



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

Child Protective Services Overview

November 26, 2007

Recently, concern has been expressed that Arizona removes a higher rate of children due to abuse and neglect than the national rate. However, the data is more complex, and much of the higher rate of children being removed from their homes in Arizona is due to the fact that families investigated by CPS in Arizona have more children than families investigated by CPS in other states.

Comparing Arizona and the United States

	Arizona	39 State Average*
Reports of abuse/neglect per 10,000 children	234.7	267.3
Percent of investigations that are substantiated	11.6%	27.2%
Number of children per investigated family	2.3	1.7
Percent of children living in investigated families who were removed	8.2%	9.5%
Removals per 10,000 children in total population	43.7	40.1

Data are from Federal Fiscal Year 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005), as reported by the Department of Health and Human Services

*Not all states report

- Arizona has a lower rate of reports per child population than the national rate and a much lower rate of substantiating abuse or neglect through CPS investigation.
- Arizona's overall rate of children removed is higher than the national average in part because Arizona has a 35% higher rate of children living in investigated families: 2.3 children per investigated family in Arizona vs. 1.7 nationally (among the 39 states that report).



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

Comparing Arizona with Maricopa and Pima Counties

Unless otherwise noted, the following are from the **six month** reporting period October 1, 2006-March 31, 2007, as reported in the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Semi-Annual Child Welfare Report

	Arizona Total #	Arizona Rate	Maricopa County Rate	Pima County Rate
Reports of abuse/neglect per 10,000 children	16,612	102.1	93.1	130.4
Substantiation rate*	1,376	9.6%	6.9%	16.0%
Percent of CPS investigations that result in removal of a child	3,683 children/ 1,893 cases	11.5%	10.8%	14.2%
Children entering out-of-home care per 10,000 children	3,683	22.6	19.6	35.2
Percent of reports investigated on time***	-	80%	80.2%	64.3%
Percent of cases in which all children were personally seen in the investigation/assessment****	-	85%	80%	97%

*For period April 1 through September 30, 2006. The substantiation rate is the percent of low, moderate, and high risk reports that are substantiated by CPS. Reports of potential abuse and neglect are not subject to substantiation.

**For period April 1 through September 30, 2006, as provided by the Department of Economic Security Division of Children, Youth, and Families.

*** During January 2007, as reported in the Arizona's Child and Family Services Review Statewide Assessment report, released in the summer of 2007.

****From DES Practice Improvement Case Review data.

- Pima County has higher rates of abuse and neglect reports, substantiations, and removals than Maricopa County and the statewide rates.
- Nearly 700 families who were reported to CPS during a six month period could not be located to complete an investigation including an assessment of child safety.
- Pima County has a lower rate of on-time CPS investigations than Maricopa County or the statewide rate.
- Pima County has a higher rate of investigations where all the children involved were personally seen.

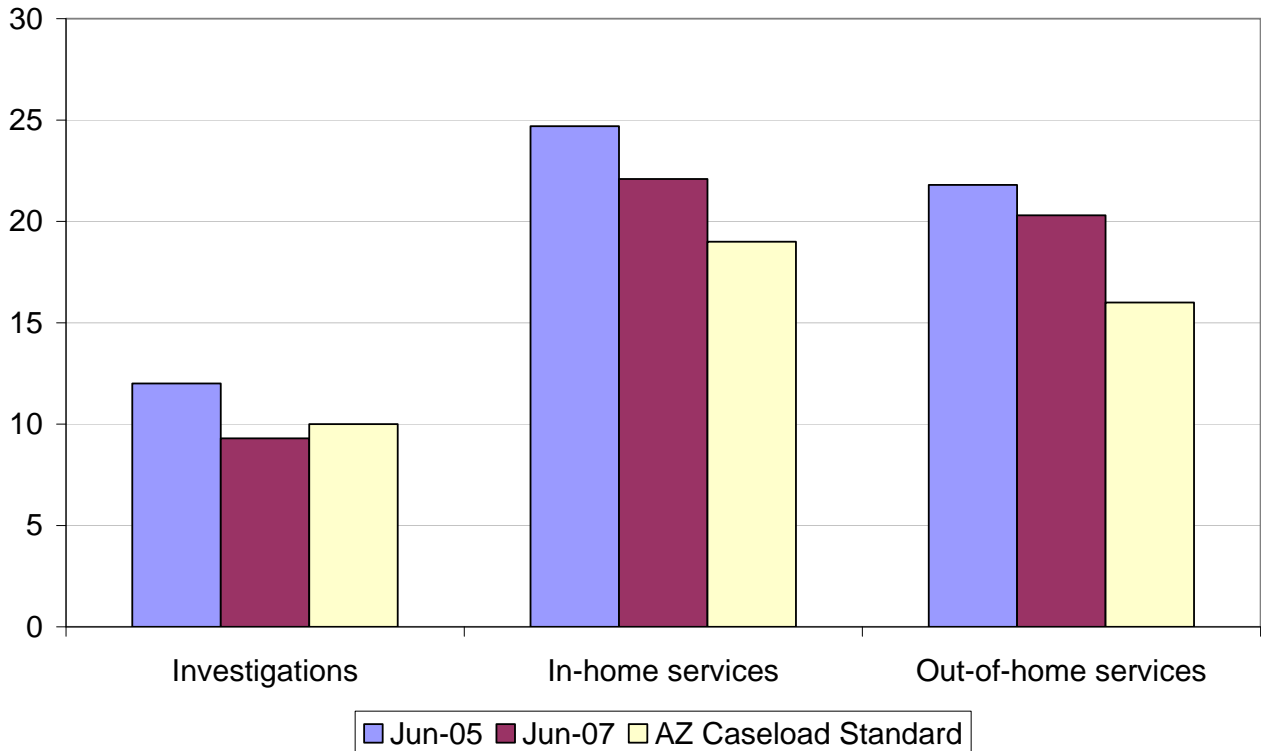


CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

Staff Caseload and Turnover Trends

CPS Cases Per Authorized Worker



Turnover among CPS Specialists was virtually unchanged between the first half of 2005 and the first half of 2007, going from 19.8% to 19.9%.

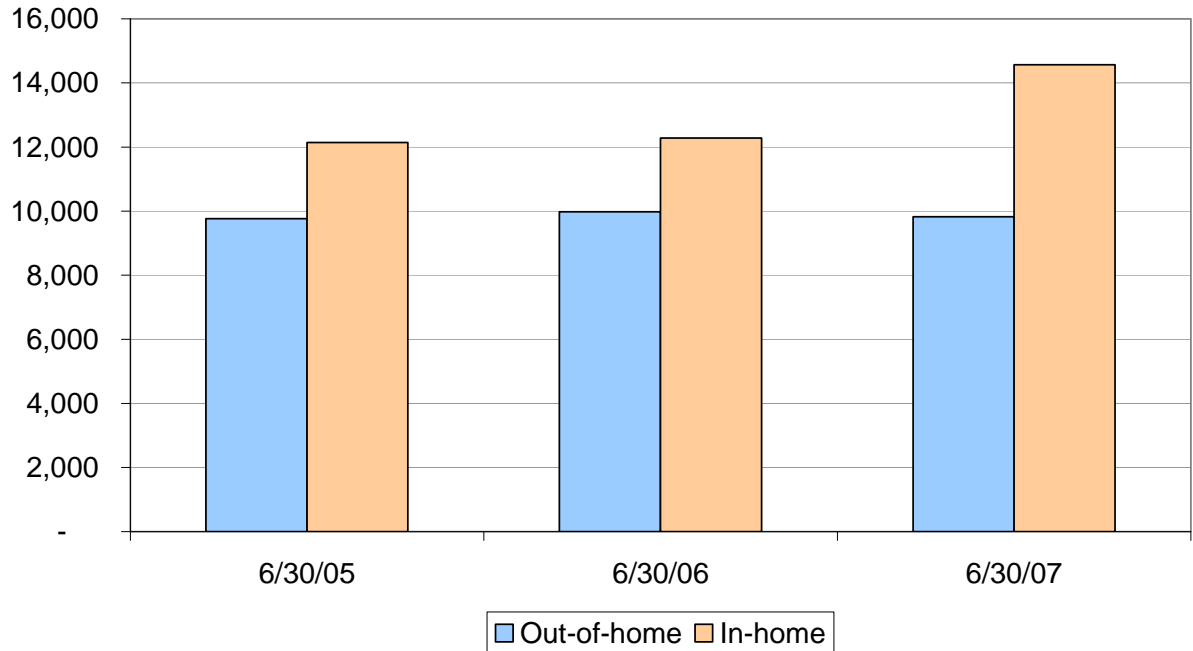
As reported by the Department of Economic Security



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICES IN THEIR HOMES VS. THOSE IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS





CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

Child Welfare Trends Since 2003 Special Session

As reported by the Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Reports for the six months ending March 31, 2003, and March 31, 2007.

Indicator	March 2003	March 2007
Children in out-of-home care on March 31 (and rate per 10,000 children)	6,826 (46.4)	9,773 (60.0)
Children in unlicensed relative placements (and percent of all children in out-of-home care)	1,932 (28%)	3,137 (32%)
Children in a shelter >21 days	1,300	705
Children entering out-of-home care	2,961	3,683
Number of children leaving DES custody	2,275	3,553
Children not receiving required caseworker visitation	2,170 (32%)	2,163 (22%)
Parents with case plan goal of reunification with their children who did not receive required caseworker visitation	695 (45%)	817 (37%)
Foster homes who did not receive required caseworker visitation	170 (9%)	1,061 (33%)
	Calendar Year 2004	Calendar Year 2006
On time response rate by CPS	64%	74%
	Calendar Year 2002	Calendar Year 2005
Child maltreatment deaths (and rate)*	36 (2.4 per 100,000)	50 (3.2 per 100,000)

*As reported in the Child Fatality Review report issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services

TRENDS FROM 2003 TO 2007

- The rate of children in out-of-home care rose.
- The number of children living in shelters for more than 21 days decreased.
- The number of children leaving DES custody grew faster than the number entering out of home care (24% increase in children entering care and 56% increase in children leaving custody).
- The percent of children and parents not receiving required monthly visitation from caseworkers improved significantly.
- The percent of foster homes not receiving required visitation from caseworkers rose.
- The on-time response for CPS investigations improved.
- The number and rate of child deaths due to maltreatment rose.



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

Children leaving DES custody

