

Governor Ducey's  
**Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment**

March 14, 2019

Governor's Executive Tower  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

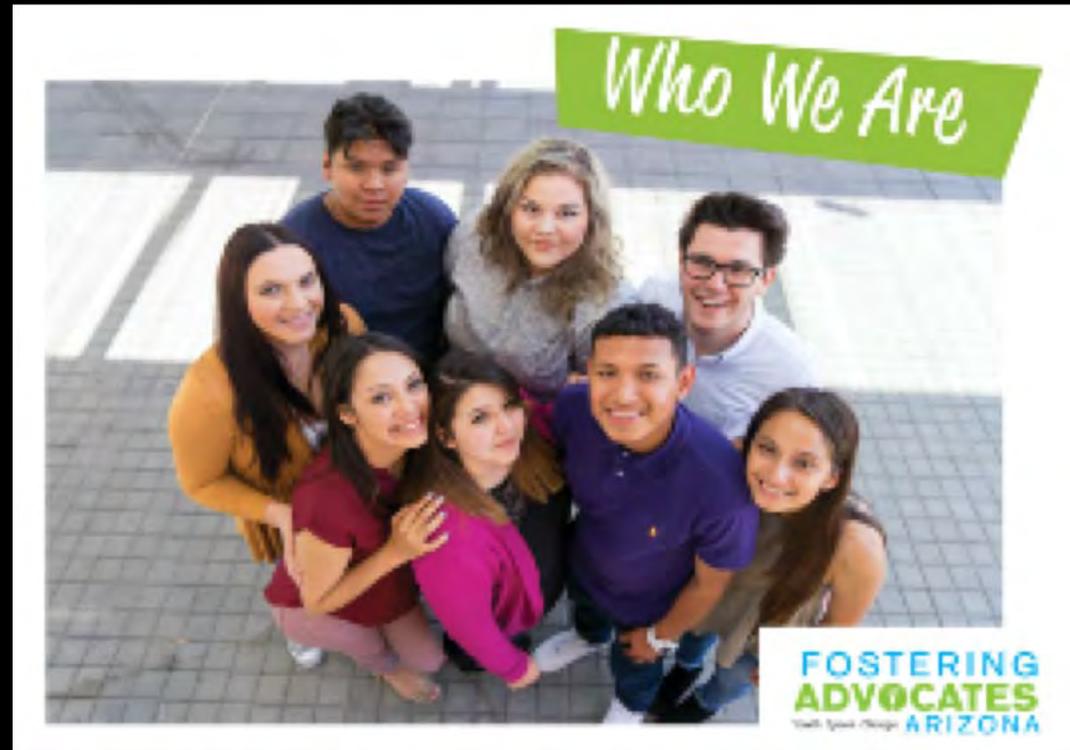


Council on Child  
Safety and  
Family Empowerment





**FOSTERING**  
**ADVOCATES**  
*Youth. Speak. Change.* **ARIZONA**



Fostering Advocates Arizona is guided by young adults who have experienced foster care. It's our goal to ensure all young people have the information, resources and support they need to successfully transition into adulthood.



# Young Adult Leadership Board



**Andy**



**Bre**



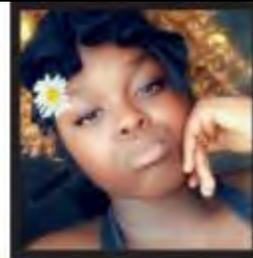
**Ashley**



**Stefani**



**Maria**



**Rayanna**



**Sora**



**Nikki**



**Jesus**



**Patti**



**Bobbi**



# 2019 Fostering Advocates: What We Do!

**aging out?**  
**OF FOSTER CARE.**

**YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!**

We have answers to these questions & support, too!

Can I continue with school?

How do I get healthcare?

How do I manage money?

Where will I live?



# Public Policy And Advocacy



READ OUR  
**TOP 5 PRIORITIES  
& RECOMMENDATIONS**  
BY **YOUTH WHO LIVE FOSTER CARE**

"I bounced around schools a lot as a teenager and never had the opportunity to build long-term relationships like my peers who were not in foster care. I missed out on normal life experiences like going to prom and hanging out with friends. These experiences are important to developing one's own identity."

—Brittany H

**READ  
MORE!**





# Resource Library

**KNOW your RIGHTS!**

**FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS**

**As a child in foster care, you have the right to:**

- Live in a place that provides the amount of direction and help that you need. You should also be able to do normal activities.
- Live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement. Your caregivers can speak the same language as you. Show respect for you and protect you from harm. They give you personal privacy, as well as good food and clothing. They also allow you to have personal possessions and enough space to store all of your things.
- Know why you are in foster care and what will happen to you and your family. You have the right to help with planning for you "growing up." You have the right to visit with your family while you are away from home, with any restrictions explained to you in a way you can understand.
- Be disciplined in a manner that makes sense for you and that shows you to understand when a behavior is not acceptable. It gives you a chance to change that behavior in a good way.
- Go to community, school and religious activities of your choice. You have the right to receive an education that fits you best.
- Learn how to take care of your personal hygiene and grooming.
- Have certain information for your counselor, attorney or advocate and to speak with them in private if needed. You have the right to attend court hearings and speak to the judge.
- Have your records and personal information kept private. It should only be given to people who need the information in order to take care of you.
- Have necessary medical, mental health or drug treatment. So be free of excessive medication. To have information about it all if you have a disability and need help.
- Receive a copy of these rights, and to report a violation of these rights.

**If you are at least sixteen years of age you also have the right to:**

- Attend life skills classes and gain an education that allow you to reach your goals.
- A transition plan that includes career planning and help with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training program.
- Be informed of school progress before you leave foster care.
- help in getting a place to live when you are ready to leave foster care.
- Request a court hearing to decide if you can consent to your own medical care.
- Have help with getting a social security number, birth certificate or state ID card.
- Get personal information within thirty days after leaving foster care. This includes your birth certificate, visit records, and education and health records.

**Still not sure about your rights?**  
Learn more at [DCS Family Advocacy](http://DCS Family Advocacy).

**FOSTERING ADVOCATES ARIZONA**  
Help you and others in ARIZONA  
3030 N. 3rd St., Suite 650 - Phoenix, AZ 85012  
602.266.0767 • [www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org](http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org)  
info@fosteringadvocatesarizona.org

**Have you HEARD?!**

**RESOURCES FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE ARE HERE!**

**YOU'RE EXCITED** and maybe a little nervous about leaving foster care, right? Fostering Advocates Arizona is here to help guide the way with resources that support your transition to adulthood. Here's a sample of what you'll find on our site.

**AVAILABLE PROGRAMS** learn more about support programs offered through the State of Arizona and how to apply.

**EDUCATION** programs, scholarships and training available to foster care youth.

**FAMILY FINDING** resources to reconnect with bio parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members.

**VITAL DOCS** learn how to obtain your medical, educational, and personal identity records.

**SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org](http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org)

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**MARCH 2017**

**Health Insurance For Youth Formerly in Foster Care**  
FOCUS ON 'MEDICAID' COVERAGE IN ARIZONA  
THE GOOD AND THE BAD: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

As of January 2016, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires states to provide Medicaid coverage for youth who transition from foster care at age 18 until their 26th birthday. This coverage affords former foster youth (FFY) the same coverage as other young adults who may remain on their parents' commercial health insurance until age 26.

Even before the ACA, in 2006, Arizona chose to provide health insurance coverage for FFY through a special category of Medicaid until they reached the age of 21. Medicaid, known as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or AHCCCS in this state, created an eligibility category called Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI). Today, young adults who are or were in foster care on their 18th birthday (after January 1, 2016) are eligible for AHCCCS coverage until their 26th birthday, regardless of their income.

Although YATI has existed since 2006, there remain significant system barriers between AHCCCS, the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Department of Child Safety (DCS) that prevent many of these young adults from getting enrolled in AHCCCS and maintaining enrollment without disruption. This policy brief explains these barriers and provides recommendations for action to assure all young adults from foster care who qualify for AHCCCS can get the health insurance coverage they need.

For more information or to get involved, contact us:  
Children's Action Alliance • 3030 N. 3rd St., Suite 650 - Phoenix, AZ 85012  
(602) 266-0767 • [www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org](http://www.fosteringadvocatesarizona.org)

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# Workshops, Trainings and Presentations





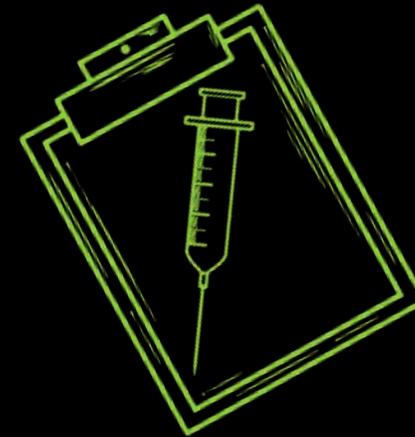
# Successes

Tuition Waiver



Young Adult Transitional  
Insurance (AHCCCS)

Normalcy



Training



# Extended Foster Care



More than 900 young adults age out without legal permanency

Young people are more successful with extended care



# Top 5 Benefits of Extended Care





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## Recommendations

- **Increase DCS Case Specialist Accessibility & Expertise**
- **Allow Young Adults to Evolve & Grow**



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## Recommendations

- **Expand Available Affordable Housing Options**
- **Raise the Independent Living Subsidy Payment**
- **Adjust Re-Entry Policies**



# Thank You!

FOSTERING  
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# CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL MEETING

AZ STATE CAPITOL EXECUTIVE TOWER | MARCH 14, 2019

Healthy Families Arizona  
Presented by Rebecca Ruffner

# Arizona is a Leader in HF America

## A Proud Legacy of Success for Families and Young Children

Since 1991, Healthy Families Arizona (HFAz) has been supporting new parents who face substantial challenges in raising healthy infants and toddlers.

In 2001, Arizona had the first state system in the country accredited by Healthy Families America. HFAz has been re-accredited three times since.



# Over 2 Decades of Strong Outcomes



Including:

- Healthy child development
- Safety of the home
- Positive parenting
- Family self-sufficiency

... for thousands of young families whose lives are full of potent risk factors.



# From Pilots to State System



- 1991 – Prevent Child Abuse America looks to Hawaii Healthy Start to address rising rates of infant abuse and neglect in US
- 1992 – Arizona launches first Healthy Families pilots in Prescott and Tucson, funded by DES Child Abuse Prevention Fund
- 1993 – Healthy Families Az expands to more communities; designated a “promising program” by national researchers

# We Grew and Grew!



- 1996 – HFAz Advisory Board established to assure quality and growth of statewide system for all parents of at-risk newborns
- 2006 – 58 teams in 150 communities

# Two Decades of Arizona Research



- 1994 – Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities funds \$2M Healthy Families America national research network, 25 states – Arizona’s home visiting research has contributed significantly

# Healthy Families in 2018

- **43 teams**
- **13 counties**
- **260 zip codes**
- **4,330 families**

*Healthy Families Arizona Evaluation  
Report Highlights 2018, LeCroy &  
Milligan Associates Inc.*



# Healthy Families Arizona Program



## Northern Region

### Mohave County

- Child and Family Resources (3 teams)

### Yavapai County

- Verde Valley Medical Center (1 team)
- Yavapai Regional Medical Center (1 team)

### Coconino County

- Coconino County Health Department (1 team)

### Navajo/Apache County

- Northland Therapy (1 team)



## Southwestern Region

### Yuma County

- Child and Family Resources (2 teams)

### Maricopa County

- Southwest Human Development (10 teams)



## Central Region

### Pinal County

- Child and Family Resources (3 teams)

### Maricopa County

- Southwest Human Development (10 teams)



## Southeastern Region

### Graham County

- Child and Family Resources (2 team)

### Cochise County

- Child and Family Resources (1 team)

### Santa Cruz County

- Child and Family Resources (1 team)



## Pima Region

### Pima County

- Child and Family Resources (4 teams)



# Overcoming the Forces of Risk

1 out of 7 US children will  
experience child abuse / neglect  
(CDC Natl Center on Injury Prevention)

28% of Arizona children live in  
poverty (State of Babies,  
Zero to Three / Child Trends 2019)

52% of Arizona births are  
funded by AHCCCS

Poor children are 5x more likely to  
experience abuse & neglect

# Risk Factors for Mothers

	Prenatal	Postnatal	AZ Rates
Teen Births (19 years or less)	14.8%	11.4%	7.0%
Births to Single Parents	68.8%	72.2%	48.2%
Less Than High School Education	32.2%	32.5%	17.8%
Not Employed	69.3%	73.6%	33.9%
No Health Insurance	6.4%	8.7%	5.2%
Receives AHCCCS	81.8%	78.5%	52.3%
Late or No Prenatal Care	23.6%	34.2%	8.2%
Median Yearly Income	\$12,000	\$13,200	\$56,581

*Healthy Families Arizona Evaluation  
Report Highlights 2018, LeCroy &  
Milligan Associates Inc.*



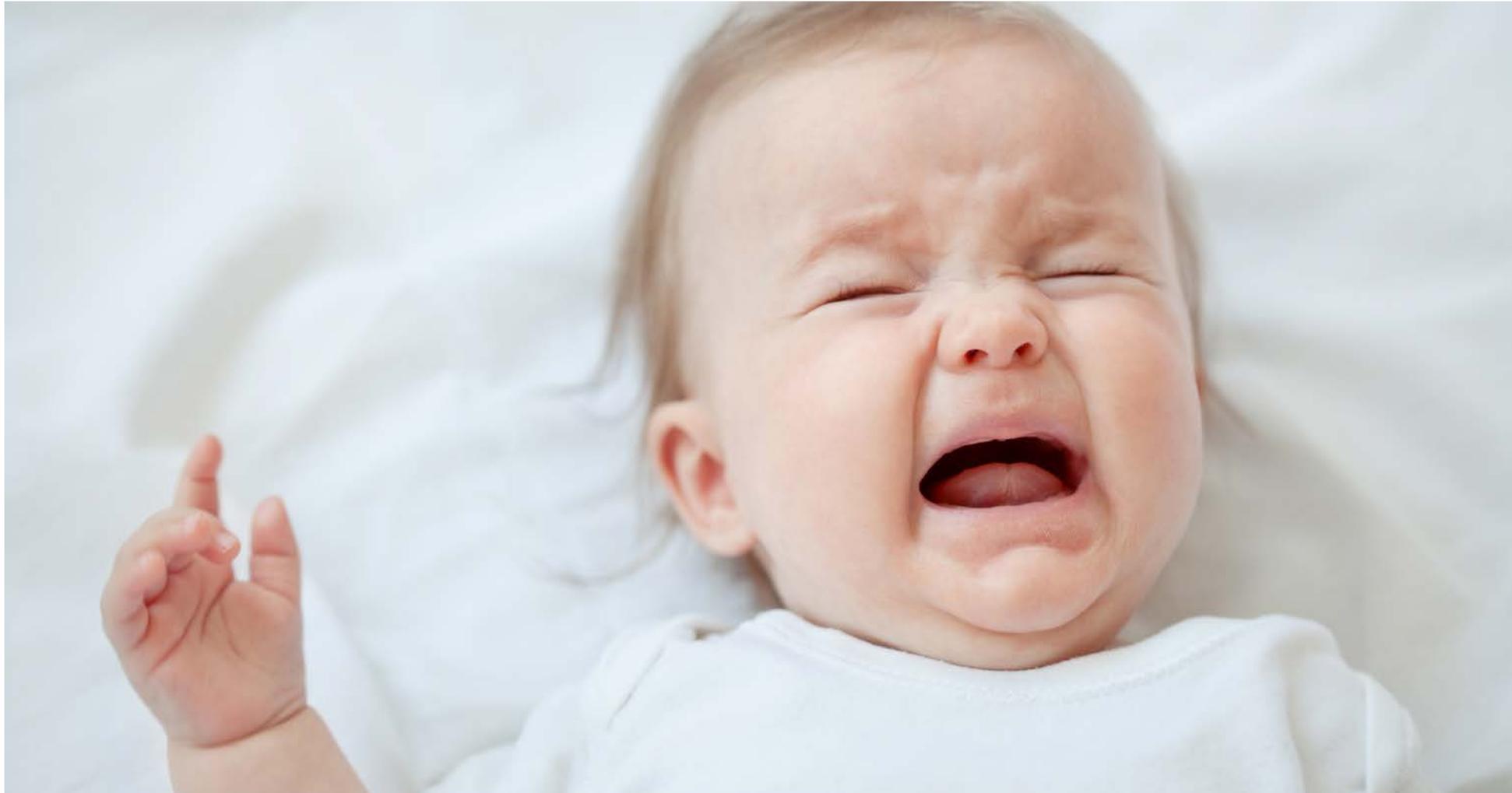
# Preventing ACEs



- 5 out of 10 ACEs are forms of child abuse and neglect
- Infants who are substantiated and removed from family have experienced 2-5 ACEs

# ACEs Disrupt Healthy Development

Early abuse and neglect disrupts brain circuitry, leading to social and emotional impairments, high-risk behaviors as adolescents, adult disease and early death

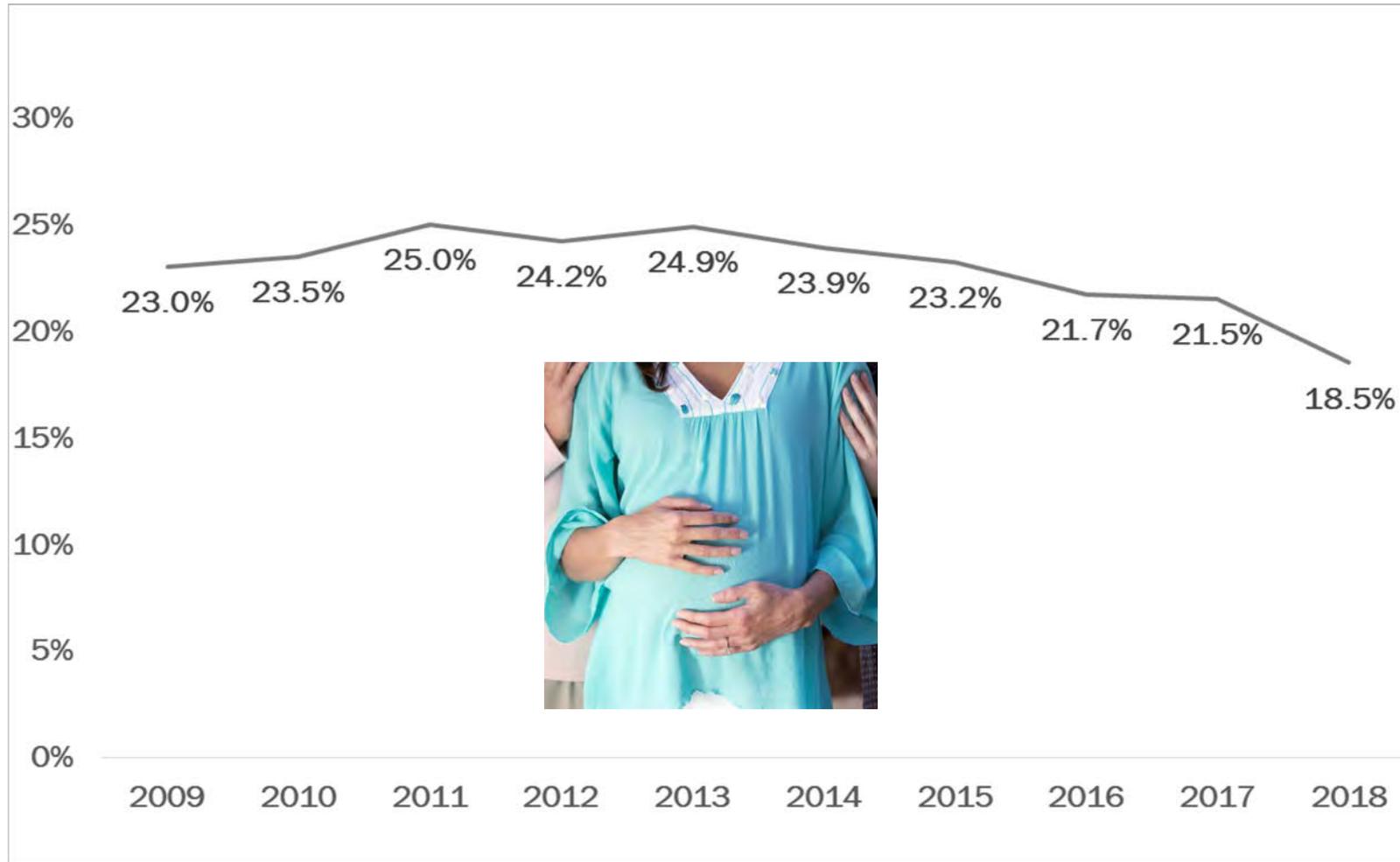


# Attachment is a Protective Factor

- Infants who don't have a secure attachment with a primary caregiver in the first year of life may suffer from emotional and cognitive disruptions in their development
- Lack of a safe, stable, nurturing family leaves young children vulnerable to the cradle-to-prison pipeline

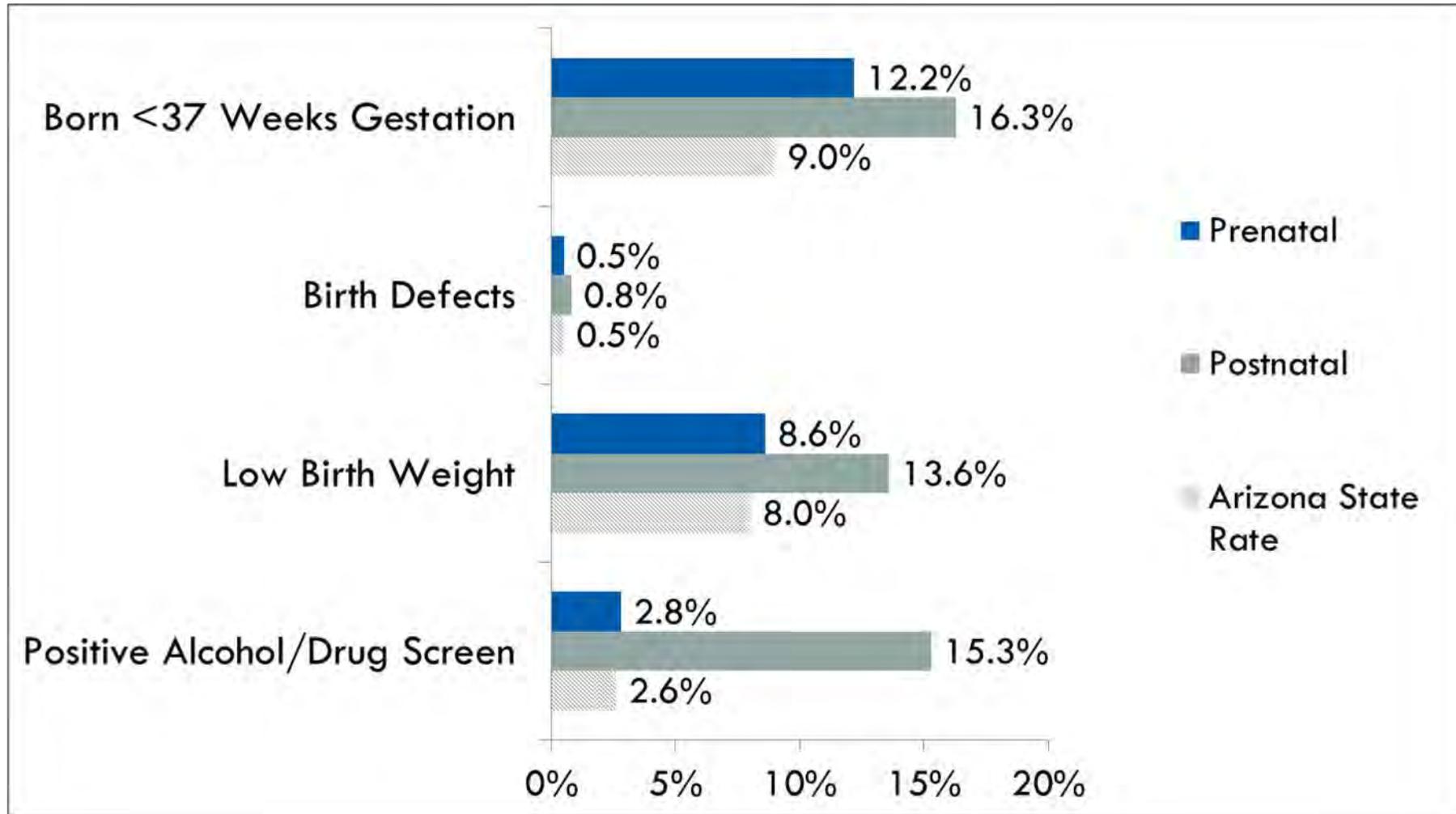


# Parents Enrolled Prenatally

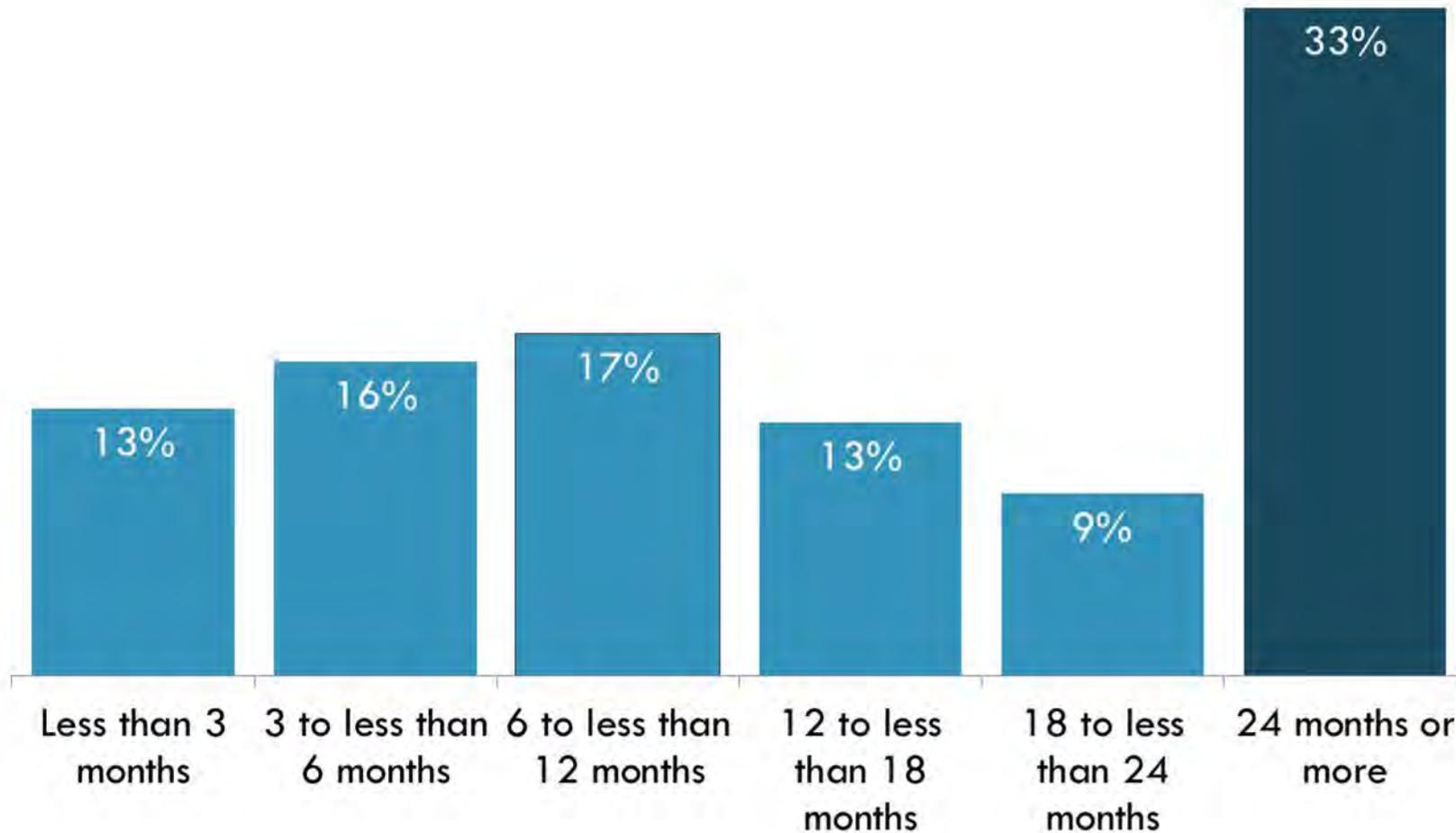


*Healthy Families Arizona Evaluation  
Report Highlights 2018, LeCroy &  
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# Infant Risk Factors

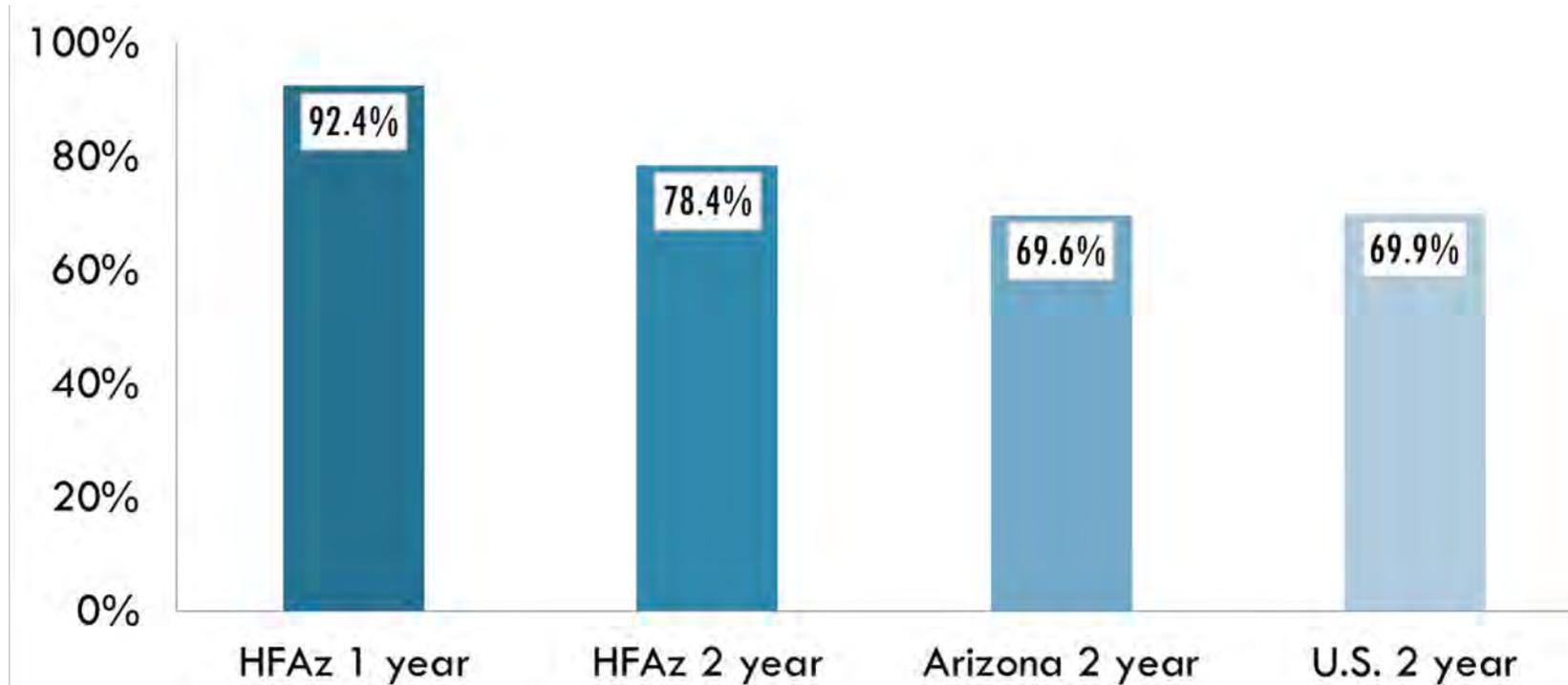


# Most Families Stay 2 Years



*Healthy Families Arizona Evaluation Report  
Highlights 2018, LeCroy & Milligan Associates Inc.*

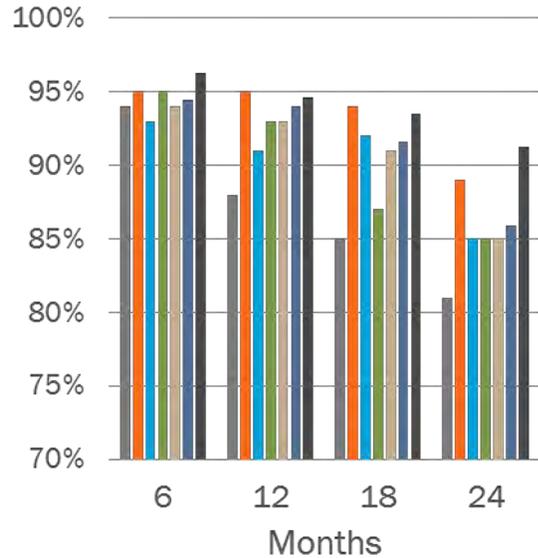
# Immunization Rates High



**The Healthy Families Arizona immunization rates for both 1- and 2-year-olds has increased approximately 2 percentage points since last year.**

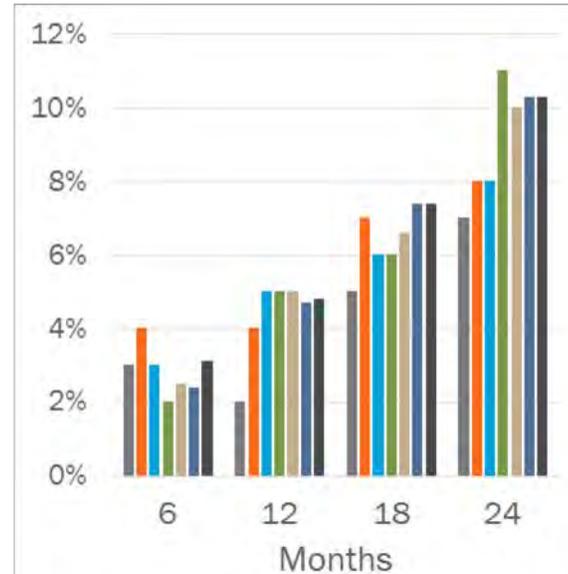
# Developmental Screening

PERCENT SCREENED



■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014  
 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017  
 ■ 2018

PERCENT ASSESSED DELAYED



■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014  
 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017  
 ■ 2018

# Child and Family Outcomes

## Healthy Families Parenting Inventory (HFPI)

Parents in Healthy Families report significant changes at 6 and 12 months in:

- Improved home environment
- Improved use of resources
- Improved parent/child behavior
- Increased parenting efficacy
- Improved problem-solving
- Increased personal care
- Commitment to parenting roles
- Reduced maternal depression
- Social support (at 6 months)



Overall improvement at 6 and 12 months

# Healthy Families Az Faces Challenges

- Currently no investment of state dollars (\$12M cut 2009)
- Loss of \$3M Sept. 30, 2019 (IVE waiver ends)
- Would result in fewer families served in FY 2020, layoffs of trained staff
- At a cost of approximately \$3,500 per family per year, HFAz is cost-effective in the short and long term for Arizona

# Summary



- HFAz engages parents who need and want help keeping their babies safe and healthy
- Over two decades of positive outcomes for thousands of families
- Meets or exceeds 95% non-abuse rate annually
- Prevents ACEs, builds healthy brain circuitry for infants and toddlers

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# Supporting Resilience for the Very Young: Building a Trauma Informed System of Child Care in Arizona

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ROSE PHILLIPS, SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

GINGER SANDWEG, FIRST THINGS FIRST,

MICHAEL WISEHART, DES, CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION

# Overview

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- ❖ Trauma in Early Childhood
- ❖ Expulsion and Suspensions from Child Care
- ❖ Quality Child Care Supports Trauma Informed Approach
- ❖ AZ's Progress toward a trauma informed child care system

# Supporting Quality and Trauma Informed Child Care

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## **First Things First**

- ❖ Quality First Coaching
- ❖ Mental Health Consultation (Smart Support)
- ❖ Inclusion for Children with Delays
- ❖ Scholarships

## **DES CCA Expulsion Prevention Program**

# Challenges and Barriers

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- ❖ FTF
- ❖ Mental Health Consultation
- ❖ DCS
- ❖ DES

# DCS Childcare

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60% of children in DCS custody are placed in 5% of the available childcare centers in Maricopa County

- 113 childcare centers
- Only 27 of these have mental health consultation available to them

37% of children in DCS custody are in Quality-rated childcare centers

There is no mental health consultation available in the West Valley or Pima County

- 4 out of the top 5 zip codes for placement of children 0-5 are in these areas

# FY2020 Executive Recommendation

**Request:** The Executive Budget includes an increase in funding for the DES child care subsidy program to increase the child care subsidy rate and to serve children on the waitlist.

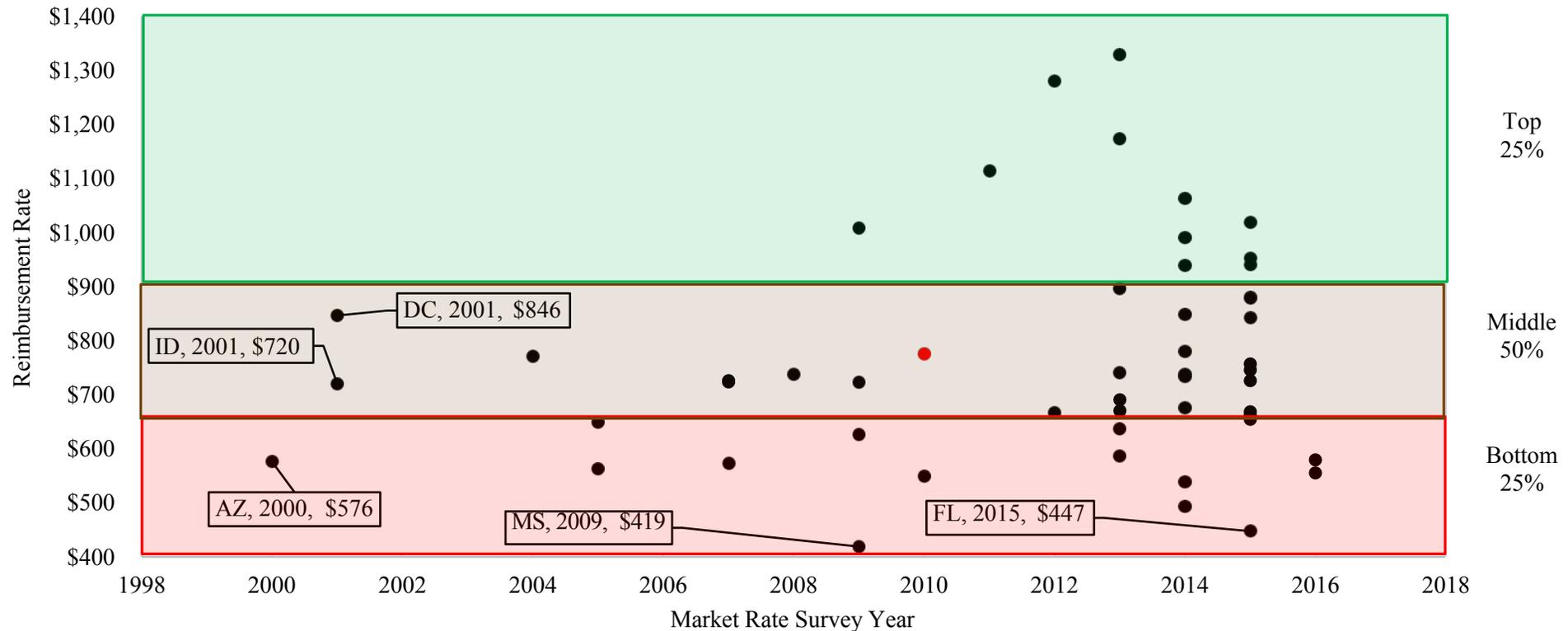
The additional funding will:

- Serve approximately 400 DES children per month from the waitlist and increase the average child care subsidy rate from \$365 per month to \$438 per month.
- Increase the average DCS child care subsidy rate by 16%, from \$406 per month to \$470 per month, for approximately 10,000 children in foster care.

Initiative	Children Served	Projected Monthly Cost	Increase from Current Rate		Total Annual Cost
			Dollars	Percentage	
Addl. Authorizations from Waitlist	5,268	\$428	\$73	20%	\$27,100,000
Increase to DES Provider Rate	23,744	\$438	\$73	20%	\$19,300,000
Increase to DCS Provider Rate	9,761	\$470	\$64	16%	\$7,400,000
Tiered Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	\$2,000,000

# Rates Comparison

Maximum Child Care Reimbursement Rates by State <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> For Arizona, the Maximum Child Care Reimbursement Rate is for an infant in Maricopa County served for a full day. Adjusted for cost of living

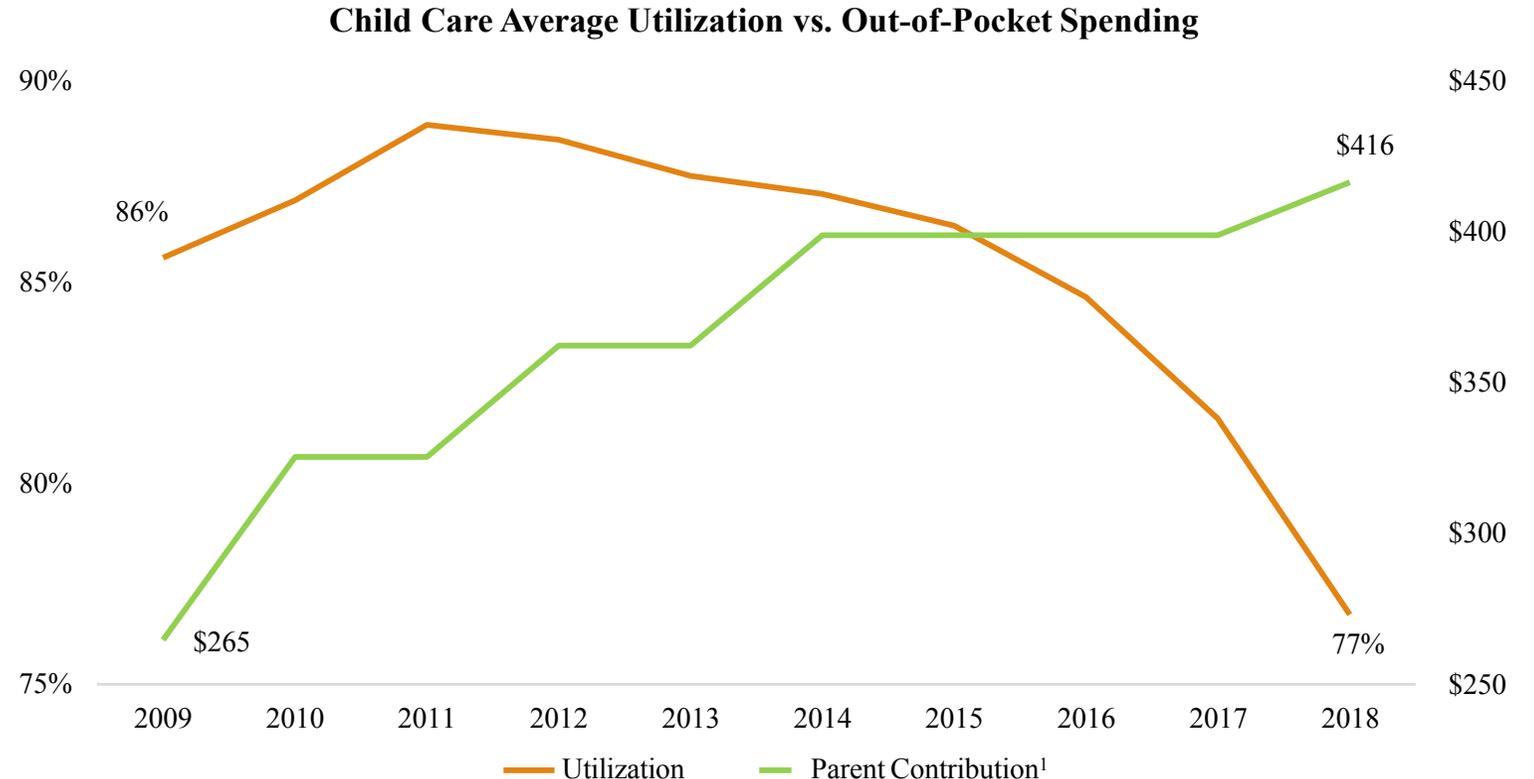
# Child Care Subsidy Utilization

The percentage of authorized children that are receiving child care services

While authorizations have increased, utilization has been steadily declining since 2014 among all populations.

Factors for decreased utilization:

- Rates: clients pay the difference
- Proximity to providers and transportation accessibility
- Provider capacity



1. Parent Contribution based on rates for an infant enrolled in full-time care in Maricopa County

# Reimbursement Rate

Reimbursement Rates are intended to ensure affordable access to care

- Rates are based on the Market Rate Survey (MRS) which is conducted every two years
- Current DES rates are based on the MRS conducted in 2000

Factors that impact the reimbursement rates include the age of the child, provider type, geographic region, and use of childcare (full or half day)

Licsened Center Daily Rate			
Age Group	75th percentile of 2000 MRS	Median of 2010 MRS	
0-1yr	\$ 30.20	\$ 40.80	
1yr < 3yrs	\$ 26.60	\$ 36.74	
3yr < 6yrs	\$ 23.80	\$ 32.00	
6yrs < 13yrs	\$ 23.40	\$ 28.00	

Group Home Daily Rate			
Age Group	75th percentile of 2000 MRS	Median of 2010 MRS	
0-1yr	\$ 24.00	\$ 28.00	
1yr < 3yrs	\$ 22.00	\$ 26.00	
3yr < 6yrs	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	
6yrs < 13yrs	\$ 18.00	\$ 22.00	

\*Maximum daily reimbursement rates for full day infant care in Maricopa County

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