



Red, White,  
and Blue Book

## NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

**ARIZONA**  
Spring 2011

[www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Arizona had an estimated 1,372 homeless families on a single night in 2010, with providers serving over twice their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

### State Taskforce on Homelessness

**Taskforce:** The Governor's Arizona Commission on Homelessness and Housing (re-established by executive order in January 2010) oversees the implementation of the state's plan to end homelessness.

**Governor's Appointee:** Governor Janice Brewer has chaired the Arizona Commission on Homelessness and Housing since its creation in 2010. When unable to participate, Neal Young, Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and Michael Traylor, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing, co-chair the council.



### Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Arizona	Maricopa County	Pima County
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	4,485	2,567	934
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	5,102	3,061	1,188
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	19	17	28
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	16.32%	14.43%	17.56%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2004	2009	2006
10-Year plan target population	All	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Arizona Department of Economic Security	Maricopa Association of Governments	Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Arizona Department of Housing*	Community Information and Referral	Pima County Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation Department
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Arizona Department of Housing*	Maricopa Association of Governments	Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness

\*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Arizona that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

### Family Homelessness by the Numbers

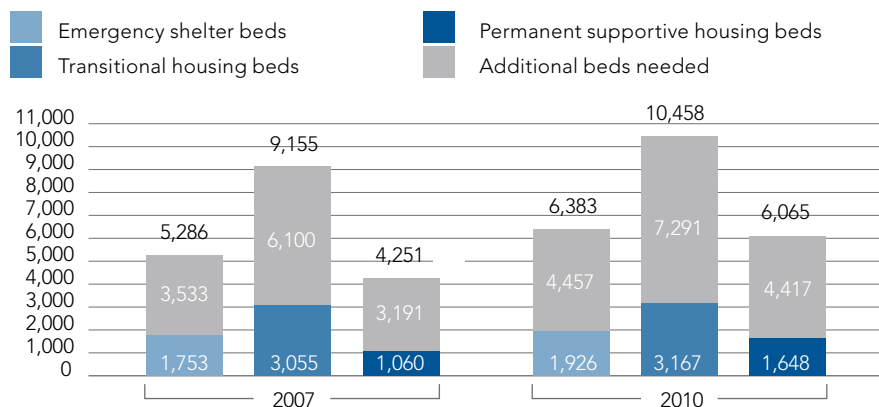
Between 2007 and 2010, the number of sheltered persons in homeless families in Arizona decreased by 10.2% (from 4,286 to 3,848) and the number of homeless family members residing in permanent supportive housing increased by 19.0% (from 1,251 to 1,489). The year-round bed inventory expanded by 5.9%, while unmet demand for emergency and transitional family shelter beds grew by 37.9%. Unmet demand for permanent supportive housing family beds increased by 29.9% despite a 55.5% growth in supply.<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, the number of unsheltered family members rose by 47.8% (from 431 to 637). The number of homeless students expanded by 54.9% (from 19,117 to 29,611), with

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The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Arizona and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

the greatest surge among students living doubled up with family or friends (up 68.6%). In 2010, 19 out of approximately 620 local education agencies received McKinney-Vento grants, the only federal funding source dedicated to addressing the specific needs of homeless students.<sup>7</sup>

### Existing and Unmet Family Bed Inventory in Arizona (by type and year)



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona and Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness*, December 2007; Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Homelessness in Arizona: Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness*, December 2010.

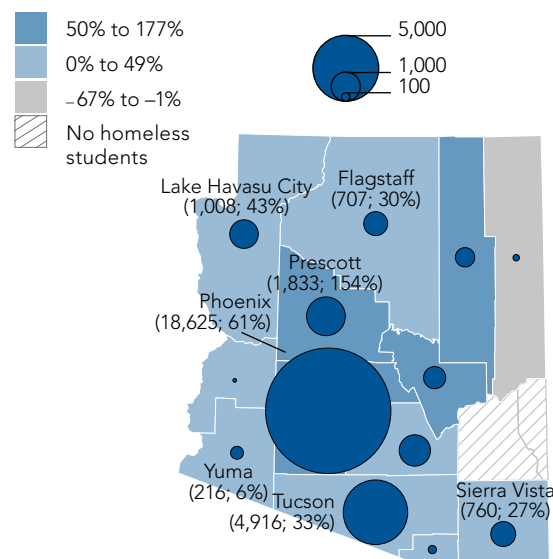
### Housing Out of Reach for Low-income and Homeless Arizonans

Arizona's lack of affordable housing has been identified as the main factor contributing to families' and individuals' homelessness and a key barrier to self-sufficiency.<sup>8</sup> Half (49.9%) of Arizona's renters are cost-burdened (spending 30% or more of income on rent). To afford a two-bedroom apartment (use less than 30% of income for rent), a minimum wage earner must work 88.7 hours per week.<sup>9</sup> In fiscal year 2010, the Arizona Department of Housing administered \$322.9 million (including \$66.0 million in federal stimulus monies) for the development and rehabilitation of affordable rental units, aiding 3,765 households. The department also disbursed \$57.4 million in direct rental subsidies (excluding programs serving those with HIV/AIDS) to 9,538 homeless and low-income households and \$202,937 (including \$185,937 in stimulus funds) for eviction prevention support to 89 at-risk households.<sup>10</sup>

### Impact of Immigration Laws on Homeless and Low-income Families

In November 2009, Arizona enacted legislation that requires government agencies to report any federal, state or local benefit applicant with undocumented immigrant status.<sup>11</sup> This has deterred unauthorized parents from applying for federal low-income benefits for their U.S.-born children who may qualify for assistance.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, unauthorized immigrant women fleeing domestic violence situations avoid seeking protection to prevent detection by authorities.<sup>13</sup> Nationwide statistics estimate that in 2007, about one-third (32–34%) of children of undocumented parents were poor (compared with 18% of U.S.-born children of U.S.-born parents).<sup>14</sup> Arizona passed additional legislation in April 2010 criminalizing the act of transporting, concealing, harboring, or shielding unauthorized immigrants.<sup>15</sup> Charitable organizations aiding homeless and low-income families and individuals in need of services are now at risk of prosecution if found to be inadvertently assisting unauthorized immigrants.<sup>16</sup> The number of unauthorized immigrants decreased statewide from an estimated 500,000–530,000 in 2007 to 400,000–470,000 in 2010 (representing 6% of the total state population).<sup>17</sup>

### Number (2010) and Percent Change (2007–10) of Homeless Students (by county of primary nighttime residence)



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona and Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness*, December 2007; Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Homelessness in Arizona: Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness*, December 2010.

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