



UNDER EMBARGO Until June 8, 2026 at 12:01 a.m. ET

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Arizona Ranks 40th in 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book as Children's Action Alliance Urges Focus on Supporting Kids and Families

Access to affordable health care, housing, and preschool continue to challenge families with children

PHOENIX — Arizona ranks 40th overall in child well-being, according to the 2026 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a 50-state report of recent data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how kids are faring nationwide. The data show Arizona leaders must do more to put affordable housing, health care, and preschool within reach of families to meet unmet needs.

“Families who are working so hard to rise above the poverty line are also facing higher costs for food, gas, housing, and child care. When a family’s purchasing power is decreasing, it’s hard to catch up and feel peace of mind. The tough decisions that come with financial stress impact the whole family, including kids,” said January Contreras, Executive Director of Children’s Action Alliance, a member of the Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT network.

The *Data Book* reports on 16 indicators of child well-being from 2019 to 2024. Arizona’s highest ranking was in economic well-being where the state ranked 31st, and its lowest ranking was in Education, where Arizona ranked 47th, among the five lowest scoring states in the country, according to the 2024 data in the *Data Book*.

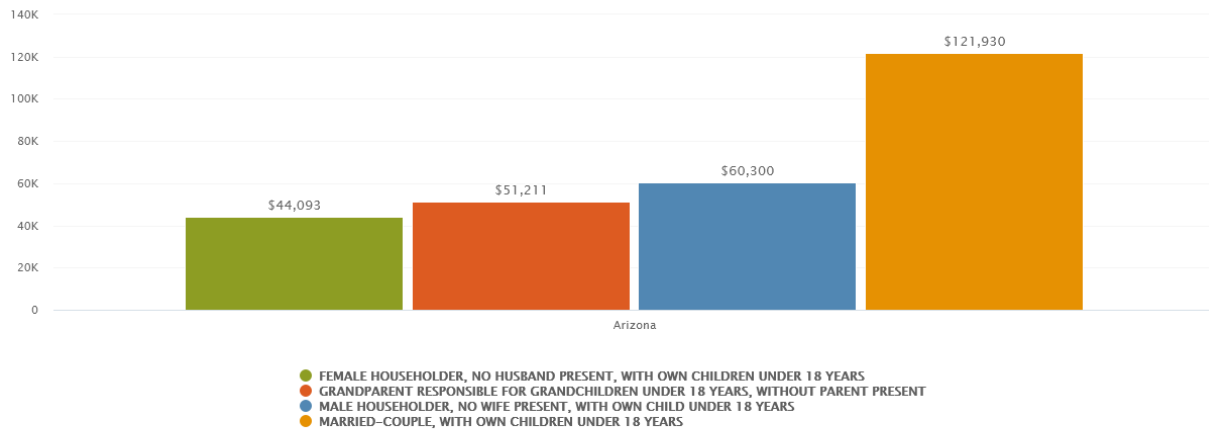
The KIDS COUNT DATA Book and [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#) show that:

- In 2024, the share of children in Arizona living in **poverty remained unchanged** from the prior year’s 15% in 2023. The national rate is 15%.
- The share of children in Arizona living in households with a **high housing cost burden remains stubbornly high** at 29%, nearly one out of every three children, the same share as last year. The national rate is 31%.
- The share of children in Arizona who are **uninsured continues to be among the highest in the country** at 9%. The national rate is 6%.

- The share of three and four-year old children not in school in 2020–2024 was **significantly higher than then the national rate** of 65%, the same share as in 2023. The national rate is 54%.
- 36% of children in Arizona live in single-parent families compared to the national rate of 34%.

According to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, the median income by family type varies widely: In Arizona, the median income for a two-parent household with children is \$121,930; for a single father with children is \$60,300; for a grandparent raising a grandchild without a parent in the home is \$51,211, and for a single mom with children is \$44,093.

MEDIAN INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE (DOLLARS) - 2020-2024



In its 37th year of publication, the KIDS COUNT® Data Book provides reliable statewide numbers to help leaders see where progress is being made and where greater support is needed. Children’s Action Alliance encourages lawmakers and communities in Arizona to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and respond with initiatives that invest in young people. By offering a policy road map, the Data Book equips policymakers, advocates and communities with the information they need to make decisions that help kids and young people thrive.

For the first time this year, states receive a comprehensive score (from 0 to 1,000) in the Data Book, not just a ranking. The scores track 16 indicators in four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community factors — over a five-year period from 2019 to 2024. Arizona received a score of 446, below the national score of 547.

Policymakers at all levels of government should listen to the families in their own communities and take action that will help a child have access to a quality education and affordable health insurance, nutrition, housing, and child care. As the Governor and legislature negotiate a 2027 budget, Children’s Action Alliance urges a budget that includes:

- Staffing, technology, and public education to ensure that *eligible* children and families are not prevented from basic services through AHCCCS and SNAP simply due to costly and complicated administrative burdens imposed by new federal laws and regulations;
- Increased access to affordable child care;
- Increased access to affordable housing; and
- Increase the kinship stipend to support grandparents and kin raising their grandchildren.

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RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book will be available at www.aecf.org/databook. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the Data Book can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.aecf.org.

ABOUT THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s young people by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

ABOUT CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE

Children’s Action Alliance is an independent voice for Arizona children at the State Capitol and in the community. CAA works to improve children’s health, safety, education, and economic security through information and action. Learn more at www.azchildren.org.