

REFERENCES

EDUCATION

- In 2023, 35% of Arizona students (grades 1–8) were chronically absent, up from 13% in 2019. Currently, one in three students is regularly absent from the classroom, signaling a growing issue.
 - Source: (<https://www.abc15.com/rebound/state-of-education/az-group-working-to-address-chronic-absenteeism-in-schools-releases-recommendations#:~:text=About%2035%25%20of%20Arizona%20students,in%20Phoenix%20headlines%20any%20time>.)
- Opportunity Youth are individuals aged 16–24 who are neither in school nor employed, often experiencing poorer health, greater reliance on government aid, and a higher risk of criminal activity. In July 2024, employment was 54.5%, a slight decrease from 55.0% in July 2023
 - Source: <https://www.arizonafuture.org/progress-meters/education/opportunity-youth/>

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- It typically takes formerly incarcerated individuals at least six months to find a job after being released, and still large employment disparities for formerly incarcerated individuals exist due to immense hurdles, with national unemployment rates higher than 27%.
 - <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/02/08/employment/>
 - <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html#:~:text=Our%20analysis%20shows%20that%20formerly,period%2C%20including%20the%20Great%20Depression>.
- The annual cost of childcare in AZ per year is: Arizona (infant \$14,040), \$12,662 (toddler), \$10,920 (4 year-old). This is 21-27% of the typical salary in Arizona.
 - [Daycare Prices Near You, a State-by-State Guide | Procure](#)
- Used that data to estimate the 15,000 people to be released from state prisons (vs. the 35,000 number previously in the Scorecard).

- https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/InmateFactSheet/FY2024_InmateFactSheet_Final.pdf
- That is linked from here: <https://corrections.az.gov/data-reports>

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HEALTH

- Inflation has made food more expensive for Valley residents. Prices are more than 21 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels, and as a result, more than 1 in 8 Arizona residents are experiencing food insecurity.
 - Source: <https://www.bankrate.com/banking/federal-reserve/latest-inflation-statistics/>

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- 110,282 Individuals overcome income Maricopa County
 - [Arizona_Eligibility_Dashboard.pdf](#)

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Maricopa County residents struggling with homelessness currently experience a wait list of up to nine weeks for emergency shelter. More than 300 families are on the wait list at any given time.

- <https://azmaq.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Data/Homelessness-Trends>;

<https://justicecourts.maricopa.gov/> (the number is posted on the bottom of their homepage as Eviction Dashboard)

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