

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Hualapai 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 Hualapai 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 Hualapai Tribe 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 Hualapai 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.

Acknowledgements

The Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council wishes to thank all of the federal, state and local partners whose contributions of data, ongoing support and partnership with First Things First made this report possible. These partners include the Arizona Departments of Administration (Employment and Population Statistics), Child Safety, Economic Security, Education, and Health Services; the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System; Child Care Resource and Referral; and the U.S. Census Bureau. Local partners included the Hualapai Tribal Enrollment Department, the Hualapai Nation Police Department, Hualapai Day Care, Hualapai Head Start, and the Peach Springs Unified School District.

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 Hualapai Tribe Region.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge the current and past members of the Hualapai Tribe 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 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 Hualapai Tribe Region

When First Things First was established by the passage of Proposition 203 in November 2006, Arizona's federally recognized Tribes and nations were consulted to determine if they would like to participate within a First Things First designated region or elect to be designated as a separate region. The Hualapai Tribe was one of 10 tribes that chose to be designated as its own region, the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region. The region encompasses the entirety of the Hualapai Reservation, located in northwest Arizona, and consists of 922,463 acres across parts of Coconino, Yavapai, and Mohave counties.

The FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council (Council) makes strategic investments to support the healthy development and learning of the young children in the region. The Council's priorities include:

- Strengthening families through voluntary home visiting;
- Improving the quality of child care and preschool programs;
- Educating families about the importance of early literacy; and
- Connecting Native American families and children to their language and culture.

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 the major data findings, the needs and assets they uncover for the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region, potential considerations and opportunities for further exploration.

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 Hualapai Tribe Region has a total population of 1,335 residents and 197 children under the age of six. The total number of births has increased slightly in recent years, though the population of zero to five year olds in the county overall is projected to increase by 24% by 2050. There are a total of 2,385 enrolled members of the Hualapai Tribe, with 151 Hualapai children under the age of six. The racial and ethnic composition of the population in the region is notably different from the state overall, with 92% of adults and 99% of children under the age of five in the Hualapai Tribe Region identifying as American Indian.

The majority of households with children under six are married-couple households, though fewer than the state (55% vs. 68%, respectively). About 30% of households in the Hualapai Tribe Region are led by single females and 15% are led by single males. Additionally, 70% of children ages 0-17 live in the same household as a grandparent where the grandparent is responsible for the child.¹ Of children under 18 that live in the same household as a grandparent, 33% are primarily cared for by a grandparent, compared to 16% for the state. The high percentage of children growing up in two-parent households is an asset for the region, as is the experience of children living in a multigenerational household, since this means the children likely have more permanent connections with adult role models. 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 education for grandparents who are taking on the task of raising a second generation. Additionally, about half of all children are living in single-family households which may indicate a more stressful home environment and less time spent 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 emotional well-being are all impacted by a child's economic situation.² The average unemployment rates for both Mohave County and Arizona have stayed stable while total employment has increased since 2016. Approximately three-quarters of all households with children under six in the Hualapai Tribe Region (74%) have at least one parent who is employed. The median annual income for families with children under 18 in the Hualapai Tribe Region is consistently lower than the statewide median for all household types. Married-couple families in the county have a median income of about \$44,000 while single female-led families have a median income of \$18,000. With the self-sufficiency standard

¹ 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>>

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

for an adult with a young child in Mohave County being around \$40,000, single female-led families are likely struggling and have need for support to help their child's growth and development.

In the Hualapai Tribe Region, 54% of children live under the poverty level, a higher percentage than statewide (23%). In addition, 27% of the American Indian population of Mohave County live in poverty. These data may help identify populations and subgroups to target for further intervention or support around increasing financial resources. Additionally, the school districts and populations with lower poverty rates may be able to identify strategies or assets within their areas that can be applied to others.

Data from the Hualapai Food Security Survey conducted by the Hualapai Health Education and Wellness Department show the prevalence of food insecurity in the region, with approximately half of Hualapai community members (13% 'Yes' and 36% 'Sometimes') indicating that they had experienced a situation over the last year where they had run out of food and could not afford more. Furthermore, 31% of respondents (25% 'Yes' and 6% 'Sometimes') affirmed they or other adults in their households reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals entirely.

Only 11% of residents in the Hualapai Tribe Region spend 30% or more of their income on housing, which is a smaller proportion than in Mohave County or for the state overall. About two-thirds (63%) of residents in the Hualapai Tribe Region live in households with a computer and internet, which is a lower percentage than the state (87%). Of people living in households with a computer and internet in the region, 29% 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 internet and technology accessibility will continue to be important to consider.

Educational Indicators

Children's participation in early learning experiences is likely to result in higher academic performance in future years.³ About half of all children ages three and four (55%) are enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten in the Hualapai Tribe Region. About 48% of the third grade students in the Hualapai Region school districts scored proficient or highly proficient on the AZ Merit English Language Arts while 51% of students scored proficient or highly proficient on Math assessments. These results that roughly half of the region's third graders are proficient in math and English emphasizes the need for engagement in early education resources.

The high school graduation rate in the Hualapai Tribe Region has stayed above 75% in recent years, with a graduation rate of 82% in 2018. From 2018 to 2020, the percent of students dropping out of high school in the Hualapai Tribe Region was four percent or less. Three quarters of the adults in the region

³ 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>

(75%) have completed high school/received a GED or pursued further education past high school. Among mothers who gave birth in the region in 2019, only 32% had completed at least high school or their GED, a significantly lower percentage than the state. While 75% of adults ages 25 and older in the region have completed at least a high school education, data on mothers who gave birth in 2019 suggests that mothers may have a lower level of education, indicating a need to promote the value and importance of education that can be incorporated into their parenting and their children's wellbeing.

Early Learning

Participation in early care and education programs plays an important role in preparing children for kindergarten and beyond.⁴ About 41% of households are assumed to need childcare based on the employment status of the adults in the household, and 55% of preschool-aged children in the region are enrolled in early care and education programs. One factor that may limit further childcare access is the high cost of childcare in the county relative to income. Childcare subsidies in the region appear to be helping as the number of children receiving subsidies increased.

The Head Start program is an asset in the region as children attending these programs tend to score higher in cognitive and social-emotional development than those who do not. Fifty-seven children are enrolled in Hualapai Head Start. Additionally, Hualapai Day Care has an enrollment of 50 children, the region's one Quality First care center. Access to quality early care and education programs is essential for the region's children, but throughout the state it is limited in part by early care and education teachers being poorly compensated, most earning minimum wage. Almost half leave the profession within five years, impacting the continuity and quality of care.

The percentage of children in the region who participate in special education while in preschool but transition out before entering kindergarten was under 10% from 2018 to 2020. The most common types of disabilities for preschool children were developmental delays.

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.⁵ According to data provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS) from 2018-19, there were 225 children under six years old and a total of 2,224 active users of IHS in the Hualapai Tribe Region. Only seven percent of young children aged 0 to 5 in the Hualapai Tribe Region are estimated to be without health insurance, along with 16% of the entire population in the region.

In 2019, Hualapai Tribe Region residents gave birth to 28 babies. Of the mothers who gave birth in the region in 2019, the majority of them (89%) identified as American Indian. Thirty-two percent of all

⁴ *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>*

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

mothers received at least some form of prenatal care in their first trimester, a much lower rate than in the state overall. About two thirds (67%) of Hualapai Tribe Region infants participating in WIC were breastfed in 2020, a percentage that increased slightly since 2017.

According to Indian Health Service data, 41% of children ages 2-5 had obesity in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2018. In addition, data shows that all mothers who participated in WIC in 2018 were overweight or obese before becoming pregnant. The obesity rates for both children and mothers are higher than the state average, calling attention to the need for additional opportunities and access to engage in healthy behaviors such as 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.⁶ The number of families and children receiving assistance from SNAP, 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 148 children in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2020. Additionally, virtually all public school students in the Peach Springs Unified School District have been eligible for free or reduced-price lunch since 2018.

⁶ 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

BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

Family well-being is an important indicator of child success.^{7, 8} 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

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 Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council (Council) makes strategic investments to support the healthy development and learning of the young children in the region. The Council's priorities include:

- Strengthening families through voluntary home visiting;
- Improving the quality of child care and preschool programs;
- Educating families about the importance of early literacy; and
- Connecting Native American families and children to their language and culture.

Methodology

This is the eighth Needs and Assets report conducted on behalf of the FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional 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 Hualapai Tribe Regional 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 it relates to unmet

⁷ 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>

⁸ 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>

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Reynolds, A., Ou, S., Mondt, 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>

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:

- 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 Hualapai 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 Hualapai Tribe Region, Mohave County, and State of Arizona. Wherever possible, data throughout the report are provided specifically for the FTF Hualapai Tribe region, and are often presented alongside data for the County, the State of Arizona, and for all Arizona reservations for comparative purposes.

Secondary data was gathered to better understand demographic trends for the Hualapai 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), Department of Child Safety (DCS) and First Things First itself.

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. Likewise, early education data were gathered from the US Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children & Families. 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. This suggests that, 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 are 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 Hualapai Tribe Region, such as more detailed data on housing or homelessness, hearing loss screenings, 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, data related to social service and early education programming, with counts of fewer than ten, excluding counts of zero (i.e., all counts of one through nine) are suppressed. For data related to health or developmental delay, all counts of fewer than twenty-five, excluding counts of zero (i.e., all counts of one through twenty-four) 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.

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 was not available for this report. The demographic and economic profile 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 includes 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. Federal data also have similar limitations. For example, WIC data only includes a sample of the young children and families served. In regards to education data, ADE provided AZMERIT only for 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.

Another major limitation is the discrepancy in the definitions and criteria used by each agency that is collecting the data. Because various different data sources are used for each domain and they each have different definitions, it is difficult to make confident comparisons on indicators between data sources. Given these limitations, interpretation of key findings requires a deep understanding of the region. Contextualizing the findings is equally important as what the data tell us.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Why It Matters

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. 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.

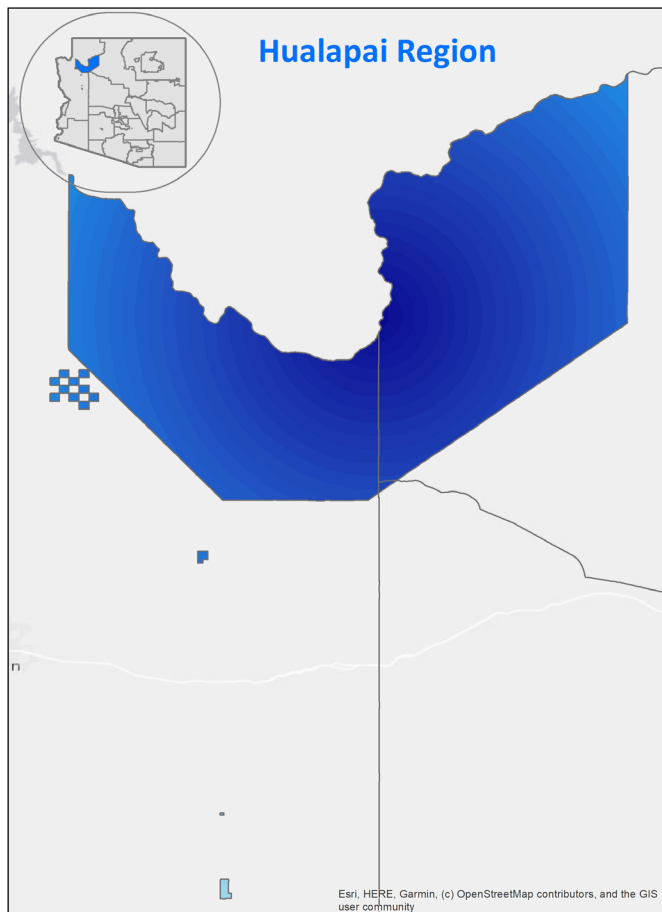
This first domain of the report provides an overview of the geographic region's population dynamics, projected growth, ethnic and racial composition, languages spoken, immigration trends, and household characteristics (e.g., living arrangements for children). Indicators about children living with grandparents 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.¹¹ 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 First Things First (FTF) Hualapai Tribe Region is located in northwest Arizona and its boundaries match those of the Hualapai Indian Reservation (Exhibit 1.1). The Hualapai Reservation was established in 1883 by federal Executive Order, and consists of 922,463 acres across parts of Coconino, Yavapai, and Mohave counties. One hundred and eight miles of the reservation's northern boundary is in the middle of the Colorado River. Most residents of the tribe live in the Tribe's capital, Peach Springs, located near the southern tip of the reservation's border along US Route 66.

¹¹ 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 Hualapai Tribe Region and its boundaries



Population Counts and Projections

According to the 2010 Census, the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region has a total population of 1,335 residents. There are 197 children under six years old in the region, accounting for 15% of the total population in the region (Exhibit 1.2).

2022 data provided from the Hualapai Tribal Enrollment Department show 151 enrolled members under the age of six, 105 of whom are residing on-reservation and 46 living off-reservation. The total tribal enrollment is 2,385, with 1,272 (53%) Hualapai Tribe 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	1,335	197	15%
All Arizona Reservations	178,131	20,511	12%
Mohave County	200,186	13,218	7%
ARIZONA	6,392,017	546,609	9%

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

Exhibit 1.3. Hualapai Tribal enrollment, 2022

	On-Reservation	Off-Reservation	Total
Children (ages 0-5)	105	46	151
Under 1	9	2	11
Age 1	10	4	14
Age 2	12	7	19
Age 3	15	11	26
Age 4	28	12	40
Age 5	31	10	41
Age 6-17	316	187	503
Children (ages 0-17)	421	233	654
18 years of age and older	851	880	1,731
Total membership	1,272	1,113	2,385

Hualapai Tribal Enrollment Office (2022). [Tribal Enrollment]. Data received by correspondence.

The number of births in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region increased between 2018 and 2019, from 21 to 28 births (Exhibit 1.4).¹² The number of children under six in Mohave County and Arizona is expected to increase steadily, with the county witnessing a 24% increase in the number of children between 2025 and 2050 (Exhibit 1.5).¹³

¹² Arizona Department of Health Services (2021). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

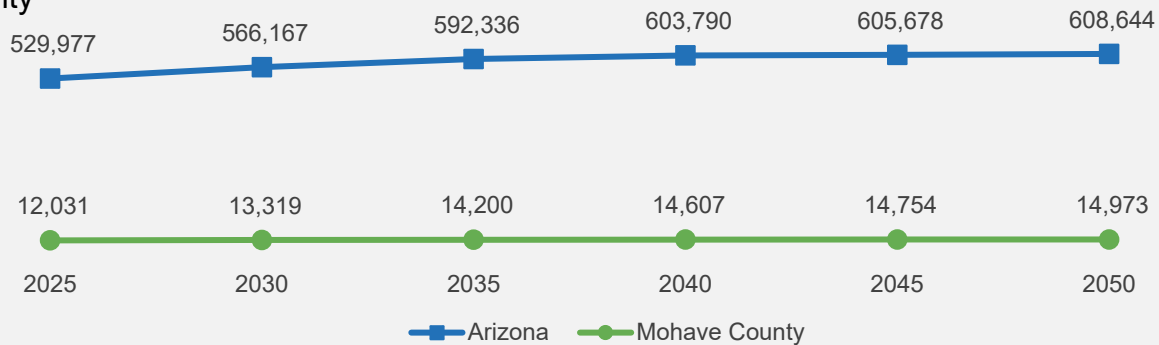
¹³ Population projection data for children were not available for the Hualapai Tribe Region.

Exhibit 1.4. Number of births from 2018-2019

	2018	2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	21	28
Mohave County	1,790	1,726
ARIZONA	80,539	79,183

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

Exhibit 1.5. Projected population of children 0-5 in Arizona and Mohave County



Arizona Department of Administration, Office of Employment & Population Statistics (2017). Arizona Population Projections: 2020 to 2050, Medium Series

Demographics and Language

In the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region, most adults (92%) ages 18 and older identify as American Indian. This is in contrast to the racial and ethnic profile statewide where only four percent of the population identify as American Indian, and the majority (63%) identify as white (Exhibit 1.6). In addition, the region has a significantly higher proportion of children that identify as American Indian (99%) compared to the overall population of Arizona (6%, Exhibits 1.7 and 1.8). Note that percentages in the exhibits may not add up to 100% due to rounding and data aggregation.

Exhibit 1.6. 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)
FTF Hualapai Region	3%	2%	92%	0%	0%
ARIZONA	25%	63%	4%	4%	3%

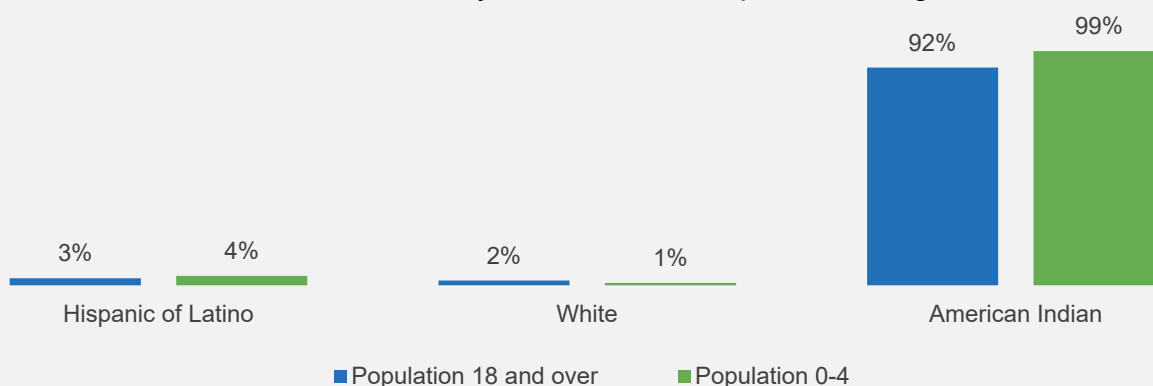
U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census Summary File 1; Table P11; generated by Harder+Company using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Exhibit 1.7. 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)
FTF Hualapai Region	4%	1%	99%	0%	0%
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 1.8. Distribution of race/ethnicity in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region



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

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

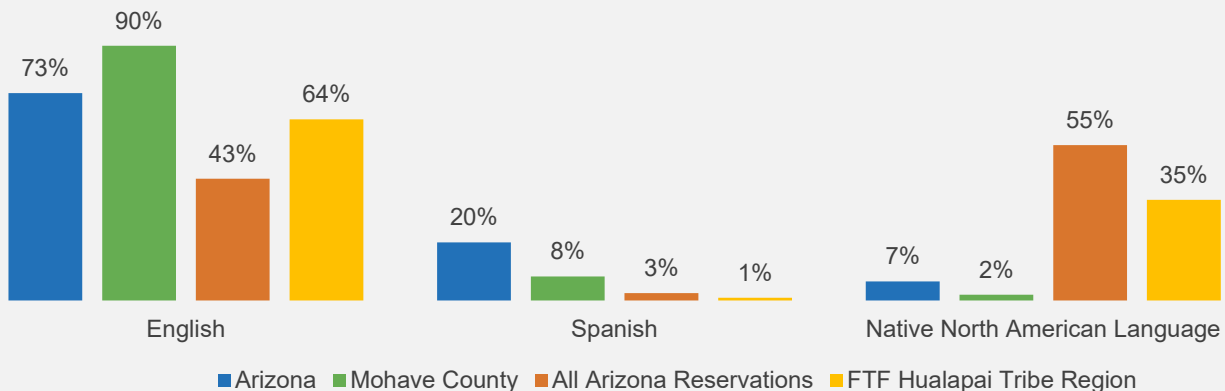
The majority of people (64%) in the region speak English as their primary language, while 35% primarily speak a Native North American language at home (Exhibit 1.9). While American Community Survey data do not provide detail about Native North American languages spoken, correspondence with a local expert indicates the majority, if not all, of these cases to be the Hualapai language. While the percentage of households speaking a Native North American language is lower compared to the percentage among all Arizona reservations, the percentage has increased by about 5 percentage points from the last American Community Survey estimate (30%) in 2016 (data not shown).¹⁴ These data may be attributable in part to the language revitalization efforts in the Hualapai community.

The United States Census Bureau define a household is considered “limited-English-speaking” if there is no adult (14 or older) who speaks English well. Five percent of households in Hualapai Tribe Region

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2010-2014), Table B16001

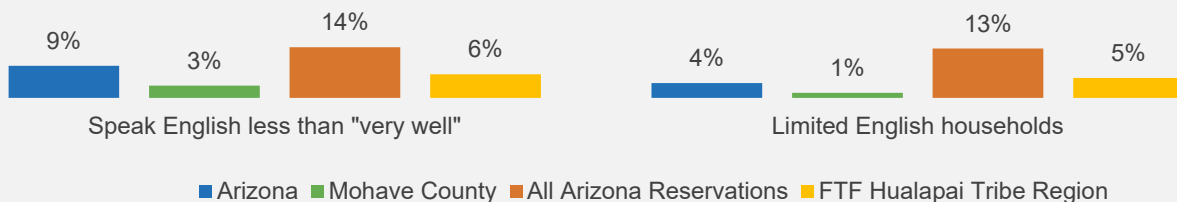
are classified as limited English-speaking, which is slightly higher compared to the proportion of households in Mohave County (1%) and Arizona (4%), but significantly lower compared to the average among all Arizona reservations combined (13%, Exhibit 1.10).

Exhibit 1.9. 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 1.10. 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 Hualapai Tribe Region has a total of 127 children ages 0-5 living with parents, and according to data from the American Community Survey, there are none that live with parents born outside the U.S. in the region. The rate is similarly low among all Arizona reservations combined (1%), and notably lower compared to the number of children living with parents born outside U.S. in Mohave County (9%) and Arizona (25%, Exhibit 1.11).

Exhibit 1.11. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	127	0%
All Arizona Reservations	22,777	1%
Mohave County	9,945	9%
ARIZONA	494,590	25%

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

The number of kindergarten through third grade students that are migrants among the elementary school districts in the Hualapai Tribe Region is low, as reflected in the data available that has been suppressed due to low numbers for the region as well as the county (Exhibit 1.12). Statewide, data show the increase in the overall number between 2018 and 2020.

The percent of kindergarten through third grade students in the region who are English Language Learners (ELL) is less than two percent, which is a comparable rate to the county but lower than the proportion of ELL students in the state overall (Exhibit 1.13). These percentages have remained consistent in the last few years, 2018 to 2020, across the region, county, and state.

Exhibit 1.12. Children in kindergarten to 3rd grade that are migrants from 2018 to 2020

	Arizona	Mohave County	FTF Hualapai Tribe Region
2018	662	<11	<11
2019	570	<11	<11
2020	809	<11	<11

Arizona Department of Education (2021). Migrant Children. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 1.13. Percentage of children in kindergarten to 3rd grade that are English Language Learners from 2018 to 2020

	Arizona	Mohave County	FTF Hualapai Tribe Region
2018	10%	3%	<2%
2019	9%	3%	<2%
2020	10%	3%	<2%

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

Household Characteristics

In the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region there are 348 households and 21% include children under six years old. Just over half of all children under six live in married-couple households, accounting for 55% of all households with children 0-5, while approximately a third of those households (30%) are led by single

females (Exhibit 1.14). Nine percent of children under six in the Hualapai Tribe Region live with relatives other than their parents (Exhibit 1.15). Of children under 18 who live in the same household as a grandparent, 33% are primarily cared for by a grandparent, more than double the rate of children primarily cared for by a grandparent in Arizona overall (Exhibit 1.16).¹⁵ There are several advantages to living in a multigenerational household, including an increase in emotional well-being and grandparents serving as role models in the socialization of children. However, this also indicates that young families may not have the resources to live on their own and may be living with their elderly parents as a result. One local expert suggests that a lack of housing supply in the community may be a contributing factor to multigenerational homes. Grandparents raising their grandchildren may also require additional support due to the nontraditional family structure, changes in parenting practices since grandparents were raising their children, and the fact that many older adults live on fixed incomes and may struggle with caring for dependents.

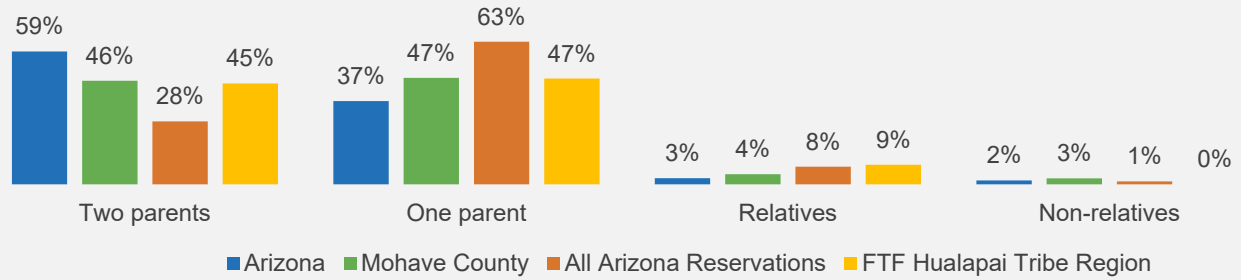
Exhibit 1.14. Number of households and household characteristics

	Arizona	Mohave County	All Arizona Reservations	FTF Hualapai Tribe Region
Total number of households	1,679,198	55,462	51,893	348
Households with children 0-5	17% (291,242)	10% (5,814)	14% (7,215)	21% (74)
Married-couple households with children 0-5	68% (198,602)	54% (3,137)	47% (3,359)	55% (41)
Single-male households with children 0-5	10% (27,887)	15% (859)	16% (1,133)	15% (11)
Single-female households with children 0-5	22% (64,753)	31% (1,818)	38% (2,723)	30% (22)

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

¹⁵ 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>>

Exhibit 1.15. 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 1.16. Children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household

	Arizona	Mohave County	All Arizona Reservations	FTF Hualapai Tribe Region
Number of children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household	155,821	4,468	27,230	124
Percent of children (ages 0-17) living in a grandparent's household, and the grandparent is responsible for the child	50%	65%	52%	70%
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%	19%	13%	33%

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

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS HIGHLIGHTS

The FTF Hualapai Tribe Region encompasses the entirety of the Hualapai Reservation, located in northwest Arizona. Children ages 0-5 make up 15% of the total population of the region. The ethnic profile of the region is substantially different from the profile of the State of Arizona, where 92% of the Hualapai Tribe Region’s adult population and 99% of children under five identify as American Indian. Although the majority of households speak English as their primary language, just over a third (35%) of households speak a Native North American language at home. Over half of all households with children under six are led by married couples, though a sizable number of households are single-parent households. Only nine percent of children under six in the region live with relatives (other than their grandparents) or non-relatives. Notably, 70% of children ages 0-17 live in the same household as their grandparents and 33% of children are primarily cared for by a grandparent.

Below are key findings that highlight the demographic assets, needs and data-driven considerations for the region. The considerations provided below do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for tackling the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to address needs and assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

Assets	Considerations
Thirty-five percent of households in the Hualapai Region report speaking the Hualapai language at home, an increase of 5 percentage points over the last few years.	Discuss strategies to continue language revitalization efforts, and increase interest in the Hualapai culture and language among youth in the region.

Needs	Considerations
About half of all children under age six live in single-parent households, as well as a sizable number of children in grandparent-led households, which face additional barriers when compared to two-parent households.	Recognize that all families have strengths and needs, and discuss support services and programs specifically designed for single-parent and grandparent-led households to help them support the young children in their homes.



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.¹⁶ 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.^{17, 18, 19} Housing instability, which includes frequent moves, difficulty paying rent, being evicted or being homeless, is associated with worse health, academic, and social outcomes.²⁰ Children without housing stability often experience negative outcomes such as higher grade retention, higher high school dropout rates, and lower educational attainment as adults.^{21,22} Unemployment of parents can also affect the psychological well-being of children in the long-term due to negative experiences and stressful events.²³ 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.^{24, 25} 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.

¹⁶ Brooks-Gunn, J., & Duncan, G. J. (1997). *The effects of poverty on children. The future of children*, 55-71.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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

¹⁹ Clair, A. (2019). *Housing: An under-explored influence on children's well-being and becoming. Child Indicators Research*, 12(2), 609-626.

²⁰ 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

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² 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>

²³ 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/>

²⁴ *Feeding America*. Retrieved from <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-hunger/child-development.html>

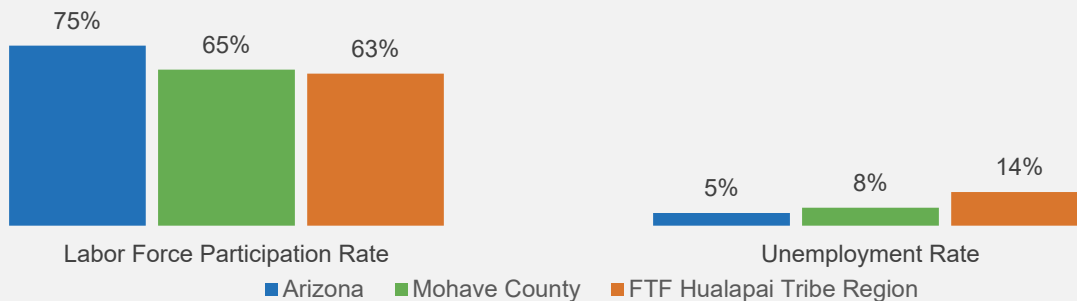
²⁵ Ke, J., Lee Ford-Jones, E. (2015) "Food Insecurity and Hunger: A Review of the Effects on Children's Health and Behaviour." *Paediatrics & Child Health* 20.2.

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.²⁶ Estimates indicate that the labor force participation rate in the Hualapai Tribe Region (63%) is lower than the rate in Mohave County (65%) and in Arizona (75%, Exhibit 2.1). Additionally, the unemployment rate in the region is 14%, a rate that is higher than for the county (8%) or the state (5%). However, in comparison to a 2014 estimate, the unemployment rate in the Hualapai Tribe Region has decreased by approximately seven percentage points (data not shown).²⁷

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

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 that has lost their job will have to complete an application. If they are eligible, they will receive unemployment benefits. In Mohave County, the total number of unemployment claims spiked dramatically in March and April 2020 as the economic impacts of COVID-19 unfolded (Exhibit 2.2). The number of claims climbed stayed high over the next few months while showing signs of decline over the course of the year. While most region-level data for the Hualapai Region were suppressed due to low counts, the monthly claims were available for April and July, where 27 and 18 claims were filed respectively. While these numbers are low relative to the county, the availability of these data suggest a spike in claims that align with county-level trends and suggest the economic impacts of COVID-19 were felt in the Hualapai Region as well.

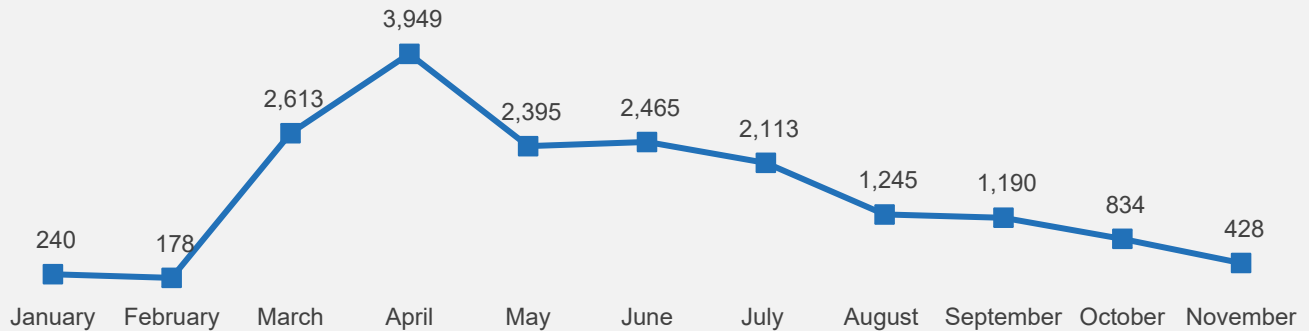
In addition to the increase in the number of claims, the percentage of eligible and paid claims also rose

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau (2021). *Labor Force Statistics Glossary*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/labor-force/about/glossary.html>

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). *American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2010-2014)*. Table S2301.

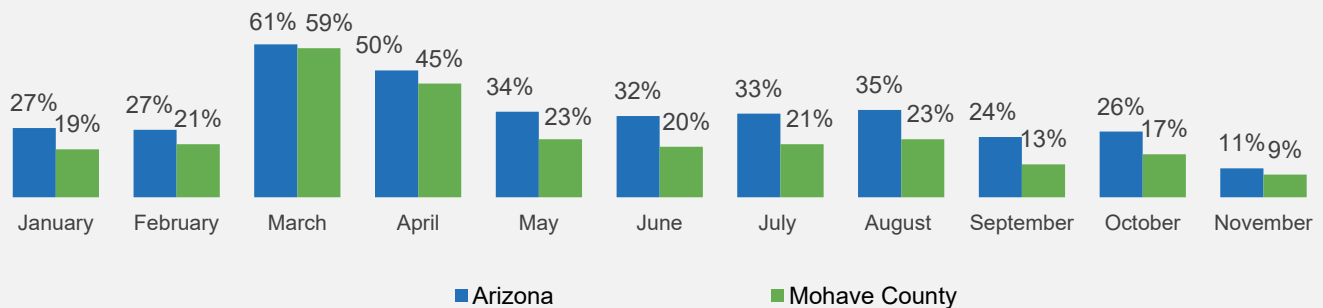
sharply in March in Mohave County and in Arizona (Exhibit 2.3). In the county, 59% of claims were eligible and paid in March, almost triple the number from the month prior. The overall trends in the percentage of eligible and paid claims in Mohave County follow those of Arizona.

Exhibit 2.2. Number of total unemployment claims in Mohave County, 2020



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

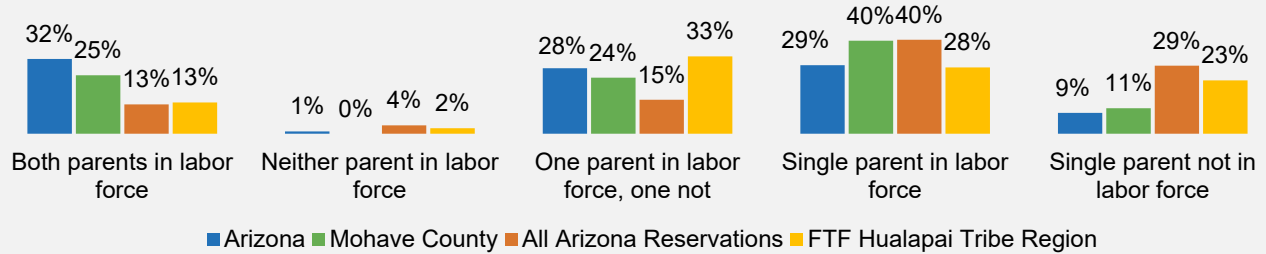
Exhibit 2.3. Percent of eligible and paid unemployment claims in 2020



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

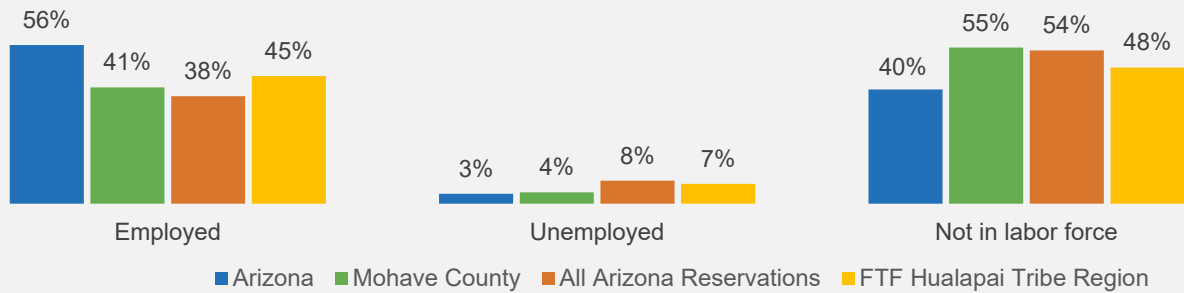
In the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region, about three quarters of children (74%) under age six live in a household where at least one adult is in the labor force (Exhibit 2.4), which is less than the percentage for Arizona (90%). Forty-one percent of children under age six have either both parents in the labor force or a single parent in the labor force, indicating they have some need for child care. The overall percentage of adults who are in the labor force in the Hualapai Tribe Region is 52%, which is slightly lower than the proportion in Arizona (56%, Exhibit 2.5).

Exhibit 2.4. Employment status of parents with children 0-5



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

Exhibit 2.5. Employment status of adult population (ages 16 and older) who are employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force



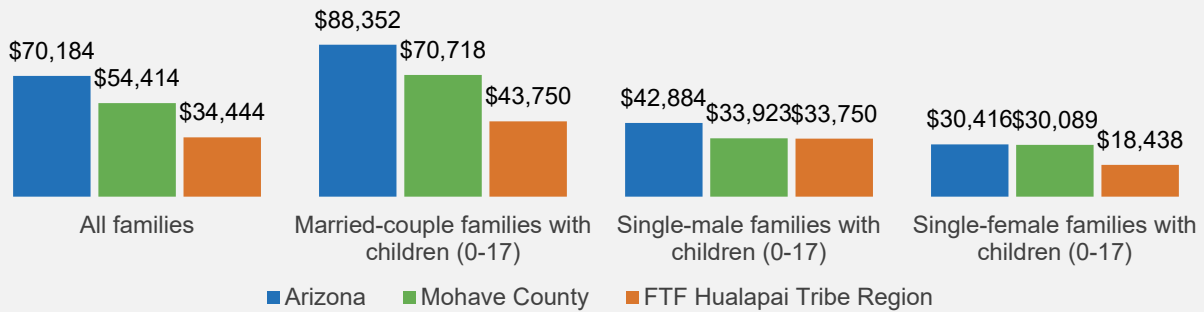
U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey Table B23025.

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 in the Hualapai Tribe Region is approximately \$34,000, which is about \$20,000 less than the median income of Mohave County. The median income of married-couple families with children ages 0 to 17 in the region, about \$44,000, is higher in comparison to all families. Moreover, the median income for single-parent families and especially single-female families is much less than for married-couple families. Exhibit 2.6 shows the difference in median income for married-couple families, single-female families, and single-male families.

Exhibit 2.6. Median income for families with children (0-17)



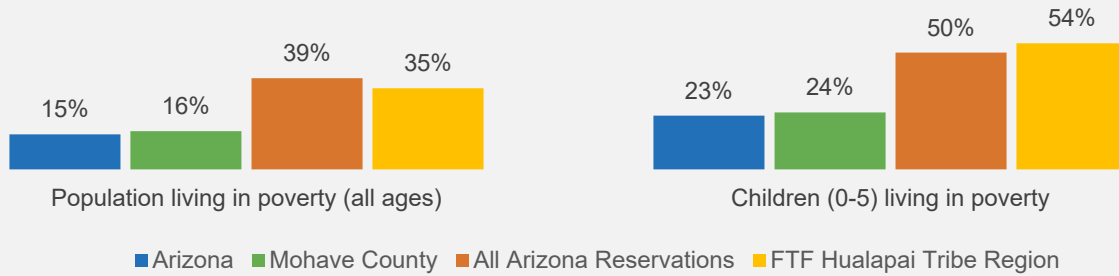
U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19126.

The large number of single-parent families combined with their low median income may contribute to a sizable portion of the population in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region living in poverty.²⁸ Families with children under six years old have a higher proportion of those living below the federal poverty level compared to the general population (Exhibit 2.7). In the Hualapai Tribe Region, 35% of the population and 54% of children under age six are living in poverty. These poverty rates are notably higher than those of Mohave County and the state, while being comparable to the average rates across all reservations in Arizona.

Federal poverty levels (FPL) are used to determine eligibility for 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 makes less than or equal to \$26,500 is considered to be in poverty. In the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region, 54% of families with young children are living in poverty (Exhibit 2.8).

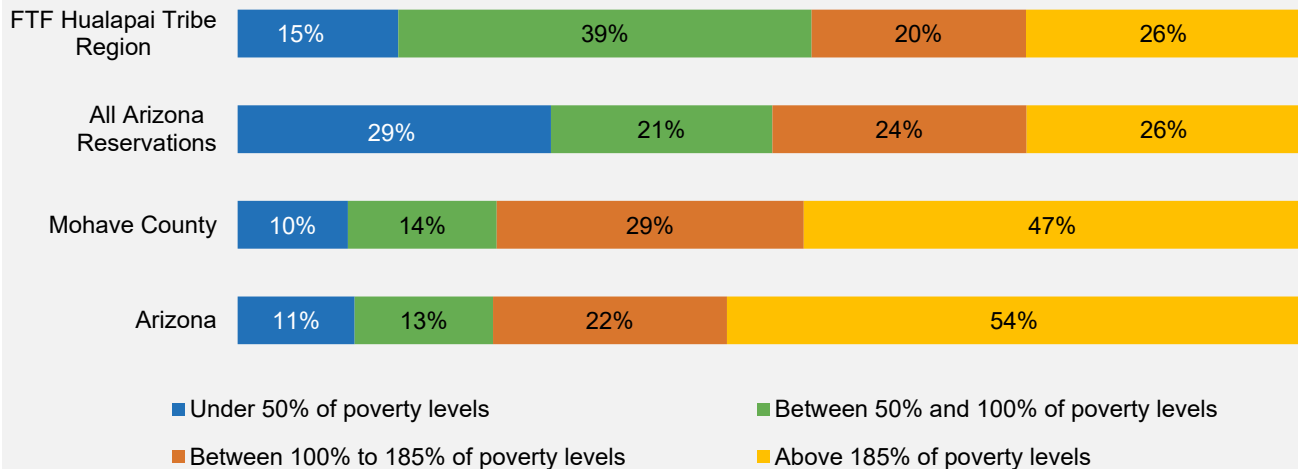
²⁸ To define poverty, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

Exhibit 2.7. Percentage of population living in poverty



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

Exhibit 2.8. Families with young children (ages 0-5) living at various poverty levels



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

In Mohave County, the percent of the population living in poverty varies significantly by race/ethnicity. Individuals identifying as Black or African American have poverty rates around 36%, which is much higher than any other reported racial/ethnic group (Exhibit 2.9). While these data from the American Community Census were not available for the Hualapai Tribe Region, the county also saw a high rate of poverty (27%) among those identifying as American Indian.

Exhibit 2.9. Percentage of population below the federal poverty level by race/ethnicity*

	Arizona	Mohave County
Black or African-American	20%	36%
American Indian	33%	27%
Asian	12%	11%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	16%	1%
Other Race	23%	16%
Two or More Races	17%	23%
White, not Hispanic	10%	15%
Hispanic or Latino	22%	19%

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.

Food Security

Food insecurity, the limited and/or uncertain availability of food, is associated with many adverse indicators of health and well-being for children, including cognitive and developmental delays, aggression and anxiety, behavioral problems including depression, and a higher risk of being overweight and obese.²⁹ According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), a food desert is defined as an area without easy access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods, specifically in grocery stores and supermarkets, leading to overall consumption that skews towards foods that are high in cholesterol, sugar, and fat.³⁰ A large portion of tribal lands in Arizona are in food deserts, adding to food insecurity in tribal communities. The 2020 Hualapai Tribe Regional Needs and Assets Report estimates that 65% of populated tribal lands are considered food deserts, whereas only 17% of all populated areas in Arizona meet the definition of a food desert.³¹ Another estimate from the Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations suggests that 75% of households on tribal reservations in Arizona live more than 10 miles from the nearest grocery store.³²

Data from the Hualapai Food Security Survey conducted in 2022 by the Hualapai Health Education and Wellness Department show the prevalence of food insecurity in the region (Exhibit 2.10). According to survey data, about half of Hualapai community members (13% ‘Yes’ and 36% ‘Sometimes’) indicated that they had experienced a situation over the last year where they had run out of food and could not afford more. Similarly, 42% of respondents (13% ‘Yes’ and 29% ‘Sometimes’) marked that their

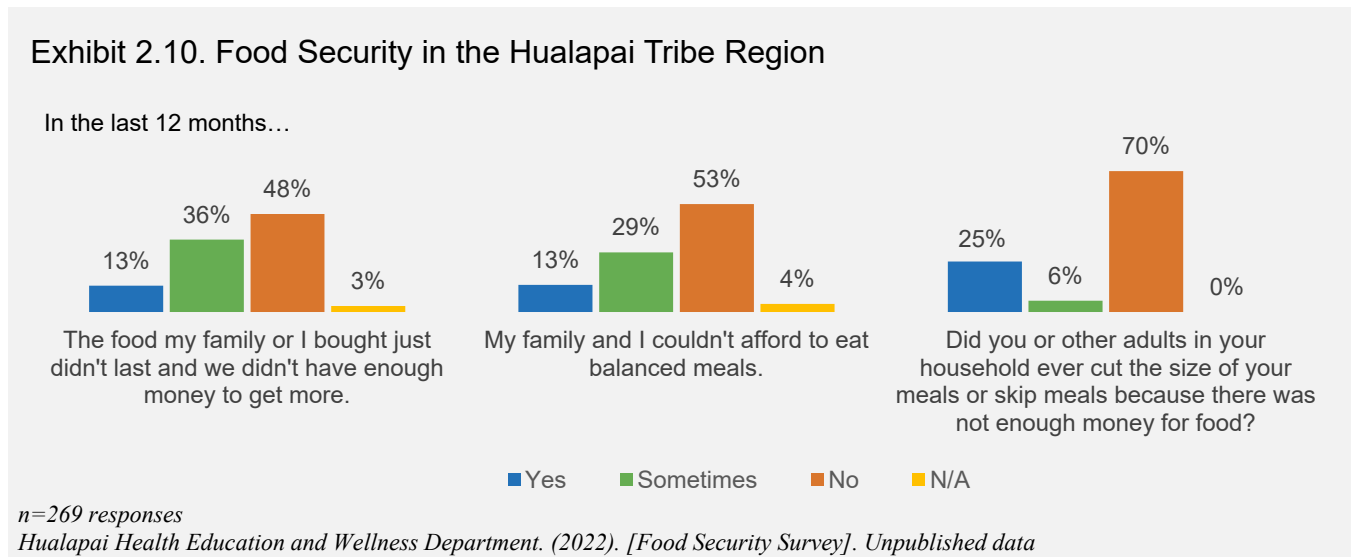
²⁹ Gundersen, C., Ziliak, J. P. (2015). Food insecurity and health outcomes. *Health Affairs*, 34(11), 1830–1839. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0645>

³⁰ National Institute of Food and Agriculture. (n.d.). Providing affordable, healthy food options in food deserts. *Nifa.usda.gov*. Retrieved from <https://nifa.usda.gov/providing-affordable-healthy-food-options-food-deserts>

³¹ 2020 Needs And Assets Report 2020. (2020). Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Regional-Needs-and-Assets-Report-2020-Hualapai-Tribe.pdf>

³² Oxley, L. (2017) Food Insecurity in Arizona and on Tribal Land. Arizona Department of Agriculture. Retrieved from <https://gotr.azgovernor.gov/file/7897/download?token=sJSiWQ-T>

families could not afford to eat balanced meals. Further, 31% of respondents (25% ‘Yes’ and 6% ‘Sometimes’) affirmed they or other adults in their households reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals entirely.



Housing

Residents of the Hualapai Tribe have a much smaller housing cost burden than residents of the state as a whole: 11% of the Hualapai Tribe Region’s housing units require their residents to contribute more than 30% of their household income toward housing (Exhibit 2.11). While cost of housing does provide a metric for economic circumstances in the tribal region, caution should be used to interpret these results as housing cost burden is not by itself a robust measure of affordability or economic conditions. For instance, the abundance of affordable yet low quality housing may drive down the cost of housing while possibly masking indicators of reduced quality of life and challenging social and economic conditions.³³

Exhibit 2.11. The cost of housing, relative to household income

	Number of occupied housing units	Occupied housing units which cost 30% of household income, or more
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	449	11%
Mohave County	86,889	27%
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.

³³ PD&R Edge (n.d.) Rental Burdens: Rethinking Affordability Measures. Retrieved from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_092214.html

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.”³⁴ The number of homeless children in kindergarten through third grade from 2018 to 2020 is displayed in Exhibit 2.12. From 2018 to 2020, the number of homeless students in all school districts in the Hualapai Tribe Region was low, as demonstrated by the suppressed data. Across the county and the state, the number of homeless students decreased over these years.

Exhibit 2.12. Number of homeless students in grades kindergarten through third grade, 2018 to 2020

	2018	2019	2020
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	<11	<11	<11
Kingman Academy Of Learning	<11	<11	<11
Peach Springs Unified School District	<11	<11	<11
Seligman Unified District	<11	<11	<11
Valentine Elementary District	<11	<11	<11
Mohave County	70	75	68
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 Hualapai Tribe Region.

About 26% of households in the Hualapai Tribe Region have both a smartphone and computer, which is much lower than the proportion in Mohave County (63%) and in Arizona (73%, Exhibit 2.13). In addition, 63% of Hualapai Tribe residents live in households with a computer and internet, again lower than county (85%) and statewide (87%) percentages (Exhibit 2.14). 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.³⁵ Households that were the most impacted by the digital divide included those in rural communities, living in poverty and people of color.^{36,37} Given that only two-thirds (68%) of households with children under 18 years old in Hualapai Tribe Region have a computer and internet, it is possible that the pandemic’s impact on remote education was experienced by a sizable number of households in the region (Exhibit 2.15). Of the people living in households with a computer and internet, less than a third of all households (29%) in the Hualapai Tribe Region have fixed broadband with cellular data plan as their internet (Exhibit 2.16).

³⁴ Arizona Department of Education. Welcome to Homeless Education Program. Retrieved from <https://www.azed.gov/homeless>

³⁵ Masonbrink, A., Hurley, E. (2020) "Advocating for children during the COVID-19 school closures." *Pediatrics* 146.3 (2020).

³⁶ Goldschmidt, K. (2020) "The COVID-19 pandemic: Technology use to support the wellbeing of children." *Journal of pediatric nursing* 53.

³⁷ Dorn, E., Hancock, B., Sarakatsannis, J., Viruleg, E. (2020) "COVID-19 and learning loss—disparities grow and students need help." McKinsey & Company.

Exhibit 2.13. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	449	8%	33%	26%	32%
Mohave County	86,889	12%	12%	63%	12%
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 2.14. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	1,519	63%	11%	26%
Mohave County	204,182	85%	7%	8%
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 2.15. Children (ages 0-17) in households with and without computers and internet connectivity

	Number of person (0-17) living in households	Percent in households with computer and internet	Percent in households with computer but no internet	Percent in households without computer
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	509	68%	11%	21%
Mohave County	36,312	89%	8%	3%
All Arizona Reservations	78,988	44%	26%	30%
ARIZONA	1,632,019	88%	8%	4%

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

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

Exhibit 2.16. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	957	29%	30%	41%	0%
Mohave County	172,659	61%	26%	13%	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.

ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES HIGHLIGHTS

While the unemployment rate in Mohave County stayed relatively low, the number slightly increased in 2020 (10%), likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and started to decline to pre-pandemic rates in 2021. Single-parent families, and single-female parent families in particular, who are working earn significantly less on average than dual-parent households. Additionally, 54% of children under age six in the region live in poverty.

Below are key findings that highlight the economic assets, needs, and data-driven considerations for the region. The considerations provided below do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for tackling the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to address needs and assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

Assets	Considerations
<p>Three-quarters of children under age six live in households with at least one parent in the labor force. In addition, data suggest that the housing cost burden in the region is low compared to the county and the state.</p>	<p>Promote community resources to support parents in the labor force, including day care and after school programs for children.</p>

Needs	Considerations
<p>According to the American Community Survey, about 54% of children in the region live in poverty, which is significantly higher than the state average (23%).</p>	<p>Encourage community awareness of social service resources in the region, including housing support.</p>
<p>About half children under six live in households that rely on single-parent income, which earn substantially less money than dual parent households.</p>	<p>Promote supports or resources that can help subsidize child care and housing costs for single parents with young children.</p>



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.^{38, 39}

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 8th grade.⁴⁰ In addition, irregular attendance influences school budgets and could potentially lead to fewer funds for essential classroom needs.⁴¹

Notably, children's participation in quality early care and education can also yield lifelong benefits. Improved performance on standardized tests and lower dropout 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.⁴² 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.⁴³ 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.

³⁸ 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>

³⁹ 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/>

⁴⁰ GreatSchools staff. *Why attendance matters*. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/school-attendance-issues/>

⁴¹ 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>

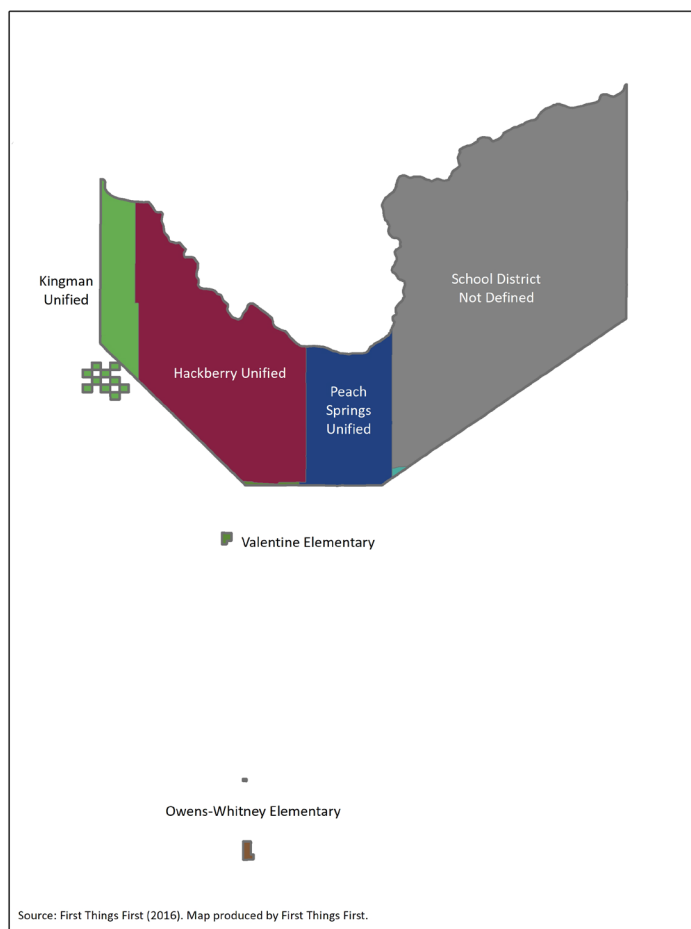
⁴² Bustamante, A., Dearing, E., Zachrisson, H., Vandell, D. (2021) *Adult outcomes of sustained high-quality early child care and education: Do they vary by family income?* Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13696>

⁴³ Christle, C. A., Jolivette, 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

What the Data Tell Us

Children in the Hualapai Tribe Region attend Peach Springs Elementary School in the Peach Springs Unified District, in addition to schools in the Hackberry, Kingman, Seligman, and Valentine Districts. Only Peach Springs Elementary School is located within the regional boundaries. Exhibit 3.1 shows a map of school districts attended by students in the region. Peach Springs Elementary School serves kindergarten to eighth grade students, while Valentine Elementary School, located off-reservation in Truxton, serves students in preschool to eighth grade.

Exhibit 3.1. Map of school districts in the Hualapai Tribe Region and surrounding areas

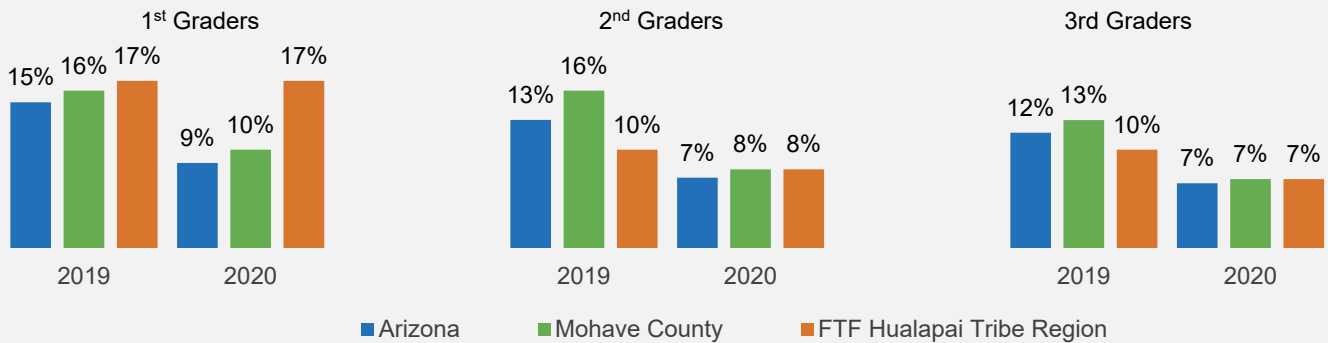


Student Attendance

From 2019 to 2020, schools that serve students in the Hualapai Tribe Region experienced a decrease in the percentage of students missing ten or more days of school among students in second and third grades (Exhibit 3.2). While the percentage of first grade students in the region that missed ten or more days of school was higher than the state as a whole, absence rates were lower or similar for second and third

grade students. 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 3.2. Percentage of students absent ten or more days from school in the Hualapai Tribe Region



Arizona Department of Education (2021). *Chronic Absences*. Provided by AZ FTF.
 *Data available by school district

Early Achievement

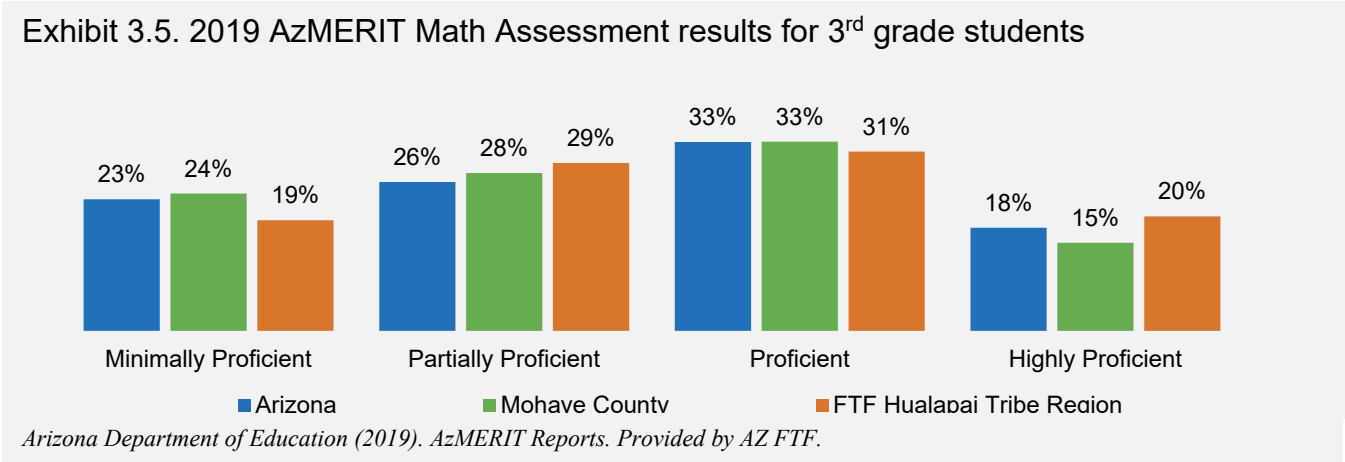
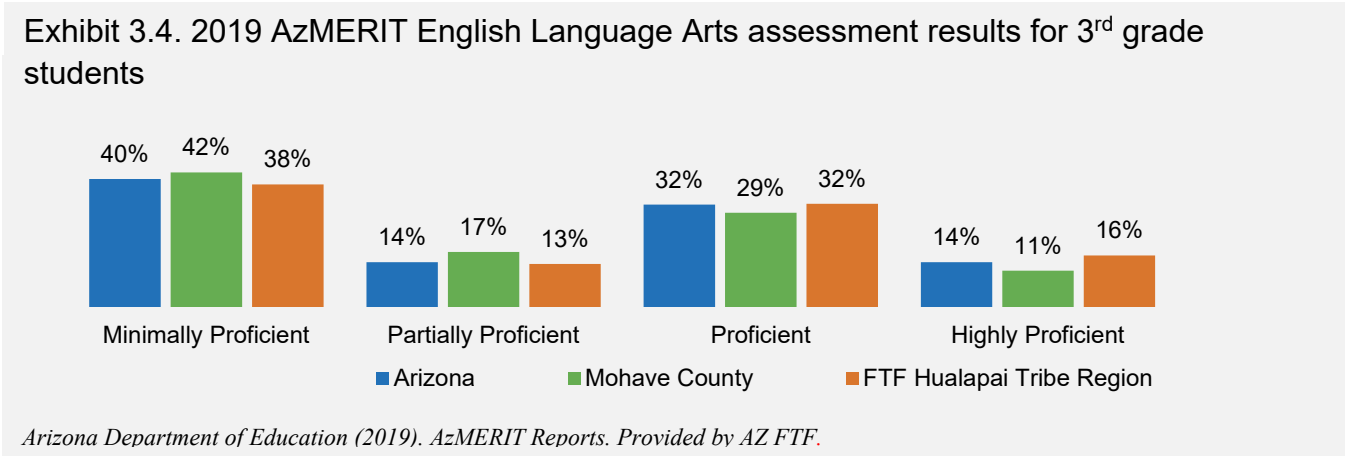
Over half of all preschool-aged children in the Hualapai Tribe Region (55%) are enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten, which is an enrollment rate lower than Arizona’s by about ten percentage points but comparable to Mohave County’s rate. Compared to the enrollment rate of children ages 3-4 across all reservations in the state, the Hualapai Region’s rate is 11 percentage points higher (Exhibit 3.3).

Exhibit 3.3. Children ages 3-4 enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten*



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 has an effect on future academic performance, specifically English and math scores.⁴⁴ The English Language Arts (ELA) assessment results of the AzMERIT demonstrated that about 48% of all third graders in the Hualapai Tribe Region scored “proficient” or “highly proficient”, which is slightly higher than the statewide average (Exhibit 3.4). About 51% of third graders scored “proficient” or highly proficient” on the math assessment test in the region, which is likewise similar to the percent for the state (Exhibit 3.5). Although the percentage of students who scored well in the AzMERIT math and ELA assessment results in the region is comparable to statewide results, around half of all third graders are at the same time not meeting the proficiency standard for the two subjects.



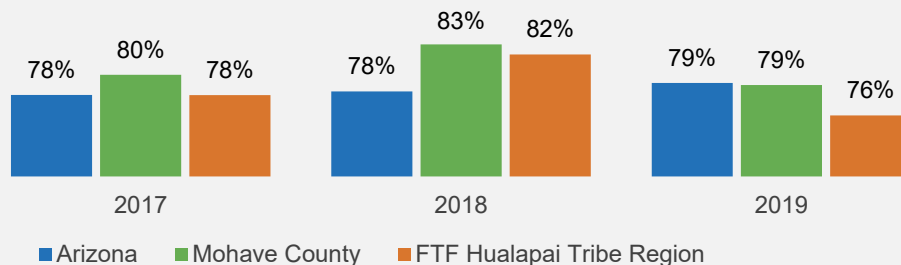
High School Graduation & Dropout Rates

Between 2017 and 2019, high school graduation rates fluctuated for schools serving the Hualapai Tribe Region, with the highest graduation rate (82%) in 2018 across the three-year span (Exhibit 3.6).

⁴⁴ 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.

However, the general upward trend in graduation rates for students in the region compared past years (57% in 2014, data not shown) is a positive sign of regional educational outcomes. From 2018 to 2020, the percent of students dropping out of high school in the Hualapai Tribe Region was consistent with the rate in Mohave County and Arizona (Exhibit 3.7), where the dropout rate remained around three to four percent. While the dropout rate has trended slightly downward over the three-year period, additional focus on supports and services for students who are at risk of dropping out could be considered.

Exhibit 3.6. 2017-2019 High school graduation rates: 4-year cohort

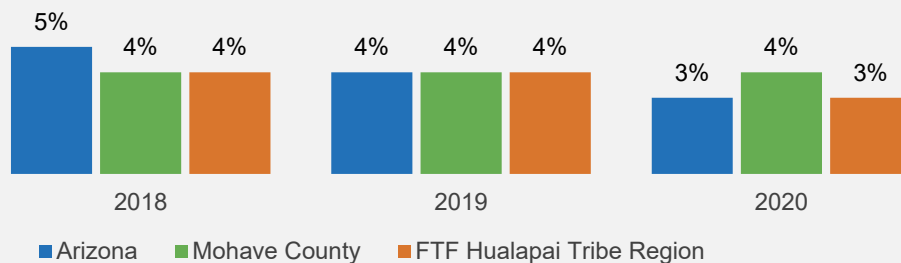


Arizona Department of Education (2021). Graduation Rate 2018 Cycle. Provided by AZ FTF.

*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

Exhibit 3.7. 2018-2020 High school dropout rates



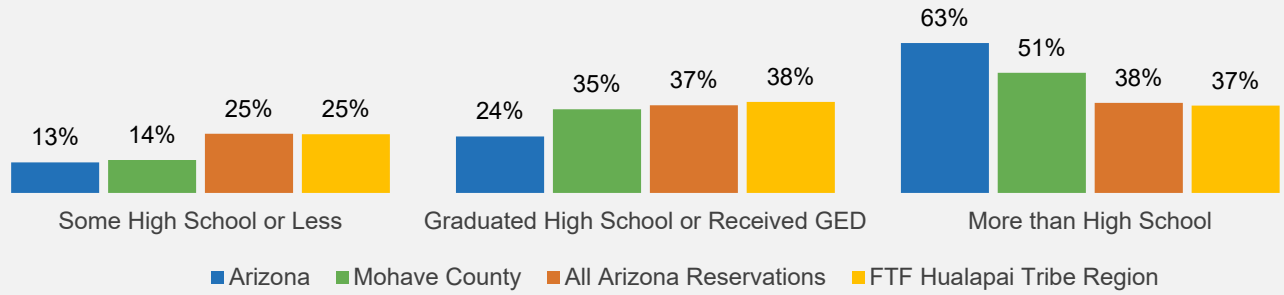
Arizona Department of Education (2021). Graduation Rate 2018 Cycle. Provided by AZ FTF.

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

Educational Attainment

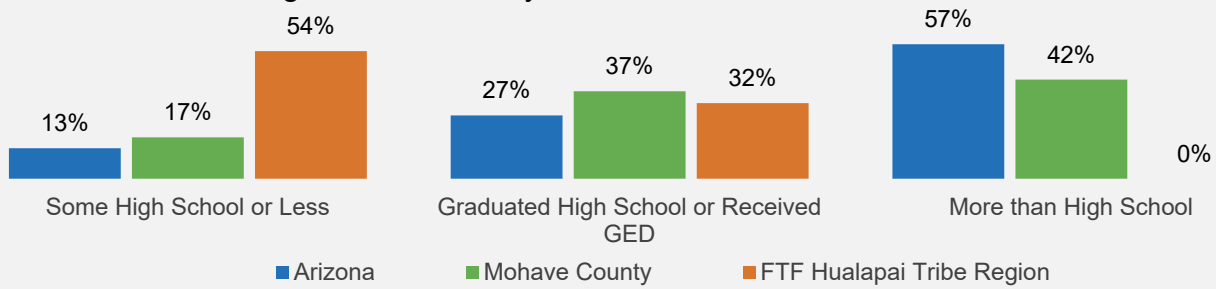
In the Hualapai Tribe Region, 75% of adults ages 25 and older have completed at least a high school education, which is a lower percentage than the state (87%) and county (86%, Exhibit 3.8). Among mothers giving birth in 2019 in the region, 32% of infants were born to mothers who completed at least a high school education, though there were none who completed further education after high school or receiving their GED (Exhibit 3.9). However, given the small sample size of mothers giving live births in 2019 (Exhibit 5.5), these data may be unreliable for making generalizations.

Exhibit 3.8. 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 3.9. Percentage of live births by mother's educational attainment



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

EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS HIGHLIGHTS

A child’s development during their first five years of life makes an impact on their performance in future educational endeavors. About 55% of preschool-age children are enrolled in early education and about half of all third-grade students in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region are scoring proficiently on the math and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments, similar to the proficiency rate of the state. The Hualapai Region’s graduation and dropout rate are consistent with the county and the state overall. In addition, while three quarters of all adults 25 and older in the region have graduated high school or pursued further education, only 32% of mothers who give birth in 2019 had a high school education or more.

Assets	Considerations
According to the American Community Survey, the high school graduation rates in the region are high, while high school dropout rates are consistently low.	Disparities in overall regional education rates may point to the need in tribal regions to have educational and job access on par with the rest of the state. Consider supporting programs for parents, such as peer support or mentoring programs, to support each other and share knowledge and attitudes around the importance of education, targeting teen parents or parents without a high school degree.

Needs	Considerations
Half of all students are not meeting proficiency standards for the AZMERIT English Language Arts (51%) and Math (48%) assessments.	Increase parent outreach and awareness of early education programs to support learning and school readiness from an early age.
Chronic absences in the Hualapai Tribe Region is high among first graders (17%) compared to Mohave County and Arizona.	Consider community-based, family support strategies to help increase regular school attendance among young children.



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.⁴⁵ Research suggests that the first five years of life are considered to be the most crucial stage in children's development, as they undergo the most rapid phase of growth during that period.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷ In addition, research shows that investments in ECE have long-term health effects, helping to prevent disease and promote health.^{48, 49} For disadvantaged families, early childhood programs have benefits on health, future wages, crime reduction, and education.⁵⁰ 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.^{51, 52}

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.

⁴⁵ 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>

⁴⁶ Early Childhood Education. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://teach.com/where/levels-of-schooling/early-childhood-education/>

⁴⁷ 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>

⁴⁸ Garcia, J., Heckman, J., Ziff, A. (2019) *Early Childhood education and crime.* Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1002/imhj.21759>

⁴⁹ 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.

⁵⁰ 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>

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² 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

In the Hualapai Tribe Region, child care is available through the Hualapai Day Care Center Hma:ny Ba Viso:jo', a facility that opened in spring 2014. During the recent one-year period from October 2020 to September 2021, the Hualapai Day Care Center served a total of 50 children ages six months to 12 years, with the majority being preschool-aged children ages 3 to 5 (Exhibit 4.1). Among the reasons provided by families using the Hualapai Day Care Center for child care, 84% indicated their employment or work commitments while another 12% responded that their education or training meant they needed to seek child care.⁵³ Data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security on the number and licensed capacity of early care and education centers in the county and the state are available in the appendix (Exhibit 7.1).

Exhibit 4.1. Hualapai Day Care total children served (2020-21)

	Infants	Toddlers (ages 1-2)	Preschoolers (ages 3-5)	After School (ages 6-12)	Total
Hualapai Day Care	6	9	28	7	50

Hualapai Day Care Center (2021). Received by correspondence

As previously mentioned, 55% of children between the ages of three and four are enrolled in ECE programs in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region (Exhibit 3.3). This is higher than the 41% assumed to need child care since all adults in the household are employed (Exhibit 2.5). However, parents who do not have access to stable child care or who are unable to afford child care may find themselves missing work to care for their children. In addition, research has consistently demonstrated that lack of access to child care has negative effects on families and decreases parents' chances of sustaining employment.⁵⁴ 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 affect a child's future academic performance.⁵⁵ ECE professionals in the Hualapai Tribe Region are invited to participate in professional development circles called Communities of Practice (CoPs).

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes the school readiness of children ages five and under from low income families. Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to support child

⁵³ *Hualapai Day Care Center (2021). Grant Reporting Data. Received by correspondence*

⁵⁴ 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§ionid=353>

⁵⁵ 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.*

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 as well as Early Head Start programs.⁵⁶ 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.⁵⁷ In addition, Head Start children are more likely to improve their social skills, impulse control, and approaches to learning while concurrently decreasing their likelihood of problem behaviors and becoming aggressive and hyperactive over the course of a year.⁵⁸

According to data received from the Hualapai Head Start, there are 57 children enrolled in Head Start. Among the eight staff of the Head Start location, comprising four classroom teachers and four assistant teachers, all hold a child development associate (CDA) credential and two hold an associate's degree in early childhood education (Exhibit 4.2 and Exhibit 4.3).

Exhibit 4.2. Total Head Start enrollment

	Number of enrolled children	
	2019	2020
Hualapai Head Start	57	57

Hualapai Head Start (2022). Received by correspondence.

Exhibit 4.3. Staff credentials for early care and education programs

	Total Staff	Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	AA in Early Childhood Education	BA in Early Childhood Education
Head Start Classroom Teachers	4	4	2	0
Head Start Assistant Teachers	4	4	0	0

Hualapai Head Start (2022). Received by correspondence.

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

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2020). *Head Start Programs*. Office of Head Start. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/about/head-start>

⁵⁷ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (2010). *Head Start impact study: Final report*. Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/head-start-impact-study-final-report-executive-summary>

⁵⁸ 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.

to five indicating the level of quality and attainment of quality standards.⁵⁹

The Hualapai Day Care is the only Quality First site in the region. It participates in the ‘rating-only’ category, which means the center receives some on-site coaching support, regular program assessment, and incentives to provide quality care and access to families.

	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

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.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} 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.

The Hualapai Day Care Center operates on a sliding scale fee based on family income. Daily fees (for a full day) range from one to ten dollars per day (Exhibit 4.4). Caregivers of children in foster care or Tribal Child Protective Services placements are exempt from payment. The majority of children enrolled in the center receive a subsidy to cover the cost of their monthly fee. In addition, some families who live in the Hualapai Tribe Region may use day care services outside of the region’s boundaries. Additional data on the cost of early childhood care in Mohave County and in Arizona are available in the appendix section (Exhibit 7.2). Compared against the median income of two-parent families in Mohave County with children under 18 (Exhibit 2.7), licensed centers cost approximately seven to ten percent of the regional median family income. High child care prices likely place a financial strain on families who already report barely making ends meet and having difficulty affording housing and food. 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 the region and Mohave 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 2.7), child care at a licensed center could cost up to 25% of their median income. High costs can be a barrier in affording quality child care especially for single-female families.

⁵⁹ Arizona First Things First (October 2021). *Quality First*. Retrieved from: <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources/quality-first/>

Exhibit 4.4. Hualapai day care parent co-pays

	Income Level 1	Income Level 2	Income Level 3	Income Level 4	Income Level 5	Income Level 6
Full Day	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$10.00
Half Day	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$5.00

Hualapai Day Care Center (2022). [Center Data]. Unpublished data

Exhibit 4.5. 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
Mohave County	\$54,414	14%	13%	11%
ARIZONA	\$70,184	15%	14%	12%

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

From 2017-2020, Mohave County experienced an increase in the number of children receiving DES child care subsidies while the state also experienced an overall increase (Exhibit 4.6). Numbers for the Hualapai Region were suppressed due to their lower counts, possibly indicating an overall small number and impact of DES child care subsidies on the early childcare system. During the same time period, the state and county both experienced a decrease in the percent of eligible children receiving child care subsidies.

Exhibit 4.6. 2019-2020 Number of children eligible and receiving child care subsidies

	Number of Children Receiving Subsidies				Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
FTF Hualapai Region	DS	DS	DS	DS	Cannot Calculate	Cannot Calculate	Cannot Calculate	Cannot Calculate
Mohave County	453	520	592	562	91%	90%	91%	79%
ARIZONA	16,922	19,813	23,155	19,909	93%	92%	92%	80%

Note: DS = data suppressed. Cannot Calculate = percentages cannot be calculated due to suppressed data.
 Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Child Care (CCA) Subsidies. Provided by AZ FTF.

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.⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

AZEIP is a statewide system under IDEA Part C 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.⁶² Research shows that children and youth with mild intellectual disabilities are behind in academic skills compared to their peers.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴ 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.

Data consistently show that compared to the children who receive referrals to AZEIP, a far smaller number receive services. From 2018-2020, Mohave County experienced an increase in the number of children receiving AZEIP referrals and at the same time a decrease in the number of children receiving AZEIP services (Exhibit 4.7). Data for the Hualapai Region were suppressed due to low counts, which may suggest an overall small number of AZEIP referrals and services. However, at the state level, Arizona experienced a decrease in the number of children receiving both AZEIP referrals and services. The number of children receiving services decreased by more than ten percent between 2018 and 2020 for Arizona. AZEIP referrals and services data at the regional level were suppressed, suggesting that the number of children was low for the region.

⁶⁰ Dyson, A. (2001). *Special needs education as the way to equity: an alternative approach?* *Support for Learning*, 16, 3.

⁶¹ 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>

⁶² Arizona Department of Economic Security (n.d.). *Arizona Early Intervention Program*. Retrieved from: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>

⁶³ 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>

⁶⁴ 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>

Exhibit 4.7. 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
FTF Hualapai Region	DS	DS	DS	DS	DS	DS
Mohave County	241	229	255	67	57	51
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 the age of 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. At the regional level, there were no children receiving referrals and services from DDD in a number of instances between 2017 and 2020, and when there were children served, those data were suppressed. In Mohave County and Arizona, the number of children receiving DDD referrals increased while the number of children receiving services decreased over the four-year span (Exhibit 4.8). 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 4.8. 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
FTF Hualapai Region	0	DS	0	DS	0	DS	0	0
Mohave County	88	121	121	109	100	127	87	77
ARIZONA	5,478	6,163	6,261	5,700	5,520	6,123	4,005	4,078

Note: DS = data suppressed

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

Special Education

The Arizona Department of Education collects information on special education pre-k children who entered kindergarten without the need for an Individualized Education Program (IEP). In 2020, the most common types of disabilities for preschool children in the Hualapai Region were developmental delays

(Exhibit 4.9).⁶⁵ For kindergarten students in the Hualapai Region, the percentage of students enrolled in special education was slightly lower than in Mohave County and Arizona from 2018 to 2020 (Exhibit 4.10).

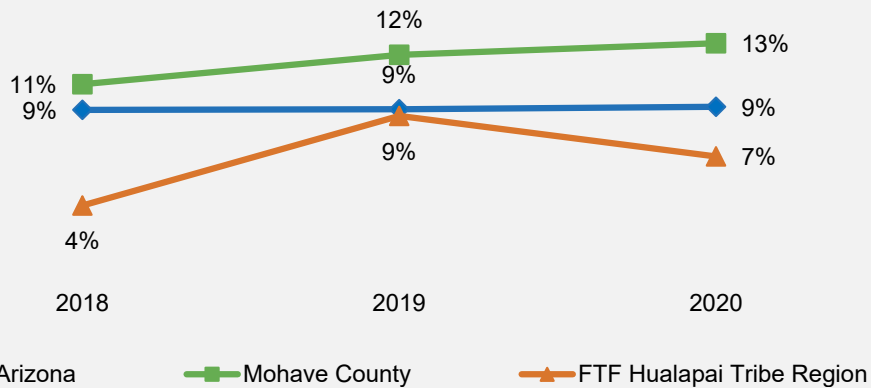
Exhibit 4.9. Preschool children enrolled in special education by type of disability, 2020

	Special Education	Autism	Developmental Delays	Hearing Impairment	Other	Preschool Severe Delay	Speech/ Language Impairment
FTF Hualapai Region	>98%	0%	>98%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mohave County	57%	0%	39%	<2%	<2%	39%	21%
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 4.10. Percent of kindergarten children enrolled in special education, 2018-2020



Arizona Department of Education (2020). Graduation Rate 2018 Cycle. Provided by AZ FTF.

⁶⁵ Examples of developmental delays for preschoolers include, but not limited to, cognitive, motor, social/emotional/behavioral or speech.

EARLY LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

About 55% of preschool-aged children in the region are enrolled in ECE programs, which is higher than the 41% assumed to need child care based on their parents’ employment status. However, the high cost of childcare may continue to be a barrier to childcare access. Based on the median income of families in Mohave County with children under 18, childcare from licensed centers could make up to ten percent of median family income, and even up to 25% for single-female families.

Below are key findings that highlight the early learning assets, needs, and data-driven considerations for the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region. The considerations provided below do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for tackling the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to address needs and assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

Assets	Considerations
Hualapai Day Care Center provides high quality child care and early education services to families with young families in the region.	Support Quality First and community-led efforts in the region to increase the opportunities for children to continue receive quality early care and education experiences.
Needs	Considerations
Given the estimated capacity of ECE centers and homes in the region and the estimated population of young children, there is likely a need for additional child cares slots to serve all families and children in need of quality care and education.	Discuss longer-term strategies to increase the capacity for child care in the region, including forecasting the specific demand for child care and discussing tactics to attract and retain ECE professionals.
Based on household median income in the region and county, the cost of child care could make up a significant portion of household. High costs can be a particularly acute barrier to quality child care for single-female families, whose median income is even lower.	Better understand cost burden to access quality childcare for families with young children, especially for single-income families, to be able to target outreach and support.



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.⁶⁶ 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.⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸

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.⁶⁹ 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.⁷⁰ 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.⁷¹ Fortunately, early screening for hearing loss can connect children with services that can increase the likelihood of the child reaching their full potential.

⁶⁶ *Schools & Health* (2016). *Impact of Health on Education*. Retrieved from <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/pages/Anthropometricstatusgrowth.aspx>

⁶⁷ 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>

⁶⁸ 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>

⁶⁹ *Office on Women's Health* (2014). *Why breastfeeding is important*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/breastfeeding-benefits.html>

⁷⁰ *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (2016). *Infant Immunizations*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/parent-questions.html>

⁷¹ *Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division* (2020). *Hearing Loss*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>

This chapter provides an overview of the health indicators for this region that highlight the well-being of 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.⁷² 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 the Indian Health Service (IHS) indicates that in Fiscal Year 2018-19, there were 225 children ages zero to five among 2,224 total active users of IHS in the Hualapai Tribal Region.⁷³ Exhibit 5.1 illustrates the different services that were provided by IHS, including 203 immunizations and screenings as well as 163 medical examinations.

Exhibit 5.1. IHS services by children 0-5 received in the Hualapai Region, FY2019-20

Service	Number of visits
Administrative/social admission	602
Immunizations and screening for infectious disease	203
Medical examination/evaluation	163
Residual codes; unclassified	150
Other screening for suspected conditions (not mental disorders or infectious disease)	140

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

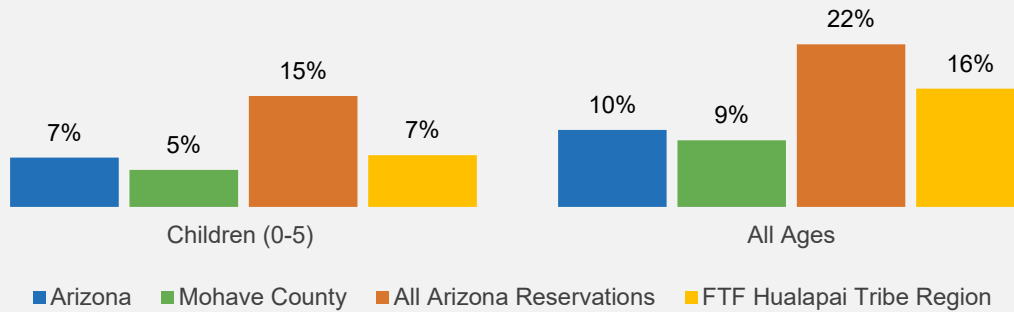
Lack of access to affordable health care is a major impediment to receiving proper care and an issue that disproportionately affects women living in poverty, placing their children at risk for health issues even before they are born, and perpetuating health disparities.⁷⁴ Overall, the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region has a higher percentage of individuals without health insurance coverage compared to Mohave County and Arizona, indicating services and supports to improve access to physicians and health providers may be needed. However, the percentage of health insurance coverage in the region among children 0-5 is high and comparable to the state and the county (Exhibit 5.2).

⁷² *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>*

⁷³ *Indian Health Service (2021). [Maternal and Child Health Dataset]. Unpublished Data*

⁷⁴ *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://hsrsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_policy_facpubs/225/*

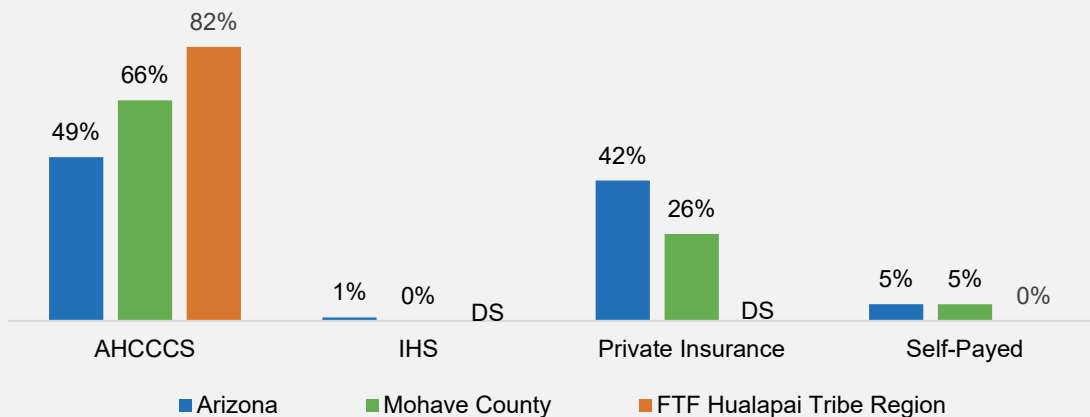
Exhibit 5.2. Estimated percentage without health insurance



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

The HP 2030 target is for 92.1% of Americans to have medical insurance by 2030.⁷⁵ The combination of the limited number of providers in rural parts of the region 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 the sufficient funds to seek care. In terms of payers of births in Hualapai Tribe Region, most people (82%) paid with AHCCCS (Arizona’s Medicaid agency - the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment), which is much higher than AHCCCS use statewide in Arizona (Exhibit 5.3). While there were individuals who had coverage through private insurance or through the Indian Health Services (IHS), these numbers were low and therefore suppressed by the Department of Health Services.

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.

⁷⁵ 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>

Hospitalizations

In the Hualapai Tribe Region, the total number non-fatal hospitalizations for children 0-4 was low from 2016-2020, as demonstrated by the suppressed data, and this age group accounted for 82 emergency department visits over that time (Exhibit 5.4). In the county, the most common reasons for visits include falls or being ‘struck by or against’ an object or person (data not shown). Accidents such as these further emphasize the importance of health insurance coverage for families and their children, as early care can prevent long term or more severe health complications later in life.

Exhibit 5.4. Injury hospitalizations and ED visits for children 0-4

	Number of Non-Fatal Hospitalizations	Number of Emergency Department Visits
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	82
Mohave County	28	4,724
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

During 2019, Hualapai Tribe Region residents gave birth to 28 babies, which makes up less than two percent of births in Mohave County (Exhibit 5.5).

Exhibit 5.5. Live births during calendar year 2019, by mother’s place of residence

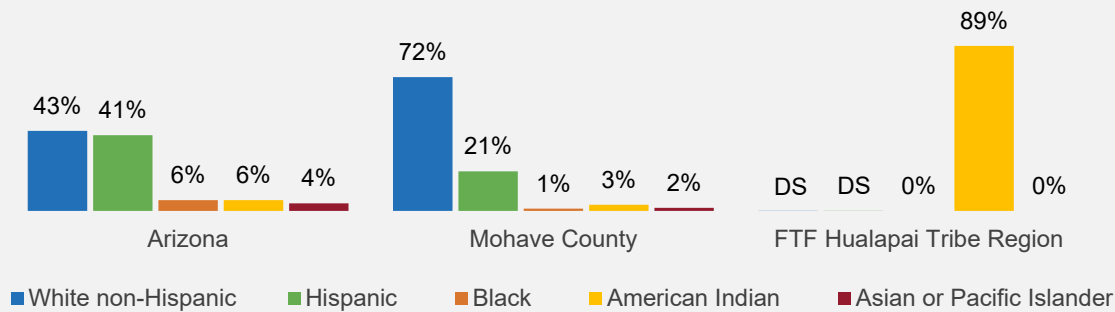
	Total number of births in 2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	28
Mohave County	1,726
ARIZONA	79,183

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

Characteristics of People Giving Birth

Among all people who gave birth in the Hualapai Tribe Region, the vast majority (89%) identified as American Indian, and the remaining identified as either Hispanic/Latina or non-Hispanic white (Exhibit 5.6). While data were suppressed for the percentages of people identifying as these other racial or ethnic groups, it can be assumed that these made up no more than 11% of all people in the Hualapai Tribe Region. A comparison of the race/ethnicity of people giving birth between the region and the state overall, especially the percentage of American Indian people, demonstrates the unique racial/ethnic makeup of people who gave birth in the region compared to the county and Arizona as a whole.

Exhibit 5.6. Race and ethnicity of mothers giving birth in 2019



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

Prenatal Care

Research suggests that a lack of prenatal care is associated with many negative health issues for both the mother and the child.⁷⁶ 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 experience fatal outcomes than those born to mothers who did receive prenatal care.⁷⁷ In addition, studies show that women who are at the highest risk of not receiving prenatal care are mothers younger than 19 years old and single mothers.^{78, 79} 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.⁸⁰ 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.⁸¹

HP 2030 aims to bring the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care to 80.5%.⁸² Factors that place mothers at risk of not receiving prenatal care include teen pregnancy, single mothers, and mothers with lower education levels. In 2018, 38% of women in the Hualapai Tribe Region began prenatal care in the first trimester (Exhibit 5.7). In 2014, a new version of the Birth

⁷⁶ Prenatal Care Effects Felt Long After Birth. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://toosmall.org/blog/prenatal-care-effects-felt-long-after-birth>

⁷⁷ Womens Health (n.d.). Prenatal care fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/prenatal-care.html#b>

⁷⁸ Center for Disease Control and Prevention (n.d.). Vital Statistics Online. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm

⁷⁹ 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/>

⁸⁰ 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=zIFPAQAALAAJ&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_6vfPAhWCjLQKHWRjCwkQ6AEIVDAH#v=onepage&q&f=false

⁸¹ Womens Health (n.d.). Prenatal care fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/prenatal-care.html#b>

⁸² 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>

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 is not comparable to previous reports. Based on the new methodology, the percentage of mothers in the region who started prenatal care in the first trimester in 2019 is 32%, which is about 50 percentage points lower than the HP goal and also lower than in Mohave County (67%) and statewide (69%, Exhibit 5.7).

Exhibit 5.7. Percentage of women who began prenatal care in first trimester

	2018	2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	38%	32%
Mohave County	67%	67%
ARIZONA	69%	69%

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

Birth Outcomes

There were no infants in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2019 admitted to the intensive care unit, lower in comparison to the percentage of ICU admittances in Mohave County (5%) and in Arizona (8%, Exhibit 5.8). In addition, it was reported that few or no mothers had used tobacco during pregnancy in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2018 and 2019, while the percentage of tobacco use during pregnancy was noticeably high in Mohave County (14%, Exhibit 5.9).

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 (not shown). This may be related to the decrease in early prenatal care as mothers using substances may be less likely to seek care. In addition to early prenatal care, follow-up care is important to identify any emerging health conditions that could worsen over time, such as Type II Diabetes and Asthma. In Arizona overall, inpatient hospitalizations and ED visits for children 0-17 with Type II Diabetes and Asthma has remained steady from 2016-2020 (data not shown).

Exhibit 5.8. Percentage of infants admitted to the Intensive Care Unit

	2018	2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	0%
Mohave County	4%	5%
ARIZONA	8%	8%

Note: DS = data suppressed

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

Exhibit 5.9. Percentage of reported tobacco use during pregnancy

	2018	2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	0%
Mohave County	14%	14%
ARIZONA	5%	4%

Note: DS = data suppressed

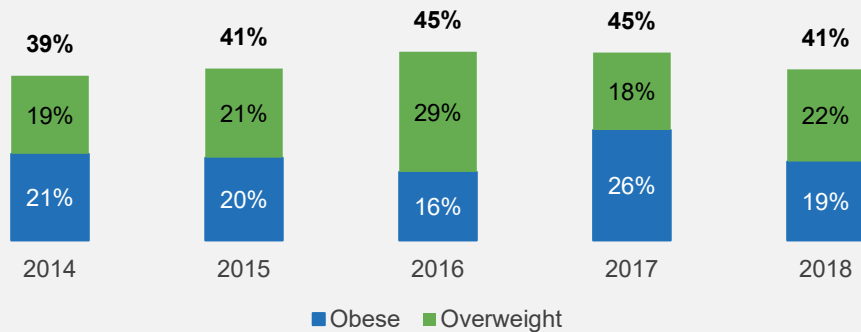
Arizona Department of Health Services (2019). Vital Statistics. Provided by AZ FTF.

Obesity

Obesity has been a concern in the US due to associated health outcomes, such as higher risks for diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.⁸³ Diabetes has also been associated with many negative health complications such as blindness, kidney failure, and amputation of limbs.⁸⁴

Among children ages 2 and older, 41% of children were either obese or overweight in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2018, a percentage that has risen overall from 2014 (Exhibit 5.10). The 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 good nutrition.

Exhibit 5.10. Percentage of children over 2 years old who are overweight and obese in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region



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

According to the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), mothers who are obese during pregnancy are at risk of developing gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, and sleep apnea.⁸⁵ According to the CDC, diabetes and obesity can be prevented by increasing physical activity and maintaining a healthy diet.⁸⁶ HP 2030 aims to reduce the proportion of adults who are obese to 36% and the proportion

⁸³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Adult Obesity Facts. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

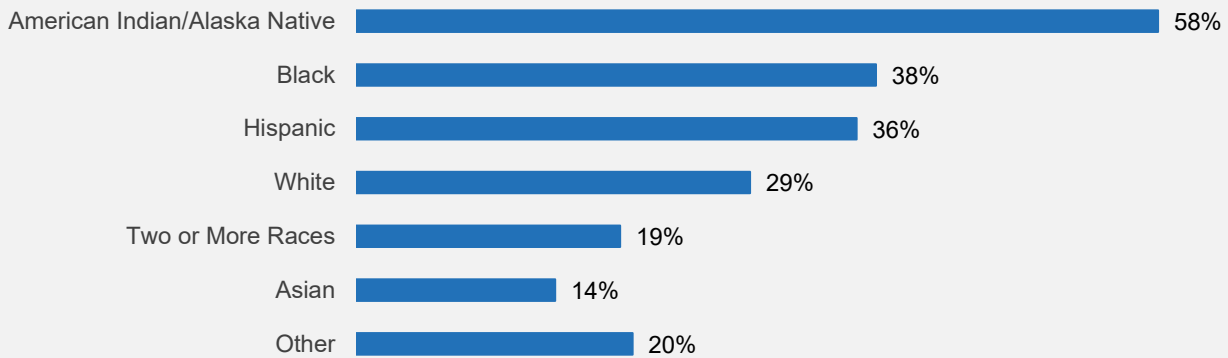
⁸⁴ Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). Diabetes At A Glance Reports. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/diabetes.htm>

⁸⁵ ACOG (2016). Obesity and Pregnancy. Retrieved from <http://www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Obesity-and-Pregnancy>

⁸⁶ 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>

of children and adolescents who are obese to 15.5%.⁸⁷ In Arizona overall, the percentage of adults with obesity was 31.4% in 2019, and Exhibit 5.11 shows the differences across racial/ethnic groups.

Exhibit 5.11. Percentage of adults with obesity in Arizona by race/ethnicity, 2019

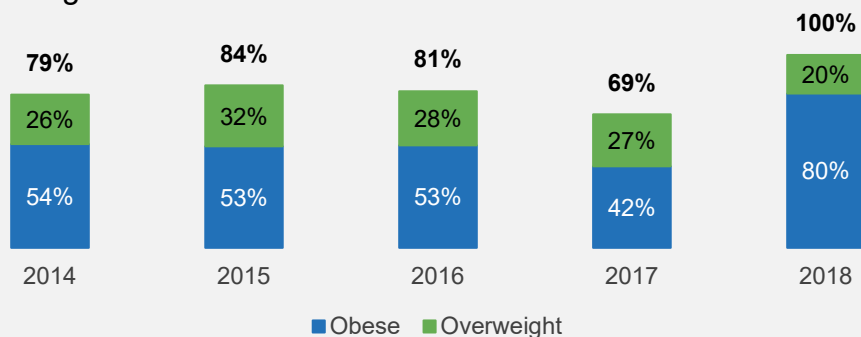


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Obesity.

In the Hualapai Tribe Region, the rate of overweight or obesity pre-pregnancy among mothers participating in WIC has stayed steadily high, and in 2018, data shows that all mothers were either overweight or obese (Exhibit 5.12).

Families participating in WIC are likely limited to less expensive food options which often tend to be less healthy as well. Furthermore, limited availability of recreation and fitness facilities where residents of the Hualapai Tribe Region can stay active may have an impact on physical wellbeing.⁸⁸ The lack of services and infrastructure where residents can engage in physical activity, in addition to few full-service grocery stores, may contribute to the increasing rate of obesity and diabetes in region.

Exhibit 5.12. Percentage of mothers overweight and obese pre-pregnancy in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region



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

⁸⁷ *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>*

⁸⁸ *United States Department of Agriculture and Economic Research Service (2012). Food Environment Atlas.*

Engaging in Healthy Preventive Practices

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed for the first six months after giving birth.⁸⁹ Breast milk has antibodies that prevent babies from getting ill and has been shown to decrease the likelihood of babies becoming obese.⁹⁰ HP 2030 aims to increase the proportion of infants who are breastfed at six months to 42.4%.⁹¹ In the Hualapai Tribe Region, the percentage of mothers participating in WIC who had ever breastfed their infant increased overall from 2017-2020. Notably, in 2020, two-thirds of all mothers (67%) reported breastfeeding their infant (Exhibit 5.13).

Exhibit 5.13. Percentage of mothers in the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region who breastfeed their infant, 2017-20

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ever	64%	90%	67%	67%
Never	36%	10%	33%	33%

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.⁹² Receiving timely vaccinations not only protects the child who receives them, but protects the community by reducing the likelihood of disease spread.⁹³ Across the state, five percent of children were exempt from immunizations for religious reasons.⁹⁴ Statewide, children also have an overall high rate of immunizations (Exhibit 5.14).

⁸⁹ 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>

⁹⁰ Office on Women's Health (2014). *Why breastfeeding is important*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/breastfeeding-benefits.html>

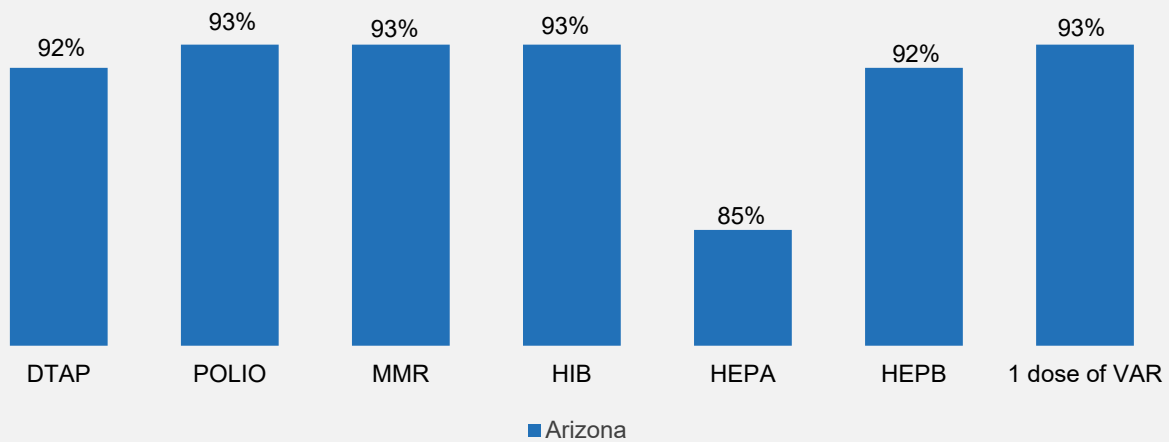
⁹¹ Healthy People 2030. *About Health People*. Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infants/increase-proportion-infants-who-are-breastfed-exclusively-through-age-6-months-mich-15>

⁹² Basic Vaccines (2016). *Importance of Vaccines*. Retrieved from <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/vaccines-save-lives/>

⁹³ U.S Department of Health and Human Services (2016). *Community Immunity*. Retrieved from http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccine_safety/

⁹⁴ Arizona First Things First. *Immunization Data Reports (2020)*. Received by correspondence.

Exhibit 5.14. Percentage of children in childcare receiving immunizations by type of immunization



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

Hearing loss in newborns and young children can lead to developmental problems with the child’s speech, language, and social skills.⁹⁵ There are several potential causes of infant hearing loss, including genetics, maternal infections during pregnancy, complications after birth, and head trauma.⁹⁶ Fortunately, early interventions can prevent such developmental problems, highlighting the importance of incorporating screenings for hearing loss into the child’s overall preventative care.

⁹⁵ Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division (2020). *Hearing Loss*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html>.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

CHILD HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

The unique profile of the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region presents both assets and challenges for supporting the health of pregnant women, young children, and their families. The percentage of the overall population without health insurance is higher than that of the state, suggesting a need for access to healthcare in the region, though variable by area. Additionally, among the 28 births in 2019, 32% of women are receiving prenatal care in the first trimester and a high percentage are breastfeeding. However, the obesity rate among both infants and mothers in the Hualapai Tribe Region is higher than the state average.

Below are key data trends that highlight the health assets, needs, and data-driven considerations for the region. The considerations provided below do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for tackling the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to address needs and assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

Assets	Considerations
The percentage of mothers participating in WIC who breastfeed their child has consistently been high over the last few years, with two-thirds (67%) of all mothers breastfeeding in 2020.	Continue to provide public education about the benefits of breastfeeding and consider supporting workplace efforts to encourage breastfeeding practices for working mothers.
Needs	Considerations
The percentage of mothers enrolled in WIC in the Hualapai Region who are overweight or obese has steadily increased from 2016 (79%) to 2020 (100%).	Promote evidence-based community and place-based interactive health education to support families and children in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.
According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, in 2019, a third of all pregnant women (32%) are receiving some prenatal care and many are not receiving adequate prenatal care.	Promote the importance of early prenatal care and provide education on the impact of prenatal care on the mother and child’s future well-being.



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.⁹⁷ 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 support to improve parenting practices can reduce stressors and lead to enriched child development and reduce the removal 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.⁹⁸ 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.⁹⁹ 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.¹⁰⁰ 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.^{101, 102}

⁹⁷ 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

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ 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>

¹⁰⁰ 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>

¹⁰¹ 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>

¹⁰² Hamad, R., Collin, D., Baer, R., Jelliffe-Pawlowski, 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 learned behavior problems.¹⁰³ 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.¹⁰⁴ 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.^{105, 106} 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

Services to Help Families

There are several federal and local programs and services aimed at providing families with the food they need, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women, Infants & Children (WIC), 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.

Despite the prevalence of these programs, in recent years the number of children and families receiving assistance has decreased. Federal programs such as SNAP and TANF have decreased in recent years due to the expiration of benefit increases instituted during the recession.¹⁰⁷ These decreases come even as the number of families living in poverty has increased nationally.¹⁰⁸

Exhibits 6.1 and 6.2 show how the number of children and families receiving SNAP benefits has changed in recent years. The percentage of young children in the Hualapai Tribe Region that received SNAP benefits rose from 2017 to 2019, but decreased by four percent overall from 2017 to 2020. The

¹⁰³ 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.*

¹⁰⁴ 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>*

¹⁰⁵ 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/>*

¹⁰⁶ Turney K, Wildeman C. (2016) *Mental and Physical Health of Children in Foster Care. Pediatrics. Retrieved from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27940775/>*

¹⁰⁷ 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>*

¹⁰⁸ 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/>*

number of families receiving SNAP benefits followed the same pattern but was slightly higher in 2020 than in 2017. Mohave County and Arizona saw a much greater decrease in the number of families and young children receiving SNAP benefits over these years. As of 2020, the program supported approximately 148 children and 88 families annually in the Hualapai Tribe Region.

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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	154	158	165	148	-4%
Mohave County	7,549	7,057	6,571	6,036	-20%
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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	86	90	95	88	2%
Mohave County	5,205	4,807	4,403	4,079	-22%
ARIZONA	164,092	151,816	140,056	132,466	-19%

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

Similar to SNAP benefits, the number of children and families receiving TANF benefits decreased from 2017 to 2020 in Mohave County and Arizona (Exhibits 6.3 and 6.4). Data for the Hualapai Tribe were suppressed, except for 2018 when 28 children received TANF benefits, suggesting a low number of young children in general receiving TANF benefits. TANF can be the primary cash assistance program for families with low incomes.¹⁰⁹ Some research has criticized TANF for doing a poor job in providing enough assistance to families of color, especially those who have been the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ 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>

¹¹⁰ Safawi, A., Reyes, C., (2021) States must continue recent momentum to further improve TANF benefit levels. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-benefits-still-too-low-to-help-families-especially-black>

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

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	28	DS	DS	Cannot Calculate
Mohave County	552	567	508	485	-12%
ARIZONA	17,143	14,659	13,029	13,747	-20%

Note: DS = data suppressed. Cannot Calculate = percentages cannot be calculated due to suppressed data.
 Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Exhibit 6.4. Numbers of families receiving TANF benefits, 2017 to 2020

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from 2017 to 2020
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	DS	DS	DS	Cannot Calculate
Mohave County	390	427	377	378	-3%
ARIZONA	12,315	10,538	9,360	9,947	-19%

Note: DS = data suppressed. Cannot Calculate = percentages cannot be calculated due to suppressed data.
 Arizona Department of Economic Security (2020). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

In response to mandatory school closures due to COVID-19 in 2020, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, and the Arizona Department of Education issued P-EBT benefits to current SNAP households and non-SNAP households with children eligible for free and reduced price school meals.¹¹¹ 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% in Mohave County, with a similar decrease seen statewide (Exhibit 6.5). Although the number of families with young children receiving this benefit have decreased, P-EBT was able to provide financial relief to 621 families in Mohave County in May 2021. Hualapai Tribe data were suppressed, indicating a low number of families with young children enrolled in P-EBT.

Exhibit 6.5. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	DS	DS	Cannot Calculate
Mohave County	777	709	621	-20%
ARIZONA	36,971	33,431	30,066	-19%

Note: DS = data suppressed. Cannot Calculate = percentages cannot be calculated due to suppressed data.
 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

¹¹¹ 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>

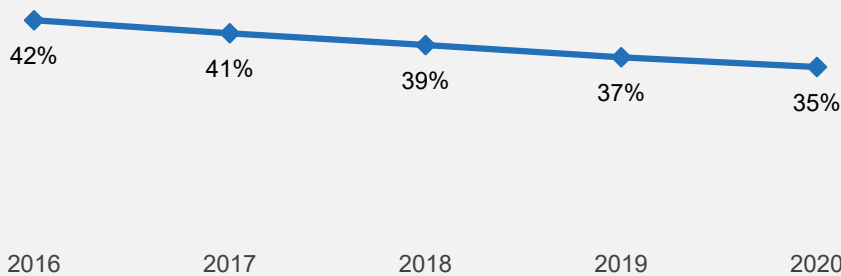
under five years old. In 2020, WIC served a total of 127 individuals in the Hualapai Tribe Region, comprised of 24 women, 30 infants, and 73 children (Exhibit 6.6). The WIC enrollment for Arizona children under 5 years old decreased steadily from 2016 (42%) to 2020 (35%, Exhibit 6.7). WIC benefit utilization data for the Hualapai Tribe Region show that 50% of those eligible for WIC in the region used those services.¹¹²

Exhibit 6.6. Number of women, infants and children enrolled in the WIC program during 2020

	Total	Women	Infants	Children
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	127	24	30	73
Mohave County	6,551	1,616	1,795	3,140
ARIZONA	256,733	63,111	70,242	123,380

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

Exhibit 6.7. 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.

Schools are an important part of the nutrition assistance system, especially for children that are food insecure. According to data from the Department of Education, virtually all public school students in the Peach Springs Unified School District have been eligible for free or reduced-price lunch since 2018 (Exhibit 6.8). This is significantly higher than the statewide percentage, which has hovered at about 55% to 57% (data not shown). In Kingman Unified School District and Seligman Unified District, the majority of students have been eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, though the proportion has fluctuated over the years.

¹¹² Arizona Department of Health Services (2020). Women, Infants & Children (WIC). Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 6.8. Proportion of students (pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade) eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 2018 to 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Peach Springs Unified School District	>98%	>98%	>98%
Kingman Unified School District	62%	59%	56%
Seligman Unified District	63%	65%	70%

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 Hualapai Tribe Region.

Child Welfare

Child Welfare services in the Hualapai Tribe Region are provided by the Hualapai Tribe Social Services Department, and show a total of 22 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) notifications received in the region in 2021 (Exhibit 6.9). Under ICWA, tribes must be notified of all minors who are enrolled or are eligible for enrollment and are placed under the custody of the state’s child welfare system. All notifications were acted upon by ICWA caseworkers. The Social Services Department also provided child abuse and neglect data, indicating 97 reports and referrals in 2021, over half of which were substantiated and involved the court (Exhibit 6.10).

Exhibit 6.9. ICWA notifications and placements, 2021

	Number of cases
Total Number of ICWA Notifications Received	22
Total Number Acted Upon	22

Hualapai Tribe Social Services Department (2022). [Child Welfare Data]. Received by correspondence.

Exhibit 6.10. Child abuse and neglect, 2021

	Number of cases
Total Reports and Referrals Received	97
Substantiated (court involvement)	54
Unsubstantiated (case closed- no action taken)	35
Pending (case opened for services or investigation)	DS

Hualapai Tribe Social Services Department (2022). [Child Welfare Data]. Received by correspondence.

Child Safety and Domestic Violence

There were 133 juvenile offenses in the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2021, according to data received from the Hualapai Nation Police Department (Exhibit 6.11). Seventeen of these were categorized as serious offenses, whereas in the prior year only 3 of 103 juvenile offenses were categorized as serious. In addition, data on domestic violence and child abuses offenses show a small increase in the number of domestic violence offenses and arrests from 2020 to 2021, while the number of child abuse offenses and arrests went down (Exhibit 6.12).

Exhibit 6.11. Hualapai Tribe juvenile offenses by type, 2020-21

	2020	2021
Serious (Part I) Offenses	3	17
Other Offenses	23	30
Substance-use related offenses	3	11
Violence-related offenses	2	7
All other offenses	72	68
Total Juvenile Offenses	103	133

Hualapai Nation Police Department (2022). [Public Safety Data]. Received by correspondence.

Exhibit 6.12. Hualapai Tribe domestic violence and child abuse offenses and arrests, 2020-21

	2020	2021
Domestic Violence Offense	80	112
Domestic Violence Arrests	73	92
Child Abuse Offenses	23	16
Child Abuse Arrests	29	26

Hualapai Nation Police Department (2022). [Public Safety Data]. Received by correspondence.

Given the geography of the Hualapai Region and distance between services and establishments, Hualapai community members often take long distance trips for shopping and other appointments. Traffic accidents and road safety are a common concern, especially those that occur in the community and on the road to Kingman. According to the Hualapai Nation Police Department, there were 26 traffic accidents in and around the Hualapai Tribe Region in 2020 and 25 accidents in 2021 (Exhibit 6.13). Most accidents caused damage rather than injury, with only 5 accidents in each year reported to the Hualapai Nation Police Department resulted in injury, which comprises about 20% of accidents in a given year.

Exhibit 6.13. Traffic accidents reported to the Hualapai Nation Police Department, 2020-2021

	2020	2021
Traffic accidents causing injury	5	5
Traffic accidents causing damage	21	20
Total traffic accidents	26	25

Hualapai Nation Police Department (2022). [Public Safety Data]. Received by correspondence.

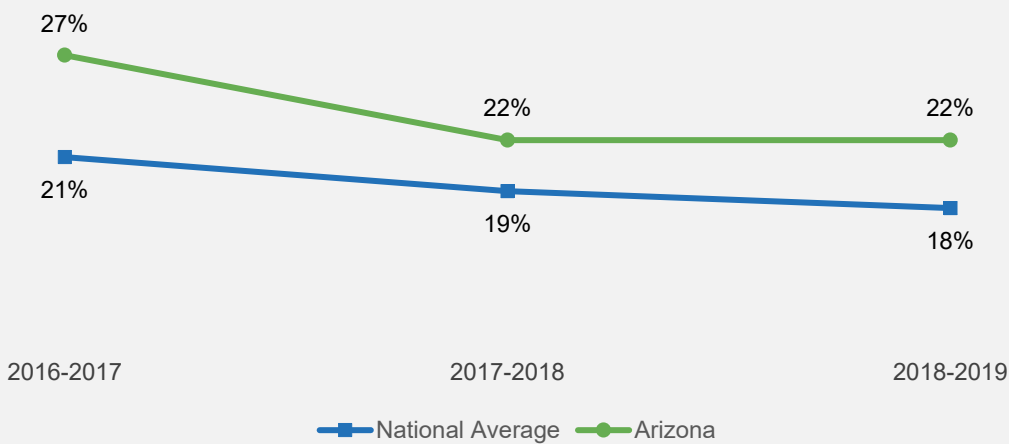
Adverse childhood experiences

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).¹¹³ When one experiences more ACES during their childhood then 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.¹¹⁴

In 2018-2019, children (0 to 17 years old) in Arizona were more likely to have experienced two or more ACES (22%) than children nationwide (18%) (Exhibit 6.14). 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.

Exhibit 6.14. Percent of children (0-17 years old) with 2 or more adverse childhood experiences (ACES)



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

Smoking in the household is strongly associated with adverse childhood experiences.¹¹⁵ Generally speaking, ACEs have been associated with use of tobacco products overall (i.e., cigarettes and chewing tobacco) among adults and adolescents.¹¹⁶ Among Hualapai Region households enrolled in WIC, the

¹¹³Centers 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%2Facedstudy%2Ffastfact.html

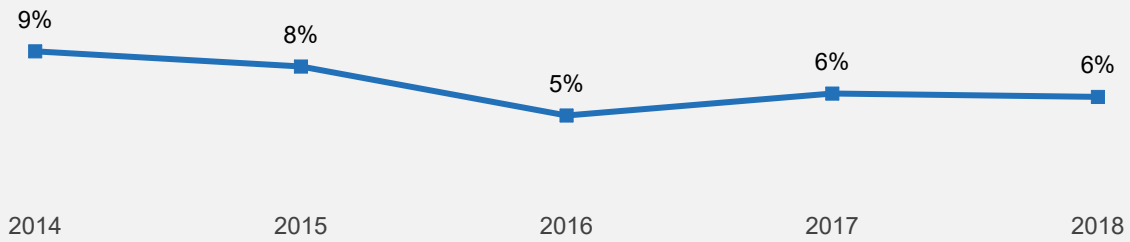
¹¹⁴Arizona Adverse Childhood Experiences Consortium (n.d.) *Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences: Creating Hope for a Healthier Arizona*. Retrieved from <https://azaces.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ACES.pdf>

¹¹⁵Anda, R., Croft, J., Felitti, V., Nordenberg, D., Giles, W., Williamson, D., Giovino, G. (1999) *Adverse childhood experiences and smoking during adolescence and adulthood*. *JAMA*. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10553792/#:~:text=Smoking%20was%20strongly%20associated%20with%20adverse%20childhood%20experiences.,Smoking%20was%20strongly%20associated%20with%20adverse%20childhood%20experiences.>

¹¹⁶Alcalá, H., von Ehrenstein, O., Tomiyama, A. (2016). *Adverse Childhood Experiences and Use of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products*. *J Community Health*. Retrieved from

smoking rate has decreased slightly in recent years, with a smoking rate of six percent in 2018 (Exhibit 6.15).

Exhibit 6.15. Household smoking by year, Hualapai Tribe Region



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

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27000040/#:~:text=Adverse%20Childhood%20Experiences%20and%20Use%20of%20Cigarettes%20and,studie%20to%20date%20have%20ignored%20smokeless%20tobacco%20products.>

FAMILY SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In the FTF Hualapai Tribe Region, there is opportunity to strengthen parental knowledge about child development and engaging in positive parenting practices. The number of families and young children receiving federal program assistance in the region, including as SNAP, WIC and TANF, has generally decreased from 2017 to 2020 in the region and the county. These decreases come even as the number of families living in poverty has increased nationally and regionally. Due to the school mandatory school closures and other social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in 2020, it will become increasingly important to continue to provide family support services.

Below are some data trends that highlight the family support related assets, needs, and data-driven considerations for the region.

Assets	Considerations
The Hualapai Tribe Region has several local programs aimed to support the availability of nutritious foods for children under six and their families.	Continue to support local DES and WIC offices' efforts to increase community awareness of nutrition programs available to young children and their families.

Needs	Considerations
While poverty rates in the region are relatively high compared to the state, enrollment and usage of federal and local programs and services is generally low.	Support community education campaigns to increase awareness of parents' impact on their child's development and the benefits of services including SNAP and TANF.

CONCLUSION

The FTF Hualapai Tribe Region has both strengths and opportunities for improvement. The region is doing well overall in select early learning and health indicators, which is a reflection of the contributions of tribal departments and agencies. At the same time, the region has fewer economic resources than other parts of the state and county. Families and caregivers in the region 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 like limited funding and competition for resources. First Things First plays a large role in funding and supporting the area's early childhood system.

The following tables include the assets, needs and considerations from the six domains presented in this report. These key findings are intended to provide information to the FTF Hualapai 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.

The considerations provided do not represent comprehensive approaches and methods for tackling the needs and assets in the region. Instead, the considerations represent possible approaches that early childhood system partners, including FTF, could take to address needs and assets in the region, as conceptualized by the authors of this report.

Assets	Considerations
Population Characteristics	
Thirty-five percent of households in the Hualapai Region report speaking the Hualapai language at home, an increase of 5 percentage points over the last few years.	Discuss strategies to continue language revitalization efforts and increase interest in the Hualapai culture and language among youth in the region.
Economic Circumstances	
Three-quarters of children under age six live in households with at least one parent in the labor force. In addition, data suggest that the housing cost burden in the region is low compared to the county and the state.	Promote community resources to support parents in the labor force, including day care and after school programs for children.
Educational Indicators	
According to the American Community Survey, the high school graduation rates in the region are high, while high school dropout rates are consistently low.	Disparities in overall regional education rates may point to the need in tribal regions to have educational and job access on par with the rest of the state. Consider supporting programs for parents, such as peer support or mentoring programs, to support each other and share knowledge and attitudes around the importance of education, targeting teen parents or parents without a high school degree.
Early Learning	
Hualapai Day Care Center provides quality child care and early education services to families with young children in the region.	Support Quality First and community-led efforts in the region to increase the opportunities for children to continue receive quality early care and education experiences.
Child Health	
The percentage of mothers participating in WIC who breastfeed their child has consistently been high over the last few years, with two-thirds (67%) of all mothers breastfeeding in 2020.	Continue to provide public education about the benefits of breastfeeding and consider supporting workplace efforts to encourage breastfeeding practices for working mothers.
Family Support	
The Hualapai Tribe Region has several local programs aimed to support the availability of nutritious foods for children under six and their families.	Continue to support local DES and WIC offices' efforts to increase community participation in nutrition programs available to young children and their families.

Needs	Considerations
Population Characteristics	
About half of all children under age six live in single-parent households, as well as a sizable number of children in grandparent-led households, which face additional barriers when compared to two-parent households.	Recognize that all families have strengths and needs, and discuss support services and programs specifically designed for single-parent and grandparent-led households to help them support the young children in their homes.
Economic Circumstances	
According to the American Community Survey, about 54% of children in the region live in poverty, which is significantly higher than the state average (23%).	Encourage community awareness of social service resources in the region, including housing support.
About half children under six live in households that rely on single-parent income, which earn substantially less money than dual parent households.	Promote supports or resources that can help subsidize child care and housing costs for single parents with young children.
Educational Indicators	
Half of all students are not meeting proficiency standards for the AZMERIT English Language Arts (51%) and Math (48%) assessments.	Increase parent outreach and awareness of early education programs to support learning and school readiness from an early age.
Chronic absences in the Hualapai Tribe Region is high among first graders (17%) compared to Mohave County and Arizona.	Consider community-based, family support strategies to help increase regular school attendance among young children.
Early Learning	
Given the estimated capacity of ECE centers and homes in the region and the estimated population of young children, there is likely a need for additional child care slots to serve all families and children in need of quality care and education.	Discuss longer-term strategies to increase the capacity for child care in the region, including forecasting the specific demand for child care and discussing tactics to attract and retain ECE professionals.
Based on household median income in the region and county, the cost of child care could 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.	Better understand cost burden to access quality childcare for families with young children, especially for single-income families, to be able to target outreach and support.
Child Health	
The percentage of mothers enrolled in WIC in the Hualapai Region who are overweight or obese has steadily increased from 2016 (79%) to 2020 (100%).	Promote evidence based community and place-based interactive health education to support families and children in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.
According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, in 2019, a third of all pregnant women (32%) are receiving some prenatal care and many are not receiving adequate prenatal care.	Promote the importance of early prenatal care and provide education on the impact of prenatal care on the mother and child's future well-being.
Family Support	
While poverty rates in the region are relatively high compared to the state, enrollment and usage of federal and local programs and services is generally low.	Support community education campaigns to increase awareness of parents' impact on their child's development and the benefits of services including SNAP and TANF. Promote efforts to reduce the barriers to participating in family support programs.

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 Hualapai Tribe Region alongside data for Mohave County and Arizona. Select data indicators that were not available for the Hualapai Tribe Region and only available at the county and state level are presented in this appendix section per the request of the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

Early Learning

Early Care and Education

According to data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, there are 61 ECE centers with a total capacity of 3,325 children in Mohave County (Exhibit 7.1).¹¹⁷ Although the total licensed capacity may look relatively high, the actual facility may not choose to enroll the total number of children they are licensed to serve. The number of children served mainly depends on the center’s ability to meet the adult to child ratio, which varies by child’s age and must comply with licensing requirements.

Exhibit 7.1. Number and licensed capacity of early care and education centers and homes

	Total Number of ECE facilities	Total Licensed Capacity
FTF Hualapai Region	DS	DS
Mohave County	61	3,325
ARIZONA	4,307	395,787

Note: DS = data suppressed

Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2021). 2021 Child Care Assistance Data. Unpublished data received by request

Costs of Child Care & Access

In Mohave County and Arizona, licensed centers have the highest cost per day, followed by certified group homes, and approved family homes have the lowest cost per day (Exhibit 7.2). Data from Arizona Department of Economic Security did not include specific data for the Hualapai Tribe Region. Based on the median cost per day, the estimated annual cost of child care at a licensed center in the Mohave County totals approximately \$7,500 a year for one infant, \$6,875 for a 1-2 year old, and \$5,000 for a 3-5 year old (data not shown).

¹¹⁷ Arizona Department of Economic Security (2019). Childcare Providers and Capacity. Provided by AZ FTF.

Exhibit 7.2. 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 Hualapai Region	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mohave County	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.36	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$30.00	\$27.50	\$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.

Child Health

Prenatal Care

In 2018, the percentage of women in the Hualapai Tribe Region who did not receive any prenatal care was likely low, as demonstrated by the suppressed data (Exhibit 7.3).

Exhibit 7.3. Percentage of women who did not receive any prenatal care

	2018	2019
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	DS
Mohave County	3%	2%
ARIZONA	3%	3%

Note: DS = data suppressed

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

Birth Outcomes

The percentage of underweight children in Mohave County has remained relatively consistent between 2018 and 2019, while these data were unavailable for the Hualapai Tribe Region due to data suppression (Exhibit 7.4). The percentage of preterm births also stayed consistent over the two years in both Mohave County and Arizona.

Exhibit 7.4. 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
FTF Hualapai Tribe Region	DS	DS	DS	DS
Mohave County	7%	6%	9%	9%
ARIZONA	8%	7%	9%	9%

Note: DS = data suppressed

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