

ARIZONA CHILD WELFARE

STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS COINCIDED WITH
IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES STATEWIDE

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Using more than a decade of data from the Arizona Department of Child Safety, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit partners, CSI examined long-term trends in child welfare outcomes and system demand. **The data show sustained improvements aligned with stronger economic conditions and policy shifts emphasizing prevention, reunification, and kinship care.**

Child Welfare Trends

1

Child welfare-related spending across state agencies and major nonprofits is approximately **\$1.8 billion annually**.

2

More than **1,000 fewer children** are placed in congregate care compared to 2015.

3

Although incoming reports of possible abuse to DCS are on the rise (+25% since 2010), **substantiation rates are falling - evidence of abuse is down.**



33%

Decline
in child
poverty



37%

Reduction in
child food
insecurity



51%

Drop in out-of-
home care
since 2015



47%

Children
placed with
relatives

Out-of-home care caseloads have declined as economic conditions and prevention efforts strengthened.



Kinship and reunification placements now account for a larger share of interventions.



The data emphasize the importance of evaluating child welfare policy using long-term trends.