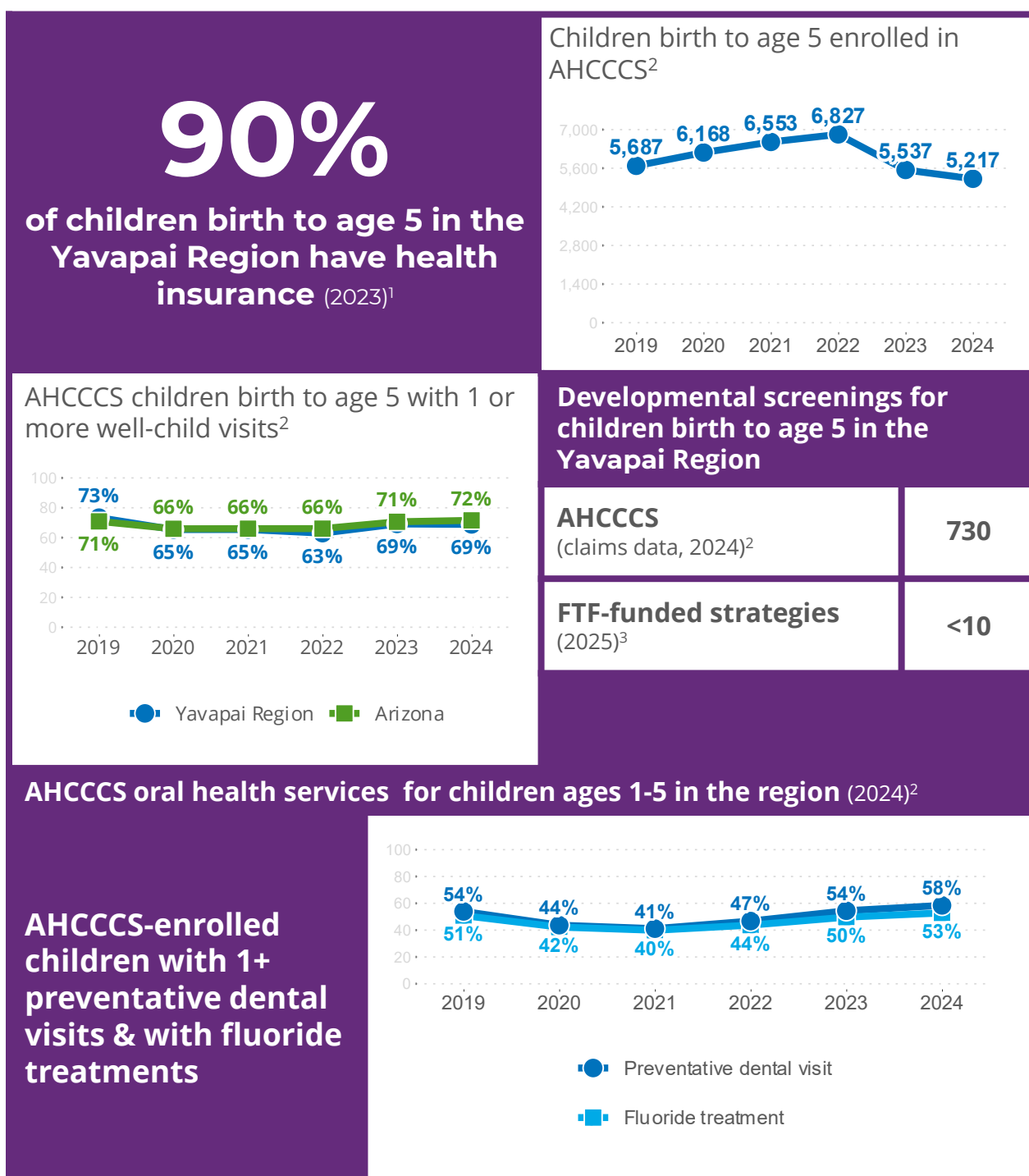
Immunization and child mortality

Immunization serves as the best method to prevent communicable childhood diseases in children and their communities. When enough children are immunized, the protection even extends to those who are unable or who choose not to be vaccinated.¹³⁵ In Arizona, one of the required immunizations to enroll in preschool and kindergarten is measles, mumps and rubella (MMR).¹³⁶ Arizona's MMR immunization rates in kindergarteners declined slightly from **89.9%** (2022-23) to **88.7%** (2024-25), as did the region's coverage from **75.5%** (2022-23) to **75.1%** (2024-25). This means that MMR coverage rates in both the region and state were below the threshold for herd immunity of **95%**, and neither the region nor the state met the Healthy People 2030 target of **95%** or higher.¹³⁷ This is especially concerning as Arizona has been experiencing an active measles outbreak, although positively, Yavapai County had no reported cases of measles as of June 4, 2026.^t

^t For more up-to-date case counts see <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/measles/index.php>

Figure 15.

Access to care and service navigation



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

² ASU CHiR. (2025). [AHCCCS claims dataset].

³ First Things First. (2025). [Home Visitation & Screenings Reach datasets].

Note: AHCCCS data reflect children birth to age 5 with approved insurance claims– these data may not reflect all care provided in the region. Developmental screenings were provided through the FTF-funded Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns strategy. Overall, 29 children received developmental, hearing and vision screenings in the region; most children received hearing and vision screenings.

Children may be exempted from vaccination based on medical restrictions, religious beliefs or personal beliefs. Medical exemptions can apply to students of all ages, while religious belief exemptions apply to students in early care and education programs and personal belief exemptions apply to K-12 students.¹³⁸ Trends in exemptions among children in child care in the Yavapai Region differed from exemptions among kindergarteners. Religious exemptions for children in child care rose steadily from the 2020-21 school year (9.8%) through the 2024-25 school year (15.9%). In contrast, the proportion of kindergarteners in the region receiving a personal belief exemption fluctuated over those years, from a low of 10.8% in the 2020-21 school year to a high of 22.9% the following year and ending at 20.1% in the 2024-25 school year. Similarly, over those years, exemptions from all immunizations showed the same patterns, with child care and kindergarten exemptions increasing overall. The most recent exemption rates from all vaccines for children in child care (12.9%) were much higher than those seen statewide (4.8%) in the 2024-25 school year. The region's rate of exemptions from all immunizations in kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year (13.4%) were also higher than those seen statewide (4.7%).¹³⁹

Healthy People 2030 set a target of no more than 5.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Between 2021 and 2023, the infant mortality rate for the region was 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, above the rate for the state (5.7). This means that neither the region nor the state met the Healthy People 2030 target. Between 2021 and 2023, young child mortality was lower in Yavapai County (25.9 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-4) compared to the state (29.8). Statewide, the leading causes of death for infants were prematurity and suffocation, while drowning was the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 4 years.¹⁴⁰

Young children with special needs

Timely connection with early intervention services—such as speech, physical, occupational and behavioral therapy— can critically shape school readiness and the developmental trajectory of young children with medical conditions, developmental delays and even certain risk factors for delays.¹⁴¹ In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) Early Childhood Special Education Program each play a role in providing services to families with children who have special needs.

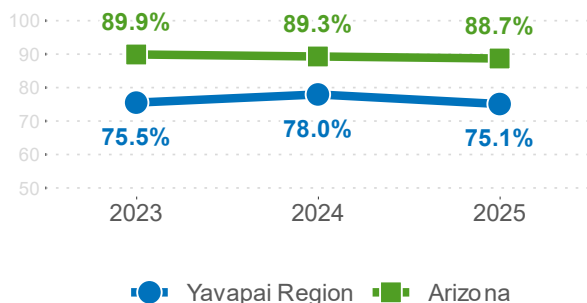
AzEIP^u provides early intervention and a variety of supportive services to families of children birth to age 2 with developmental delays or disabilities.¹⁴² In state fiscal year (SFY) 2024, children birth to

^u For more information on AzEIP (which is a division of the Department of Economic Security), visit <https://www.azdes.gov/azeip/>

Figure 16.

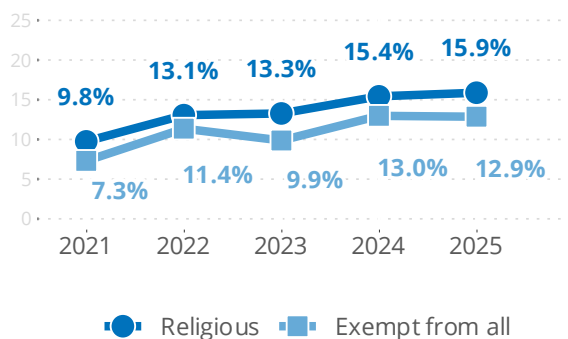
Immunization and child mortality

Kindergarten MMR immunization rates¹

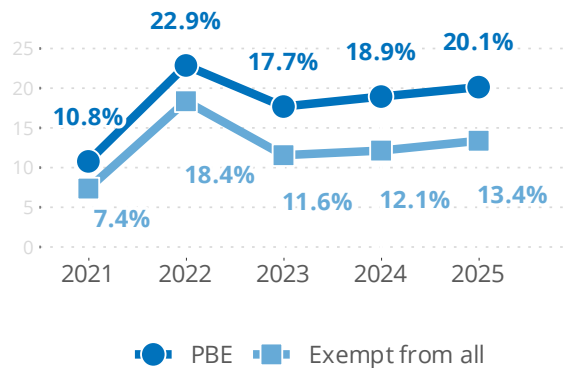


Immunization exemption rates¹

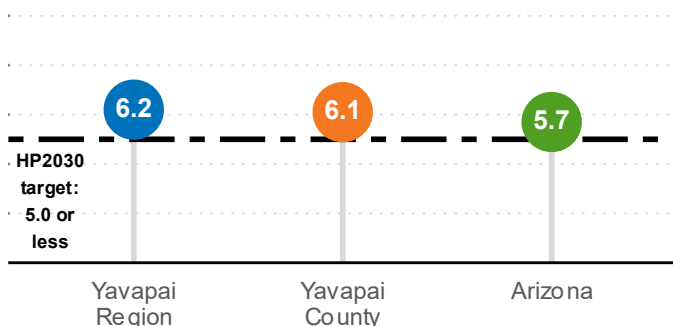
Child care



Kindergarten



Infant mortality rate, deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-2023 combined)^{2,3}



Young child mortality rate, deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-4 (2021-2023 combined)²

Yavapai County	25.9
Arizona	29.8

¹ Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [Child Care & Kindergarten Immunizations datasets].

² Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [Vital Statistic dataset].

³ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2025). [Healthy People 2030 Objectives: MICH-02, MICH-07].

Note: PBE in the kindergarten exemption figure stands for personal belief exemption.

age 2 in the Yavapai Region were most frequently referred to AzEIP by physicians (**67%**). Parents and families were the second most common referral source (**14%**), followed by the Department of Child Safety (**8%**), a health or service agency (**6%**), another source (**3%**) or a hospital or health facility (**2%**).

Four in 10 young children (**40%**) referred to AzEIP in the Yavapai Region were found eligible for services, including **39%** who received services and **1%** found eligible but who had not yet received services. These rates were similar across the state (**37%** and **1%**, respectively). Nearly one in four (**24%**) referred children were assessed as not eligible for services (**19%**) or were screened out (**5%**). In an additional **35%** of referrals, families either could not be reached (**19%**) or were not interested in services (**16%**). Trends were similar across the state -- **22%** of referred children were assessed as not eligible for services, **6%** were screened out, **19%** of families could not be reached, and **13%** of families were not interested in services.

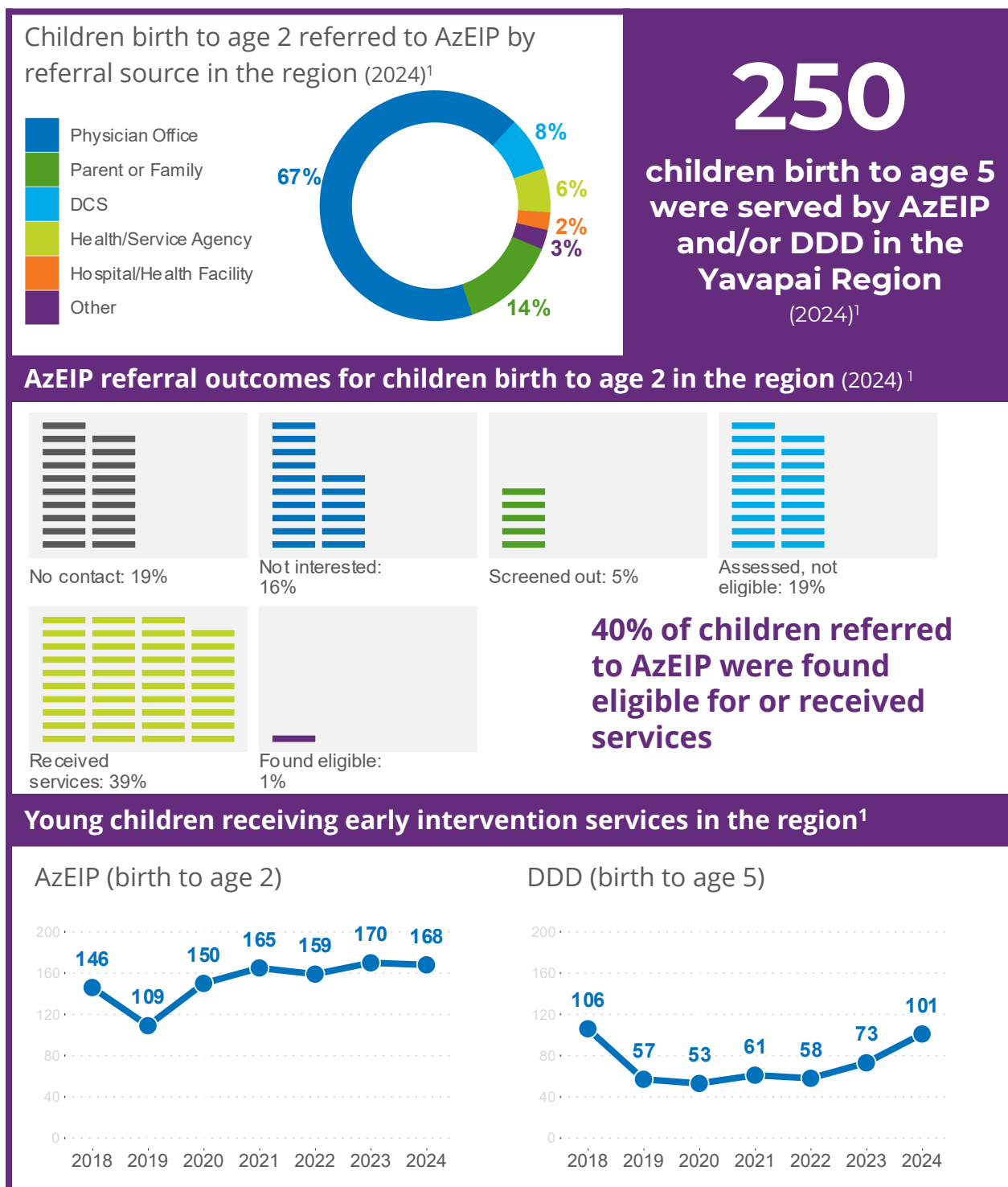
The number of children birth to age 2 who received services from AzEIP increased overall in the region since SFY 2019, with **168** children birth to age 2 receiving these services in SFY 2024. The **168** children served by AzEIP in SFY 2024 represent **3.3%** of children birth to age 2 residing in the region per the 2020 Census. This is higher than the **2.5%** of children birth to age 2 receiving AzEIP services statewide but lower than the proportion of young children accessing early intervention nationally (**4.3%**).¹⁴³ However, national research suggests that many more young children would likely benefit from early intervention than are receiving it.¹⁴⁴ Key informants noted that the absence of an AzEIP office in the Yavapai Region results in inconsistent in-person visits, often requiring families to access services virtually or travel to Phoenix for in-person services.

Children who receive a diagnosis of autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, cognitive or intellectual disability or down syndrome may also become eligible for services through DDD.^v The number of children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai Region receiving DDD services decreased sharply from **106** young children in SFY 2018 to a low of **53** young children in SFY 2020. Service numbers steadily increased after that, to **101** young children served in SFY 2024. Qualifying children may receive services from AzEIP and/or DDD, a number which can be used to estimate the total number of young children receiving early intervention services in a region. A total of **250** children birth to age 5 in the region received services from AzEIP and/or DDD in SFY 2024. This equates to **2.3%** of all children birth to 5 in the Yavapai Region based on estimates from the 2020 Census.

^v For more information on DDD (which is a division of the Department of Economic Security), visit <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities>

Figure 17.

Young children with special needs



¹ Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2024). [Arizona Early Intervention Program & Division of Developmental Disabilities datasets].

Note: Data on young children receiving services reflect the Oct 1 snapshot of AzEIP services, not a cumulative total throughout the year.

Preschool to 3rd grade students with special needs

As a child with special needs approaches age 3, they can be transferred from AzEIP to the Early Childhood Special Education Program to receive services through their local education agency^w (LEA).^x In the Yavapai Region, the number of children aged 3 to 5 receiving special education services through their LEA decreased from a high of **239** in state fiscal year (SFY) 2018 to a low of **163** in SFY 2022. This represents a **32%** decrease over those years. In the same time period across Arizona, the number decreased from **10,123** in SFY 2018 to **8,086** in SFY 2022, representing a **20%** decrease.

Conversely, the number of kindergarten through 3rd grade students enrolled in special education across the state showed an overall increase from SFY 2018 (n = **36,468**) to SFY 2022 (n = **37,334**), as did the region, from **838** children in SFY 2018 to **881** in SFY 2022. These numbers are higher than the early intervention participation would suggest, which may reflect the number of children not getting an adequate assessment of their needs and abilities until they enter the public school system. Key informants observed a notable increasing trend in special education referrals and service needs following the COVID-19 pandemic. They also noted that families with children who have more significant behavioral or developmental needs are often not receiving adequate support from schools due to a lack of adequate capacity, specialized staff and funding. Programs like the YMCA hire behavioral specialists to help provide support, though this is not enough to offset the need across the region.

Of children ages 3 to 5 receiving special needs services, most were diagnosed with a speech language impairment (**42%**) or a developmental delay (DD, **38%**), followed by a diagnosis of preschool severe delay (PSD) (**20%**).^y Speech language impairment (SLI, **35%**) was the most common diagnosis among kindergarten through 3rd grade students in special education, followed by developmental delay (**27%**), another diagnosis^z (**16%**), specific learning disability (SLD, **14%**) or autism (**9%**).

^w For more information on local education agencies, visit <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a/300.28>

^x For more information on ADE's Early Childhood Special Education program, visit <https://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/early-childhood-special-education> and <https://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/early-childhood-special-education-child-find>

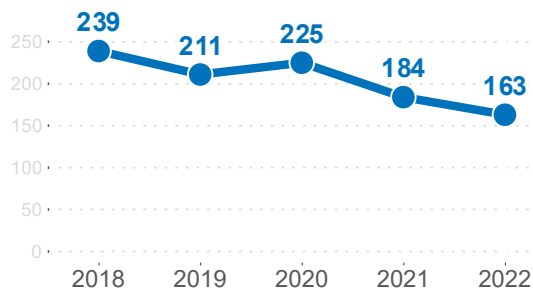
^y In Arizona, preschool severe delay is defined as performance on a norm-referenced assessment that is more than three standard deviations below the mean for typically developing children in the areas of cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional or adaptive development.

Figure 18.

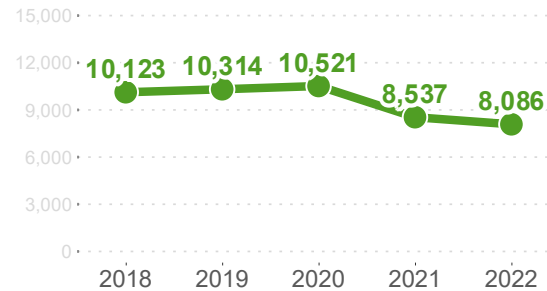
Preschool to 3rd grade students with special needs

Children age 3-5 receiving special education services from local school districts¹

Yavapai Region

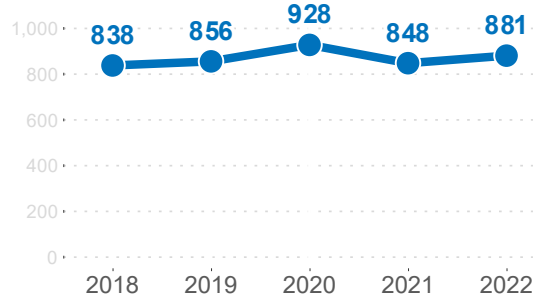


Arizona

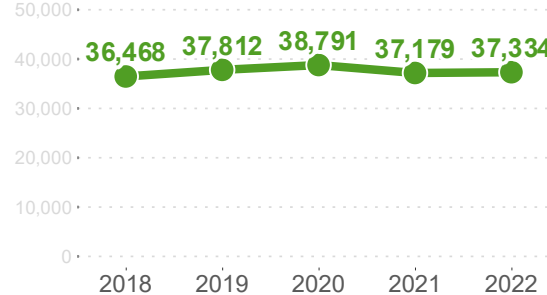


K-3rd grade students enrolled in special education in public and charter schools¹

Yavapai Region

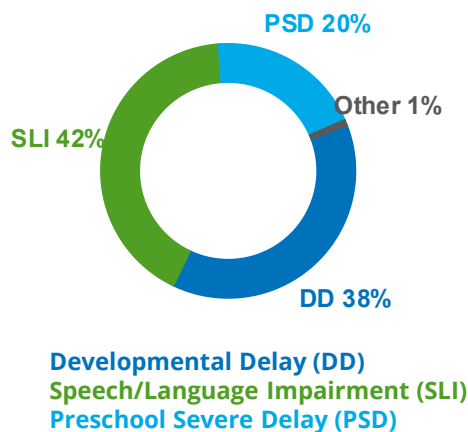


Arizona

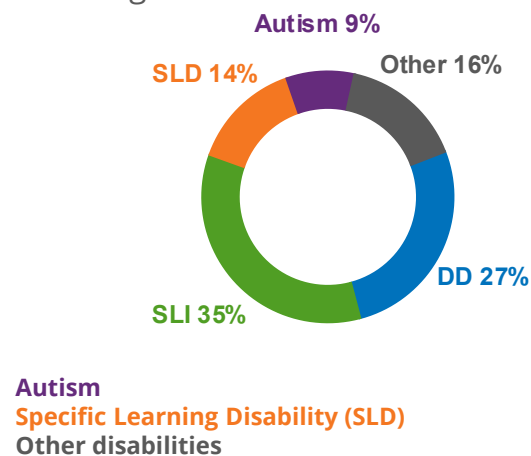


Primary disability for children receiving services in the region (2022)¹

Children ages 3-5



K-3rd grade students



¹ Arizona Department of Education. (2023). [Exceptional Student Services dataset].

Note: Most common disabilities in the "Other" category are other health impairments (these are usually chronic health conditions that affect a child's ability to attend or participate in school), intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, hearing or vision impairment, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, and deaf-blindness.

MAPS & METHODS

Methods

U.S. Census and American Community Survey Data. The U.S. Census^{aa} is an enumeration of the population of the United States conducted every ten years, and includes information about housing, race, and ethnicity. The 2020 U.S. Census data are available by census block. There are about 108,000 inhabited blocks in Arizona, each with an average population of 66 people. The 2020 U.S. Census data for the region presented in this report were calculated by identifying each block in the region and aggregating the data across all of those blocks. With the implementation of new privacy measures by the U.S. Census, some data previously available at the block level, such as grandchildren living in a grandparent's households or counts of households with children birth to age 5, are now only published at the block group or tract level. Regional estimates for these indicators were calculated by aggregating data over the census tracts which are wholly or partially contained within the region. Data from partial census tracts were apportioned according to the percentage of the 2020 U.S. Census population in that tract living inside the region.

The American Community Survey (ACS)^{bb} is a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau each month by mail, telephone and face-to-face interviews. It covers many different topics, including income, language, education, employment and housing. ACS data are available by census tract. Arizona is divided into approximately 1,750 census tracts, each with an average population of 3,900 people. ACS data for the region were calculated by aggregating over the census tracts which are wholly or partially contained in the region. The data from partial census tracts were apportioned according to the percentage of the 2020 U.S. Census population in that tract living inside the region. The most recent and most reliable ACS data are averaged over the past five years; those are the data included in this report. They are based on surveys conducted from 2019 to 2023. In general, the reliability of ACS estimates is greater for more populated areas. Statewide estimates, for example, are more reliable than county-level estimates.

Child care capacity calculations. Lists of child care providers are maintained by multiple state agencies in Arizona, including the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), which licenses child care centers; the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), which maintains the list of child care providers in Arizona who are active within the National Data System of Child Care

^z The most common disabilities in the "Other" category are other health impairments (these are usually chronic health conditions that affect a child's ability to attend or participate in school), intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, hearing or vision impairment, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments and deaf-blindness.

^{aa} For more information, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>

^{bb} For more information, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>

NACCRRAware database; the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), which tracks preschool enrollment in public and charter schools; and First Things First (FTF), which administers the Quality First program. The ADHS child care licensing database was used as the primary source for child care capacity calculations in this report, as analyses of both statewide and region-level data showed that most child care slots for regulated providers in the region are provided by centers. Centers that only serve children ages 5-12 were removed from child care capacity calculations, as these are typically before- & after-school programs that only serve school-age children. This report also used data from the DES child care provider list to estimate the number of registered care providers and their capacity by type of provider: centers (including Head Start centers), schools and homes (both group home and family home providers). For all tables, providers were geocoded to regions and sub-regions using addresses or coordinates provided in the state agency datasets to assign them to regions and sub-regions. Comparisons of child care capacity to the young child population are meant to provide a relative assessment of the abundance or scarcity of child care supply relative to potential demand. The child care data in this report do not reflect the capacity of unlicensed, unregulated or informal child care providers in the region. The estimated supply may also over-estimate availability in regulated care as it did not account for child care providers that operate under licensed capacity by choice or children who enroll in multiple facilities (e.g., a child who attends part-day Head Start or school-based preschool in the morning and a child care center in the afternoon).

First Things First (FTF) strategy data. Data related to FTF-funded strategies were provided for this report by FTF staff. These data included regional estimates of oral health indicators and hearing, vision, socio-emotional and developmental screening reach, zip code-level service data for home visitation programs, statewide workforce registry wage data and provider-level Quality First participation and enrollment data. The vendor used an apportioning file provided by FTF to create regional estimates of home visitation services from the zip-code level file.

Early education and service data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). Data related to child care assistance, Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) referrals, outcomes and services, and Division of Developmental Disabilities services were provided by DES. These data were geocoded to regions and sub-regions by staff at DES using a custom shapefile provided by the vendor.

Health data from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). Data related to births, infant and maternal health, immunization rates at child care and school facilities, infant and child mortality and enrollment and participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) were provided by ADHS. All data apart from immunization data were geocoded to regions and sub-regions by staff at ADHS using a custom shapefile provided by the vendor. The vendor geocoded child care and school facilities to regions using addresses or coordinates provided in the immunization datasets to create custom immunization coverage estimates.

Health data from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). FTF partnered with the Arizona State University Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR) to create custom tabulations of health claims data for young children birth to age 5 enrolled in AHCCCS health care plans. These estimates, at the state, county, regional and sub-regional levels, were provided to the vendor for inclusion in this report.

Employment and industry data from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). Data for unemployment rates^{cc} and major employment sectors^{dd} were obtained from the OEO for counties and multi-county areas (which combine 2-4 small counties to produce a more reliable estimate). The top five employment sectors for each county or multi-county area reflect those with the most overall employees in Quarter 4 of 2024. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, the underlying data source for these employment estimates, does not capture farm employment, so agricultural workers are not reflected in these data.

Education data from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). For past FTF Regional Needs and Assets reports, regional estimates for education data were obtained through a custom tabulation of unredacted data files provided by ADE. Access to unredacted data files was not available for this report. Instead, publicly-available data files published by ADE^{ee} were used to examine trends in enrollment, assessment results, graduation and dropout rates, and data on chronic absenteeism were obtained via the Maricopa Association of Governments and ReadOn Arizona MAPLit data tool.^{ff} Due to the frequency of data suppression in these files to protect student privacy, data could not be reliably aggregated across schools or districts to create regional estimates. Data on services for students with disabilities by grade are not publicly available for geographies smaller than the state, so custom regional estimates from the 2024 Regional Needs and Assets reports were used in this report.

Change calculations. Unless otherwise specified, changes in counts of data over time (i.e., percent increase or decrease) are calculated by subtracting the earlier number (e.g., a 2010 count) from the later number (e.g. the 2020 count) and dividing the result by the earlier number (e.g. the 2010 count). This calculation provides the percent change between the most recent count and the prior count, relative to the prior count.

Data availability. State agency data in this report were provided to FTF by agency staff through a data request process initiated in February 2025 and extending to March 2026. Wherever possible, data were requested for multiple years to allow for the visualization of trends as well as for the

^{cc} For more information, see <https://o eo .az.gov/labor-market/unemployment>

^{dd} For more information, see <https://o eo .az.gov/labor-market/industry-employment>

^{ee} For more information, see <https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/data>

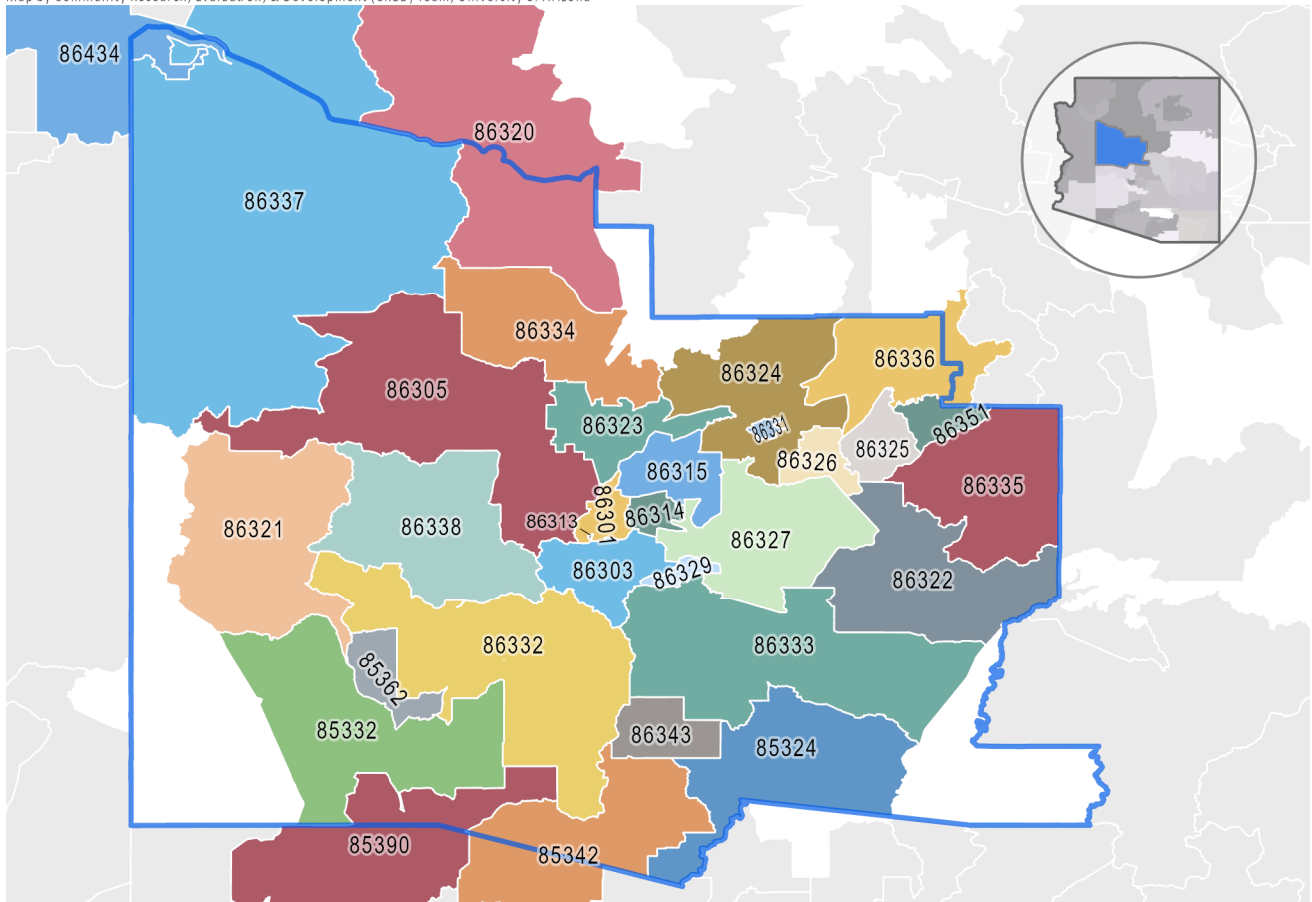
^{ff} For more information, see <https://geo.azmag.gov/maps/readonaz/>

most recent year available. However, due to both the constraints of agency staff and agency-maintained datasets as well as the timing of requests, not all data were available on the same time and geographic scales. This report attempts to include the most recent and complete data available, with notes indicating where data were not available for particular time periods or geographies.

Data suppression. To protect the confidentiality of program participants, the FTF Data Dissemination and Suppression Guidelines preclude reporting of social service and early education programming data if the count is less than 10 and data related to health or developmental delay if the count is less than 6. In addition, some data received from state agencies are suppressed according to their own guidelines. ADHS does not report counts between 1 and 5; DES does not report counts between 1 and 9; ADE does not report counts less than 11. Additionally, ADE requires suppression of the second-smallest value or the denominator in tables where a reader might be able to use the numbers provided to calculate a suppressed value. Throughout this report, information which is not available because of suppression guidelines is indicated by entries of "<6" or "<10" or "<11" for counts, or "DS" (data suppressed) for percentages. Data are sometimes not available for particular regions, either because a program did not operate in the region or because data are only available at the county level. Cases where data are not available will be indicated by an entry of "N/A", "NA" or a note that states "data not available."

Map of Zip Codes in the Region

Map by Community Research, Evaluation, & Development (CRED) Team, University of Arizona



Source: Custom map by the Community Research, Evaluation, & Development (CRED) Team using shapefiles obtained from First Things First and the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefiles (<https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/geo/shapefiles/index.php>)

Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) in the Yavapai Region

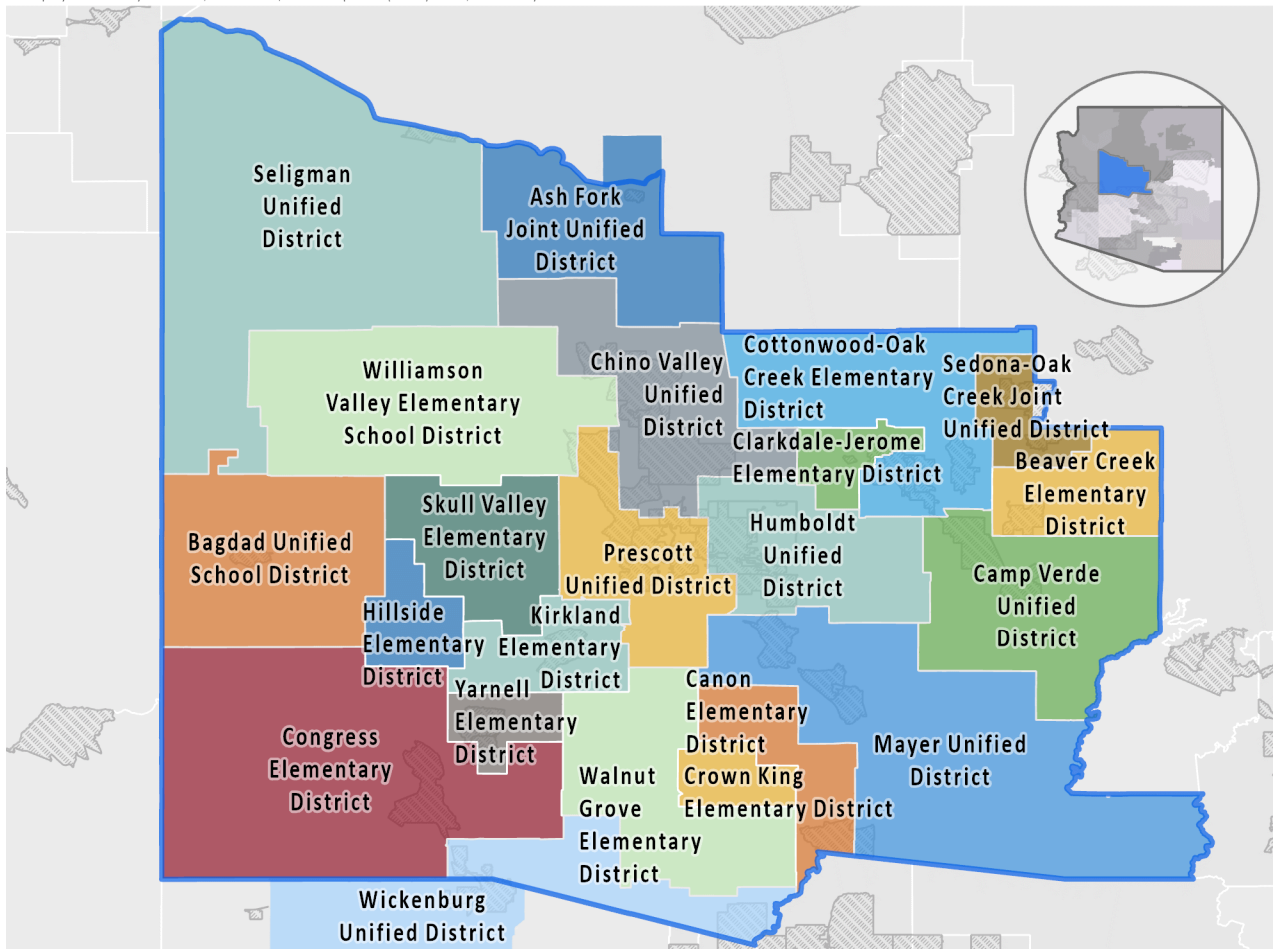
Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)	Population (all ages)	Percent of this ZCTA's total population living in the Yavapai Region	This ZCTA is shared with
Yavapai Region	238,756		
85324	2,720	100%	
85332	1,912	100%	
85342	76	5.1%	Northwest Maricopa
85362	569	100%	
85390	1,398	15.4%	Northwest Maricopa
86301	25,115	100%	
86303	18,201	100%	
86305	19,555	100%	
86313	92	100%	
86314	39,461	100%	
86315	10,354	100%	
86320	972	46.0%	Coconino Region
86321	2,234	100%	
86322	12,696	100%	
86323	18,422	100%	
86324	4,544	100%	
86325	5,472	100%	
86326	24,465	100%	
86327	11,530	100%	
86329	1,288	100%	
86331	515	100%	
86332	1,716	100%	
86333	5,886	100%	
86334	5,261	100%	
86335	5,229	100%	
86336	10,662	95.8%	Coconino Region
86337	1,283	97.8%	Coconino Region
86338	587	100%	
86343	88	100%	
86351	6,398	100%	
86434	38	2.7%	Hualapai Tribe Region, La Paz/Mohave Region

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020). 2020 Decennial Census, Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table P1

Note: With the implementation of differential privacy in the 2020 Census, small area estimates now have injected 'noise' (error) to prevent accidental disclosure of Census responses. Geographies that are not primary census geographies, like ZCTAs, have noisier (or less accurate) estimates than primary geographies, like tracts.

Map of School Districts in the Region

Map by Community Research, Evaluation, & Development (CRED) Team, University of Arizona



Source: Custom map by the Community Research, Evaluation, & Development (CRED) Team using shapefiles obtained from First Things First and the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefiles (<https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/geo/shapefiles/index.php>)

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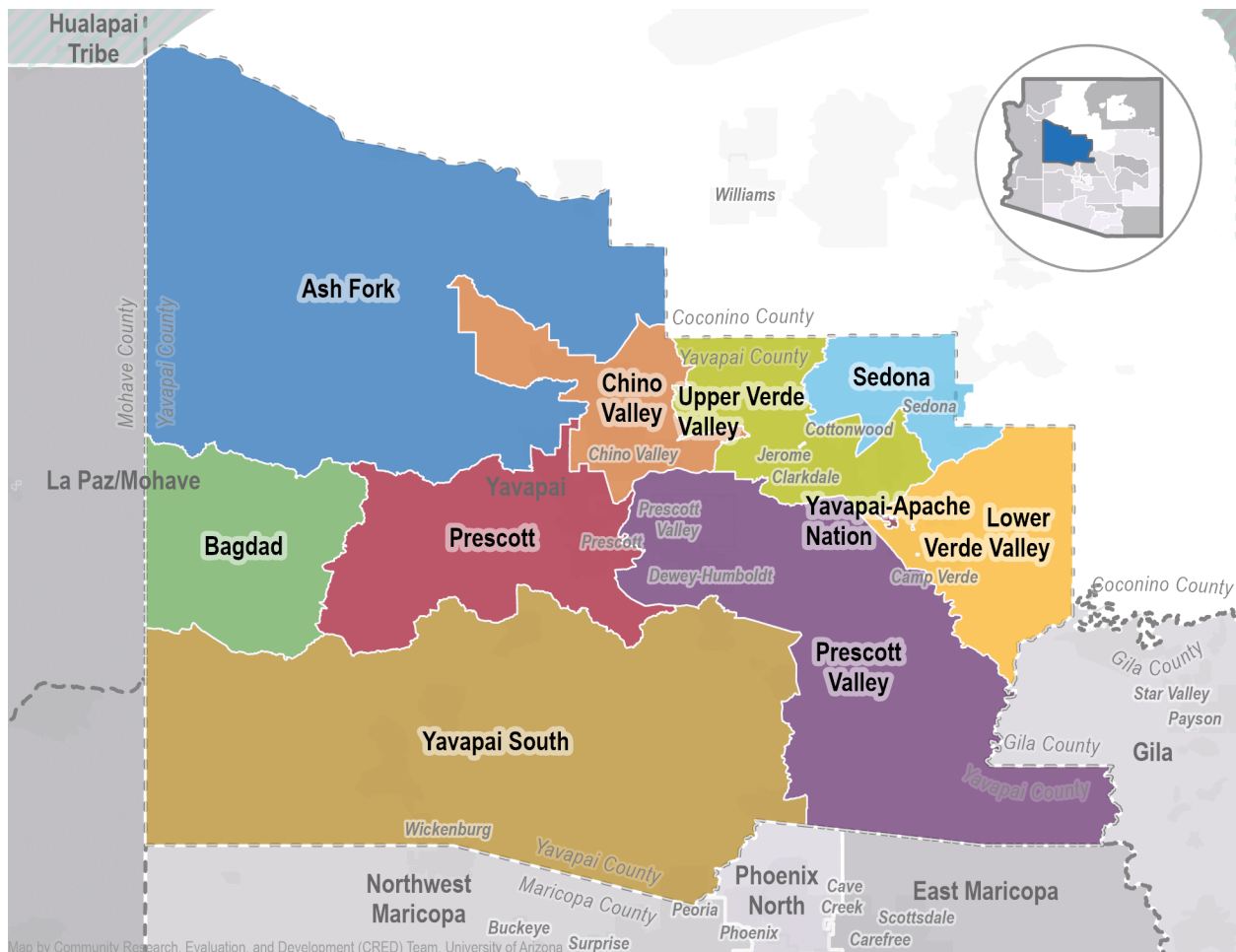
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SUB-REGIONAL FACTSHEETS

Communities vary in terms of needs and assets, even within the same First Things First (FTF) Region. In recognition of this, the following factsheets present a selection of indicators from this Regional Needs and Assets report at the sub-regional level. Examining differences within the region can help Regional Partnership Councils and local stakeholders focus their strategies and efforts to use resources effectively.

Sub-regions in the Yavapai Region



This appendix includes factsheets that provide information about nine sub-regions within the Yavapai Region, as well as a narrative supplemental report specific to the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The **Ash Fork** sub-region is defined as one census tract and one block group (21, excluding the small portion on the lands of the Hualapai Tribe & 12.01 block group 2) and contains the Census Designated Places (CDPs) of Ash Fork and Seligman.

The **Bagdad** sub-region is defined as one census tract (13) and contains the CDP of Bagdad.

The **Chino Valley** sub-region is defined as six census tracts and three block groups (2.05, 2.07-2.11 & 2.06 block groups 1-3) and contains the town of Chino Valley and the CDP of Paulden.

The **Prescott** sub-region is comprised of 20 census tracts and seven block groups (3.01-4.07, 7.02-9.02, 10.2-10.04, 11.03-11.06, 12.02, 2.06 block group 4, 5.02 block groups 2-3, 7.01 block groups 1-2 & 12.01 block group 1). It contains the city of Prescott, the CDP of Williamson and the lands of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, but data specific to the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe were not included because permissions have not been granted in this reporting cycle.

The **Prescott Valley** sub-region is defined as 17 census tracts and four block groups (5.01, 6.04, 6.08, 6.09, 6.11-6.19, 15.01, 5.02 block group 1 & 4, 7.01 block group 3 & 19.02 block group 3) and contains the town of Prescott Valley and the CDP of Dewey-Humboldt.

The **Sedona** sub-region is defined as seven census tracts and one block group (17.03, 17.05, 18.01, 18.03-18.04, the portions of Coconino County tracts 16.01 & 16.02 that are within the Yavapai Region & 17.04 block group 2). It contains the entire city of Sedona (including the portion in Coconino County) and the Village of Oak Creek.

The **Upper Verde Valley** sub-region is defined as eight census tracts and three block groups (17.01, 19.01, 19.03-20.03, 20.05-20.07, 17.04 block group 1 & 19.02 block groups 1-2). It contains the city of Cottonwood, the towns of Clarkdale and Jerome and the CDPs of Cornville and Verde Village.

The **Lower Verde Valley** sub-region is defined as four census tracts (16.01, 16.02 & 16.04-16.05) and contains the town of Camp Verde, the CDP of Lake Montezuma and the unincorporated community of Rim Rock. This sub-region also contains all five portions of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation.

The **Yavapai South** sub-region is defined as four census tracts (14.01-14.03 & 15.02). It contains the CDPs of Black Canyon City, Congress, Cordes Lakes, Hillside, Mayer, Peeples Valley, Yarnell and Wilhoit, the unincorporated communities of Skull Valley and Crown King and the northernmost portion of the town of Wickenburg that is within Yavapai County.

The **Yavapai-Apache Nation** is located in the Verde Valley of Arizona which the federal government designated to be shared by both the Yavapai and Tonto Apache people in non-contiguous parcels across 2,000 acres in Camp Verde, Middle Verde, Clarkdale, Tunlii and Rimrock.

A guide to the factsheets

Each factsheet contains data for a selection of indicators at the state, region and sub-regional level. Where possible, two timepoints are shown for each indicator with an arrow to indicate the direction of the trend (increase, decrease, no change) in the sub-region. In some cases, data were not available for a specific sub-region, indicated with **NA**. Additionally, some data were suppressed to protect individual data privacy in accordance with the FTF Data Policy, indicated with **DS**. The data in these factsheets were obtained through custom tabulations of publicly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau and through FTF requests to state agencies, specifically the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) via a partnership with the Arizona State University Center for Health Information & Research (CHiR). More details on how these tabulations and requests were made can be found in the *Maps & Methods Appendix* of this report.

The indicators included in each tabular factsheet are defined as follows:

Indicator	Description	Source
Total population	Overall population of all ages	2020 U.S. Census
Population of children (0-5)	Population of children birth to age 5	
Population living in poverty	Percent of the overall population living in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty threshold	2014-2018 & 2019-2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates
Children (0-5) living in poverty	Percent of children birth to age 5 living in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty threshold	
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level)	Number of children birth to age 5 living in households with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (the income eligibility threshold for WIC)	
Housing costs 30% or more of household income	Percent of households spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs (i.e., considered “housing cost-burdened”)	
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force	Percent of children birth to age 5 who live in households with all present parents who work or are looking for work (i.e., live with one parent who works or live with two parents, both of whom work)	
Language other than English spoken at home	Percent of households that speak Spanish or another language (other than English or Spanish). The most common languages spoken in the “Another” language category in Arizona are Native North American languages.	

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Indicator	Description	Source
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots	Number of children birth to age 5 per available licensed child care slots. An area is considered a child care desert when the ratio of children to slots exceeds 3.0.	2020 U.S. Census; Oct 2023 & Jan 2025 ADHS licensing datasets
Registered care providers in 2025	Number of registered early care and education providers and their licensed capacity to enroll children. Providers are shown by type: centers (including Head Start centers), schools and homes (both group home and family home providers). Please note that capacity numbers are often higher than actual enrollment.	2025 DES child care provider dataset
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance	Number of children birth to age 5 receiving DES child care assistance (not including those involved in the child welfare system)	2023 & 2024 DES
Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)	Percent of adults with at least a high school education (i.e., a high school diploma, some college, an associate, Bachelor's or advanced degree) or a Bachelor's degree or more (i.e., a Bachelor's or advanced degree)	2014-2018 & 2019-2023 ACS estimates
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older)	Percent of adults who self-reported that they were unemployed	
Total births	Total number of births in the area, based on address provided on the birth certificate	2020-2021 & 2022-2023 ADHS Vital Statistics dataset
Maternal age 19 or younger	Percent of births to mothers age 19 or younger	
Low birth weight (<2500 grams)	Percent of babies born weighing 2,500 grams or less	
Preterm births (<37 weeks)	Percent of babies born at 37 weeks of gestation or earlier. The Healthy People 2030 target is 9.4% or less.	
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	Percent of births to mothers who had at least five prenatal visits	
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS	Number of children birth to age 5 enrolled in an insurance plan through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	2022 & 2024 AHCCCS claims data processed by ASU CHiR
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) with at least 1 primary care provider visit	Percent of children birth to age 5 enrolled in AHCCCS who had a claim for at least one primary care visit	
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD or both services	Number of children birth to age 5 who received AzEIP, DDD or both services	SFY 2023 & 2024 DES

Ash Fork	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Ash Fork	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	3,744	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	116	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	27.6% 9.5%	↓
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	67.3% 0.0%	↓
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	79.7% 30.4%	↓
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	25.8% 18.6%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	32.7% 55.7%	↑
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	6.7% 1.2%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	4.6 4.6	↔
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	2 36	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	0 0	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	0 0	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	DS DS	
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	86.7% 89.7%	↑
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	19.0% 25.4%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	5.0% 10.2%	↑
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	54 45	↓
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	DS DS	
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	14.8% DS	
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	20.4% 17.8%	↓
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	75.9% 86.7%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	113 110	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	76.1% 73.6%	↓
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	DS 10	

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Ash Fork sub-region is defined as one census tract and one block group (21, excluding the small portion on the lands of the Hualapai Tribe & 12.01 block group 2) and contains the Census Designated Places (CDPs) of Ash Fork and Seligman.

Bagdad	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Bagdad	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	2,191	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	213	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	1.5% 14.4%	↑
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	0.0% 31.7%	↑
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	15.4% 38.3%	↑
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	2.4% 3.6%	↑
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	24.6% 21.3%	↓
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	31.0% 0.0%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	1.8 1.8	↔
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	2 192	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	2 50	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	0 0	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	DS DS	
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	87.9% 97.2%	↑
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	10.7% 8.8%	↓
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	0.0% 2.6%	↑
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	65 72	↑
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	DS DS	
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	DS 8.3%	
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	DS 12.5%	
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	93.8% 100.0%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	54 42	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	77.8% 61.9%	↓
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	DS DS	

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Bagdad sub-region is defined as one census tract (13) and contains the Bagdad CDP.

Chino Valley	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Chino Valley	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	23,405	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	1,425	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	16.1%	14.0%	10.4%	↑
	2019-2023	12.8%	12.6%	10.7%	
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	24.9%	22.0%	10.8%	↑
	2019-2023	17.9%	21.3%	18.3%	
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	47.2%	49.0%	40.6%	↑
	2019-2023	38.1%	43.8%	58.1%	
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018	30.4%	32.2%	29.3%	↓
	2019-2023	29.4%	28.8%	28.1%	
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018	61.1%	54.4%	35.3%	↑
	2019-2023	64.4%	59.5%	49.4%	
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish	19.2%	8.5%	6.0%	
	Another	6.4%	2.4%	1.8%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023	2.0	2.5	3.3	↔
	Jan 2025	2.0	2.4	3.3	
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number	2,427	94	7	
	Capacity	260,689	6,006	537	
Schools	Number	714	11	2	
	Capacity	72,967	909	300	
Homes	Number	755	5	1	
	Capacity	5,063	35	4	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023	35,375	611	64	↓
	2024	35,153	627	63	
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018	86.8%	90.4%	87.4%	↑
	2019-2023	89.1%	92.5%	90.6%	
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018	28.9%	25.6%	15.4%	↑
	2019-2023	32.6%	29.8%	19.6%	
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	6.4%	6.8%	5.8%	↓
	2019-2023	5.1%	4.2%	3.7%	
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021	154,638	3,447	438	↑
	2022-2023	156,236	3,579	457	
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021	4.9%	5.4%	5.3%	↓
	2022-2023	4.5%	5.2%	4.4%	
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021	7.6%	7.0%	5.7%	↑
	2022-2023	7.9%	7.8%	6.8%	
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021	9.7%	8.7%	7.5%	↑
	2022-2023	9.8%	9.2%	8.3%	
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021	91.0%	93.8%	96.1%	↑
	2022-2023	91.7%	95.5%	96.3%	
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022	277,455	6,827	942	↓
	2024	223,506	5,217	660	
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022	83.0%	81.3%	79.9%	↑
	2024	86.0%	83.7%	80.9%	
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023	9,991	241	34	↓
	SFY 2024	10,706	250	24	

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Chino Valley sub-region is defined as six census tracts and three block groups (2.05, 2.07-2.11 & 2.06 block groups 1-3) and contains the town of Chino Valley and the Paulden CDP.

Lower Verde Valley	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Lower Verde Valley	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	17,580	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	1,087	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	21.0% 18.9%	↓
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	30.1% 47.1%	↑
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	51.5% 53.9%	↑
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	29.7% 26.1%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	61.3% 74.0%	↑
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	8.4% 1.5%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	3.1 3.1	↔
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	6 426	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	2 50	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	0 0	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	80 67	↓
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	85.6% 88.0%	↑
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	16.6% 20.1%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	8.8% 3.9%	↓
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	273 327	↑
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	9.9% 7.3%	↓
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	6.6% 6.1%	↓
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	5.5% 4.0%	↓
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	89.7% 95.7%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	691 521	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	81.6% 86.8%	↑
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	19 21	↑

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.
NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Lower Verde Valley sub-region is defined as four census tracts (16.01, 16.02 & 16.04-16.05) and contains the town of Camp Verde, the Lake Montezuma CDP and the unincorporated community of Rim Rock. This sub-region also contains all five portions of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Reservation.

Prescott Valley	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Prescott Valley	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	65,477	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	3,657	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	16.1%	14.0%	14.3%	
	2019-2023	12.8%	12.6%	12.2%	↓
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	24.9%	22.0%	17.6%	
	2019-2023	17.9%	21.3%	22.2%	↑
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	47.2%	49.0%	47.5%	
	2019-2023	38.1%	43.8%	47.3%	↓
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018	30.4%	32.2%	32.3%	
	2019-2023	29.4%	28.8%	29.6%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018	61.1%	54.4%	52.2%	
	2019-2023	64.4%	59.5%	63.6%	↑
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish	19.2%	8.5%	11.3%	
	Another	6.4%	2.4%	2.0%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023	2.0	2.5	2.5	
	Jan 2025	2.0	2.4	2.6	↑
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number	2,427	94	27	
	Capacity	260,689	6,006	1,785	
Schools	Number	714	11	0	
	Capacity	72,967	909	0	
Homes	Number	755	5	1	
	Capacity	5,063	35	10	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023	35,375	611	141	
	2024	35,153	627	153	↑
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018	86.8%	90.4%	88.9%	
	2019-2023	89.1%	92.5%	91.1%	↑
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018	28.9%	25.6%	20.1%	
	2019-2023	32.6%	29.8%	24.0%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	6.4%	6.8%	7.1%	
	2019-2023	5.1%	4.2%	3.9%	↓
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021	154,638	3,447	1,113	
	2022-2023	156,236	3,579	1,172	↑
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021	4.9%	5.4%	4.0%	
	2022-2023	4.5%	5.2%	4.9%	↑
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021	7.6%	7.0%	7.3%	
	2022-2023	7.9%	7.8%	8.2%	↑
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021	9.7%	8.7%	9.2%	
	2022-2023	9.8%	9.2%	10.4%	↑
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021	91.0%	93.8%	96.0%	
	2022-2023	91.7%	95.5%	96.8%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022	277,455	6,827	2,137	
	2024	223,506	5,217	1,681	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022	83.0%	81.3%	81.5%	
	2024	86.0%	83.7%	83.4%	↑
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023	9,991	241	74	
	SFY 2024	10,706	250	90	↑

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR
NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.
NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Prescott Valley sub-region is defined as 17 census tracts and four block groups (5.01, 6.04, 6.08, 6.09, 6.11-6.19, 15.01, 5.02 block group 1 & 4, 7.01 block group 3 & 19.02 block group 3) and contains the town of Prescott Valley and the Dewey-Humboldt CDP.

Prescott	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Prescott	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	60,243	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	1,865	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	16.1%	14.0%	11.6%	↓
	2019-2023	12.8%	12.6%	11.1%	
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018	24.9%	22.0%	13.9%	↑
	2019-2023	17.9%	21.3%	20.1%	
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	47.2%	49.0%	50.3%	↓
	2019-2023	38.1%	43.8%	41.8%	
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018	30.4%	32.2%	30.5%	↓
	2019-2023	29.4%	28.8%	28.4%	
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018	61.1%	54.4%	55.3%	↓
	2019-2023	64.4%	59.5%	53.9%	
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish	19.2%	8.5%	3.8%	
	Another	6.4%	2.4%	2.9%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023	2.0	2.5	1.6	↔
	Jan 2025	2.0	2.4	1.6	
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number	2,427	94	20	
	Capacity	260,689	6,006	1,364	
Schools	Number	714	11	5	
	Capacity	72,967	909	509	
Homes	Number	755	5	1	
	Capacity	5,063	35	6	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023	35,375	611	69	↑
	2024	35,153	627	79	
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018	86.8%	90.4%	93.7%	↑
	2019-2023	89.1%	92.5%	96.1%	
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018	28.9%	25.6%	36.9%	↑
	2019-2023	32.6%	29.8%	41.0%	
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018	6.4%	6.8%	6.3%	↓
	2019-2023	5.1%	4.2%	4.6%	
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021	154,638	3,447	582	↓
	2022-2023	156,236	3,579	546	
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021	4.9%	5.4%	4.8%	↓
	2022-2023	4.5%	5.2%	3.8%	
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021	7.6%	7.0%	8.1%	↑
	2022-2023	7.9%	7.8%	8.4%	
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021	9.7%	8.7%	9.8%	↓
	2022-2023	9.8%	9.2%	8.1%	
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021	91.0%	93.8%	95.0%	↑
	2022-2023	91.7%	95.5%	97.3%	
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022	277,455	6,827	934	↓
	2024	223,506	5,217	668	
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022	83.0%	81.3%	78.8%	↑
	2024	86.0%	83.7%	81.4%	
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023	9,991	241	38	↔
	SFY 2024	10,706	250	38	

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Prescott sub-region is comprised of 20 census tracts and seven block groups (3.01-4.07, 7.02-9.02, 10.2-10.04, 11.03-11.06, 12.02, 2.06 block group 4, 5.02 block groups 2-3, 7.01 block groups 1-2 & 12.01 block group 1). It contains the city of Prescott, the Williamson CDP and the lands of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, but data specific to the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe were not included because permissions have not been granted in this reporting cycle.

Sedona	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Sedona	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	17,088	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	334	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	9.6% 13.6%	↑
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	12.9% 11.6%	↓
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	31.5% 23.6%	↓
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	41.9% 35.6%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	57.4% 86.8%	↑
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	13.4% 5.7%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	3.5 3.5	↔
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	6 208	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	0 0	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	0 0	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	18 15	↓
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	95.4% 94.9%	↓
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	45.3% 50.0%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	4.9% 5.7%	↑
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	126 118	↓
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	5.6% DS	
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	DS 5.9%	
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	DS 8.5%	
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	88.1% 93.2%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	171 143	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	76.0% 80.4%	↑
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	DS DS	

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.
NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Sedona sub-region is defined as seven census tracts and one block group (17.03, 17.05, 18.01, 18.03-18.04, the portions of Coconino County tracts 16.01 & 16.02 that are within the Yavapai Region & 17.04 block group 2). It contains the entire city of Sedona (including the portion in Coconino County) and the Village of Oak Creek.

Upper Verde Valley	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Upper Verde Valley	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	34,795	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	1,827	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	15.5% 13.8%	↓
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	33.9% 19.6%	↓
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	55.2% 35.3%	↓
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	35.3% 30.0%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	64.3% 63.8%	↓
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	10.9% 2.3%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	2.6 2.2	↓
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	23 1,409	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	0 0	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	2 15	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	203 208	↑
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	89.9% 92.5%	↑
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	20.6% 26.3%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	7.6% 3.8%	↓
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	577 579	↑
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	6.6% 6.9%	↑
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	5.0% 8.6%	↑
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	7.5% 9.3%	↑
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	93.1% 95.5%	↑
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	1,214 947	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	84.9% 88.2%	↑
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	46 38	↓

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Upper Verde Valley sub-region is defined as eight census tracts and three block groups (17.01, 19.01, 19.03-20.03, 20.05-20.07, 17.04 block group 1 & 19.02 block groups 1-2). It contains the city of Cottonwood, the towns of Clarkdale and Jerome and the CDPs of Cornville and Verde Village.

Yavapai South	Years	Arizona	Yavapai Region	Yavapai South	Change over time
Child, Family & Community Characteristics					
Total population ¹	Census 2020	7,151,502	238,756	14,233	
Population of children (0-5) ¹	Census 2020	480,744	11,066	542	
Population living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	16.1% 12.8%	14.0% 12.6%	19.8% 13.7%	↓
Children (0-5) living in poverty ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	24.9% 17.9%	22.0% 21.3%	37.7% 4.4%	↓
Low-income children (0-5) (<185% federal poverty level) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	47.2% 38.1%	49.0% 43.8%	54.4% 22.7%	↓
Housing costs 30% or more of household income ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	30.4% 29.4%	32.2% 28.8%	27.7% 24.6%	↓
Children (0-5) with all present parents in the labor force ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	61.1% 64.4%	54.4% 59.5%	64.4% 71.6%	↑
Language other than English spoken at home (2019-2023) ³	Spanish Another	19.2% 6.4%	8.5% 2.4%	3.5% 1.3%	
Early Education					
Ratio of children (0-5) to licensed child care slots ⁵	Oct 2023 Jan 2025	2.0 2.0	2.5 2.4	11.1 11.1	↔
Registered care providers in 2025 ⁴					
Centers	Number Capacity	2,427 260,689	94 6,006	1 49	
Schools	Number Capacity	714 72,967	11 909	0 0	
Homes	Number Capacity	755 5,063	5 35	0 0	
Children (0-5) receiving child care assistance ⁴	2023 2024	35,375 35,153	611 627	27 32	↑
Education & Workforce					
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) ^{2,3}					
At least a high school education	2014-2018 2019-2023	86.8% 89.1%	90.4% 92.5%	88.5% 88.1%	↓
Bachelor's degree or more	2014-2018 2019-2023	28.9% 32.6%	25.6% 29.8%	15.4% 18.6%	↑
Unemployment rate for the adult population (ages 16 and older) ^{2,3}	2014-2018 2019-2023	6.4% 5.1%	6.8% 4.2%	8.4% 3.5%	↓
Child Health & Development					
Total births ⁵	2020-2021 2022-2023	154,638 156,236	3,447 3,579	167 209	↑
Characteristics of births ⁵					
Maternal age 19 or younger	2020-2021 2022-2023	4.9% 4.5%	5.4% 5.2%	5.4% 5.3%	↓
Low birthweight (<2500 grams)	2020-2021 2022-2023	7.6% 7.9%	7.0% 7.8%	13.2% 8.1%	↓
Preterm birth (<37 weeks)	2020-2021 2022-2023	9.7% 9.8%	8.7% 9.2%	12.0% 13.4%	↑
Prenatal care (5+ prenatal visits)	2020-2021 2022-2023	91.0% 91.7%	93.8% 95.5%	92.8% 85.2%	↓
Number of children (0-5) with AHCCCS ⁶	2022 2024	277,455 223,506	6,827 5,217	421 341	↓
AHCCCS-enrolled children (0-5) 1+ primary care provider visit ⁶	2022 2024	83.0% 86.0%	81.3% 83.7%	82.9% 84.8%	↑
Children (0-5) receiving AzEIP, DDD, or both services ⁴	SFY 2023 SFY 2024	9,991 10,706	241 250	12 12	↔

SOURCES: (1) US Census 2020; (2) American Community Survey 2014-2018; (3) American Community Survey 2019-2023; (4) Arizona Department of Economic Security; (5) Arizona Department of Health Services; (6) Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System data provided by ASU ChiR

NOTES:

DS: Data has been suppressed to protect privacy.

NA: Not available.

SUBREGION DEFINITION: The Yavapai South sub-region is defined as four census tracts (14.01-14.03 & 15.02). It contains the CDPs of Black Canyon City, Congress, Cordes Lakes, Hillside, Mayer, Peebles Valley, Yarnell and Wilhoit, the unincorporated communities of Skull Valley and Crown King and the northernmost portion of the town of Wickenburg that is within Yavapai County.

YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION

When First Things First was established by the passage of Proposition 203 in November 2006, the government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Tribes was acknowledged. Each Tribe with Tribal lands located in Arizona was given the opportunity to participate within a First Things First designated region or be designated as a separate region. The Yavapai-Apache Nation has chosen to be part of the First Things First Yavapai Region. The Yavapai-Apache Nation elected to participate in data collection for the Yavapai Region 2026 Needs and Assets Report as indicated by Resolution 15-2026.

This report contains data from a variety of sources, including the publicly-available 2020 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates and data that were provided to FTF by state, federal and Tribal agencies. Local data were also requested from Yavapai-Apache Nation Departments and programs. Citations can be found at the bottom of each table and at the end of this report. The report uses color-coding to indicate the relevant geography for each number or percentage discussed in the text as follows: **Yavapai-Apache Nation**, **Yavapai Region** and **Arizona**. Additional important numbers in the text that do not correspond to one of these geographies have been **bolded**.

Family, Child & Community Characteristics

According to the 2020 Census, the Yavapai-Apache Nation was home to about **152** young children birth to age 5 and an overall population of **1,234** people. Tribal enrollment data provide vital information about the population in the Nation along with what services they may be eligible for. According to the Yavapai-Apache Nation Enrollment Office, there were **2,768** enrolled Yavapai-Apache Nation members in 2024, an increase from **2,459** in 2022. This included **1,453** members residing on Tribal lands, 201 more than 2022 (**1,252**). In 2024, there were **148** enrolled young children birth to age 5 (fewer than the **187** enrolled in 2022), **98** of whom lived within the Yavapai-Apache Nation reservation. According to the 2020 Census, **22%** of children birth to age 5 lived in a grandparent's household. Grandparents can be central to multigenerational households and vital caregivers for children, in many cases sharing and strengthening Native language, history and culture.^{1, 2, 3}

Tribal Enrollment	2022	2024	
Children birth to age 5	187	148	▼
School-age children ages 6 to 17	655	585	▼
Total Children (ages 0-17)	842	733	▼
Total Population (all ages)	2,459	2,768	▲

Source: Yavapai-Apache Nation Enrollment Office (2025). [Enrollment dataset].

Poverty is associated with reduced access to nutrition, green space and health care, as well as greater exposure to psychosocial stress and environmental toxins.^{4, 5, 6} Together, these factors may have implications for children's growth and brain development. Economic circumstances in Tribal communities have been shaped by a long history of inequitable policies and federal disinvestment.^{7, 8} The resulting economic disparity between Native and non-Native communities affects rates of employment, poverty, food security and housing stability.

According to the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS), **42%** of children birth to age 5 in the Yavapai-Apache Nation lived in poverty, a decrease from the poverty rate in the 2018 ACS (**52%**).^a Young child poverty rates also declined in the Yavapai Region (slightly, from **22%** to **21%**) and statewide (**25%** to **18%**), a phenomenon largely attributed to pandemic relief funding and policies.⁹ The share of young children living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level^b also declined from **75%** in the 2018 ACS to **49%** in the 2023 ACS. This is still higher than the share of low-income children in the Yavapai Region (**44%**) or Arizona (**38%**) for 2023. The median family income for all families (with or without children)^c in the Yavapai-Apache Nation was **\$37,232** according to the 2023 ACS, much lower than the median income for all families statewide (**\$92,100**). However, it is important to remember that monetary income is one way that families meet their basic needs. In Native communities, subsistence-based activities such as hunting, gathering, farming and ranching are important cultural practices that can also meet families' basic needs and are not captured in standard poverty measures.¹⁰ Reservation economies also differ in that a large portion of households rely on home-based enterprises for cash income, with many businesses related to traditional crafts, artistry and food vending.¹¹

^a Note that overall poverty rates increased between the 2018 ACS and 2023 ACS. This indicates that more individuals and families who do not have young children birth to age 5 (such as adults without children, elders or families with older children) may be experiencing poverty.

^b This is the income eligibility threshold for many assistance programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC.

^c Note that reliable estimates specific to families with children were not available for the Yavapai-Apache Nation from the ACS due to small sample sizes.

Poverty & Low-Income	2014-2018 ACS	2019-2023 ACS	
Population in poverty	33%	46%	▲
Children birth to age 5 in poverty	52%	42%	▼
Low-income children birth to age 5	75%	49%	▼

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

Traumatic or stressful life events experienced in childhood, referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs,^d can have lasting impacts on health and life trajectory beyond childhood, with risk increasing as an individual’s number of ACEs increases.¹² In situations where the harm in remaining with their family is determined to be too great to a child, they may be removed from their home, either temporarily or permanently. In accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA), nearly all Tribal governments set their own child welfare laws and manage their own child welfare systems.¹³ Child welfare services for the Yavapai-Apache Nation are provided by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Social Services Program.

According to data from the Yavapai-Apache Nation Social Services Program, there were **11** substantiated cases of abuse or neglect in 2023, the most recent year for which data were available, and **13** children birth to age 17 were removed by Yavapai-Apache Nation Social Services. For children in the care of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Social Services Program in 2023, more than half (**54%**) remained with their families, receiving family preservation services. The next most common placement was with relatives (**32%**), followed by Tribal foster homes (**11%**) and group homes or residential facilities (**4%**).¹⁴

Early Learning

Participating in quality preschool programs can result in between one-third and a full year of early learning gains in language, reading and math, increasing academic readiness when children enter kindergarten.¹⁵ Families in the Yavapai-Apache Nation can access early care and education services through the Montessori Children’s House and the Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program. The Montessori Children’s House is a Tribally-operated center located in the Middle Verde community that provides preschool and kindergarten education four days per week for children ages 2.5 to 6. Tuition is fully covered for children who are enrolled members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, but the center is also open to non-Tribal members with a monthly tuition

^d Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include eight categories of traumatic or stressful life events experienced before the age of 18 years: sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, household adult mental illness, household substance abuse, domestic violence in the household, incarceration of a household member, and parental divorce or separation.

cost of \$550/month for full-day or \$350/month for half-day enrollment.¹⁶ The Montessori Children’s House is verified with the American Montessori Society.¹⁷

In 2024, a total of **32** children ages 3 to 6 were enrolled in Montessori Children’s House, including **20** preschoolers and **12** kindergarteners. This was a slight increase from the **18** preschoolers and **10** kindergarteners enrolled in 2022 and nearly reached the maximum capacity of the program, which is 36 children. According to data provided by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Education Department, attendance for students enrolled was consistently high, with only **3%** of students missing more than 10% of school days in the 2022-23 or 2023-24 school years.

Montessori Children’s House	2022	2024	
Children ages 3 to 6 enrolled	28	32	▲
Preschool	18	20	▲
Kindergarten	10	12	▲
Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program	2022	2024	
Children ages 1 to 5 enrolled	21	18	▼
Toddlers (ages 1-2)	<10	<10	-
Preschoolers (ages 3-5)	16	14	▼
Children receiving child care assistance	32	24	▼

Source: Yavapai-Apache Nation Education Department (2025). [Montessori Children’s House dataset]. Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program (2026). [Child care dataset].

The Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program provides care 5 days per week and operates two classrooms for toddlers and preschool-age children. The daily cost of full day care is \$9.75, but child care assistance is also provided to many children in the community. Demand for the program has remained consistently high, such that the program often enrolls children on a staggered schedule so they can serve more than the 20 children they have capacity for. The Yavapai-Apache Nation also contracts with other local preschools to help families who qualify for child care assistance find care. In 2024, **18** children were enrolled in the Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program, and a total of **24** children were receiving child care assistance from the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Education & Workforce

There are no schools within the boundaries of the Yavapai-Apache Nation apart from the kindergarten classroom at Montessori Children’s House. Students from the Nation attend a number of off-reservation schools, mostly within the Camp Verde Unified School District but also including local charter schools. According to data from the Yavapai-Apache Nation Education Department, the average daily membership for kindergarten to 3rd grade students from Yavapai-

Apache Nation at Camp Verde Elementary school was **58** in the 2023-24 school year.^e According to data from the department, there were **11** Yavapai-Apache Nation students in kindergarten to 3rd grade at American Heritage Academy in Camp Verde in that same year, but average daily membership fell to **fewer than 10**^f students in the 2024-25 school year.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school days in a school year, can result in a student experiencing academic difficulties and even dropping out of school entirely.¹⁸ Average attendance rates for Yavapai-Apache Nation students at Camp Verde Elementary School improved between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 school years from **76%** to **85%** of students in attendance. However, the share of students with chronic absences increased from **46%** to **55%** over that same period, indicating that school attendance continues to be a challenge. Elementary school absenteeism among Native youth may be influenced by a number of factors including a historically-rooted distrust of educational institutions, low use of culturally-relevant teaching methods and curricula as well as infrastructure-related issues (e.g., road conditions, bus availability and distances to schools).^{19, 20, 21}

School Enrollment & Attendance				
(Camp Verde Elementary School)	2022	2023	2024	
Average daily membership	49	38	58	▲
Average attendance	76%	83%	85%	▲
Students with chronic absences	46%	55%	55%	▲
3 rd grade assessments				
(Camp Verde Elementary School)	2022	2023	2024	
Passing math assessment	5%	11%	0%	▼
Passing reading assessment	11%	6%	0%	▼
Graduation rates (Camp Verde High School)				
	2022	2023	2024	
4-year graduation rate	100%	100%	100%	-
5-year graduation rate	100%	100%	100%	-

Source: Yavapai-Apache Nation Education Department (2026). [Enrollment, Attendance, and Graduation datasets].

*Note:

Children’s 3rd grade reading comprehension and proficiency skills can predict their future academic success, such as their likelihood of graduating high school and attending college.²² For

^e Note that students from Yavapai-Apache Nation attend multiple public and charter schools, but data were only available for Yavapai-Apache Nation students enrolled Camp Verde Elementary School and Camp Verde High School for most indicators.

^f Fewer than 10 is used to indicate counts less that cannot be reported to protect privacy. First Things First data policies require that counts less than 10 for education data be suppressed.

Yavapai-Apache Nation students attending Camp Verde Elementary School, passing rates on 3rd grade assessments declined between 2021-22 and 2023-24 school years, dropping from **5%** to **0%** for math and **11%** to **0%** for reading. For both assessments, passing rates for Yavapai-Apache Nation students were below those for American Indian students statewide in 2023-24 (**21%** for math and **17%** for reading). It is important to note that standardized tests have been found to have lower cultural relevancy to non-White students, which has contributed to a disparity in achievement on standardized tests across racial and ethnic groups.²³

Graduation rates for Yavapai-Apache Nation students attending Camp Verde High School have remained consistent at **100%** over the past 3 years, suggesting that all students from the Nation attending the public high school are completing their education. Data from the ACS suggests that educational attainment for adults in the Yavapai-Apache Nation has increased over the last decade.⁸ The share of adults 25 and older with at least a high school diploma increased from **73%** in the 2018 ACS to **85%** in the 2023 ACS, and the share of adults with a bachelor's or advanced degree increased from **7%** to **11%**.

The labor force participation rate includes all people who are working (employed) or looking for work (unemployed). People not in the labor force are largely students, stay-at-home parents, retirees and people who are institutionalized. According to 2023 ACS estimates, more than half of adults ages 16 and older (**54%**) were participating in the labor force in the Yavapai-Apache Nation, higher than the estimates for the Yavapai Region overall (**48%**). Estimated unemployment rates for the Nation decreased from **11%** in the 2018 ACS to **9%** in the 2023 ACS but remained more than double the estimated rate for the Yavapai Region (**4%**). It is important to note that due to many historical and legal reasons as well as differences in practical economic structures, employment and labor force participation rates in Native communities can vary greatly from state rates.²⁴ Yavapai-Apache Nation operates many Tribal enterprises, including Cliff Castle Casino, Yavapai-Apache Transit, Whitehills-Chevron, Distant Drums Resort and Yavapai-Apache Sand & Rock.²⁵

Adult Education & Employment	2014-2018 ACS	2019-2023 ACS	
High school diploma or higher education	73%	85%	▲
Bachelor's or advanced degree	7%	11%	▲
Labor force participation rate	58%	54%	▼
Unemployment rate	11%	9%	▼

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2023 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2019-2023.

⁸ Please note that these data reflect educational attainment for adults of all ages based on self-reported data from adults age 25 and older. These data do not reflect recent high school graduates, as those students have yet to reach age 25.

Quality early care and education programs rely on a strong workforce. The Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Program employs a center director and 4 classroom teachers. The Montessori Children’s House employs a school director and 7 teachers, most of whom are Montessori-certified.²⁶

Child Development & Health

Prenatal care is associated with reduced complications during pregnancy and birth, while also providing expectant parents with an opportunity to engage with health professionals.^{27, 28, 29} According to data from the Arizona Department of Health Services, rates of timely prenatal care (begun in the first trimester) and adequate prenatal care (with 5 or more visits) in the Yavapai-Apache Nation were below statewide rates in 2020 to 2023 combined. Only **19%** of births to mothers residing in the Yavapai-Apache Nation had timely prenatal care and **37%** had adequate prenatal care. Outside of adequate prenatal care, other risk factors like low birthweight and preterm birth can impact child health outcomes.³⁰ Between 2020-2023, the Yavapai-Apache Nation had **fewer than 6^h** low birthweight or preterm births; given the 106 births in the region in this period, this would indicate a rate of **1-5%** for low birthweight or preterm births, lower than Arizona (**7.8%** and **9.8%**, respectively). This means that the Yavapai-Apache Nation readily met the Healthy People 2030ⁱ target for preterm births (no more than **9.4%**). There was a higher share of births to teenaged mothers (ages 19 and younger) in the Yavapai-Apache Nation (**8%**) than there were statewide (**5%**). Taken together, this suggests that, while infant health outcomes are promising, there remain opportunities to increase prenatal care access for all expectant parents and supports for teenaged mothers.

Maternal & Infant Health (2020-2023 combined)	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Arizona	Target
Total Births	106	310,874	
Timely prenatal care (1 st trimester)	19%	71%	
Adequate prenatal care (5+ visits)	37%	91%	
Low birthweight (<2,500 g)	<6	7.8%	
Preterm births (<37 weeks)	<6	9.8%	9.4% or less
Teenaged mother (age 19 & younger)	8%	5%	

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2025). [Vital Statistic dataset].

^h Fewer than 6 is used to indicate counts less that cannot be reported to protect privacy. First Things First data policies require that counts less than 6 for health data be suppressed.

ⁱ Healthy People identifies science-based targets to guide national health promotion and disease prevention efforts. For more information see https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/healthy_people/index.htm

Tribally managed health systems can improve the quality and relevance of available services and help address health disparities caused by federal policies that have disrupted traditional ways of life for Native communities.³¹ The Yavapai-Apache Nation operates the Yavapai-Apache Nation Medical Center under a 638 contract, with funding for the facility provided by both the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the Indian Health Service (IHS). The outpatient health care facility offers primary care, behavioral health, dental, vision and support services to families and children in the community.³² Data provided by the IHS Phoenix Area show that there were **1,121** active users of health care services residing within the Middle Verde Service Area, including **23** children birth to age 5, in fiscal year 2024.^j Local community experts interviewed in 2021 for the Yavapai-Apache Nation supplement to the 2022 Yavapai Regional Needs and Assets Report noted that many families in the Nation use providers outside the community. Many expectant mothers seek OB/Gyn care with private providers and deliver at Verde Valley Medical Center in Cottonwood, and many families with young children seek care from pediatricians in the Cottonwood area.³³

Health insurance coverage is an important indicator of whether families can access, afford and utilize medical care. Members of federally recognized Tribes can access health care services provided through IHS and/or Tribally administered health care facilities without needing insurance. However these services are estimated to be underfunded in relation to the per capita need—higher rates of Medicaid enrollment can help supplement funding through services reimbursement and provide members with more care options.³⁴ Arizona’s Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is a major source of health insurance for families from the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The number of children birth to age 5 enrolled in AHCCCS residing within the Yavapai-Apache Nation decreased from **150** in 2022 to **104** in 2024. The number of children birth to 5 enrolled in AHCCCS also declined in the Yavapai Region (by more than 1,000 children) and statewide (by more than 50,000 children) in this timeframe. Despite the decline in AHCCCS enrollment, the share of AHCCCS-enrolled children accessing health services increased slightly, with higher shares of children with at least one primary care visit (**85%**), at least one dental visit (**46%**) and fluoride treatments (**43%**) in 2024 compared to 2022 (**79%**, **35%**, and **32%** respectively).

^j The Middle Verde Service Area includes the communities of Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cornville, Paulden, Cottonwood, Jerome, Middle Verde, Rim Rock and Sedona.

Children with AHCCCS	2022	2024	
Total children birth to age 5 enrolled	150	104	▼
Children (birth to age 5) with primary care visits	79%	85%	▲
Children (ages 1 to 5) with dental visits	35%	46%	▲
Children (ages 1 to 5) with fluorides	32%	43%	▲

Sources: ASU CHiR. (2025). [AHCCCS claims dataset].
Note: AHCCCS data reflect children birth to age 5 with approved insurance claims– these data may not reflect all care provided in the region.

Timely connection with early intervention services— such as speech, physical, occupational and behavioral therapy— can shape school readiness and the developmental path of young children with medical conditions, developmental delays and even certain risk factors for delays.³⁵ In Arizona, families with children who have special needs may be served by the Department of Economic Security’s (DES) Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Arizona Department of Education’s (ADE) Early Childhood Special Education Program. In state fiscal years 2023 and 2024 combined, **fewer than 10** children birth to age 5 from the Yavapai-Apache Nation were served by AzEIP or DDD.

As a child with special needs approaches age 3, they can be transferred from AzEIP to the Early Childhood Special Education Program to receive services through their local education agency (LEA).^k According to data provided by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Education Department, **10** preschoolers from Yavapai-Apache Nation received special education services through Camp Verde Elementary School in the 2021-22 to 2023-24 school years combined. Across those three school years, between **16** and **18** Yavapai-Apache Nation students in kindergarten to 3rd grade were enrolled in special education at Camp Verde Elementary School.³⁶ The most common disabilities for Yavapai-Apache Nation students receiving services across preschool to 3rd grade were speech or language impairments, developmental delays and specific learning disabilities.^l

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^k For more information on ADE’s Early Childhood Special Education program, visit <http://www.azed.gov/ece/early-childhood-special-education/> and <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/az-find/>

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