

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Cocopah Tribe Region



**2022**

NEEDS AND ASSETS  
**REPORT**

# INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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. First Things First (FTF) was created by Arizonans 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 wellbeing in our communities and our state.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Cocopah Tribe 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. An overview of this information is provided in the Executive Summary and documented in further detail in the full report.

The report is organized by topic areas pertinent to young children in the region, such as population characteristics or educational indicators. Within each topic area are sections that set the context for why the data found in the topic areas are important (Why it Matters), followed by a section that includes available data on the topic (What the Data Tell Us).

The First Things First Cocopah Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and ensuring that families and caregivers have options when it comes to 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 Cocopah Tribe 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 5 years old in communities throughout the region.

## Acknowledgments

The First Things First Cocopah Regional Partnership Council wishes to thank all of the tribal, federal, state and local partners whose contributions of data, ongoing support and partnership with First Things First made this report possible. These partners included the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona; Indian Health Service; the Arizona Departments of Administration (Employment and Population Statistics), Child Safety, Economic Security and Health Services; the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System; Child Care Resource and Referral; and the U.S. Census Bureau. Local partners included Tribal Administration, Fort Yuma Health Center, Cocopah Education Department, Tribal Health Maintenance

Program, and Cocopah Head Start. We are especially grateful for the spirit of collaboration exhibited by all our partners during an unprecedented time of crisis for our state and our nation.

We also want to thank parents and caregivers, local service providers and members of the public who 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 Cocopah Tribe Region.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the current and past members of the First Things First Cocopah 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.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

First Things First (FTF) is the only state agency in Arizona dedicated exclusively to investing in and enhancing the early childhood system. FTF works through regional partnership councils that partner with local communities to create a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative, and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health, and early education of all Arizona children from birth to age five.

Every two years, each regional partnership council develops a report detailing the needs and assets of the region's youngest children and their families. The intent of the report is to inform the regional partnership council and the local community about the overall status of children zero to five years of age in the region in order to support data-driven decision making around future funding and programming. Data for this report were gathered from federal and local data sources, as well as provided directly to FTF by state agencies.

## Overview of the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region

When First Things First was established by the passage of Proposition 203 in November 2006, the new agency acknowledged the government-to-government relationship with federally-recognized tribes. Each tribe with tribal lands in Arizona was given the opportunity to participate within a First Things First-designated region or elect to be designated as a separate region. The Cocopah Tribe was one of 10 tribes that chose to be designated as its own region. This decision must be ratified every two years, and the Cocopah Tribe has opted to continue to be designated as its own region. The FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council makes strategic investments to support the healthy development and learning of the young children in the region.

The Cocopah Indian Tribe is a federally-recognized, sovereign tribe located in the southwestern corner of the state, 13 miles south of the city of Yuma and along the Colorado River, nested geographically within Yuma County. The Cocopah (Kwapa), also known as the River People, have historically lived along the lower Colorado River and River Delta. They are descendants of the Yuman-language speaking people that occupied lands along the Colorado River. The current Cocopah Reservation is comprised of three noncontiguous regions: the East, North and West Reservations. The boundaries of the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Region match those of the Cocopah Reservation.

The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the six domains of the 2022 Regional Needs and Assets report, highlighting major data findings, the needs and assets they uncover for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region, and potential considerations and opportunities for further exploration. The considerations provided below do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for addressing the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible

approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to meet the needs and grow the assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

## Key Findings

### Population Characteristics

The demographic profile of residents in a particular community helps policy and decision makers make effective decisions that will positively impact the community's well-being. The FTF Cocopah Tribe Region has a total population of 817 residents and an estimated 65 children under age six. The most recent tribal enrollment data from the Cocopah Tribal Administration from 2022 indicates a total enrollment of 1,206 tribal members, with 474 members living on-reservation. Among the total tribal enrollment, there are 46 Cocopah children under age six living on-reservation. Though the total number of births in Yuma County has remained steady in recent years, the population of zero to five year olds is projected to increase over the next several decades. The race and ethnicity breakdown of the adult population in the Cocopah Tribe Region is uniquely different compared to Yuma County and the rest of the state with half the population (49%) identifying as American Indian, compared to 4% in the state, and 83% identifying English as their primary language in the region, compared to 73% in the state. Almost all children 0-4 (90%) identify as American Indian, suggesting that the demographics of the region may change in coming years.

The majority of households with children under six are single-female households, with 61% of households led by single females while only one quarter (23%) are married-couple households, making the household characteristics starkly different from the rest of the state. Additionally, about 32 children under the age of 18 in the Cocopah Tribe Region live in the same household as a grandparent.<sup>1</sup> Of children under 18 that live in the same household as a grandparent, 75% are primarily cared for by a grandparent, compared to 50% for the state. The high percentage of children growing up in a multigenerational household is an asset for the region, offering children a greater likelihood of more connections with adult role models and multiple caregivers. Though living with grandparents can be an asset, it can also indicate that the child's parents are emotionally or financially unable to care for their child on their own and there may be need for resources and parenting support services for grandparents who are taking on the task of raising a second generation. Additionally, about three-quarters of children living in single-family households may indicate additional stressors to the home environment, such as children spending less time with their parents who are likely the sole breadwinners for their family.

### Economic Circumstances

As children are growing and developing, outcomes such as school achievement, physical health, and

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey. 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B05009 & B17006; generated by AZ FTF; using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>

emotional well-being are all impacted by a child's economic situation.<sup>2</sup> The average unemployment rate in Yuma County has been more than double that of the state over the last five years. Among all households with children under six in the region, 43% have at least one parent who is employed. The median annual income for families with children under 18 in Yuma County is consistently lower than the statewide median for all household types. Married-couple families have a median income of about \$61,000 in Yuma County, while single female families have a median income of about \$20,000. With the self-sufficiency standard for an adult with a young child being around \$40,000 in Yuma County, single female parents in particular, are likely struggling and could benefit from added support to help their child's growth and development.

Fifty-nine percent of children in the Cocopah Tribe Region live under the poverty level, far more than the state (23%). Additional input from community residents and stakeholders such as school district representatives may help identify economic strategies that they embrace as relevant, effective, and culturally meaningful.

Residents of the Cocopah Tribe Region are disadvantaged by being less digitally connected than others in the county and state. Only about half of households in the region have both a smartphone and computer. About two-thirds (63%) of residents live in households with a computer and internet, which is also substantially lower than the county (83%) and state (87%). Of people living in households with a computer and internet in the region, 50% have fixed broadband with a cellular data plan. With the increased importance and reliance on technologies to support remote education and employment, especially with the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, these indicators of the digital divide will continue to be important to monitor and address.

### **Educational Indicators**

Children's participation in early learning experiences is likely to result in higher academic performance in future years.<sup>3</sup> About one in three children between ages three and four (39%) are enrolled in day care or preschool in the Cocopah Tribe Region. The number of Cocopah Tribe children in grades K-12 enrolled in schools in the area increased between 2018 to 2020, from 282 to 317. About half of the third-grade students in the region scored proficient or highly proficient on the AZ Merit English Language Arts and Math assessments. Though only slightly lower than the state and county percentages, the finding that only half of the region's third graders are proficient in math and English is concerning and supports the need for greater participation in early education.

The percentage of first, second, and third graders missing ten or more days of school decreased between 2019 to 2020 in both the Cocopah Tribe Region and the state, though it was higher in the region. The high school graduation rate in the Cocopah Tribe Region has increased yearly to 71% in 2020. From

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<sup>2</sup> Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G. (1997). *The effects of poverty on children. The future of children*, 55-71.

<sup>3</sup> Bakken, L., Brown, N., Downing, B. (2017) *Early Childhood Education: The Long-Term Benefits. Journal of Research in Childhood Education. Volume 31. Issue 2. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2016.1273285>*



2018 to 2020, the percent of students dropping out of high school was noticeably high in the Cocopah Tribe, where the dropout rate was over one-third (38%) in 2018 and 29% in 2020. Most of the adults in the region (83%) have completed high school, received a GED or pursued further education past high school, slightly less than the state or county. In general, residents in the Cocopah Tribe Region have completed at least high school, indicating the potential understanding of the value and importance of education that will hopefully be incorporated into their parenting.

### **Early Learning**

Participation in early care and education programs plays an important role in preparing children for kindergarten and beyond.<sup>4</sup> About 32% of households are assumed to need child care based on the employment status of the adults in the household, while 39% of preschool-aged children in the region are enrolled in early care and education programs.

Early care and education opportunities in the region include the Cocopah Day Care and the Cocopah Head Start, both managed directly by the Cocopah Indian Tribe. Cocopah Day Care has an enrollment of 21 children, and Cocopah Head Start has an enrollment of 20 children. Cocopah Head Start and Cocopah Day Care are free for Cocopah Tribe members who live on-reservation. Cocopah Head Start is a Quality First center, though is not rated in the target range of three to five stars. Head Start programs are also assets in the region as children attending these programs tend to score higher in cognitive and social-emotional development than those who do not. Increasing access to quality early care and education programs is essential for the regions' children. One challenge is that early care and education teachers throughout the state are not highly compensated, with most earning minimum wage.

Children receiving AZEIP referrals and services have fluctuated in the county, but were lower in 2020 than in 2018. The percentage of children in the region who participate in special education while in preschool but transition out before entering kindergarten rose in the region and county from 2018 to 2020. The most common types of disabilities for preschool children were developmental delays and speech and language impairments.

### **Child Health**

Ensuring healthy development through early identification and treatment of children's health issues helps families understand healthy developmental pathways and how health issues affect children and their school readiness.<sup>5</sup> According to American Community Survey data averaged over the five years from 2015 to 2019, 19% of young children aged 0 to 5 in the Cocopah Tribe Region are estimated to be without health insurance, along with 12% of the entire population in the region.

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<sup>4</sup> *University of Massachusetts Global (2021) What is the purpose of early childhood education? Why it's so important. Retrieved from: <https://www.umassglobal.edu/news-and-events/blog/what-is-purpose-of-early-childhood-education>*

<sup>5</sup> *Schools & Health (2016). Impact of Health on Education. Retrieved from <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/pages/Anthropometricstatusgrowth.aspx>*

In 2019, Cocopah Tribe Region residents gave birth to 12 babies. Of the mothers who gave birth in the region in 2019, 67% were American Indian. Sixty-nine percent of new mothers who participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in 2020 were overweight or obese before becoming pregnant, which is higher than the state (64%). The rate of pre-pregnancy obesity in the region and the state has gradually increased each year since 2017. Half of all mothers received prenatal care starting in the first trimester, and all mothers received at least some prenatal care. The percentage of infants participating in WIC in Cocopah Tribe being breastfed increased from 2016 (67%) to 2020 (75%).

According to Indian Health Service (IHS) data, 53 children ages 0 to 5 from the Cocopah Tribe were served at the Fort Yuma Health Center the Fiscal Year 2018-19. In addition, IHS data estimated 25% of children ages 2-5 had obesity in the Cocopah Tribe Region in 2020. The obesity rate is higher than the state average, calling to attention the need for additional opportunities and access to engage in exercise and good nutrition.

### **Family Support**

Support for young families is an essential piece of the holistic efforts around kindergarten readiness and long-term success for children.<sup>6</sup> The number of families and children receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and WIC has decreased over the years. While the number of young children participating in SNAP and TANF has declined since 2017, SNAP still supports about 61 children in the Cocopah Tribe Region. Approximately three-quarters (73%) of all public- and charter-school students in the region have been eligible for free or reduced-price lunch since 2018.

### **Opportunities for Further Exploration**

Most of the findings provided in this report are based on secondary data sources. As the FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council continues to make increasingly difficult decisions with diminishing funds, the findings presented in this report may help inform those decisions in a data-driven way.

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<sup>6</sup> Center for the Study of Social Policy (2013). *Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development*. Retrieved from [http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/2013/SF\\_Knowledge-of-Parenting-and-Child-Development.pdf](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/2013/SF_Knowledge-of-Parenting-and-Child-Development.pdf)

# BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

Family well-being is an important indicator of child success.<sup>7, 8</sup> Healthy families and healthy communities create a context in which young children can thrive, developing the cognitive, emotional, motor, and social skills they will need to succeed in school and life.<sup>9</sup> Early childhood interventions promote well-being and impact outcomes for children and adults later in life, including school readiness, parent involvement, K-12 achievement, educational attainment, crime prevention and remedial education.<sup>10</sup>

First Things First (FTF) is one of the critical partners in the family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative, and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health, and early education of all Arizona children from birth to age five. FTF is intent on bolstering current child-focused systems within Arizona as a strategic way to maximize current and future resources. The Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council makes strategic investments to support the healthy development and learning of the young children in the region.

## Methodology

This is the eighth Needs and Assets report conducted on behalf of the FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council. It fulfills the requirement of ARS Title 8, Chapter 13, Section 1161, to submit a biennial report to the Arizona Early Childhood Health and Development Board detailing the assets, coordination opportunities, and unmet needs of children from birth to age five and their families in the region. This report is designed to provide updated information to the FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council about the needs and assets in their region to help them make important programmatic and funding decisions. This report describes the current circumstances of young children and their families as they relate to unmet needs and assets for the region.

This report is organized by topic area followed by subtopics and indicators. When available, data are presented for the state, county, region, and subregional breakdowns as appropriate. Key data indicators are represented in this report in six unique domains:

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<sup>7</sup> Bøe, T., Serlachius, A., Sivertsen, B., Petrie, K., Hysing, M. (2017) *Cumulative effects of negative life events and family stress in children's mental health: the Bergen child study*. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00127-017-1451-4>

<sup>8</sup> Sosu, E., Schmidt, P. (2017) *Economic deprivation and its effects on childhood conduct problems: the mediating role of family stress and investment factors*. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01580>

<sup>9</sup> Knitzer, J. (2000). *Early childhood mental services: a policy and systems development perspective*. In J. Shonkoff & S. Meisels (Eds.), *Handbook of early childhood intervention* (pp. 416-438). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>10</sup> Reynolds, A., Ou, S., Mondí, C., Hayakawa, M. (2017) *Processes of early childhood interventions to adult well-being*. *Child Development*. Volume 88 Issue 2. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12733>

- Population characteristics;
- Economic circumstances;
- Educational indicators;
- Early learning;
- Child health; and
- Family support.

A systematic review designed to reveal the needs and assets of the Cocopah Tribe Region was used to collect and summarize data for this report. Quantitative data components included a review and analysis of current and relevant secondary data describing the FTF Region, Yuma County, and State of Arizona. Wherever possible, data throughout the report are provided specifically for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region and are often presented alongside data for the County and the State of Arizona for comparative purposes. Subregional data from the American Community Survey and 2010 Census were calculated by aggregating the ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) in each subregion. ZCTAs were assigned to a subregion by FTF, and Harder+Company then used those assignments to determine which ZCTAs belonged to each subregion. For ZCTAs that are in more than one subregion, a percentage of the tabulation area was assigned to each subregion based upon the population living in ZCTA within the subregions' portion of the ZCTA.

Secondary data were gathered to better understand demographic trends for the Cocopah Tribe Region. The assessment was conducted using data from state and local agencies and organizations who provided public data or who have an existing data sharing agreement with FTF. A special request for data was made to the following state agencies by First Things First on behalf of Harder+Company Community Research: Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Indian Health Service (IHS), Department of Child Safety (DCS) and First Things First itself. Additionally, data requests were made to local agencies including the Cocopah Tribal Administration, Fort Yuma Health Center, Cocopah Education Department, the Tribal Health Maintenance Program, and Cocopah Head Start.

Further secondary data were gathered directly from public databases. For example, demographic data included in this report were primarily gathered from the US Census and the American Community Survey. Understanding the true needs and assets of the region required extracting data from multiple data sets that often do not have similar reporting standards, definitions, or means for aggregating data. For some indicators, data were only available at the county level, for small towns, or certain zip codes, whereas for other indicators, data were available at all levels. Whenever possible this report presents all data available. In some cases, not enough data were available to make meaningful conclusions about a particular indicator within a region, city, or county.

Furthermore, many agencies are collecting data independent of other public entities, which results in duplication of data efforts, gaps in the collection of critical indicators, or differences in method of

collection, unit of analysis, or geographic level. Many indicators that are of critical importance to understanding the well-being of children under age six and their families were not available for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region, such as more detailed data on housing or homelessness, home visiting, oral health, hearing loss screenings, and child welfare. The analysis presented in this report aims to integrate relevant data indicators from a variety of credible sources, including regional and subregional, and/or community-level analyses for a subset of data indicators. This report represents the most up-to-date representation of the needs and assets of young children and their families in the region and interpretation of the identified strengths of the community (i.e., the assets available in the region).

In addition to systematically reviewing secondary data, key findings and data trends were synthesized and presented to the FTF Regional Council and community members, FTF Research and Evaluation Unit, and FTF Regional Directors which allowed for a deeper discussion on the interpretation of the findings. Whenever possible, the rich context provided by these stakeholders is incorporated throughout the report to help contextualize the findings. To further expand the meaningfulness of data trends, a brief literature review was conducted to ensure the inclusion of other relevant research studies that help explain the needs and assets of the region.

Per FTF guidelines, education data from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), with counts of or percentages related to fewer than eleven, excluding counts of zero (i.e., all counts of one through ten) are suppressed. Percentages greater than 98% or less than 2% were presented as >98% and <2% respectively. For data related to health or developmental delay, all counts and rates/ratios/percentages based on non-zero counts less than six, excluding counts of zero (i.e., all counts of one through six, depending on the indicator) are suppressed.

### **Limitations**

In the United States, the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 and continues through the writing of this report. Thus, it is important to contextualize how the pandemic impacted data availability and the process to develop this report. First, public agencies had limited capacity to support data requests while they focused on their pandemic response, therefore some data sets could not be provided. For this reason, the timeline for the 2022 RNA report was modified to adapt to the barriers in collecting data and moving forward with the report process. For this reason, the timeline for the 2022 RNA report was modified to adapt to the barriers in collecting data and moving forward with the report process.

This report relied primarily on secondary data. Most of the data were extracted by teams other than the evaluation team conducting the asset and needs assessment, except for the data of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which the evaluation team accessed through the ADE data system. Some of the most recent data were not available for this report. The demographic and economic profiles of the region relied mostly on Census and ACS data. For some of the Census indicators, only 2010 Census data were available as 2020 Census data were delayed due to COVID-19. For some of the indicators reported, the most recent data for the region was released in 2018, thus trends may have

changed within the past four years, especially due to the pandemic. For example, the most recent data for the Child Care Market Rate Survey is from 2018. This survey provides the median cost for licensed centers, approved family homes and certified group homes.

Another limitation impacting the findings and interpretation of findings is the targeted population included in each of the different data sources. For many domains reported, data were often available only at the county level rather than the region, and data for children often include children under 18 rather than children under six. Additionally, ACS estimates are less reliable for small geographic areas or areas with smaller populations. Similarly, rural areas tend to be undercounted, along with non-white populations. Other data sources have similar limitations. For example, WIC data only include a sample of young children and families served. In regards to education data, ADE provided AZMerit results only for the 2018-2019 school year (prior to COVID-19) since this assessment was not administered during the 2019-2020 school year. The report uses public data for the 2020-2021 school year at the state and county level.

Furthermore, it is important to note that some of the sources are not reflective of the experiences of those living on reservation. Where possible, data were provided specifically for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region. Data indicators that were not available for the Cocopah Tribe Region and only available at the county and state level are presented in the appendix section at the end of the report per the request of the FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

Another major limitation is the discrepancy in the definitions and criteria used by each agency collecting data. Because various agencies collect data relevant for each domain, but they may define their data categories differently (for example, using different age groups or time ranges), it is not always possible to compare similar indicators from different sources. Given these limitations, interpretation of key findings requires a clear understanding of what available numbers can and cannot tell us, paired with a deep appreciation of how the region's context brings meaning to the trends and opportunities that emerge from the needs and assets data.



## **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

# POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

## Why It Matters

The demographic profile of residents in a particular community helps policy and decision makers generate effective decisions that will positively impact the community's well-being. Timely information about the demographics of a region, such as the number of children and families, number and composition of households, racial and ethnic composition, languages spoken, and living arrangements help policy makers identify the needs of the region they serve and the services and resources that would benefit the community. For example, knowing where non-English speakers live and what their primary languages are can inform translation and interpretation services to help these families access health care and other social services. Knowing where children and families are located will help identify the needs for early childhood services to support their development and well-being.

This first domain of the report provides an overview of the geographic region's population dynamics, projected growth, ethnic and racial composition, languages spoken, immigration trends, and household characteristics (e.g., living arrangements for children). Indicators about children living with grandparents are included as well. Although only limited research has been conducted on the influence of grandparents on child development and health, this data provides an overview of their participation in the region's households and shows trends in grandparental care over time.<sup>11</sup> Understanding how the population is changing and where it is growing allows decision makers to strategically and proactively allocate resources.

## What the Data Tell Us

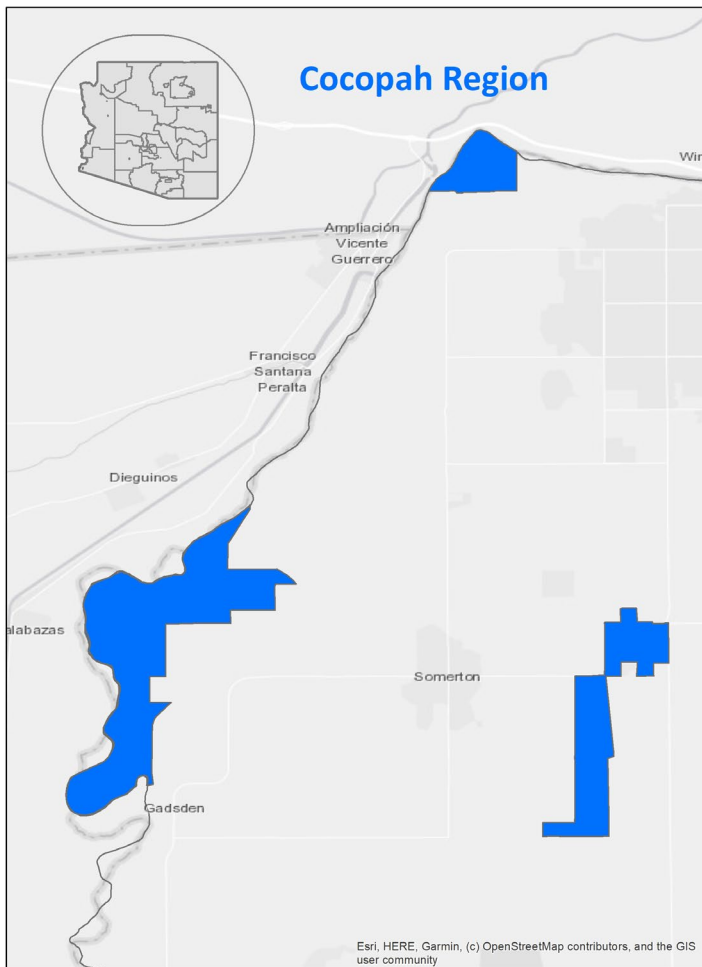
The FTF Cocopah Tribe Region is in the southwest corner of Yuma County, as shown in Exhibit 1.1. The map shows the three noncontiguous regions that make up the Cocopah Reservation: East, North and West Reservations. The boundaries of the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Region are the same as those of the Cocopah Reservation.

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<sup>11</sup> Sadruddin, A., Ponguta, L., Zonderman, A., Wiley, K., Grimshaw, A., Panter-Brick, C. (2019) How do grandparents influence child health and development? A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*. Volume 239. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112476>



Exhibit 1.1. Map of the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region boundaries within Yuma County



### Population Counts and Projections

According to the 2010 Census, the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region has a total population of 817 residents. There are 65 children under six years old in the region, accounting for eight percent of the total population in the region (Exhibit 1.2). Of the three regions that make up the Cocopah Tribe Region, the North Reservation is the most populous, with 365 residents or about 45% of the total population. The North Reservation has a notably smaller proportion of children under six years old (3%) compared to the other two reservations.

Data provided by the Cocopah Tribe Enrollment Department in 2022 show a total of 93 enrolled members under the age of six with known addresses, 46 of whom were residing on-reservation. The total tribal enrollment for that year was 1,206, with 474 members residing on-reservation (Exhibit 1.3).

### Exhibit 1.2. Population (all ages and children 0-5) in the 2010 Census

	All ages	Ages 0-5	Children (0-5) as a percentage of the total population
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>8%</b>
East Reservation	208	21	10%
North Reservation	365	12	3%
West Reservation	244	32	13%
All Arizona Reservations	178,131	20,511	12%
Yuma County	195,751	18,048	9%
ARIZONA	6,392,017	546,609	9%

*U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census Summary File 1; Tables P11 & P14*

### Exhibit 1.3. Cocopah Tribal enrollment, 2022

	On-Reservation	Off-Reservation	Total
<b>Children (Ages 0-5)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>93</b>
Children (Ages 0-17)	97	176	273
Adults (18 or older)	331	468	799
Total Membership	474	732	1,206

*Note: data includes a total of 41 members with unknown addresses  
Cocopah Tribe Enrollment Office (2022). [Tribal Enrollment]. Data received by correspondence.*

The number of births in the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region remained fairly steady between 2018 and 2019, with 10 and 12 births over the two years.<sup>12</sup> While the number of children under six in Yuma County and in Arizona is expected to increase over the next ten years,<sup>13</sup> the same growth trends may or may not apply to the Cocopah Tribe Region given the low number of births in comparison to the county and state.

### Demographics and Language

In the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region, about half of adults 18 and over identify as American Indian and 40% identify as white (Exhibit 1.4). This compares to four percent and 63%, respectively, for Arizona, underscoring the racially and ethnically distinct profile of the region compared to the state. Similarly, the region has a significantly higher proportion of children that identify as American Indian compared to the state population (Exhibit 1.5). Larger proportions of children ages 0-4 identify as American Indian or Hispanic/Latino than adults in the region (Exhibit 1.6). Note that percentages in the exhibits may not add up to 100% due to rounding and data aggregation.

<sup>12</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services (2021). *Vital Statistics*. Provided by AZ FTF.

<sup>13</sup> Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics (2017). *Arizona Population Projections: 2020 to 2050, Medium Series*

Exhibit 1.4. Race and ethnicity of the adult population (ages 18 and older) in the 2010 Census

	Hispanic or Latino	White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	American Indian alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	African-American alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	Asian or Pacific Islander (not Hispanic or Latino)
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Arizona	25%	63%	4%	4%	3%

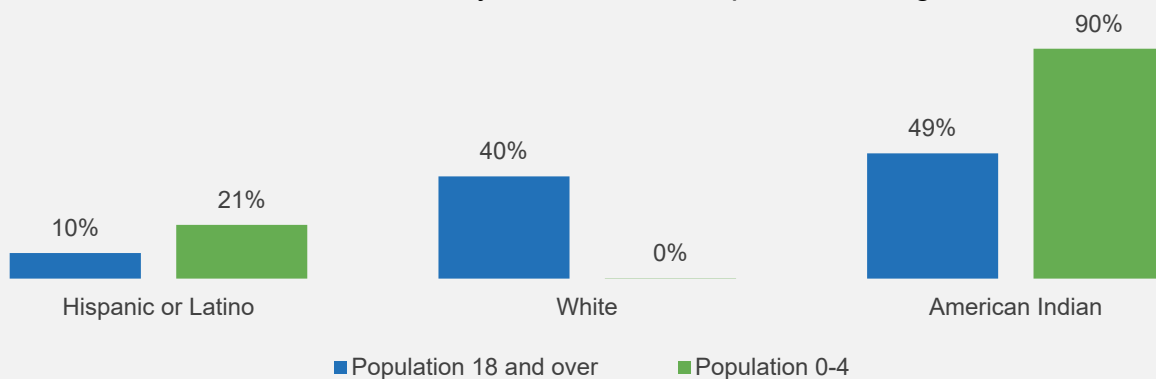
U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census Summary File 1; Table P11; generated by Harder+Company using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Exhibit 1.5. Race and ethnicity of children (ages 0-4) in the 2010 Census

	Hispanic or Latino	White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	American Indian alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	African-American alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	Asian or Pacific Islander (not Hispanic or Latino)
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
ARIZONA	45%	40%	6%	5%	3%

U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census Summary File 1; SF 1, Tables P12B, P12C, P12D, P12E, P12H, and P12I; generated by Harder+Company using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Exhibit 1.6. Distribution of race/ethnicity in the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region



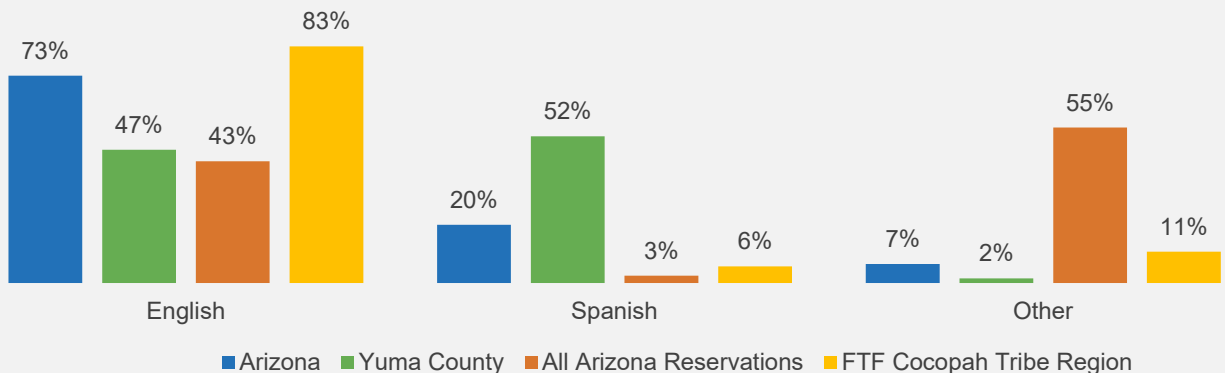
U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census Summary File 1; Table P11, Tables P12B, P12C, P12D, P12E, P12H, and P12I; generated by AZ FTF using American FactFinder

Most people (83%) in the region speak English as their primary language, while six percent primarily speak Spanish (Exhibit 1.7). Estimates indicate that 11% of residents in the Cocopah Tribe Region speak a Native North American language at home, a considerably lower rate than across all Arizona reservations (55%). The United States Census Bureau defines a household as “limited-English-speaking” if there is no adult (ages 14 or older) who speaks English well. Two percent of households in

Cocopah Tribe Region are classified as limited English-speaking, which is lower than the proportion of households in Yuma County (10%) and Arizona (4%), and significantly lower than the average among all Arizona reservations combined (13%, Exhibit 1.8).

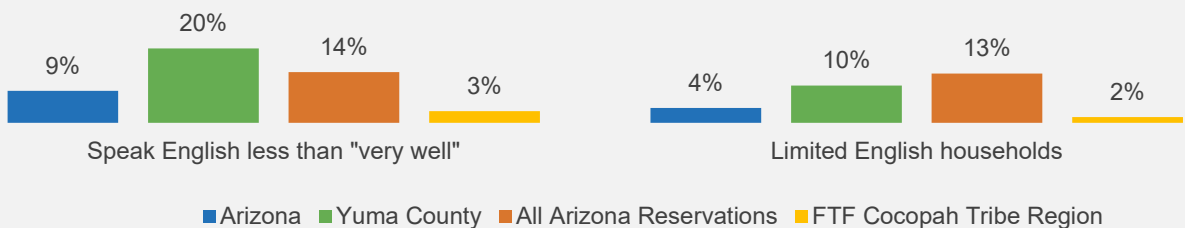
The traditional language of the Cocopah Indian Tribe is the Yuman language. The Cocopah Cultural Resources Department has produced children’s coloring books in Cocopah and English as well as other educational materials that are available to all tribal members. Children enrolled in the Cocopah Head Start program participate in Yuman language classes. Elders from the community attend the Head Start center four days a week to teach the children colors, numbers and shapes, and to reinforce learning objectives in the Cocopah Language. The Cocopah Cultural Resources Department also works with the elders to provide language and cultural preservation programs to the adults and children in the region.

Exhibit 1.7. Primary language spoken at home for population ages 5 and over



U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B16001; generated by AZ FTF using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>

Exhibit 1.8. Percentage of population that speaks English less than "very well" and percentage of limited English households



U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B16001 & B16002; generated by AZ FTF using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>

The Cocopah Tribe Region has no children living with parents born outside the U.S. in the region (0%) which aligns with the rate among all Arizona reservations combined (1%), but is notably different compared to Yuma County (39%) and the state overall (25%, Exhibit 1.9).

**Exhibit 1.9. Children (ages 0 to 5) living with parents born outside the U.S.**

	Children (ages 0-5) living with one or two parents	Children (ages 0-5) living with one or two foreign-born parents
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>0%</b>
All Arizona Reservations	334	1%
Yuma County	16,927	39%
ARIZONA	494,590	25%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019). American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2015–2019), Table B05009.

The percent of kindergarten through third grade students in the region who are English Language Learners (ELL) was 21% in 2020, which is a lower rate than in Yuma County but higher than across the state (Exhibit 1.10). These percentages remained generally consistent from 2018 to 2020 across the region, counties, and the state.

**Exhibit 1.10. Percentage of children in grades K to 3 that are English Language Learners from 2018 to 2020**

	Arizona	Yuma County	FTF Cocopah Tribe Region
2018	10%	29%	22%
2019	9%	29%	21%
2020	10%	29%	21%

Source: Arizona Department of Education (2021). English Language Learners. Provided by AZ FTF.

### Household Characteristics

In the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region there are 368 households of which 21% include children under six years old (Exhibit 1.11). The majority of children under six live in single-female households, accounting for 61% of all households with children 0-5 (Exhibit 1.11). Just two percent of children under six in the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region live with relatives or non-relatives (Exhibit 1.12). Of children under 18 who live in the same household as a grandparent, 75% are primarily cared for by a grandparent, which is significantly higher than 50% for Arizona (Exhibit 1.13).<sup>14</sup> There can be several advantages to living in a multigenerational household, including an increase in emotional well-being and more adults serving as role models in the socialization of children. There may also be cultural factors that favor grandparents living in the same household as their grandchildren. However, multigenerational household structures

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey. 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B10002; generated by AZ FTF; using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>

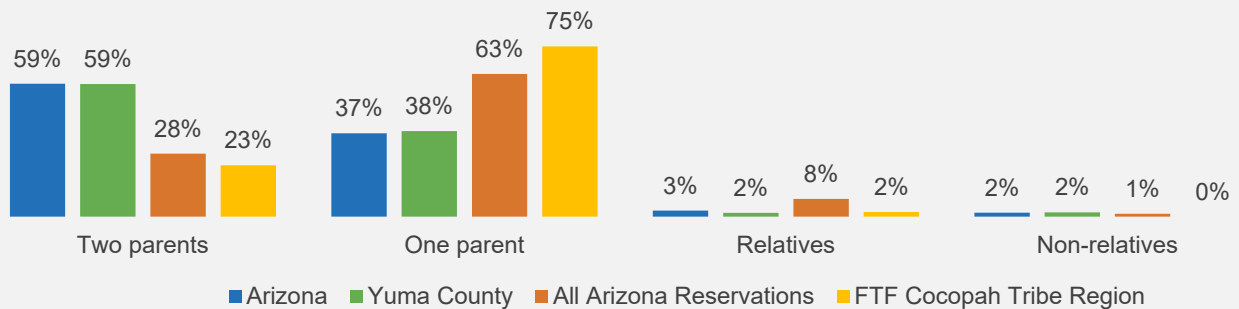
can in some cases indicate limited financial resources and needs to support both young families facing costs of child rearing and older adults on fixed incomes (who may be caring for dependents as well). Grandparents raising their grandchildren may also benefit from parenting support and services.

Exhibit 1.11. Number of households and household characteristics

	Arizona	Yuma County	FTF Cocopah Tribe Region
Total number of households	1,679,198	54,046	<b>368</b>
Households with children 0-5	17.3% (291,242)	19% (10,389)	<b>21% (77)</b>
Married-couple households with children 0-5	68.2% (198,602)	69% (7,147)	<b>23% (18)</b>
Single-male households with children 0-5	9.6% (27,887)	8% (846)	<b>16% (12)</b>
Single-female households with children 0-5	22.2% (64,753)	23% (2,396)	<b>61% (47)</b>

U.S. Census Bureau (2010). 2010 Decennial Census, SF 1, Table P20

Exhibit 1.12. Living arrangements of children 0-5



U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B05009, B09001, & B17006; generated by AZ FTF using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>

Exhibit 1.13. Children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household

	Arizona	Yuma County	All Arizona Reservations	FTF Cocopah Tribe Region
Number of children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household	155,821	6,670	27,230	<b>32</b>
Percent of children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household, and the grandparent is responsible for the child	50%	43%	52%	<b>75%</b>
Percent of children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household, and the grandparent is responsible for the child (with no parent present)	16%	12%	13%	<b>28%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B10002; generated by AZ FTF using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>



## **ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES**

# ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

## Why It Matters

The economic situation of children and their families has a large impact on their ability to access opportunities and services that can contribute to their well-being and healthy development. As children are growing and developing, outcomes such as school achievement, physical health, and emotional well-being are all impacted by a child's economic situation.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, being unemployed or living below the federal poverty level indicates that parents and caregivers have fewer resources to be able to meet their families' basic needs, such as adequate, nutritious food and good quality, stable housing.

Economic stability is critical to supporting young children and families to maintain a household where children can thrive. Recent research has shown that physical housing quality, neighborhood environment and housing stability play an important role in children's development and well-being.<sup>16, 17, 18</sup> Housing instability, which includes frequent moves, difficulty paying rent, being evicted or being homeless, is associated with worse health, academic, and social outcomes.<sup>19</sup> Children without housing stability often experience negative outcomes such as higher grade retention, higher high school dropout rates, and lower educational attainment as adults.<sup>20,21</sup> Unemployment of parents can also affect the psychological well-being of children in the long-term due to negative experiences and stressful events.<sup>22</sup> Lack of access to healthy food and general food insecurity can also lead to numerous issues for children and mothers, including birth complications, delayed development, learning difficulties, and chronic health conditions.<sup>23, 24</sup> Thus, housing, families' employment and food security are important components to consider when evaluating the conditions that affect a child's development and well-being during their first five years of life.

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<sup>15</sup> Brooks-Gunn, J., & Duncan, G. J. (1997). *The effects of poverty on children. The future of children*, 55-71.

<sup>16</sup> Blau, D. M., Haskell, N. L., & Haurin, D. R. (2019). *Are housing characteristics experienced by children associated with their outcomes as young adults? Journal of Housing Economics*, 46, 101631.

<sup>17</sup> Roy, J., Maynard, M., Weiss, E. (2008) *Partnership for America's Economic Success. The Hidden Costs of the Housing Crisis*. Retrieved from [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/partnership\\_for\\_americas\\_economic\\_success/paeshousingreportfinal1pdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/partnership_for_americas_economic_success/paeshousingreportfinal1pdf.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Clair, A. (2019). *Housing: An under-explored influence on children's well-being and becoming. Child Indicators Research*, 12(2), 609-626.

<sup>19</sup> Sandstrom, H. & Huerta, S. (September 2013). *The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development: A Research Synthesis*. Urban Institute. Retrieved from [http://www.urban.org/research/publication/negative-effects-instability-child-development-research-synthesis/view/full\\_report](http://www.urban.org/research/publication/negative-effects-instability-child-development-research-synthesis/view/full_report)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Kushel, M., Gupta, R., Gee, L., Haas, J. (2006) *Housing Instability and Food Insecurity as Barriers to Health Care Among Low-Income Americans*. Retrieved from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1525-1497.2005.00278.x/full>

<sup>22</sup> Nikolova, M., Nikolaev, B. (2018) *How having unemployed parents affects children's future well-being. Brookings*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/07/13/how-having-unemployed-parents-affects-childrens-future-well-being/>

<sup>23</sup> *Feeding America*. Retrieved from <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-hunger/child-development.html>

<sup>24</sup> Ke, J., Lee Ford-Jones, E. (2015) "Food Insecurity and Hunger: A Review of the Effects on Children's Health and Behaviour." *Paediatrics & Child Health* 20.2.

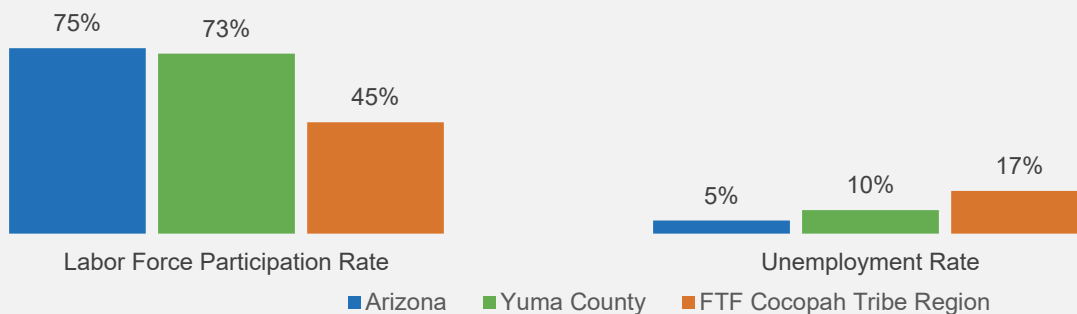


## What the Data Tell Us

### Employment Indicators

According to the American Community Survey, the labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the total adult population that is in the labor force, including those employed and unemployed.<sup>25</sup> Estimates indicate that the labor force participation rate in the Cocopah Tribe Region (45%) is substantially lower than the rate in Yuma County (73%) and in Arizona (75%) (Exhibit 2.1). In addition, the unemployment rate in the region is 17%, a rate that is over three times higher than the rate for Arizona. However, in comparison to past estimates from 2010 to 2014, the unemployment rate in the Cocopah Tribe Region has decreased by approximately 10 percentage points (data not shown).<sup>26</sup>

Exhibit 2.1. Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rates Among Population Ages 20 to 64



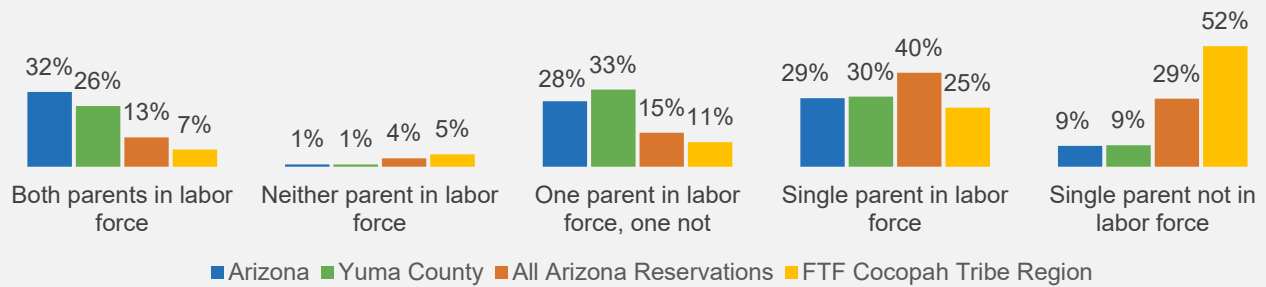
U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301

In the Cocopah Tribe Region, less than half (43%) of children under age six lived in a household in 2019 where at least one adult was in the labor force (Exhibit 2.2), which was significantly lower than the percentage for Arizona (89%). Thirty-two percent of children under age six had either both parents in the labor force or a single parent in the labor force, indicating they had some need for child care. Among all individuals ages 16 and older, the percentage of adults who were employed in the Cocopah Tribe Region in 2019 was 22%, which was much lower than the proportion in Arizona (56%, Exhibit 2.3).

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.) Labor Force Statistics Glossary. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/labor-force/about/glossary.html>

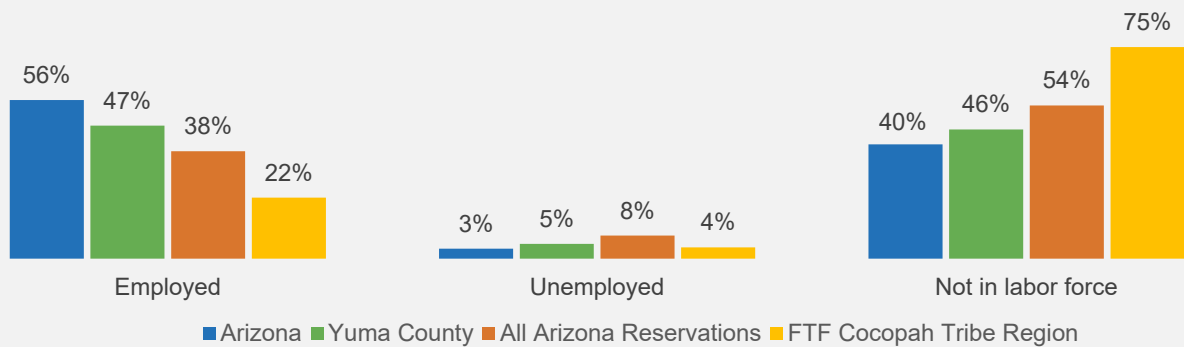
<sup>26</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2016). American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2010-2014). Table S2301.

### Exhibit 2.2. Employment status of parents with children 0-5



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey Table B23008.

### Exhibit 2.3. Employment status of adult population (ages 16 and older) who are employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force



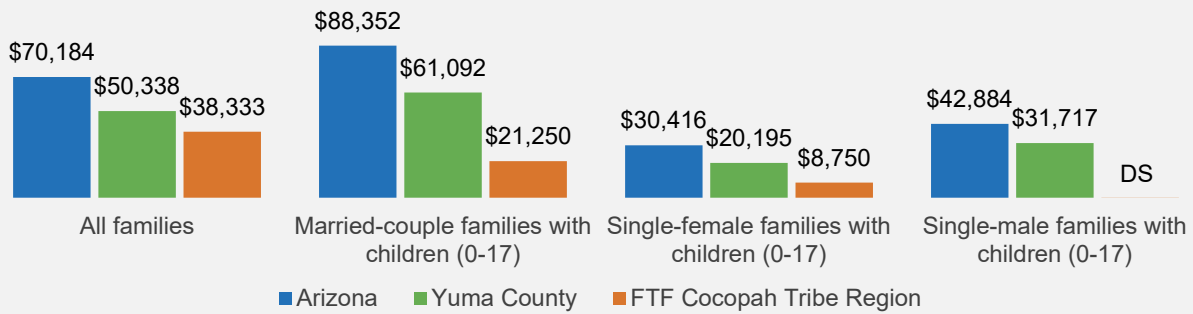
U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey Table B23025.

Note: The labor force includes all persons who are currently employed, including those on leave, furlough, or temporarily laid off.

### Median Income and Poverty

The median income of all families is approximately \$38,000 in the Cocopah Tribe Region, which is about \$12,000 less than the median income of Yuma County. The median income of married-couple families with children ages 0 to 17 is much lower than the median income for all families in the Cocopah Tribe Region. Moreover, the median income for single-parent families is significantly less than for married-couple families. Exhibit 2.4 shows the difference in median income for married-couple families, single-female families, and single-male families.

Exhibit 2.4. Median income for families with children (0-17)



Note: DS = data suppressed

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19126.

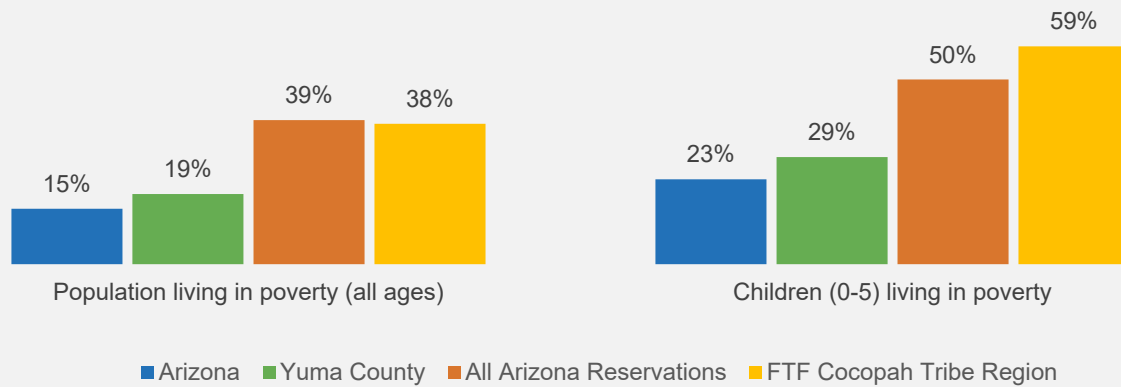
The large number of single-parent families combined with low median incomes may contribute to a sizable portion of the population in the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region living in poverty.<sup>27</sup> In the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region, 38% of the population and 59% of children under age six are living in poverty (Exhibit 2.5). These poverty rates are similarly high across all reservations in Arizona, suggesting a common need to prioritize economic measures, such as developing stable, well-paying job opportunities, in tribal regions in the state.<sup>28</sup>

Federal poverty levels (FPL) are used to determine eligibility of certain programs and benefits, including SNAP and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). The federal poverty level changes every year and is based on family size. For example, in 2021, the FPL was \$26,500 for a family of four. A family of four that made less than or equal to \$26,500 was considered to be in poverty. In the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region in 2019, while 38% of all people were living in poverty, a full 59% of children ages 0-5 were living in poverty (Exhibit 2.5). Looking more closely at families with young children, 14% of families were living between 50% and 100% of the FPL and an additional 44% were living under even more severe circumstances at less than 50% of the FPL (Exhibit 2.6). The levels of poverty faced by young children in this region are more extreme than elsewhere in the state, calling for attention.

<sup>27</sup> To define poverty, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

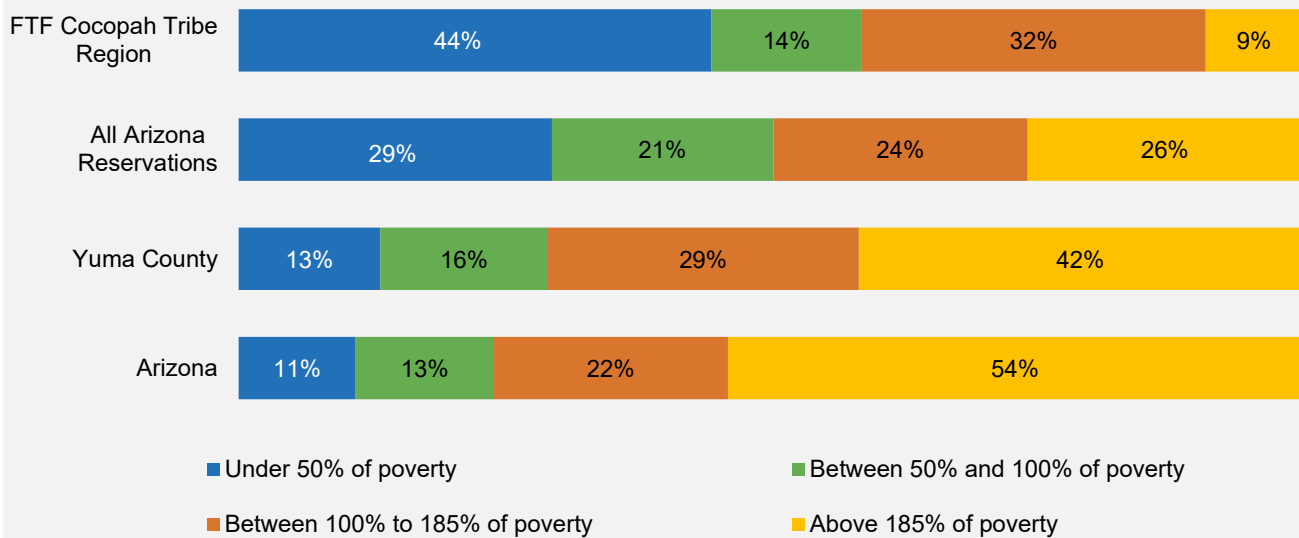
<sup>28</sup> Institute for Policy Research (2020). *What Drives Native American Poverty?* Retrieved from <https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2020/redbird-what-drives-native-american-poverty.html>

### Exhibit 2.5. Percentage of population living in poverty



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17001.

### Exhibit 2.6. Families with young children (ages 0-5) living at various poverty thresholds



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B17001 & B17022.

## Housing

Residents of Cocopah Tribe have a smaller housing cost burden than residents of the state as a whole: 16% of the region’s housing units require their residents to contribute more than 30% of their household income toward housing (Exhibit 2.7). Data on poverty rates in the tribal region are not reflected in housing cost, and caution should be used to interpret these results as housing cost burden is not by itself a robust measure of affordability or economic conditions.<sup>29</sup>

Exhibit 2.7. The cost of housing, relative to household income

	Number of occupied housing units	Occupied housing units which cost 30% of household income, or more
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>16%</b>
Yuma County	73,098	29%
All Arizona Reservations	73,206	14%
ARIZONA	2,571,268	30%

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25106.

As of 2019, about 48% of households in the Cocopah Tribe Region had both a smartphone and computer, which is lower than the proportion in Yuma County (61%) and Arizona (73%, Exhibit 2.9). In addition, 63% of residents in the Cocopah Tribe Region lived in households with a computer and internet (Exhibit 2.10). During the nationwide closures of elementary and secondary schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more families had to rely on having multiple computers and reliable internet in their homes which caused the digital divide to become more apparent.<sup>30</sup> Households that were the most impacted by the digital divide included those in rural communities, people living in poverty, and people of color.<sup>31,32</sup> Given that the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region had a relatively low percentage of households with children under 18 years old that had a computer and internet (56%), it is likely that the pandemic’s impact was particularly challenging for many families (Exhibit 2.11). Of the people living in households with a computer and internet, half of all households (50%) in the Cocopah Tribe Region had fixed broadband with cellular data plan as their internet (Exhibit 2.12).

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<sup>29</sup>PD&R Edge (n.d.) *Rental Burdens: Rethinking Affordability Measures*. Retrieved from [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr\\_edge\\_featd\\_article\\_092214.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_092214.html)

<sup>30</sup> Masonbrink, A., Hurley, E. (2020) "Advocating for children during the COVID-19 school closures." *Pediatrics* 146.3.

<sup>31</sup> Goldschmidt, K. (2020) "The COVID-19 pandemic: Technology use to support the wellbeing of children." *Journal of pediatric nursing* 53.

<sup>32</sup> Dorn, E., Hancock, B., Sarakatsannis, J, Viruleg, E. (2020) "COVID-19 and learning loss—disparities grow and students need help." *McKinsey & Company*.

Exhibit 2.9. Households with and without computers and smartphones

	Total number of households	Percent with computer but no smartphone	Percent with smartphone but no computer	Percent with both smartphone and computer	Percent with neither smartphone nor computer
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Yuma County	73,098	6%	18%	61%	14%
All Arizona Reservations	73,206	5%	21%	30%	43%
ARIZONA	2,571,268	7%	12%	73%	8%

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25106.

Note: In this table, "computer" includes both desktops and laptops.

Exhibit 2.10. Persons (all ages) in households with and without computers and internet connectivity

	Number of person (all ages) living in households	Percent in households with computer and internet	Percent in households with computer but no internet	Percent in households without computer
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Yuma County	203,925	83%	7%	10%
All Arizona Reservations	268,129	40%	24%	36%
ARIZONA	6,892,175	87%	7%	6%

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B28005.

Exhibit 2.11. Children (ages 0-17) in households with and without computers and internet connectivity\*

	Number of person (all ages) living in households	Percent in households with computer and internet	Percent in households with computer but no internet	Percent in households without computer
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>23%</b>
Yuma County	53,204	86%	6%	7%
All Arizona Reservations	78,988	44%	26%	30%
ARIZONA	1,632,019	88%	8%	4%

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B28005.

\*Internet includes a dial-up internet subscription or a broadband internet subscription.

Exhibit 2.12. Households with computer & internet by type (dial-up, broadband, satellite, other)

	People living in households with computer and internet (all ages)	Percent with fixed broadband and cellular data plan	Percent with fixed broadband without cellular data plan	Percent with cellular data plan without fixed broadband	Percent with dial-up internet only
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Yuma County	168,562	64%	19%	17%	0%
All Arizona Reservations	106,979	35%	30%	33%	2%
ARIZONA	5,968,639	69%	18%	12%	0%

*U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B2808.*



## EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS



# EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS

## Why It Matters

Early care and education helps children thrive in school. Research shows that children who participate in early care and education programs are more likely to perform better on educational indicators such as math and reading tests, attendance rates, and discipline referrals than children who do not.<sup>33, 34</sup>

Educational indicators that affect student outcomes and are likely related to participation in early care and education include, but are not limited to, school attendance, proficiency exams, grades, graduation and dropout rates, and educational attainment. For example, poor attendance in school affects student outcomes because it limits children from gaining knowledge and thriving in an academic setting.

Research indicates an association between high school dropout rates and poor attendance as early as kindergarten; on average, dropouts have missed 124 days of school by the time they reach 8<sup>th</sup> grade.<sup>35</sup> In addition, irregular attendance influences school budgets and could potentially lead to fewer funds for essential classroom needs.<sup>36</sup>

Notably, children's participation in quality early care and education can also yield lifelong benefits. Improved performance on standardized tests and lower drop out rates in turn increases children's likelihood of graduating from high school, earning higher monthly earnings, and owning a home. Research shows that high-quality early care and education programs can reduce disparities in college graduation, educational attainment, and wages.<sup>37</sup> Research has also shown that students dropping out of high school have an increased likelihood of earning less than high school graduates, being unemployed, receiving public assistance, and a higher chance of being incarcerated, therefore likely to confront more barriers while raising a family.<sup>38</sup> Essentially, a child's enrollment in early learning provides short-term and long-term benefits that will contribute to the child successfully transitioning into and prospering in adulthood.

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<sup>33</sup> Bakken, L., Brown, N., Downing, B. (2017) *Early Childhood Education: The Long-Term Benefits*. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*. Volume 31. Issue 2. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2016.1273285>

<sup>34</sup> Campbell, F., Pungello, E., Kainz, K., Burchinal, M., Pan, Y., Wasik, B., Barbarin, O., Sparling, J., Ramey, C., (2012) *Adult outcomes as a function of an early childhood educational program: an abecedarian project follow-up*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3989926/>

<sup>35</sup> GreatSchools staff. *Why attendance matters*. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/school-attendance-issues/>

<sup>36</sup> National Center for Education Statistics (2009). *Every school day counts: The forum guide to collecting and using attendance data*.. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/attendancedata/chapter1a.asp>

<sup>37</sup> Bustamante, A., Dearing, E., Zachrisson, H., Vandell, D. (2021) *Adult outcomes of sustained high-quality early child care and education: Do they vary by family income?* Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13696>

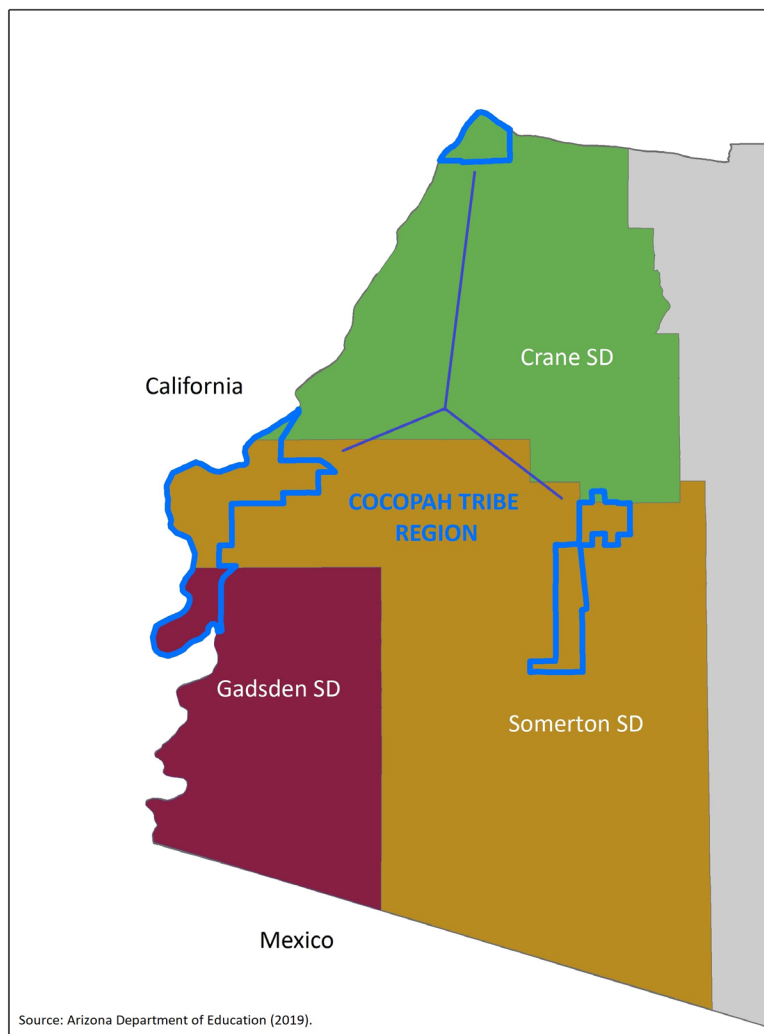
<sup>38</sup> Christle, C. A., Jolivet, K., Nelson, M. C. (2007). *School characteristics related to high school dropout rates*. *Journal of Remedial and Special Education*, 28, 15. Retrieved from [www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/recordDetail?accno=EJ785964](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/recordDetail?accno=EJ785964)

## What the Data Tell Us

### Cocopah Education Department

There are no schools within the boundaries of the Cocopah Tribe Region. Children from the community attend schools in the surrounding towns of Yuma and Somerton in the Crane, Somerton, and Yuma Elementary Districts (Exhibit 3.1).

Exhibit 3.1. Map of school districts in the Cocopah Region



The Cocopah Education Department supports tribal members in pursuing their education and provides a range of services to families within the region. One of the key resources offered by the Department is a team of four advisors, one each for: grades K-2, grades 3-5, middle school (grades 6-8), and high school students (grades 9-12). Advisors closely monitor student attendance and academic performance of

children living both on- and off-reservation. These advisors also serve as the liaisons between parents and the schools, working to provide the support they may need such as requesting meetings with teachers, participating in the creation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and providing parents with transportation to participate in school activities or attend meetings. Children must be enrolled Cocopah members in order to participate in this program, although limited services are also offered to children who are not tribal members but reside on the Cocopah Reservation.

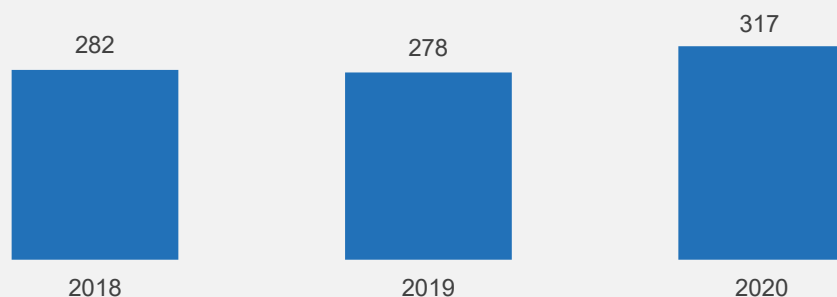
Recognizing the importance of early childhood education and of supporting the youngest students, the Cocopah Indian Tribe allocated additional funding to the advisors' team so one of them could focus on grades K-2. The K-2 advisor works closely with the Cocopah Head Start program to ensure that children have a smooth transition into kindergarten. This support is particularly important because, for many young children in the region, this transition can be overwhelming as it is their first time attending a larger school outside of the reservation boundaries.

Financial support and incentives for students are also available through the Cocopah Education Department. Key informants noted that having children attend school can be costly for families in the region, especially at the middle and high school levels. The Cocopah Education Department is able to provide assistance with ID fees, books, clothing, school supplies and even afterschool programs including participation in clubs or sports. College-attending students can also obtain financial assistance from the Cocopah Education Department.

### **Student Attendance**

Exhibit 3.2 shows the number of children from the Cocopah Tribe Region in grades K-12 enrolled in schools in the area. There was an increase in the number of children enrolled in school between 2018 and 2020, from 282 to 317. The data provided represent students whose parents have signed a Release of Information Form with the Cocopah Education Department. Some families may choose not to have their information shared with the Education Department, and therefore do not register them in the Department's system. Other children may be living at times with non-tribal family members who may not be aware of the benefits that are available to these students through the Cocopah Education Department. Therefore, there may be some discrepancies between these estimates and the actual number of students enrolled. In addition, anecdotal evidence suggests there has been an increase in the number of home-schooled children who would not be counted as "enrolled." Finally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school enrollment is still undetermined at the time of this report publication.

Exhibit 3.2. Cocopah students enrolled in K-12 schools



Cocopah Education Department (2021). [Education Data]. Unpublished data

Cocopah kindergarteners attend a variety of elementary schools in the area, including schools in the Crane Elementary District, Somerton Elementary District, and Yuma Elementary District. Data provided by the Cocopah Education Department show that the majority of Cocopah kindergarteners who attended kindergarten in 2019 and 2020 did so in the Somerton Elementary District (Exhibit 3.3).

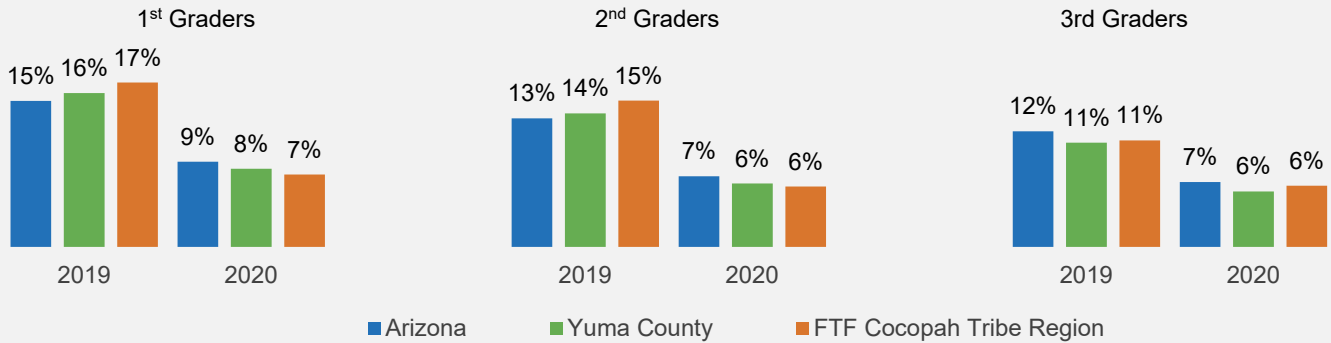
Exhibit 3.3. Elementary school attendance of Cocopah kindergarteners

Schools serving the Cocopah Tribe Region	Number of Cocopah students enrolled	2019		2020	
		Total enrollment	Number of Cocopah students enrolled	Total enrollment	Number of Cocopah students enrolled
Crane Elementary District	2	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Somerton Elementary District	8	n/a	7	n/a	n/a
Yuma Elementary District	2	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Total Enrollment	12	n/a	13	n/a	n/a

Cocopah Education Department (2021). [Education Data]. Unpublished Data

Between 2019 and 2020, the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region experienced a decrease in the percentage of students missing ten or more days of school among all grade levels (Exhibit 3.4). The percentage of students in the region that missed ten or more days of school was comparable to the state as a whole. It can be observed that the higher the grade level, the lower the rate of absences. There are many potential explanations for such findings, including that younger children may get sick more frequently than older children, parents may be more willing to let their children miss school in earlier years, or that the perception of the value of education changes as children grow.

Exhibit 3.4. Percentage of students absent ten or more days from school in the Cocopah Tribe Region



Arizona Department of Education (2015). *Chronic Absences*. Provided by AZ FTF.

\*Data available by school district

### Early Achievement

Fewer than two of every five preschool-aged children in the Cocopah Tribe Region (39%) is enrolled in day care or preschool, which is lower than Arizona’s proportion by 26 percentage points and also lower than both Yuma County and the average across all reservations in the state (Exhibit 3.5).

Exhibit 3.5. Children ages 3-4 enrolled in day care or preschool\*



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B2808.

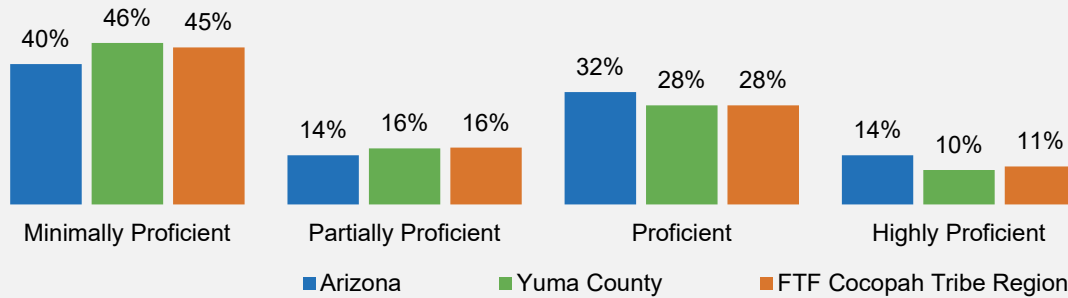
\*There is no data available on the status of children not enrolled in school.

Research shows that preschool attendance affects future academic performance, specifically English and math scores.<sup>39</sup> The English Language Arts (ELA) assessment results of the AzMERIT demonstrated that about 39% of all third graders in the Cocopah Tribe Region scored “proficient” or “highly proficient”, which is slightly less than the statewide percentages (Exhibit 3.6). Slightly more, about 49%, of third

<sup>39</sup> Andrews, R. J., Jargowsky, P., Kuhne, K. (2012). *The effects of Texas's targeted pre-kindergarten program on academic performance* (No. w18598). National Bureau of Economic Research.

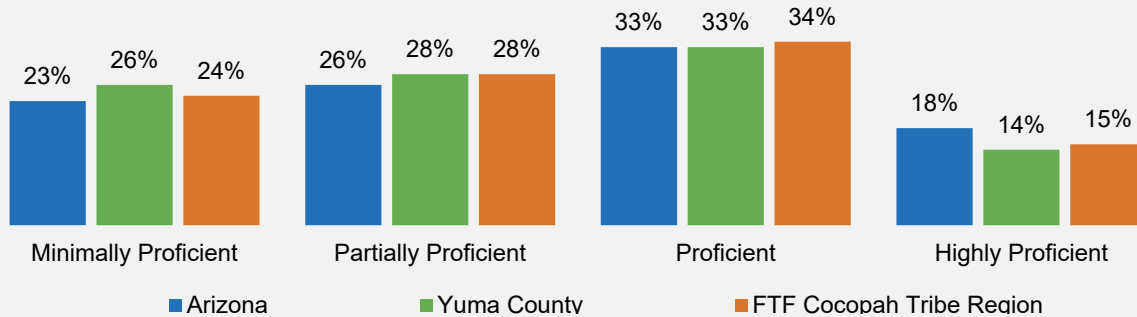
graders scored “proficient” or highly proficient” on the math assessment test in the region, which is similar to the percent for the state (Exhibit 3.7). Although math assessment results are slightly higher than the ELA assessment results, overall at least half of all third graders are not meeting the proficiency standard for the two subjects.

Exhibit 3.6. 2019 AzMERIT English Language Arts assessment results for third grade students



Arizona Department of Education (2019). AzMERIT Reports. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 3.7. 2019 AzMERIT Math assessment results for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

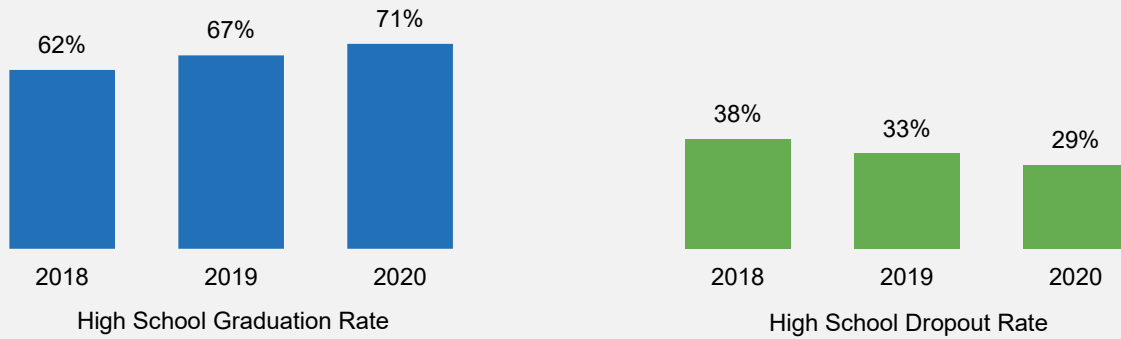


Arizona Department of Education (2019). AzMERIT Reports. Provided by AZ FTF.

### High School Graduation & Dropout Rates

In the Cocopah Tribe Region, the graduation rate has increased yearly between 2018 to 2020, and while the rate is lower compared to the state and the county, the increase over time is a positive sign of regional educational outcomes (Exhibit 3.8). From 2018 to 2020, the percent of students dropping out of high school is noticeably high in the Cocopah Tribe (Exhibit 3.8), where the dropout rate was over one-third (38%) in 2018. While the number has decreased yearly, additional focus on supports and services for students who are at risk of dropping out could be considered.

Exhibit 3.8. Cocopah High school graduation and dropout rates, 2018-2020

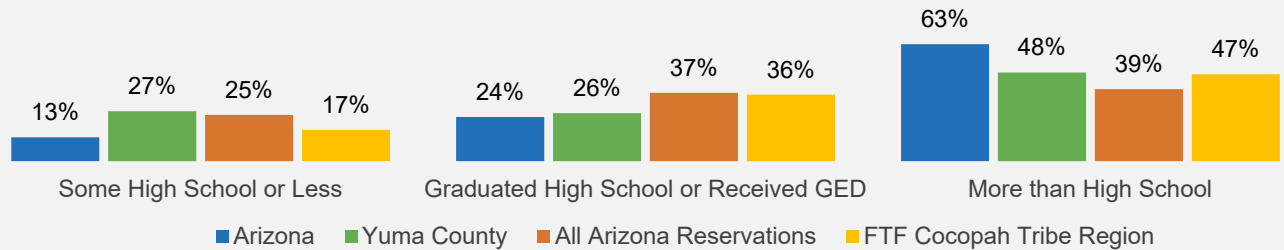


Cocopah Education Department (2021). [Education Data]. Unpublished Data

### Educational Attainment

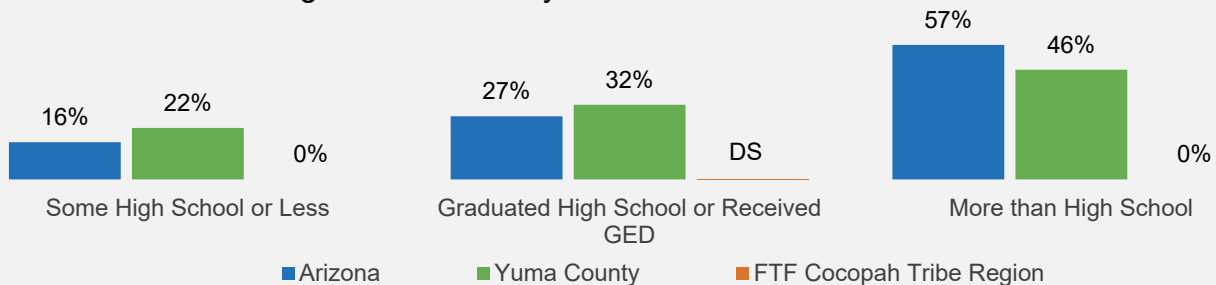
In the Cocopah Tribe Region, 83% of adults ages 25 and older have completed at least a high school education, which is a slightly lower percentage than the state (Exhibit 3.9). Among mothers giving birth in 2019 in Yuma County, 78% of infants were born to mothers who have completed at least a high school education (Exhibit 3.10). These data were suppressed for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region due to the low count.

Exhibit 3.9. 2015-2019 Educational attainment of adults 25 and older



American Community Survey five year estimates, 2015-2019; generated by AZ FTF; using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>.

Exhibit 3.10. Percentage of live births by mother's educational attainment



Note: DS = data suppressed  
Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.



## EARLY LEARNING



# EARLY LEARNING

## Why It Matters

Early learning fosters children's development and well-being at a critical time in their lives. Early learning is supported by early care and education (ECE), a constellation of all formal and informal educational programs and strategies designed to contribute to the growth and development of children from birth through age five.<sup>40</sup> Research suggests that the first five years of life are considered to be the most crucial years in children's development, as they undergo the most rapid phase of growth during that period.<sup>41</sup> Research also shows that when children participate in high-quality learning environments, they learn and develop important skills and abilities such as motivation, self-control, focus and self-esteem. These skills prepare them for educational achievement later in life and reduce the need for special education programs.<sup>42</sup> In addition, research shows that investments in ECE have long-term health effects, helping to prevent disease and promote health.<sup>43, 44</sup> For disadvantaged families, early childhood programs have benefits on health, future wages, crime reduction, and education.<sup>45</sup> Children who participate in early care and education programs are better prepared for kindergarten, have greater success in elementary school, and are more likely to graduate from high school and prosper well into adulthood.<sup>46, 47</sup>

Key indicators of early learning that help identify the needs of children include, but are not limited to, the availability of ECE centers and homes; enrollment in ECE programs; compensation and retention of ECE professionals; costs of child care and availability of child care subsidies or scholarships; and capacity to serve children with special needs.

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<sup>40</sup> University of Massachusetts Global (2021). *What is the purpose of early childhood education? Why it's so important*. Retrieved from: <https://www.umassglobal.edu/news-and-events/blog/what-is-purpose-of-early-childhood-education>

<sup>41</sup> Teach.com powered by 2U (n.d.). *Early Childhood Education*. Retrieved from <https://teach.com/where/levels-of-schooling/early-childhood-education/>

<sup>42</sup> McCoy, C., Yoshikawa, H., Ziol-Guest, K. (2017) *Impacts of early childhood education on medium- and long-term educational outcomes*. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3102/0013189X17737739>

<sup>43</sup> Garcia, J., Heckman, J., Ziff, A. (2019) *Early Childhood education and crime*. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1002/imhj.21759>

<sup>44</sup> Campbell, F., Conti, G., Heckman, J. J., Moon, S. H., Pinto, R., Pungello, E., & Pan, Y. (2014). *Early childhood investments substantially boost adult health*. *Science*, 343(6178), 1478-1485.

<sup>45</sup> Garcia, J., Heckman, J., Leaf, D., Prados, M. (2016) *The life-cycle benefits of an influential early childhood program*. *National Bureau of Economic Research*. Retrieved from <https://www.nber.org/papers/w22993>

<sup>46</sup> Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Ou, S. R., Robertson, D. L., Mersky, J. P., Topitzes, J. W., & Niles, M. D. (2007). *Effects of a school-based, early childhood intervention on adult health and well-being: A 19-year follow-up of low-income families*. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 161(8), 730-739.

<sup>47</sup> Weiland, C., Yoshikawa, H. (2013). *Impacts of a prekindergarten program on children's mathematics, language, literacy, executive function, and emotional skills*. *Child Development*, 84(6), 2112-2130.

## What the Data Tell Us

### Early Care and Education

Early care and education opportunities in the Cocopah Tribe Region include the Cocopah Day Care and the Cocopah Head Start. Both of these programs are managed directly by the Cocopah Indian Tribe. The Cocopah Day Care is a child care center for children 3-12 years of age. The center's priority is to provide child care for the Cocopah Indian Tribe and surrounding tribes. The Cocopah Day Care provides a fun educational environment for children. Staff are trained to provide the best child care experience. As of 2021, the center's capacity is 20 children, with an enrollment of 21 children (Exhibit 4.1). Among the 21 children served by the Cocopah Day Care, 11 children are ages 0-5 (data not shown).

According to data received by correspondence from a local community expert, the Cocopah Head Start has an enrollment of 20 children (Exhibit 4.1). Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs that promote the school readiness of children ages five and under from low income families. These programs provide comprehensive services to support child development, including early learning, health services, and family well-being and engagement. The Office of Head Start funds agencies in local communities to implement Head Start and Early Head Start programs.<sup>48</sup> Research shows that Head Start children tend to score higher on all domains of cognitive and social-emotional development in comparison to children not enrolled in Head Start.<sup>49</sup> In addition, Head Start children are also more likely to improve their social skills, impulse control, and approaches to learning while concurrently decreasing their problem behaviors and becoming less aggressive and hyperactive over the course of a year.<sup>50</sup>

Exhibit 4.1. Cocopah Early Care and Education Programs

	Enrolled Children
Cocopah Day Care	21
Cocopah Head Start	20

Source: Cocopah Day Care (2021); Cocopah Head Start Data (2021). Data received by correspondence.

As previously mentioned, 39% of children between the ages of three and four are enrolled in ECE programs in the Cocopah Tribe Region (Exhibit 3.5). This is higher than the 32% assumed to need child care since all adults in the household are employed (Exhibit 2.2). Parents who do not have access to stable child care may find themselves missing work to care for their children. In addition, research has

<sup>48</sup> Head Start Programs. (2020 November 3). Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/about/head-start>

<sup>49</sup> Head Start impact study: Final report. (2010, January). Retrieved from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive\\_summary\\_final.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive_summary_final.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> Aikens, N., Kopack Klein, A., Tarullo, L., West, J. (2013). Getting ready for kindergarten: Children's progress during Head Start. FACES 2009 report. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

consistently demonstrated that lack of access to child care has negative effects on families and decreases parents' chances of sustaining employment.<sup>51</sup>

ECE teachers/professionals are tasked with the early care and education of young children. The responsibilities of ECE teachers include guiding children, often through play and activities, and acting as their partner in the learning process. In addition, they are responsible for shaping the intellectual and social development of young children, which can have an effect on a child's future academic performance.<sup>52</sup> Among the four staff of Cocopah Head Start, comprising of one classroom teacher and three assistant teachers, two hold a child development associate (CDA) credential (Exhibit 4.2).






Exhibit 4.2. Staff credentials for Cocopah Head Start staff

	Total Staff	Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	AA in Early Childhood Education	BA in Early Childhood Education
Head Start Classroom Teachers	1	1	1	0
Head Start Assistant Teachers	3	1	0	NA

Source: Cocopah Head Start Data (2021). Unpublished data received by request

### Quality of Early Care and Education

Quality First is a signature program of FTF that is designed to improve the quality of early learning for children birth to age five. Quality First partners with ECE providers across Arizona to provide coaching and funding that is meant to improve the quality of their services. Quality First implemented a statewide standard of quality for ECE programs along with associated star ratings. The star ratings allow parents to easily take quality into consideration when deciding on care providers. The star ratings range from one to five indicating the level of quality and attainment of quality standards.<sup>53</sup> In the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region, there is one Quality First Center, which is not rated 5 stars.

	Highest Quality	Far exceeds quality standards
	Quality Plus	Exceeds quality standards
	Quality	Meets quality standards
	Progressing Star	Approaching quality standards
	Rising Star	Committed to quality improvement
	No Rating	Program is enrolled in Quality First but does not yet have a public rating

<sup>51</sup> Greenberg, M. (2007). Next steps for federal child care policy. *The Next Generation of Antipoverty Policies*, 17, 2. Retrieved from <http://www.futureofchildren.org/publications/journals/article/index.Xml?journalid=33&articleid=67&sectionid=353>

<sup>52</sup> Bano, N., Ansari, M., Ganai, M. Y. (2016). *A study of personality characteristics and values of secondary school teachers in relation to their classroom performance and students' likings*. Anchor Academic Publishing.

<sup>53</sup> Arizona First Things First (October 2021). *Quality First. Cost*. Retrieved from: <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources/quality-first/>

## Costs of Child Care & Access

In addition to supporting improvements in the quality of child care, FTF provides scholarships for low income children to attend quality ECE programs. Previous research has shown that low-income mothers receiving child care subsidies, a form of financial assistance, are more likely than other low-income mothers to work, sustain employment, and work longer hours.<sup>51</sup> Further, the negative effects of not accessing child care include the possibility of incurring financial debt, choosing child care that is lower quality and less stable, and losing time from work. Cocopah Head Start and Cocopah Day Care are free for Cocopah Tribe members who live on-reservation, and therefore according to local community experts, cost is not a major barrier to accessing child care for Cocopah Tribe families. Data related to costs of child care and access for Yuma County and Arizona are presented in the appendix (Exhibit 7.9).

## Developmental Delays and Special Needs

Advances in teaching young children with special needs reflect significant changes in public policy and professional philosophy across the nation. There are diverse perspectives on how to effectively teach young children with developmental delays and special needs.<sup>54</sup> The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. Infants and toddlers with disabilities (ages zero to two) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth (ages three to 21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.<sup>55</sup>

AZEIP is the Arizona statewide system that offers services and assistance to families and their children with disabilities or developmental delays under the age of three. The purpose of the program is to intervene at an early stage to help children develop to their highest potential.<sup>56</sup> Research shows that children and youth with mild intellectual disabilities are behind in academic skills compared to their peers.<sup>57</sup> Without proper intervention, this can lead to delays in learning to read and perform basic math and to further difficulties in other academic areas that require use of those skills. A child is eligible for AZEIP if he/she is between birth and 36 months of age and is developmentally delayed or has an established condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay, as defined by the State.<sup>58</sup> A child is considered to be developmentally delayed when s/he has not reached 50% of the milestones expected at her/his chronological age in one or more of the areas of development: cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional, or adaptive.

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<sup>54</sup> Dyson, A. (2001). *Special needs education as the way to equity: an alternative approach?* *Support for Learning*, 16, 3.

<sup>55</sup> US Department of Education: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/osep-idea.html>

<sup>56</sup> Arizona Department of Economic Security (n.d.). *Arizona Early Intervention Program*. Retrieved from: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>

<sup>57</sup> Rosenberg, L., Bart, O., Ratzon, N., Jarus, T. (2013) *Personal and Environmental Factors predict participation of children with and without mild developmental disabilities*. Retrieved from: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10826-012-9619-8/>

<sup>58</sup> Arizona Department of Economic Security (n.d.) *Eligibility for the Arizona Early Intervention Program*. Retrieved from: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/early-intervention/arizona-early-intervention-program-azeip-eligibility>

From 2018-2020, Yuma County and Arizona experienced fluctuations in the number of children receiving AzEIP referrals and services (Exhibit 4.3). Compared to 2018, the number of children receiving referrals in Yuma County in 2020 decreased by around 30%. One reason why all referred children do not receive services may be because of the high eligibility threshold of having a 50% or greater delay in development.

Exhibit 4.3. Children receiving AzEIP referrals and services, 2018-2020

	Number of Children Receiving AzEIP Referrals			Number of Children Receiving AzEIP Services		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>
Yuma County	361	345	247	60	95	62
ARIZONA	10,535	11,190	9,794	2,421	2,641	2,172

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2021). AzEIP Referred and Served Children. Provided by AZ FTF.

To qualify for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) services an individual must have a cognitive disability, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, or be at risk for a developmental disability. Children under age six are eligible if they show significant delays in one or more of these areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, or self-help. From 2017 to 2020, the rates of children receiving referrals to DDD services stayed fairly consistent in both Yuma County and Arizona (Exhibit 4.4). However, the number of children receiving services decreased over that time.

Exhibit 4.4. Children receiving referrals and services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, 2017-2020

	Number of Children Receiving DDD Referrals				Number of Children Receiving DDD Services			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Yuma County	110	103	96	117	111	109	67	69
ARIZONA	5,478	6,163	6,261	5,700	5,520	6,123	4,005	4,078

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Child Care (CCA) Subsidies. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Special Education

In 2020, the most common types of disabilities for preschool children were developmental delay and speech/language impairment (Exhibit 4.5).<sup>59</sup> For preschool students in the Cocopah Tribe Region in

<sup>59</sup> Examples of developmental delays for preschoolers include, but not limited to, cognitive, motor, social/emotional/behavioral or speech.

2018-2020, the number of students enrolled in special education rose from 41% to 52% (Exhibit 4.6). Similar to the disabilities of preschool children, the most common disabilities for students in kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade were developmental delay and speech/language impairment.

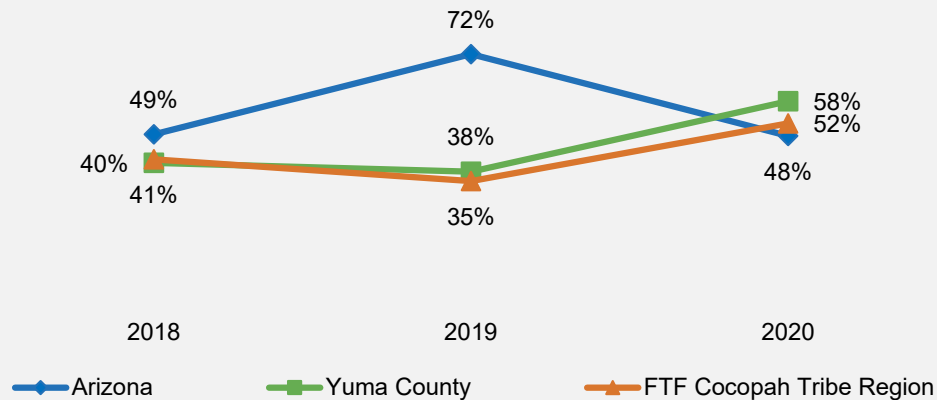
Exhibit 4.5. Preschool children enrolled in special education by type of disability, 2020

	Percent in Special Education	Autism	Developmental Delays	Hearing Impairment	Other	Preschool Severe Delay	Speech/Language Impairment
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Yuma County	58%	0%	44%	0%	0%	22%	33%
ARIZONA	48%	<2%	43%	<2%	<2%	20%	34%

Arizona Department of Education (2020). [Special education]. Unpublished data.

Note: The data presented in this table are unduplicated (i.e., children diagnosed with multiple disabilities are counted only one time in the Federal Primary Need (FPN) category)

Exhibit 4.6. Percent of preschool children enrolled in special education, 2018-2020



Arizona Department of Education (2014). Graduation Rate 2018 Cycle. Provided by AZ FTF.



## CHILD HEALTH

# CHILD HEALTH

## Why It Matters

Ensuring healthy development through early identification and treatment of children's health issues helps families understand healthy developmental pathways and how health issues affect children and their school readiness.<sup>60</sup> There are many health factors that impact the well-being of young children and their families. Research has shown that high quality prenatal care improves maternal health and health behaviors during pregnancy and after childbirth.<sup>61</sup> For example, during prenatal care visits, expectant mothers are provided with information and resources to promote a healthy pregnancy and increase the healthy development of their child. At routine prenatal visits, physicians often remind expectant mothers of the importance of abstaining from substance use, maintaining a healthy diet, and the benefits of breastfeeding, all of which influence a baby's development. For example, maternal overweight and obesity have been associated with risks of gestational diabetes mellitus, caesarean delivery, large for gestational age, pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, and admission to special care nursery or intensive care unit.<sup>62</sup>

Engaging in healthy preventative practices, such as breastfeeding and vaccinating children during early childhood, may help protect children from negative health outcomes and developmental delays. Breastfeeding provides children with the nutrition they need early in life.<sup>63</sup> Children who have not been vaccinated are at a higher risk of contracting diseases and tend to have more health issues later in life. Research has found that it is important for children to receive their immunizations early in life. Children under the age of five are at the highest risk of contracting severe illnesses because their bodies have not built a strong immune system yet.<sup>64</sup> Another factor that may impact health outcomes and may be deemed less important by parents is early screening for hearing loss. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hearing loss can impact a child's ability to develop communication, language, and social skills.<sup>65</sup> Fortunately, early screening for hearing loss can connect children with services that can increase the likelihood of the child reaching their full potential.

This chapter provides an overview of the health indicators for this region that highlight the well-being of

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<sup>60</sup> *Schools & Health* (2016). *Impact of Health on Education*. Retrieved from <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/pages/Anthropometricstatusgrowth.aspx>

<sup>61</sup> Yan, J. (2016) *The effects of prenatal care utilization on maternal health and health behaviors*. *Health Economics*. Volume 26 Issue 8. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.3380>

<sup>62</sup> Yang, Z., Phung, H., Freebairn, L., Sexton, R., Raulli, A., Kelly, P. (2018) *Contribution of maternal overweight and obesity to the occurrence of adverse pregnancy outcomes*. *ANZJOG*. Volume 59 Issue 3. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajo.12866>

<sup>63</sup> *Office on Women's Health* (2014). *Why breastfeeding is important*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/breastfeeding-benefits.html>

<sup>64</sup> *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (2016). *Infant Immunizations*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/parent-questions.html>

<sup>65</sup> *Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division* (2020). *Hearing Loss*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>



children under age six and their families. Healthy People 2030 (HP 2030) set 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. Healthy People established these benchmarks to encourage collaborations across communities and sectors, empower individuals to make informed health decisions, and measure the impact of prevention activities.<sup>66</sup> When appropriate, these benchmarks will be presented throughout this chapter as comparison points for local indicators.

## What the Data Tell Us

### Access to Health Services

Data provided by IHS indicates that in Fiscal Year 2018-19, 53 children ages zero to five from the Cocopah Tribe were served at the Fort Yuma Health Center among 520 total people served.<sup>67</sup> Exhibit 5.1 illustrates the different services that were provided by IHS in the Cocopah Tribe Region to children ages zero to five, including 31 immunizations and screenings as well as 43 medical examinations.

Exhibit 5.1. IHS Services Provided to Children 0 to 5 in the Cocopah Tribe Region, Fiscal Year 2019-20

Service	Number of visits
Administrative/social admission	123
Unclassified	59
Medical examination/evaluation	43
Immunizations and screening for infectious disease	41
Disorders of teeth and jaw/Dental Caries	26

*Indian Health Service (2021). [Maternal and Child Health Dataset]. Unpublished Data*

One indication of people’s access to health services is whether they have health insurance coverage that helps make health care affordable. When children lack health insurance, they are at risk of poor health outcomes and long-term complications if their families avoid or delay medical care because of cost. Lack of access to affordable health care is a major impediment to receiving proper care and an issue that disproportionately affects women living in poverty, placing their children at risk for health issues even before they are born, and perpetuating health disparities.<sup>68</sup> Overall, the Cocopah Tribe Region had a higher percentage of individuals without health insurance coverage than Arizona as a whole in 2019. Additionally, data show that young children in the Cocopah Tribe Region are particularly likely to lack insurance: 19% of children under age six in the region were uninsured (Exhibit 5.2). Local experts did

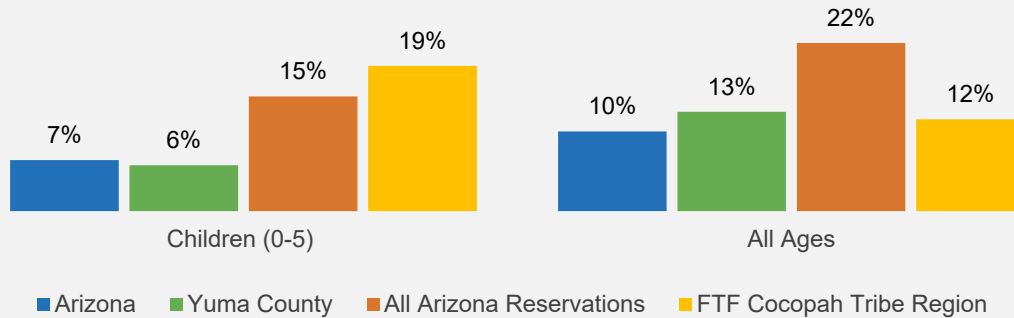
<sup>66</sup> *Healthy People 2030. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ODPHP Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople>*

<sup>67</sup> *Indian Health Service (2016). [Maternal and Child Health Dataset]. Unpublished Data*

<sup>68</sup> *LaVeist, T., Gaskin, D., Richard, P. (2009). The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Retrieved from [https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs\\_policy\\_facpubs/225/](https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_policy_facpubs/225/)*

however specify that all Cocopah tribal members are able to be seen for any treatment available at Fort Yuma Health Center regardless of insurance status.

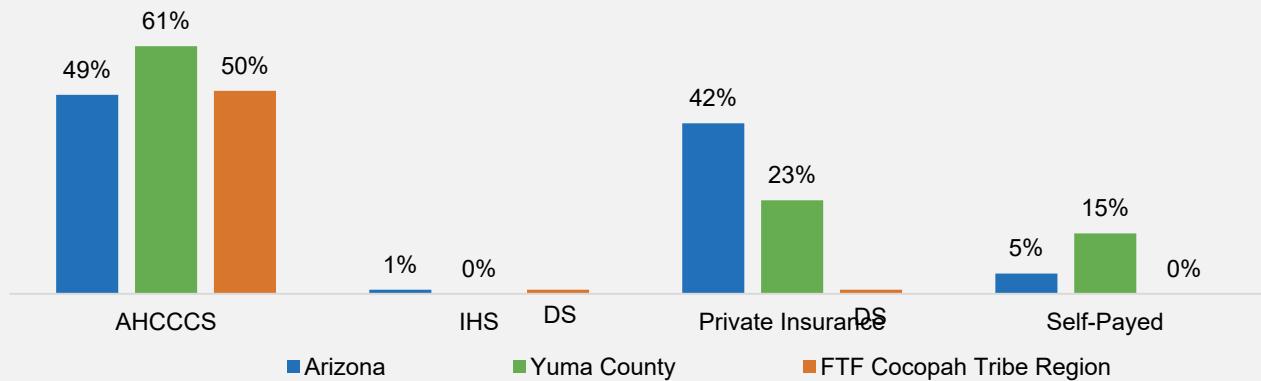
Exhibit 5.2. Estimated percentage without health insurance



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B27001

The Healthy People (HP) 2030 target is for 92.1% of Americans to have medical insurance by 2030.<sup>69</sup> The combination of the limited number of providers in rural areas and children lacking health insurance could potentially place children in the region at risk for long term health complications if they fall ill and providers are not available or their parents do not have sufficient funds to seek care. In terms of payers of the medical costs associated with births in Cocopah Tribe Region, data from the Arizona Department of Health Services show that 50% were paid by public insurance (primarily Arizona’s Medicaid program—the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, or AHCCCS) in 2019, which was similar to the rate in Arizona overall (Exhibit 5.3).

Exhibit 5.3. Percentages for payers of births in 2019



Note: DS = data suppressed  
Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

<sup>69</sup> Healthy People 2030. About Health People Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-care-access-and-quality/increase-proportion-people-health-insurance-ahs-01>

## Tribal Health and Wellness Services

The Cocopah Tribal Health Maintenance Program (THMP) provides programs and services to support the wellness and healthcare needs of Cocopah tribal members to maintain and improve their well-being and quality of life. THMP provides health and nutrition education, connection to medical resources, wellness checks, patient advocacy to all Cocopah tribal members. Within THMP, program offerings include Project Launch, Cocopah Elder Nutrition, and Cocopah Native Connections (Exhibit 5.4).

**Exhibit 5.4. Cocopah Tribal Health Maintenance Program**

Service Description	
Project Launch	Promotes whole life wellness through early childhood mental health consultation and development focused on Cocopah families and caregivers with children ages 0-8. The program seeks to improve awareness of mental health in the community through education, workforce development, the promotion of sustainability, and creating bridges to link services among existing tribal departments
Cocopah Elder Nutrition	Provides Cocopah Tribal members ages 55 years and older with home delivered meals, transportation, information and referral services, nutrition counseling, support services, advocacy, and low-income home energy assistance.
Cocopah Native Connections	Includes services such as suicide prevention coalitions, screenings for depression, suicides and substance abuse awareness trainings, youth togetherness activities, behavioral health referrals, youth after-school program, at-risk youth well-check visits, and youth counseling services. Native Connection services are available for all Cocopah youth ages 9 to 24.

Source: Cocopah Tribal Health Maintenance Program (2022). Data received by correspondence.

## Hospitalizations

In the Cocopah Tribe Region, there were 21 non-fatal emergency department visits for children ages 0-4 during the time period from 2016 to 2020 (Exhibit 5.5). The most common reasons for emergency visits in this age group include falls or being ‘struck by or against’ an object or person. Accidents such as these further emphasize the importance of health care access for families and their children, as rapid medical response can prevent long term or more severe health complications.

**Exhibit 5.5. Injury hospitalizations and ED visits for children 0-4, ADHS (2016-2020)**

	Number of Non-Fatal Hospitalizations	Number of Emergency Department Visits
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>21</b>
Yuma County	73	5,552
ARIZONA	2,890	181,035

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Health Services (July 2020). Unintentional Injuries in Children 0-5, Arizona 2016-2020. Provided AZFTF

## Pregnancies and Birth

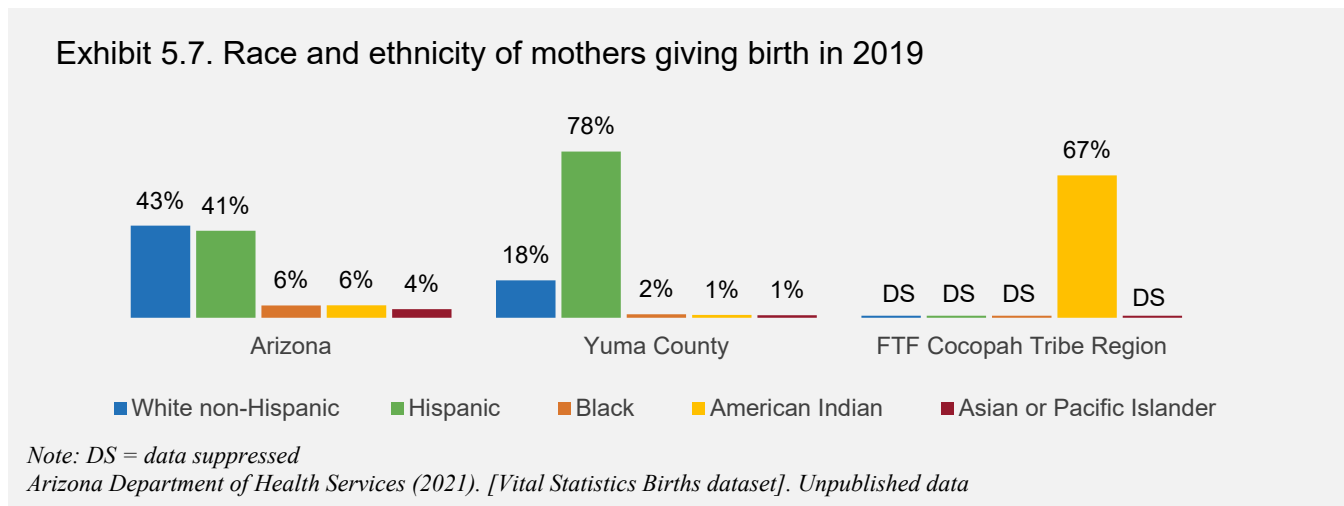
In 2019, Cocopah Tribe Region residents gave birth to 12 babies, which is less than 0.1 percent of all births in the state (Exhibit 5.6).

**Exhibit 5.6. Live births during calendar year 2019, by mother’s place of residence**

	Total number of births in 2019
FTF Cocopah Tribe Region	12
Yuma County	2,945
ARIZONA	79,183

Arizona Department of Health Services (2021). [Vital Statistics Births dataset]. Unpublished data

Of the 2,945 people who gave birth in Yuma County in 2019, 78% were Hispanic or Latino/a and 18% were non-Hispanic white (Exhibit 5.7). While data were suppressed for the Cocopah Tribe Region due to a total of only 12 live births, data demonstrate that two-thirds of people giving birth (67%) identified as American Indian, noting the unique racial/ethnic makeup of people in the region compared to the county it sits in.



## Prenatal Care

Research suggests that a lack of prenatal care is associated with many negative health issues for both the mother and the child.<sup>70</sup> Research also shows that children of mothers who did not obtain prenatal care were three times more likely to have a low birth weight and five times more likely to die in infancy than those born to mothers who did receive prenatal care.<sup>71</sup> In addition, studies show that women who are at

<sup>70</sup> Prenatal Care Effects Felt Long After Birth. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://toosmall.org/blog/prenatal-care-effects-felt-long-after-birth>

<sup>71</sup> Womens Health (n.d.). Prenatal care fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/prenatal-care.html#b>

the highest risk of not receiving prenatal care are mothers younger than 19 years old and single mothers.<sup>72, 73</sup> Educational attainment has also been associated with mothers receiving prenatal care, such that the higher a mother’s educational attainment, the more likely they are to seek prenatal care.<sup>74</sup> It is important that mothers seek and receive prenatal care at an early stage in their pregnancy so physicians can treat and prevent any health issues that may occur.<sup>75</sup>

HP 2030 aims to bring the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.<sup>76</sup> In 2019, 50% of women in the Cocopah Tribe Region began prenatal care in the first trimester while there were none who did not receive any prenatal care (Exhibit 5.8). In 2014, a new version of the birth certificate introduced changes in the way prenatal care by trimester is assessed. The trimester when prenatal care began is no longer directly reported but rather calculated using the date of the mother’s last menstrual period and the date of the first prenatal care visit. Due to this procedural change, prenatal care estimates in this report are not comparable to those in previous reports. Based on the new methodology, the percentage of mothers in the region who started prenatal care in the first trimester is 50% in 2019, which is about 30 percentage points lower than the HP goal and also lower than Yuma County (60%) and the state (69%, Exhibit 5.8).

Exhibit 5.8. Percentage of women who began prenatal care in first trimester and who did not receive any prenatal care

	Women who began prenatal care in first trimester		Women who did not receive any prenatal care	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>0%</b>
Yuma County	63%	60%	5%	6%
ARIZONA	69%	69%	3%	3%

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). *Vital Statistics*. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Home Visitation Services

The FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council funds the Early Steps program, the home visitation program which provides visits from a trained parent educator who provides parenting

<sup>72</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention (n.d.). *Vital Statistics Online*. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/vitalstatsonline.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm)

<sup>73</sup> Institute of Medicine (US) Committee to Study Outreach for Prenatal Care; Brown SS, editor. *Prenatal Care: Reaching Mothers, Reaching Infants*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 1988. Chapter 1, *Who Obtains Insufficient Prenatal Care?* Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK217693/>

<sup>74</sup> National Center for Health Statistics (1994). *Vital and Health Statistics: Data from the National Vital Statistics System*. Retrieved from [https://books.google.com/books?id=zIFPAQAIAAJ&pg=RA2-PA19&lpg=RA2PA19&dq=lack+of+prenatal+care+linked+with+mothers+educational+attainment&source=bl&ots=ilqp\\_JVnA&sig=SQBGbmlhOG9JNrgFLEjMOVkt90&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjM6vH\\_6vPAhWCjlQKHWRjCwkQ6AEIVDAH#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=zIFPAQAIAAJ&pg=RA2-PA19&lpg=RA2PA19&dq=lack+of+prenatal+care+linked+with+mothers+educational+attainment&source=bl&ots=ilqp_JVnA&sig=SQBGbmlhOG9JNrgFLEjMOVkt90&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjM6vH_6vPAhWCjlQKHWRjCwkQ6AEIVDAH#v=onepage&q&f=false)

<sup>75</sup> *Womens Health* (n.d.). *Prenatal care fact sheet*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/prenatal-care.html#b>

<sup>76</sup> *Healthy People 2030*. *About Health People* Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08>

information and family support to assist with the healthy development of young children and families. The home visitation program also supports prenatal mothers navigate pregnancy and prenatal care. In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, a total of 27 families and 37 children were served in the Cocopah Tribe Region by the program (Exhibit 5.9). In addition, 2 prenatal mothers were enrolled in the home visitation program during the same period.

Exhibit 5.9. Cocopah Tribe Home Visitation Services	
FY 2020-21	
Families Served	27
Children Served	37
Prenatal Mothers Enrolled	2

Source: Cocopah Early Steps Program (2022). Data received by correspondence.

### Birth Outcomes

There were no mothers who reported using tobacco during pregnancy in the Cocopah Tribe Region, lower than the state average (Exhibit 5.10). From 2016-2019, approximately three percent of newborns in Arizona were hospitalized after birth because they were affected by maternal use of drugs during pregnancy. This may be related to the decrease in early prenatal care as mothers using substances may be less likely to seek care. Additional factors that place mothers at-risk of not receiving prenatal care, such as teen pregnancy, single mothers, and mothers with lower education levels, have decreased or remained steady over the past few years. In the Cocopah Tribe Region, there were no reported teen mothers giving birth in 2018-2019 (Exhibit 5.11).

Exhibit 5.10. Percentage of reported tobacco use during pregnancy

	2018	2019
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Yuma County	2%	2%
ARIZONA	5%	4%

Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 5.11. Percentage of young mothers giving birth, by age

	Mothers younger than 18		Mothers younger than 20	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Yuma County	3%	2%	9%	8%
ARIZONA	2%	1%	6%	5%

Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Obesity

Obesity has been a concern in the US due to associated health outcomes, such as higher risks for diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.<sup>77</sup> Diabetes has also been associated with many negative health complications such as blindness, kidney failure, and amputation of limbs.<sup>78</sup>

Among children ages 2-5, 25% of children experienced obesity in the Cocopah Tribe Region in 2020.<sup>79</sup> This obesity rate is higher than the state average (16%), calling to attention the need for additional opportunities and access to engage in healthy behaviors such as exercise and healthy eating.

According to the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), mothers who are obese during pregnancy are at higher risk of developing gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, and sleep apnea.<sup>80</sup> According to the CDC, diabetes and obesity can be largely prevented by increasing physical activity and maintaining a healthy diet.<sup>81</sup> HP 2030 aims to reduce the proportion of adults who are obese to 36% and the proportion of children and adolescents who are obese to 15.5%.<sup>82</sup> The low availability of recreation and fitness facilities where residents of the Cocopah Tribe Region can stay active may have an impact on physical wellbeing.<sup>83</sup> The lack of services and infrastructure where residents can safely engage in physical activity, in addition to the limited availability of grocery stores and fresh produce, may contribute to the increasing rate of obesity and diabetes in the region.

## Engaging in Healthy Preventive Practices

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed for the first six months after giving birth.<sup>84</sup> Breast milk has antibodies that prevent babies from getting ill and has been shown to decrease the likelihood of babies becoming obese later in life.<sup>85</sup> HP 2030 aims to increase the proportion of infants who are breastfed at six months to 42.4%.<sup>86</sup> In the Cocopah Tribe Region, the percentage of mothers participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) who breastfed their infant on average at least once per day increased overall from 2016-2020. Notably, in 2020, three-quarters of mothers (75%) reported breastfeeding their infant (Exhibit 5.12).

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<sup>77</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Adult Obesity Facts*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

<sup>78</sup> Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). *Diabetes At A Glance Reports*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/diabetes.htm>

<sup>79</sup> Indian Health Service (2016). [Maternal and Child Health Dataset]. Unpublished Data

<sup>80</sup> ACOG (2016). *Obesity and Pregnancy*. Retrieved from <http://www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Obesity-and-Pregnancy>

<sup>81</sup> Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). *Diabetes At A Glance Reports*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/diabetes.htm>

<sup>82</sup> Healthy People 2030. *About Health People* Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/overweight-and-obesity/reduce-proportion-adults-obesity-nws-03>

<sup>83</sup> United States Department of Agriculture and Economic Research Service (2012). *Food Environment Atlas*.

<sup>84</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics (2012). *Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk*. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/3/e827.full#content-block>

<sup>85</sup> Office on Women's Health (2014). *Why breastfeeding is important*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/breastfeeding-benefits.html>

<sup>86</sup> Healthy People 2030. *About Health People* Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infants/increase-proportion-infants-who-are-breastfed-exclusively-through-age-6-months-mich-15>

Exhibit 5.12. Percentage of WIC mothers who breastfeed their infant on average at least once a day

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>75%</b>
Yuma County	76%	75%	78%	79%	78%
ARIZONA	73%	77%	77%	79%	78%

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). *Women, Infants & Children (WIC)*. Provided by AZ FTF

\*Breastfeeding is defined as the practice of feeding a mother's breast milk to her infant(s) on the average of at least once a day

Routine childhood vaccinations protect children from many illnesses, including measles, mumps, polio, and whooping cough, which are all severe and potentially fatal to young children.<sup>87</sup> Receiving timely vaccinations not only protects the child who receives them, but protects the community by reducing the likelihood of disease spread.<sup>88</sup> While data indicators of childhood vaccination for the Cocopah Tribe Region were not available, statewide data are presented in the appendix (Exhibit 7.12 and Exhibit 7.13).

Hearing loss in newborns and young children can lead to developmental problems with the child's speech, language, and social skills.<sup>89</sup> There are several potential causes of infant hearing loss, including genetics, maternal infections during pregnancy, complications after birth, and head trauma.<sup>90</sup> Fortunately, early interventions can prevent such developmental problems, highlighting the importance of incorporating screenings for hearing loss into the child's overall preventative care.

<sup>87</sup> *Basic Vaccines (2016). Importance of Vaccines*. Retrieved from <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/vaccines-save-lives/>

<sup>88</sup> *U.S Department of Health and Human Services (2016). Community Immunity*. Retrieved from [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccine\\_safety/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccine_safety/)

<sup>89</sup> *Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division (2020). Hearing Loss*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>.

<sup>90</sup> *Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division (2020). Hearing Loss*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>.





## **FAMILY SUPPORT**

# FAMILY SUPPORT

## Why It Matters

The first five years of life have a significant impact on children’s intellectual, social, and emotional development, and research shows that parents have a profound impact on their child’s development during this time.<sup>91</sup> Support for young families is an essential piece of the holistic efforts around kindergarten readiness and long-term success for children. First Things First supports families through home visitation and parent outreach and education programs. Evidence-based Parenting Education and supports to improve parenting practices can reduce stressors and lead to enriched child development and reduction of removals of children from their homes.

Given the importance of the first years of life on children’s development and the role that parents can play, it is crucial for parents to receive support and access to programs that provide tools and knowledge about their child’s needs and effective parenting techniques. Providing more knowledge about parenting and child development supports parents in improving their parenting practices and providing their children with the experiences they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.<sup>92</sup> Public assistance programs in the United States can play an important role in providing adequate socioeconomic conditions for families to raise their children. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been associated with helping families move out of poverty, guarantee food security, and improve child health and school performance.<sup>93</sup> Research has also shown that the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) could prevent child maltreatment due to increased cash benefits and access that have been associated with decreased physical abuse.<sup>94</sup> The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has reduced the prevalence of child food insecurity. Further, the revisions made to the WIC food package in October 2009 have been associated with reduced maternal preeclampsia and gestational weight gain, as well as improvements in infant gestational age and birth weight.<sup>95, 96</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> Center for the Study of Social Policy (2013). *Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development*. Retrieved from [http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/2013/SF\\_Knowledge-of-Parenting-and-Child-Development.pdf](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/2013/SF_Knowledge-of-Parenting-and-Child-Development.pdf)

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>93</sup> Carlson, S. Rosenbaum, D., Keith-Jennings, B., Nchako, C. (2016) *SNAP works for America’s Children*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/9-29-16fa.pdf>

<sup>94</sup> Spencer, R., Livingston, M., Komro, K., Sroczyński, N., Rentmeester, S., Woods-Jaeger, B. (2021) *Association between Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child maltreatment among a cohort of fragile families*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. Volume 120. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105186>

<sup>95</sup> Kreider, B., Pepper, J., Roy, M. (2016) *Identifying the effects of WIC on food insecurity among infants and children*. *Southern Economic Association*. Volume 82 Issue 4. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1002/soej.12078>

<sup>96</sup> Hamad, R., Collin, D., Baer, R., Jelliffe-Pawłowski, L. (2019) *Association of revised WIC food package with perinatal and birth outcomes*. Retrieved from <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2737097>

Promoting a safe home environment for children is another key aspect of family support. The adverse and long-term effects of childhood trauma have become well-documented. For example, children who are exposed to domestic violence or experience abuse or neglect are at increased risk of depression, anxiety, physical aggression, and behavior problems.<sup>97</sup> Children who are exposed to opioid misuse are more likely to experience mental health problems, drug use, accidental opioid poisoning, substance use disorder, family dissolution, foster care placement or the death of a parent due to an opioid overdose.<sup>98</sup> Children in foster care are particularly likely to have had trauma exposure and are more likely than other children to have poor mental and physical health.<sup>99, 100</sup> Understanding the impact of trauma has led to identifying opportunities to both prevent and mitigate its adverse effects. Opportunities include family support services like home visitation and parent education, as well as prioritizing out-of-home placements with family members or foster families before turning to congregate care in a residential facility.

## What the Data Tell Us

Numerous federal and local programs and services aim to provide families with food security, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Women, Infants & Children (WIC); the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Summer Food Program (SFP); and free and reduced priced lunch programs for children in schools.

In addition, family support programs provided by the Cocopah Tribe include the Home Visitation Parenting and Literacy Support Program (HVP) and the Kindergarten Transition Program (KTP). KTP provides classroom experiences for children who are entering kindergarten in order to prepare for the transition. The expected result is that children and their families are more familiar with and prepared for the kindergarten classroom environment and family involvement opportunities and activities offered in school. The program targets children ages 4 and 5 and their families living in the Cocopah Tribe Region who will be entering a school system outside the reservation for the first time. In 2021, a total of 5 families participated.

The number of children and families receiving assistance from federal and local programs and services in recent years has decreased. Federal programs such as SNAP and TANF have shrunk in recent years

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<sup>97</sup> Evans, S. E., Davies, C., & DiLillo, D. (2008). *Exposure to domestic violence: A meta-analysis of child and adolescent outcomes. Aggression and violent behavior, 13*(2), 131-140.

<sup>98</sup> Winstanley, E., Stover, A. (2019) *The impact of the opioid epidemic on children and adolescents. Clinical Therapeutics. Volume 41 Issue 9.* Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinthera.2019.06.003>

<sup>99</sup> Dorsey, S., Burns, B., Southerland, D., Cox, J., Wagner, H., Farmer, E. (2012) *Prior Trauma Exposure for Youth in Treatment Foster Care. J Child Fam Stud.* Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3667554/>

<sup>100</sup> Turney K, Wildeman C. (2016) *Mental and Physical Health of Children in Foster Care. Pediatrics.* Retrieved from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27940775/>

due to the expiration of benefit increases instituted during the recession.<sup>101</sup> These decreases come even as the number of families living in poverty has increased nationally.<sup>102</sup> Exhibits 6.1 and 6.2 show how the number of children and families receiving assistance has decreased in recent years.

The percentage of families and children that received SNAP benefits decreased by 29% and 26% respectively in the Cocopah Tribe Region from 2017 to 2020. As of 2020, the program supported approximately 61 children and 39 families annually in the Cocopah Tribe Region. While race/ethnicity data of SNAP recipients were suppressed, data show that 30% of young children who received SNAP benefits were non-Hispanic white (data not shown).

**Exhibit 6.1. Numbers of young children (ages 0 to 5) receiving SNAP benefits, 2017 to 2020**

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-29%</b>
Yuma County	10,334	10,061	9,633	9,010	-13%
ARIZONA	247,414	229,275	211,814	198,961	-20%

*Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).*

**Exhibit 6.2. Numbers of families receiving SNAP benefits, 2017 to 2020**

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-26%</b>
Yuma County	7,069	6,897	6,572	6,214	-12%
ARIZONA	164,092	151,816	140,056	132,466	-19%

*Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).*

Similar to the SNAP benefits, the number of children receiving TANF benefits decreased from 2017 to 2020 in the Cocopah Tribe Region, Yuma County, and Arizona (Exhibit 6.3). While data on TANF recipients were suppressed at the regional level, given the availability of data for 2017, we can assume that the number decreased under the data suppression threshold. In 2020, approximately 334 young children received TANF benefits in Yuma County. TANF benefits can be the primary cash assistance program for families with low incomes.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>101</sup> Rosenbaum, D., Keith-Jennings, B. (2016). *SNAP Costs and Caseloads Declining*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-costs-and-caseloads-declining>

<sup>102</sup> Spalding, A. (2012). *Decline of TANF Caseloads Not the Result of Decreasing Poverty*. Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. Retrieved from <http://kypolicy.org/decline-tanf-caseloads-result-decreasing-poverty/>

<sup>103</sup> U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (n.d.) *Office of Family Assistance. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/temporary-assistance-needy-families-tanf>

Exhibit 6.3. Numbers of young children (0-5) receiving TANF benefits, 2017 to 2020

	FY 2017	F7 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Yuma County	425	385	381	334	-21%
ARIZONA	17,143	14,659	13,029	13,747	-20%

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Due to mandatory school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, and the Arizona Department of Education issued the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) to current SNAP households and non-SNAP households with children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.<sup>104</sup> Enrolled families were given a pre-loaded EBT card to purchase groceries. The number of families with children 0 to 5 years old that were enrolled in P-EBT from March 2021 to May 2021 decreased by about 20% across both Yuma County and Arizona. Although the number of families with young children enrolled has since decreased, P-EBT provided financial relief to 68 families in April 2021 in the Cocopah Tribe Region (Exhibit 6.4).

Exhibit 6.4. Number of families with children 0-5 enrolled in P-EBT, March 2021 to May 2021

	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	Change from March 2021 to May 2021
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Yuma County	1,556	1,402	1,279	-18%
ARIZONA	36,971	33,431	30,066	-19%

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2021). EBT Enrollment.

Through federal grants, WIC provides nutrition, education and breastfeeding support services, supplemental nutritious foods and referrals to health and social services for women, infants, and children under five years old. In 2020, WIC served a total of 79 individuals in the Cocopah Tribe Region, comprised of 13 women, 23 infants, and 43 children (Exhibit 6.5). Among those enrolled, the WIC participation rate was 83% in the Cocopah Tribe Region (Exhibit 6.6).

<sup>104</sup> Arizona Department of Economic Security (n.d.) Arizona P-EBT Benefits. Retrieved from <https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/other-food-programs/arizona-p-ebt-benefits>

**Exhibit 6.5. Number of women, infants and children enrolled in the WIC program during 2020**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Infants</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>
Yuma County	14,296	3,604	3,861	6,831
ARIZONA	256,733	63,111	70,242	123,380

*Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). Women, Infants & Children (WIC). Provided by AZ FTF.*

**Exhibit 6.6. WIC participation rates by enrollees during November 2020**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Infants</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>86%</b>
Yuma County	87%	88%	91%	84%
ARIZONA	89%	89%	93%	88%

*Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). Women, Infants & Children (WIC). Provided by AZ FTF.*

*Note: The participation rate is the number of persons receiving WIC benefits during November 2020, divided by the total number of persons enrolled in the program.*

Schools are an important part of the nutrition assistance system, especially for children experiencing food insecurity. About three-quarters of all public- and charter-school students in Yuma County have been eligible for free or reduced-price lunch since 2018 (Exhibit 6.7). This is significantly higher than the statewide percentage, which has hovered around 55% to 57%. Over the last three years, the proportion of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch has stayed fairly constant in most school districts in the region. The school districts in Yuma County with the lowest rates of eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch in 2020 include Gowan Science Academy (26%), while Pecan Grove Elementary School (>98%) and Salida Del Sol Elementary (>98%) had the highest rates of eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch. (Note that the data in Exhibit 6.8 refer only to schools located in Yuma County and around the Cocopah Tribe Region boundaries).

Exhibit 6.7. Proportion of students (pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade) eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 2018 to 2020

	2018	2019	2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Schools</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Alice Byrne Elementary School	74%	71%	67%
C W Mcgraw Elementary School	87%	87%	87%
Castle Dome Middle School	55%	58%	49%
Centennial Middle School	76%	76%	76%
Crane Middle School	66%	62%	62%
Desert Mesa Elementary School	60%	63%	55%
Desert Sonora Elementary School	88%	88%	88%
Dorothy Hall Elementary	NA	NA	45%
Fourth Avenue Junior High School	86%	86%	86%
Gary A. Knox Elementary School	75%	83%	83%
George Washington Carver Elementary School	96%	96%	96%
Gila Vista Jr High School	80%	77%	77%
Gowan Science Academy	26%	26%	26%
H L Suverkrup Elementary School	69%	66%	66%
James B Rolle School	61%	65%	66%
Mary A Otondo Elementary School	62%	61%	56%
Mesquite Elementary	56%	53%	53%
O C Johnson School	83%	83%	83%
Orange Grove Elementary School	89%	89%	89%
Palmcroft Elementary School	78%	72%	72%
Pecan Grove Elementary School	>98%	>98%	>98%
Pueblo Elementary School	46%	52%	53%
R Pete Woodard Jr High School	70%	71%	75%
Ron Watson Middle School	56%	47%	51%
Ronald Reagan Fundamental School	75%	74%	74%
Roosevelt School	90%	90%	90%
Salida Del Sol Elementary	81%	>98%	>98%
Somerton Middle School	87%	87%	87%
Sunrise Elementary School	64%	65%	65%
Tierra Del Sol Elementary School	82%	82%	82%
Valle Del Encanto Learning Center	90%	90%	90%
Valley Horizon Elementary School	75%	90%	90%
Yuma County Schools	75%	76%	75%
All Arizona Schools	57%	56%	55%

Arizona Department of Education (2020). [Free and reduced lunch dataset]. Unpublished data.

Note: The school-district data in this table include only the schools that are located within the Cocopah Tribe Region.

## Substance Use

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency to address the national opioid crisis.<sup>105</sup> While substance abuse is risky for users themselves, parents who misuse substances also expose their children to risks. Specifically, when parents use opiates or opioids, they are more likely to expose their children to maltreatment and neglect.<sup>106</sup> Children in these situations are more likely to suffer later mental health disorders, their own substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>107</sup>

From 2017 to 2020, there were 26 opioid deaths in Yuma County. Data were suppressed for the Cocopah Tribe Region indicating the low number of fatal opioid deaths in the region. During the same time period, there were a total of 5,455 fatal opioid deaths across Arizona. The Cocopah Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program (ADAPP) delivers culturally sensitive and competent substance abuse/dependence treatment, education and prevention services to Cocopah tribal members. The goal of ADAPP is to improve functioning and relational stability thereby helping clients to overcome barriers and become productive members of their community and society.

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

Unfortunately, not all children are able to begin their lives in positive, stable, nurturing environments. Experiences early in life can have lasting impacts on an individual's mental and physical health. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events (such as physical or emotional abuse, alcohol and/or drug abuse in the household or emotional or physical neglect) that occurs during childhood (0-17 years old).<sup>108</sup> When children experience more ACEs, they are more at-risk for future risky health behaviors (such as smoking, drug use, and alcoholism), chronic health conditions (including diabetes, depression, and obesity), poorer life outcomes (such as lower educational achievement and increased lost work time), and early death.<sup>109</sup> To help decrease ACEs in Arizona, the Arizona ACE Consortium has been working with professionals and agencies to increase awareness around the causes, effects and opportunities around decreasing ACEs in Arizona.

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<sup>105</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2017) HHS Acting Secretary Declares Public Health Emergency to Address National Opioid Crisis. Retrieved from <https://public3.pagefreezer.com/browse/HHS.gov/31-12-2020T08:51/https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/10/26/hhs-acting-secretary-declares-public-health-emergency-address-national-opioid-crisis.html>

<sup>106</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway (n.d.) The Opioid Crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/bhw/impact-substance/opioid-crisis/>

<sup>107</sup> American Society for the Positive Care of Children (n.d.) The Opioid Crisis and the Effect on Children. Retrieved from <https://americanspcc.org/the-opioid-crisis-and-the-effect-on-children/>

<sup>108</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (n.d.) Fast Facts: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Fcestudy%2Ffastfact.html](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Fcestudy%2Ffastfact.html)

<sup>109</sup> Arizona Adverse Childhood Experiences Consortium (n.d.) Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences: Creating Hope for a Healthier Arizona. Retrieved from <https://azaces.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ACEs.pdf>.



# CONCLUSION

The FTF Cocopah Tribe Region has both strengths and opportunities for improvement. The region has lower employment, median income and economic resources than other parts of the state and county. Parents in the region are educated but may benefit from more information and awareness of age-appropriate child development and the impact they have on their child’s readiness to learn and grow.

The region has many strong providers who are continuing to build a more efficient system of care dedicated to the well-being of the region’s youngest children and their families, yet could use support to overcome barriers such as limited funding and competition for resources. First Things First is a great asset in the region as they play a large role in funding and supporting the area’s early childhood system. The following tables include the assets and needs from the six domains presented in this report. These key findings are intended to provide information to the FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council and the community as a whole around the needs and assets of the region’s zero to five population and their families.

Assets	
<b>Population Characteristics</b>	The population of children under the age of six is projected to grow at a modest and steady rate, allowing the region to foresee and prepare for the growing demands of their youngest residents.
<b>Economic Circumstances</b>	Forty-three percent of children under age six live in households with at least one parent in the labor force.
<b>Education</b>	According to the American Community Survey, the high school graduation rates and the average educational attainment level of adults and parents in the region are high and have been increasing over time.
<b>Early Learning</b>	Day care providers and Quality First have been increasing the quality and stability of child care programs in the region.
<b>Child Health</b>	The percentage of mothers participating in WIC who breastfeed their child at least once a day has been increasing and reached 75% in 2020.
	According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, half of all pregnant women (50%) are receiving some prenatal care.
	Cocopah Tribal Health and Wellness Department provides services to support child health and wellbeing, including mental health services and physical activity and nutrition awareness.
<b>Family Support</b>	The Cocopah Tribe Region has several programs that address the availability of nutritious foods for children under six and their families.

<b>Needs</b>	
<b>Population Characteristics</b>	According to the American Community Survey, three-quarters of children under six are living in single-parent households, as well as a sizable child population in grandparent-led households, which face additional barriers and difficulties when compared to two parent households.
<b>Economic Circumstances</b>	According to the American Community Survey, about 59% of children in the region live in poverty, which is significantly higher than the county and state average.
	About three-quarters of children under six live in single-parent households, which earn substantially less money than dual parent households.
<b>Education</b>	AzMERIT reports from the Arizona Department of Education show that more than half of third graders are not meeting proficiency standards for English Language Arts (61%) and Math (52%)
<b>Early Learning</b>	Based on household median income in the region and county, the cost of child care can make up a significant portion of household income. High costs can be a particularly acute barrier to quality child care for single-female families, whose median income is even lower
<b>Child Health</b>	The percentage of mothers enrolled in WIC across Yuma County who overweight or obese has steadily increased from 2016 (64%) to 2020 (69%).
<b>Family Support</b>	The number of children and families enrolled in assistance programs, including SNAP and TANF, have significantly decreased in recent years.

# APPENDIX

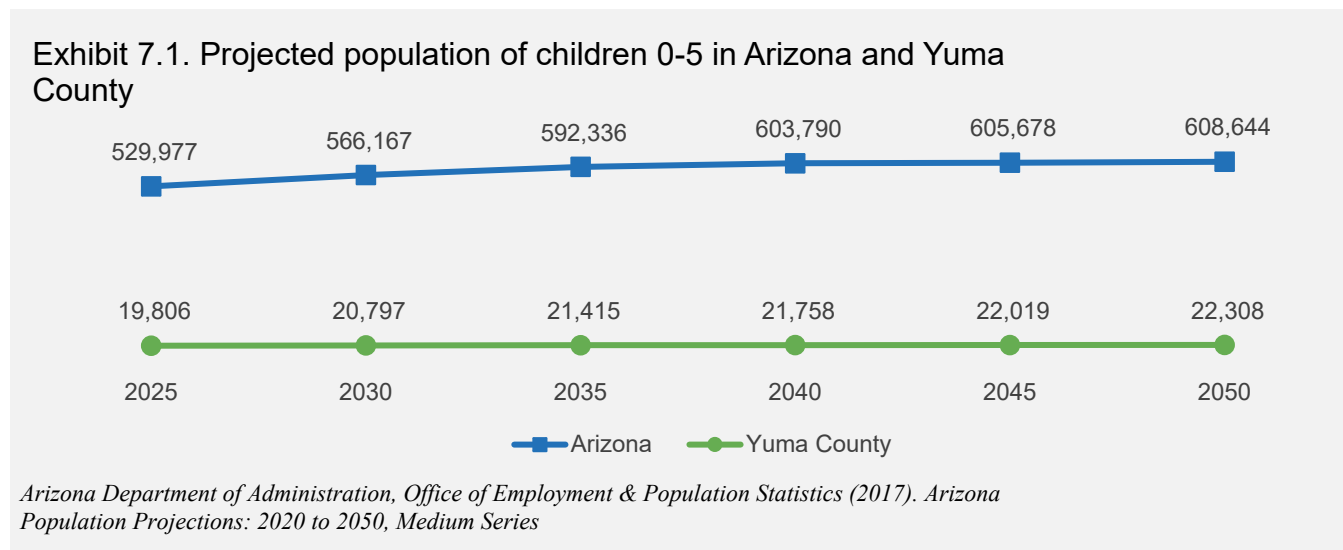
## ADDITIONAL DATA INDICATORS

Data included in this report were sourced from state and local agencies and organizations, and wherever possible, data is provided specifically for the FTF Cocopah Tribe Region alongside data for Yuma County and Arizona. Data indicators that were not available for the Cocopah Tribe Region and only available at the county and state level are presented in this appendix section per the request of the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council. Data indicators are organized by the six topic areas represented in this report.

### Population Characteristics

#### Population Projections

The number of children under six in Yuma County is expected to increase over the next ten years, rising to approximately 22,000 by 2050 (Exhibit 7.1). Over the same time period the number of children under six is expected to increase for the state as a whole.



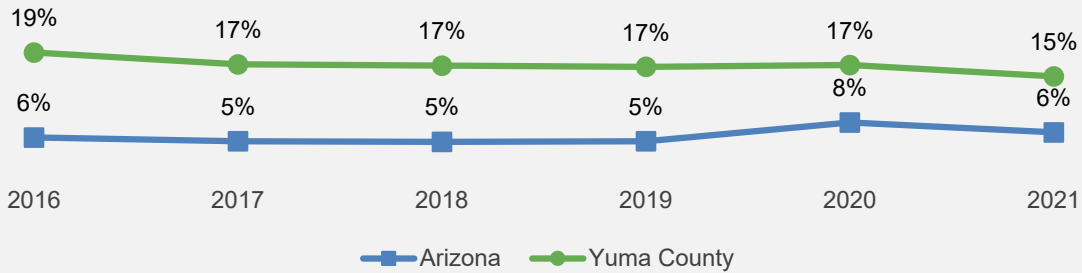
### Economic Circumstances

#### Employment Indicators

In Yuma County, the unemployment rate declined slightly between 2016 and 2021, but remained substantially higher than the unemployment rate for Arizona as a whole (Exhibit 7.2). In terms of the total number of people employed, there has been an increase in both Yuma County and Arizona over the

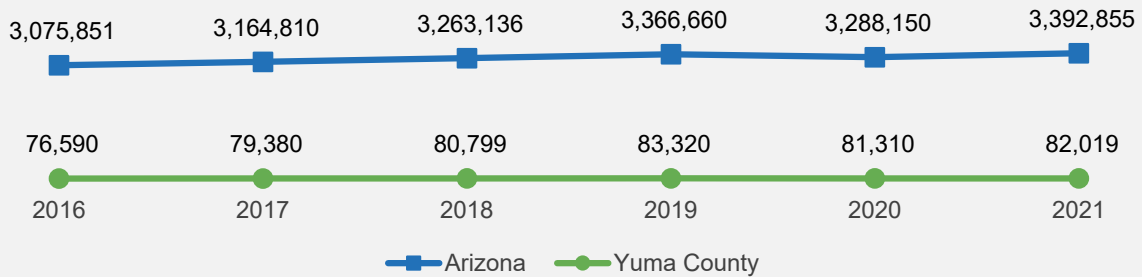
last five years, with a decrease in 2020. At the county level, there has been a 7% increase in the number of people employed from 2016 to 2021 (Exhibit 7.3).

Exhibit 7.2. Average unemployment rates



U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021). Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Arizona Office of Employment. Note: The data for 2021 goes up to September 2021.

Exhibit 7.3. Number of people employed



U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021). Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Arizona Office of Employment. Note: The data for 2021 goes up to September 2021.

Starting in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates at county and state levels generally increased. During the pandemic, those who tended to be most affected by unemployment included those in jobs in services, restaurants, transportation, and other industries that commonly do not offer job security, long-term employment contracts, or adequate wages and benefits.<sup>110</sup> The unemployment rate peaked in April 2020 at 25% in Yuma County (data not shown). The overall unemployment rate in Yuma County decreased from 2020 to 2021, suggesting that people started to go back to the labor force as stay-at-home orders were lifted.

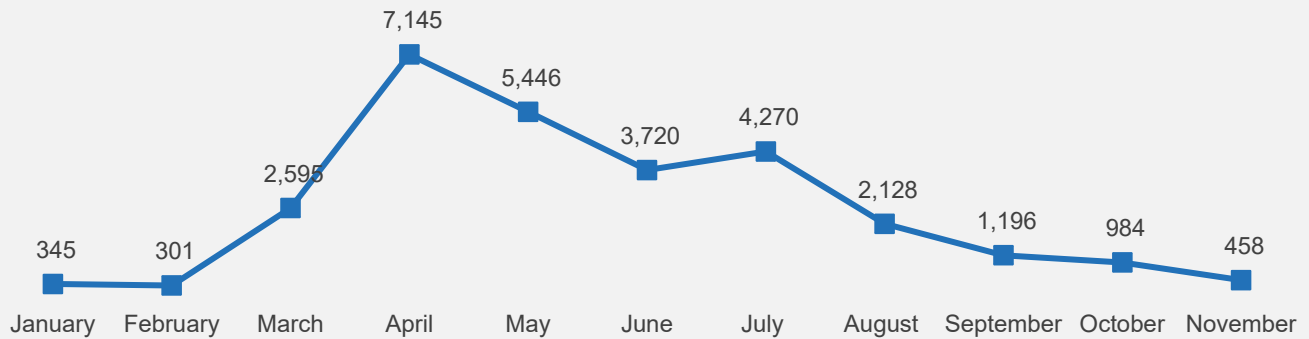
Unemployment claims provide temporary payments to individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own and meet the other eligibility requirements. In order to receive these benefits, an individual

<sup>110</sup> Blustein, D., Paige, G. (2020) "Work and unemployment in the time of COVID-19: the existential experience of loss and fear." *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* 60.

that has lost their job must complete an application. If they are eligible then they will receive unemployment benefits. In 2020 for Yuma County, the total number of unemployment claims spiked in March and April 2020 as the economic impacts of COVID-19 unfolded (Exhibit 7.4). In April 2020, the number of total claims peaked at 7,145 and gradually started to decrease to 458 claims by the end of the year.

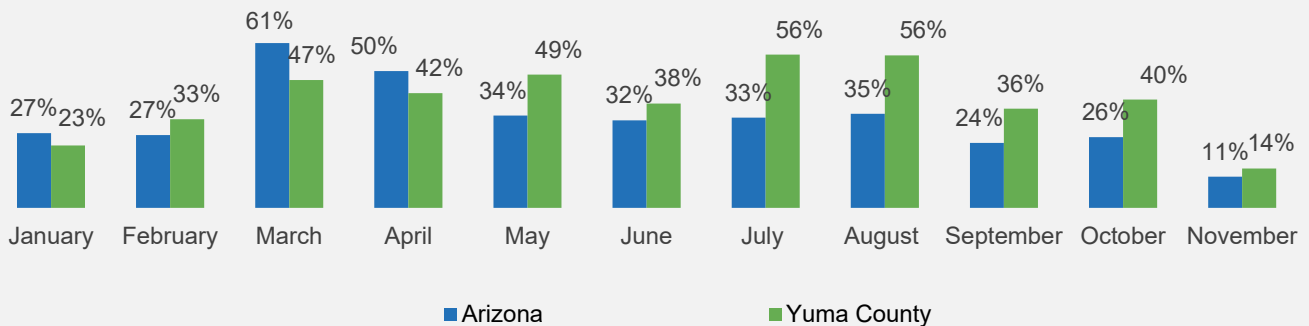
In addition to the increase in the number of claims, the percentage of eligible and paid claims also rose sharply in March in Yuma County and in Arizona (Exhibit 7.5). Rates for claims that were eligible were generally higher in Yuma County than statewide. Whereas unemployment payments peaked statewide in March and April 2020 and then gradually declined, in Yuma County paid claims remained high for more of the year and peaked in July and August.

Exhibit 7.4. Number of total claims in 2020 for Yuma County



Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Unemployment claims. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 7.5. Percent of eligible and paid claims in 2020



Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Unemployment claims. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Poverty

In Yuma County, the percent of the population living in poverty varied by race/ethnicity. For instance, individuals that identify as American Indian had poverty rates in 2019 around 39% while the rate among Black/African American individuals was around 20% (Exhibit 7.6).

Exhibit 7.6. Percentage of population below the federal poverty level by race/ethnicity\*

	Arizona	Yuma County
Black or African-American	20%	20%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	33%	39%
Asian	12%	7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	16%	24%
Other Race	23%	21%
Two or More Races	17%	22%
White, not Hispanic	10%	11%
Hispanic or Latino	22%	23%

*U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B17001B, Table B17001C, Table B17001D, Table B17001E, Table B17001F, Table B17001H, Table B17001I.*

## Homelessness

Children that are homeless qualify for rights and services under the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”<sup>111</sup> The number of homeless children in kindergarten through third grade from 2018 to 2020 is displayed in Exhibit 7.7. From 2018 to 2020, across schools in Yuma County attended by Cocopah Tribe students, the number of homeless students decreased marginally from 2018 to 2020, which is a similar trend compared to Arizona. The reported data on homeless students for Yuma County include data from the Crane Elementary School District, Somerton Elementary School District, and the Yuma Elementary School District.

Exhibit 7.7. Number of homeless students in kindergarten through third grade, 2018 to 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Yuma County Schools	104	62	69
All Arizona Schools	4,565	3,676	3,191

*Arizona Department of Education (2020). [homeless students]. Unpublished data.*

*Note: The school-district data in this table include only the schools that are located within the Cocopah Tribe Region.*

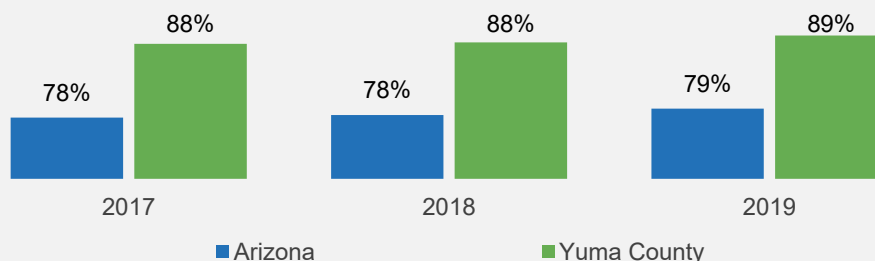
<sup>111</sup> Arizona Department of Education. Welcome to Homeless Education Program. Retrieved from <https://www.azed.gov/homeless>

## Educational Indicators

### High School Graduation Rates

Between 2017 and 2019, the high school graduation rates stayed relatively constant for Yuma County and Arizona (Exhibit 7.8).

Exhibit 7.8. 2017-2019 High school graduation rates: 4-year cohort



Arizona Department of Education (2021). Graduation Rate 2018 Cycle. Provided by AZ FTF.

\*Data available by breakdown city, school district, school, and zip code

\*\*The four-year graduation rate counts a student who graduates with a regular high school diploma in four years or less as a high school graduate in his or her original cohort

## Early Learning

### Costs of Child Care & Access

Across the state and Yuma County, licensed centers tend to have the highest cost per day, certified group homes tend to have the second highest cost per day, and approved family homes have the lowest cost per day (Exhibit 7.9). The median cost per day of most types of early child care facilities in Yuma County are equal to or slightly lower than the state. Nevertheless, child care prices likely place a financial strain on families who already report barely making ends meet and having difficulty affording housing and food.

Exhibit 7.9. Median cost per day of Early Childhood Care

	Approved Family Homes			Certified Group Homes			Licensed Centers		
	Infants	1-2 Year Olds	3-5 Year Olds	Infants	1-2 Year Olds	3-5 Year Olds	Infants	1-2 Year Olds	3-5 Year Olds
FTF Cocopah Tribe Region	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yuma County	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$28.50	\$33.00	\$27.00	\$25.00
ARIZONA	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$43.03	\$38.00	\$33.00

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2018). Child Care Market Rate Survey. Provided by AZ FTF.

Based on the median cost of child care per day, the median cost of child care per year for one infant in the county totals to approximately \$8,250 a year for licensed centers, \$6,750 a year for approved family homes, and approximately \$6,250 certified group homes. Compared against the median income of two-parent families in Yuma County with children under 18 (Exhibit 2.4), licensed centers comprise approximately 16% of the regional median family income (Exhibit 7.10).

The median cost per year of child care comprises an even higher amount of the median income for single parent led families with children under 18 in Yuma County and is considerably more substantial for single-female families compared to single-male families. Based on the median income of single-female families (Exhibit 2.4), licensed centers can make up 40% of their median income. High costs can be a barrier in affording quality child care especially for single-female families.

Exhibit 7.10. Cost of center-based child care as a percentage of income

	Median Family Income (2019)	Cost For An Infant	Cost for a 1-2 Year Old Child	Cost for a 3-5 Year Old Child
Yuma County	\$50,338	16%	13%	12%
ARIZONA	\$70,184	15%	14%	12%

Arizona Department of Economic Security (2018). Child Care Market Rate Survey. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Child Health

### Deaths

In 2018 and 2019 the total number of deaths of children ages 0 to 17 in Yuma County stayed fairly consistent, with the majority of childhood deaths in both years occurred in young children ages 0 to 4 (Exhibit 7.11). While these numbers may seem low, it is important to consider the overall small population of the county. Across the whole state, the most common deaths of children include accidents, congenital malformations, and short gestation and low birth weight.

Exhibit 7.11. 2018-2019 total number of deaths to children 0-17 in Yuma County



Arizona Department of Health Services (July 2020). Child mortality, Arizona 2018-2019. Provided AZFTF



## Birth Outcomes

While data were suppressed for the Cocopah Tribe Region, the percentage of underweight children in Yuma County has remained consistent between 2018 and 2019 (6%), a slightly lower rate than the average statewide. Similarly, the percentage of preterm births has remained relatively steady in recent years and is comparable to the state overall (Exhibit 7.12).

The percentage of newborns in Yuma County who were admitted to the Intensive Care Unit has fluctuated over time but has remained steady in recent years (Exhibit 7.13).

Exhibit 7.12. Percentage of births with low birth weights (<2,500g) and preterm births (<37 weeks)

	Low birth weight (<2,500g)		Preterm births (<37 weeks)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>
Yuma County	6%	6%	8%	9%
ARIZONA	8%	7%	10%	9%

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 7.13. Percentage of infants admitted to the intensive care unit

	2018	2019
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>
Yuma County	7%	8%
ARIZONA	8%	8%

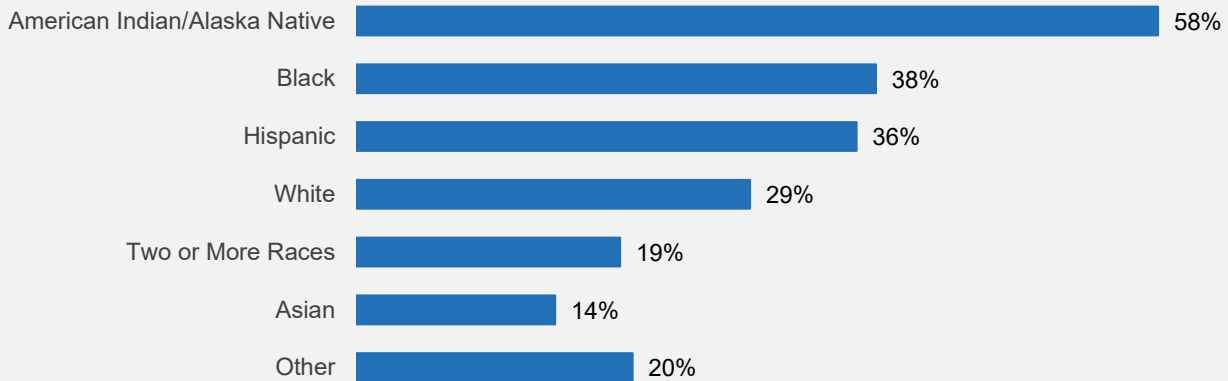
Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

## Obesity

In Arizona overall, the percentage of adults with obesity was 31.4% in 2019. Exhibit 7.14 shows the differences across racial/ethnic groups.

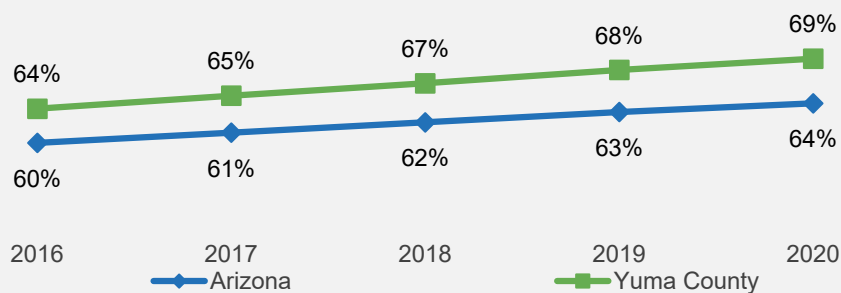
Exhibit 7.14. Percentage of adults with obesity in Arizona by race/ethnicity, 2019



*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Obesity.*

In Yuma County and the state as a whole, the rate of mothers participating in WIC who reported being overweight or obese pre-pregnancy has increased steadily in recent years to 69% in 2020 (Exhibit 7.15). Families participating in WIC are likely limited to less expensive food options which often tend to be less healthy as well.

Exhibit 7.15. Percentage of mothers overweight and obese pre-pregnancy

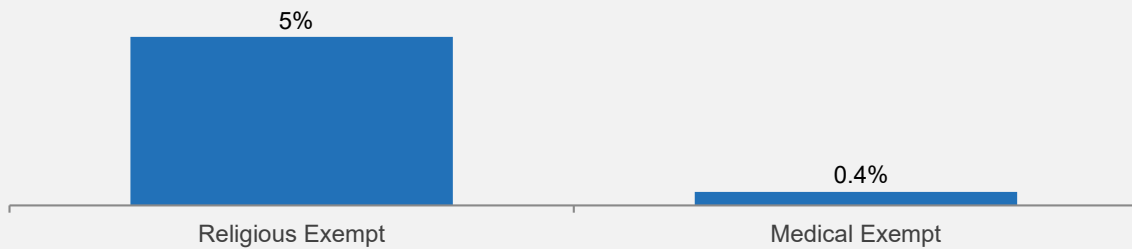


*Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). Women, Infants & Children (WIC). Provided by AZ FTF.*

## Immunizations

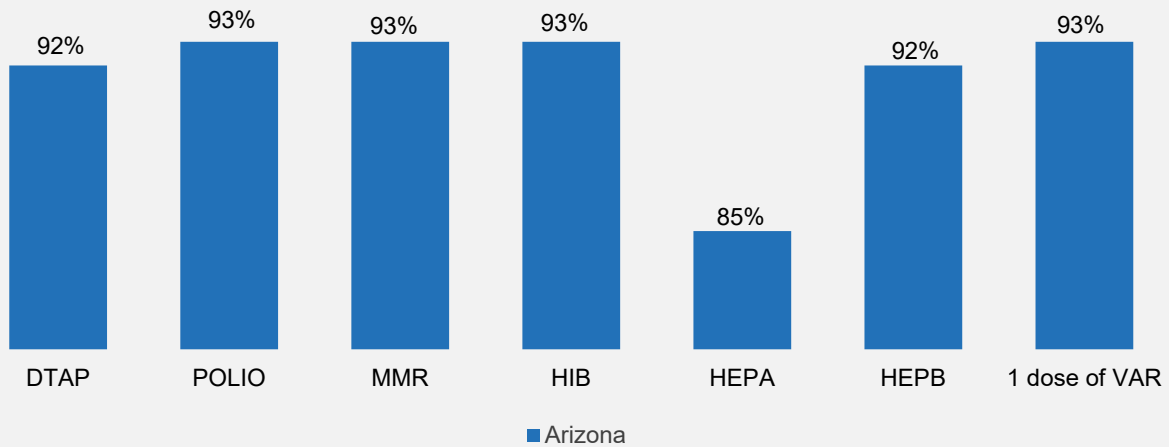
Across the state, five percent of children were exempt from immunizations for religious reasons (Exhibit 7.16). Statewide, children also have an overall high rate of immunizations (Exhibit 7.17).

Exhibit 7.16. Percentage of Arizona children in childcare exempt from receiving immunizations



*Immunization Data Reports (2020). Provided by AZ FTF.*

Exhibit 7.17. Percentage of Arizona children in childcare receiving immunizations by type of immunization



*Immunization Data Reports (2020). Provided by AZ FTF.*

## Family Support

### Services to Help Families

The number of families receiving TANF benefits decreased from 2017 to 2020 in Yuma County and Arizona (Exhibit 7.18). In 2020, approximately 251 families received TANF benefits in Yuma County.

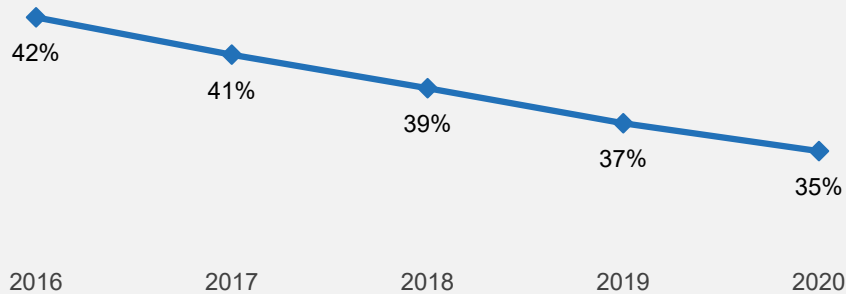
Exhibit 7.18. Numbers of families receiving TANF benefits, 2017 to 2020

	FY 2017	F7 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
<b>FTF Cocopah Tribe Region</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Yuma County	313	282	272	251	-20%
ARIZONA	12,315	10,538	9,360	9,947	-19%

*Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).*

The WIC enrollment for Arizona children under 5 years old decreased from 2016 (42% of children under five) to 2020 (35% of children under five, Exhibit 7.19).

Exhibit 7.19. Infants and children (ages 0 to 4) enrolled in the WIC program as a percentage of the population, Arizona, 2017 to 2020

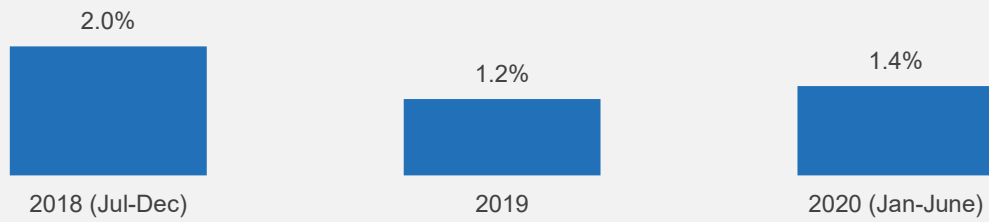


*Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). Women, Infants & Children (WIC). Provided by AZ FTF.*

### Child Safety and Domestic Violence

Understanding the scope of child removals in a region can help policy makers and organizations better support this vulnerable group. Yuma County accounts for only a small percentage of child removals in Arizona by the Department of Child Safety (DCS, Exhibit 7.20). Between 2018 and 2020, removals in the county represented between one and two percent of all removed children in Arizona.

Exhibit 7.20. Percentage of children removed in Arizona by the Department of Child Safety that resided in Yuma County

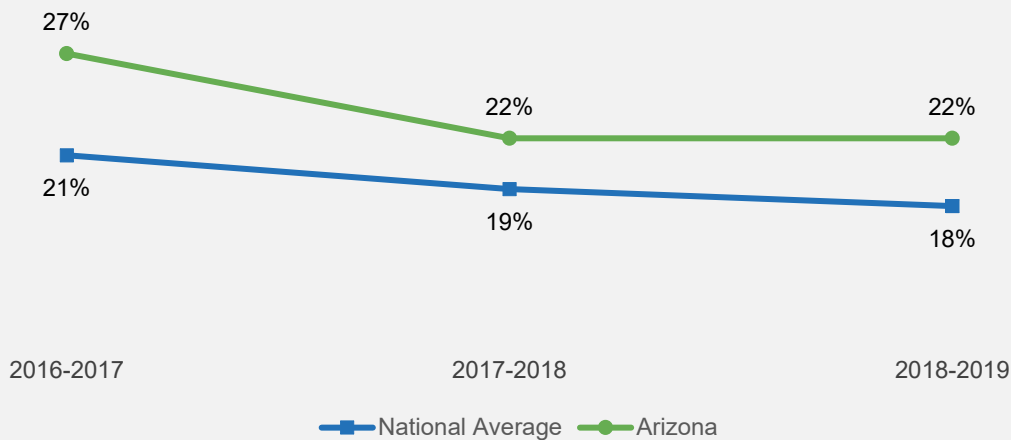


Source: Arizona Department of Child Safety. (2019). *Semi-Annual Child Welfare Report*.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences

In 2018 to 2019, children (0 to 17 years old) in Arizona were more likely to have experienced two or more ACEs (22%) than children nationwide (18%). As shown in Exhibit 7.21, this trend was consistent since 2016.

Exhibit 7.21. Percent of children (0-17 years old) with 2 or more ACEs



SHADAC analysis of children with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), *State Health Compare*, SHADAC, University of Minnesota, [statehealthcompare.shadac.org](http://statehealthcompare.shadac.org), Accessed Jan 28 2022.