
Status of

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Winter 2010 Update





*Women's Foundation
of Southern Arizona
Board of Trustees
2009-2010*

Sarah Meadows, J.D.,
Chair

Jennifer Roche,
Secretary

Noemi Navarro,
Treasurer

Stephen Cornell, Ph.D.

Valerie Diaz

Judy Gans, M.B.A., M.P.P.

Dorothy Green, Ed.D.

Nicci Hinderaker, J.D.

Sherry Johnson

Mary Keane

Clyde Kunz

Antje Lear

Maria Lopez

Fran Luchsinger

Eileen Palles, J.D.

Tracy Taft, Ph.D.

Claudia Torres

Teresa Truelsen

Mimi Warwick, R.N.

Nancy Weeks

Dari Zwart

Foreword

With the publication of the *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona* report in the spring of 2009, the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona achieved one of its major goals of establishing a comprehensive and accessible resource to provide data and analysis documenting the lives of women and girls in our region.

We are now very pleased to publish the first of what are intended to be annual updates to the original report. These yearly updates will allow us not only to present the most current data on women's education, health, employment and other topics, but also to track where change is needed and measure the impact we, and our partners, have in the community at large.

Already, WFSA has used the findings from the *Status of Women and Girls* report to direct our efforts to an area of clear need: women's economic self sufficiency. In response to the data showing that women continue to face pay discrimination and that nearly one in six women are living in poverty, WFSA created the Equity and Opportunity Fund to provide large, multi-year grants to programs designed to increase a woman's ability to achieve financial stability and security. Similarly, in our 2009 annual grant round, we have asked our participants – representing over 60 incredibly diverse organizations – to focus on and describe how their programs will enhance women's economic sustainability.

We have also used the *Status of Women and Girls* report to start a series of conversations with a wide range of local nonprofits, volunteers, donors, organizers, political leaders and others working for positive change in our community. These "Social Change Workshops" have been tremendously well received, and we hope this update, and those that follow, will continue to keep our partners engaged with WFSA and the larger mission of improving the lives of women and girls in Southern Arizona and beyond.

WFSA was founded in 1992 with the idea that investment in women benefits a community as a whole, and that idea has led us to grant more than \$1.3 million over the years to programs serving thousands of women and girls in Southern Arizona. There is more work to be done, and the *Status of Women and Girls* report, as periodically updated, will continue to be a valuable tool in focusing our resources and documenting our success.

Sarah Meadows
2009-10 Chair, Board of Trustees



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Demographics	4
Education.....	6
Employment and Earnings	9
Health and Well-Being.....	13
Violence and Crime	16
Political Participation	18
Endnotes.....	19

Acknowledgments

The Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona gratefully acknowledges Maura Grogan, Fran Luchsinger, and Dr. Janice Monk for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

Author Ami Nagle would like to thank Christopher Mrela of the Arizona Department of Health, William Aldrich, Nicholas Espadas, and David Longo of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Bruce Johnson of the Arizona Supreme Court, Lynn Allman of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and Mardy Cruz and Rick Rachkofski of the Arizona Department of Education for their assistance in securing data.





Introduction

In the spring of 2009, the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona (WFSA) published its landmark report, *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona*. In that work, we described the condition of women and girls related to education, economics, health, violence and crime, and political participation.

While less than a year has passed since the publication of the first *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona*, as we are all aware, the times and circumstances are changing – some for the better, some for the worse.

To help community leaders, policymakers and philanthropists chart that change, the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona developed this supplement providing new and updated data on the condition of women and girls in our three Southern Arizona counties – Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz.

How is this report different from the earlier one? In the previous report, we provided substantial background on each topic area – demographics, education, employment and earnings, health and well-being, violence and crime, and political participation. The background explained why these issues are important to the well-being of women and girls and what research tells us about the connections among indicators of well-being. When reading the *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona – Winter 2010 Update*, we encourage you to revisit the earlier report for a more comprehensive discussion of the indicators. A pdf version is available on the WFSA website at www.womensgiving.org.

With this report, we've updated and expanded data, noting key facts, and drawing comparisons to previous years, to Arizona and to the United States (when available). We have added additional graphs and charts to help make the data more accessible. As there is a substantial amount of data in this report, we provide a summary of key findings at the beginning of each section. And, for those who would like additional data, please see the Appendix section on our website, www.womensgiving.org, for pdf spreadsheets of the data used in this report.

A few notes about the data:

- **Data Sources:** This report draws on multiple public data sources to create a picture of the condition of women and girls. One primary source is the American Community Survey (ACS), which is an annual survey of individuals and households providing information on a wide variety of data points created by the U.S. Census Bureau. For its data points, the ACS provides

both one-year and three-year rolling averages.

Because of the small size of Santa Cruz County,

one-year data points are not available. However, for the first time, we are able to provide updated information using the three-year rolling average (covering 2005 through 2007) for all three Southern Arizona counties. Other data sources include the Arizona Department of Education, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Arizona Department of Health, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, to name a few. For all data points, data sources are noted.

- **Race and Ethnicity:** In some sections of the report, we provide information on the race and ethnicity of women and girls. Because we are using publically available data, we use those sources' definitions of race and ethnicity. For ACS data, race categories (e.g. White, Black) are separate from ethnicity categories (e.g. Hispanic). And, as ACS data is drawn from a sample of the population, there are some indicators for which we are not able to show racial differences.
- **Women and Girls:** In this report when we refer to "females" we mean women and girls of any age. We retain the use of "girls" for younger females and "women" for older females. When using "girls" or "women" we try to indicate the specific age of the female to whom we are referring.

What's Missing? The original *Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona* noted key data that are lacking in each of the topic areas. Either the information is not available by gender, isn't timely, or isn't collected at all. Unlike the original report, we do not call attention to specific missing data points in this *Winter 2010 Update*. However, most of the holes in data and in our understanding of the condition of females still exist. We encourage readers to review the earlier publication for additional detail on key data points we are missing. In addition, we welcome your suggestions of other data sources we should consider for subsequent publications.

WFSA intends to publish information on the status of women and girls annually, with larger reports coming out after each decade's census. If you have questions about this report, or suggestions for future updates, please contact us at www.womensgiving.org.

Geographic Focus

In this report we examine data for three Southern Arizona Counties:

- Cochise County
- Pima County
- Santa Cruz County



Demographics

As Arizona's population continues to grow, women and girls still account for a majority of the region's population.

Key Facts

In 2005-2007*:

- There were 568,739 females in Southern Arizona, 51 percent of the total population.
- The number of Southern Arizona females increased by 40.8 percent since 1990. Nationally, the number of females only increased by 19.0 percent between 1990 and 2005-2007.
- 33.8 percent of Southern Arizona females were Hispanic – a 6.7 percent increase over 1990.
- Of single-parent households in Southern Arizona, 72.5 percent are headed by women.

*Note: All 2005-2007 numbers use three-year rolling averages unless otherwise indicated.

2005-2007, the median age of women in Cochise was 41 years, up from 40 in 2000; in Pima it was 38 years, up from 37; in Santa Cruz it was 37 years, up from 33. This is consistent with median age trends seen both statewide (median age of females in 2005-2007 was 36, unchanged from 2000) and nationwide (median age of females in 2005-2007 was 38, up from 37).

Race: Because of the nature of the data used to create the American Community Survey (ACS), at this time we do not have more accurate data than that provided by the 2000 Census on most race categories for the Southern Arizona counties. In 2000, 76 percent of Southern Arizona females were white, 16 percent were "other" race or were "two or more" races, 2.8 percent were black, and 2.9 percent were American Indian. By 2005-2007, the white female population in Southern Arizona had decreased to 72.6 percent of the total female population. Interestingly, between 2000 and 2005-2007, both Cochise and Santa Cruz had a slight increase in the proportion of white females, while Pima had a decrease.

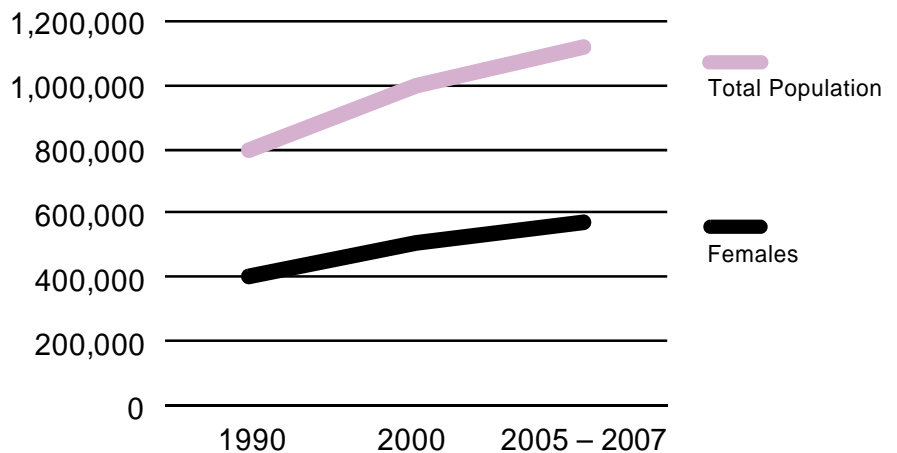
Population: Population growth in Southern Arizona continues to outpace population growth nationwide¹.

- In 2005-2007, there were 1.1 million people in Southern Arizona – of which 51 percent, or 568,739, were females.
- Southern Arizona's 2005-2007 total population saw an increase of 11.7 percent since 2000. Pima County had the fastest growth in the number of females (up 12.2 percent) among the three counties.

Age: Mirroring the national trend, Southern Arizona's population is getting older.

- Like the overall population, the female population of Southern Arizona is aging. Women aged 45-64 (baby boomers) are a substantially greater portion of the population, now comprising 25.4 percent of all females compared to just 18.5 percent in 1990. The median ages of women are increasing: in

Changes in Southern Arizona Population



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey



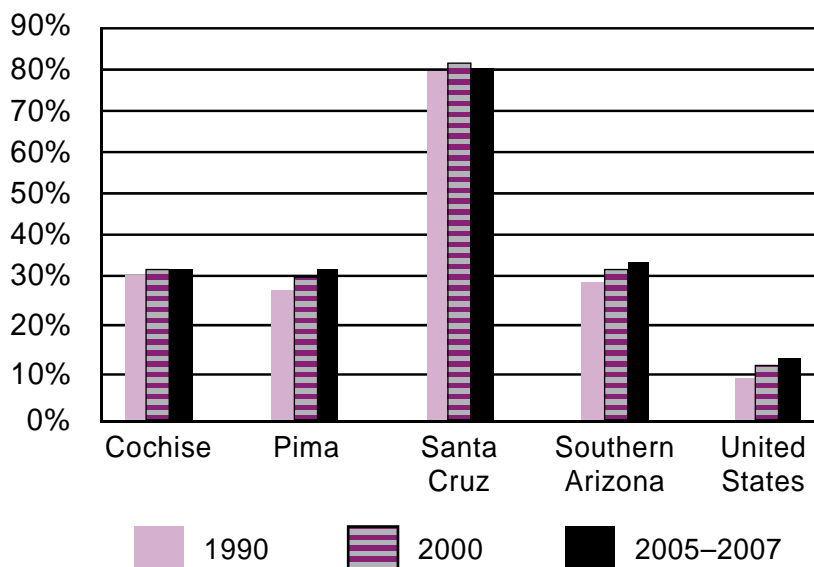
Ethnicity: Southern Arizona has always had a rich ethnic heritage. That tradition continues.

- In 2007, about one-third of all females reported being of Hispanic ethnicity. This is a 6.7 percent increase over 1990.
- Santa Cruz had the highest proportion of the female population reporting Hispanic ethnicity – 79.9 percent – while 32.0 percent of females in Pima and Cochise Counties reported being Hispanic.

Household Composition: While over the past several decades the sizes and structures of our families and households were changing, over the past several years there has been little change.

- There were 429,311 households in Southern Arizona in 2005-2007. Of these households, 52,717 (12.3 percent) were family households headed by females with no husband present.
- Of single-parent family households with children in Southern Arizona, 72.4 percent were headed by women. This proportion remained virtually unchanged since 2000, though the number of single, female-headed family households increased by 8,699.
- In Southern Arizona in 2005-2007, 21,478 grandparents were living in households with their grandchildren. More than 60 percent of these grandparents report having responsibility for the grandchildren².

Percent of Female Population that is Hispanic



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey





Education

There may be no more powerful variable in an individual's life than the quality and level of his or her education. A good education has a measurable impact on future financial stability, adaptability, and even life expectancy for an individual. More broadly, increased educational levels have been shown to negatively affect crime and poverty^{3, 4}.

Key Facts

- 85.5 percent of adult women (ages 25 and older) in Southern Arizona in 2005-2007 had a high school diploma/GED or more education.
- In 2008, one in every 20 female high school students dropped out of Southern Arizona high schools.
- In Southern Arizona in 2007, only 53.9 percent of Native American girls graduated high school in four years compared to 82.3 percent of white girls.
- 26.4 percent of adult women (ages 25 and older) in Southern Arizona had a BA degree or higher in 2005-2007.
- 54.5 percent of BA degrees awarded by the University of Arizona in the 2007-2008 school year were to women. This is up from 45 percent in the 2000-2001 academic year.

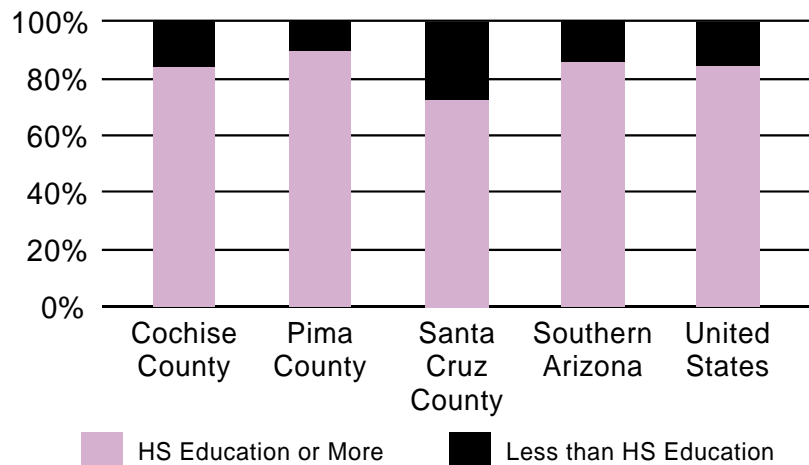
Pima County. While Santa Cruz still has the highest proportion of females without a high school diploma or GED, the rate has fallen substantially since 2000, when it was 42.6 percent.

- In 2008, 1,501 females – or 5 percent of Southern Arizona females in high school – dropped out. This is lower than the male high school dropout rate of 7 percent. The only Southern Arizona county that saw a change in female high school dropout rates in the past year was Santa Cruz, whose female dropout rate fell from 5 percent in 2007 to 4 percent in 2008.
- In 2007, 74.7 percent of female high school students graduated on time.⁶ This is an improvement over the 72.5 percent high school graduation rate in 2006. Of the Southern Arizona counties in 2007, Santa Cruz had the highest female, four-year graduation rate at 80.2 percent.
- There is great variation in graduation rates among female high school students of different ethnicities. For example, in Southern Arizona, only 53.9 percent of female Native American high school students graduated on time; 82.3 percent of white female high school students graduated on time.

Completing High School: An increasing proportion of Southern Arizona women are completing high school⁵.

- In 2005-2007, 85.5 percent of women ages 25 and older had at least completed high school or earned a GED. This figure represents an improvement over 2000, when 81.5 percent of women had attained this level of education.
- The proportion of women who have completed high school varies considerably by county. In 2005-2007, 28.3 percent of women ages 25 or more in Santa Cruz County did not have a high school diploma, compared to 17.6 percent in Cochise County and 13.5 percent in

Educational Attainment Among Women, 2005–2007



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

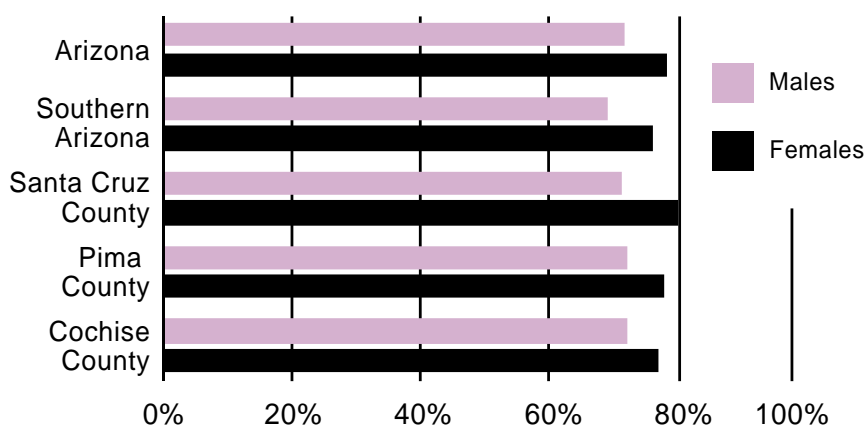


Post Secondary Education: In today's economy, post-secondary education is critical. While advanced education does not provide a complete buffer from unemployment or other economic hardships, those with advanced education are better able to weather them^{7,8}.

- In 2005-2007, 33.6 percent of women (ages 25 or older) in Southern Arizona had some college education, 16.2 percent had a bachelor's degree, and 10.2 percent had an advanced degree. This compares to 30.7 percent of men (ages 25 and older) with some college courses, 17.7 percent with a bachelor's degree, and 12.1 percent with an advanced degree. The growth in the number of women seeking higher education is outpacing that of men.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of females in Southern Arizona with post-secondary education. Part of the change between 2000 and 2005-2007 is a generational shift, as younger women are better educated than older women. For example, in 2005-2007 only 47 percent of Southern Arizona women age 65 and older had any post-secondary education compared to 65 percent of women ages 35-44 years old.

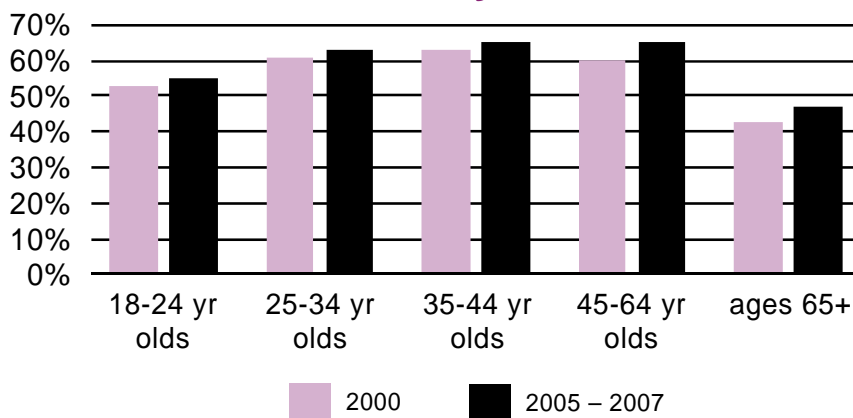


Percent of Students Graduating High School in 4 Years, 2007



Source: Arizona Department of Education

Proportion of Southern Arizona Women who have Obtained Post-Secondary Education



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

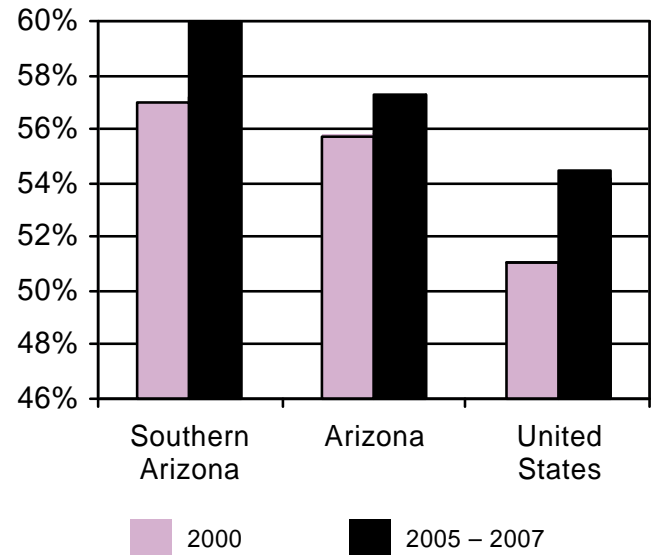


Post Secondary Institutions: There are several public and private institutions of post-secondary education in Southern Arizona, most notably the three community colleges and the University of Arizona.

- Southern Arizona's three community colleges – Cochise College, Pima Community College, and Tohono O'odham College – awarded 6,961 certificates and Associates Degrees in 2007. Less than one-half of these awards (45.6 percent) were to females. Between 2006 and 2007, both the number and percentage of certificate earners and the number and percentage of Associate Degree earners who were female decreased. These figures have been on a downward trend since 2000.⁹ Further research is needed to understand this decline.
- In the 2007-2008 academic year, the University of Arizona awarded 7,807 degrees – 54.5 percent of these were to women. This is similar to the proportion of degree earners who were women in the 2006-2007 academic year.

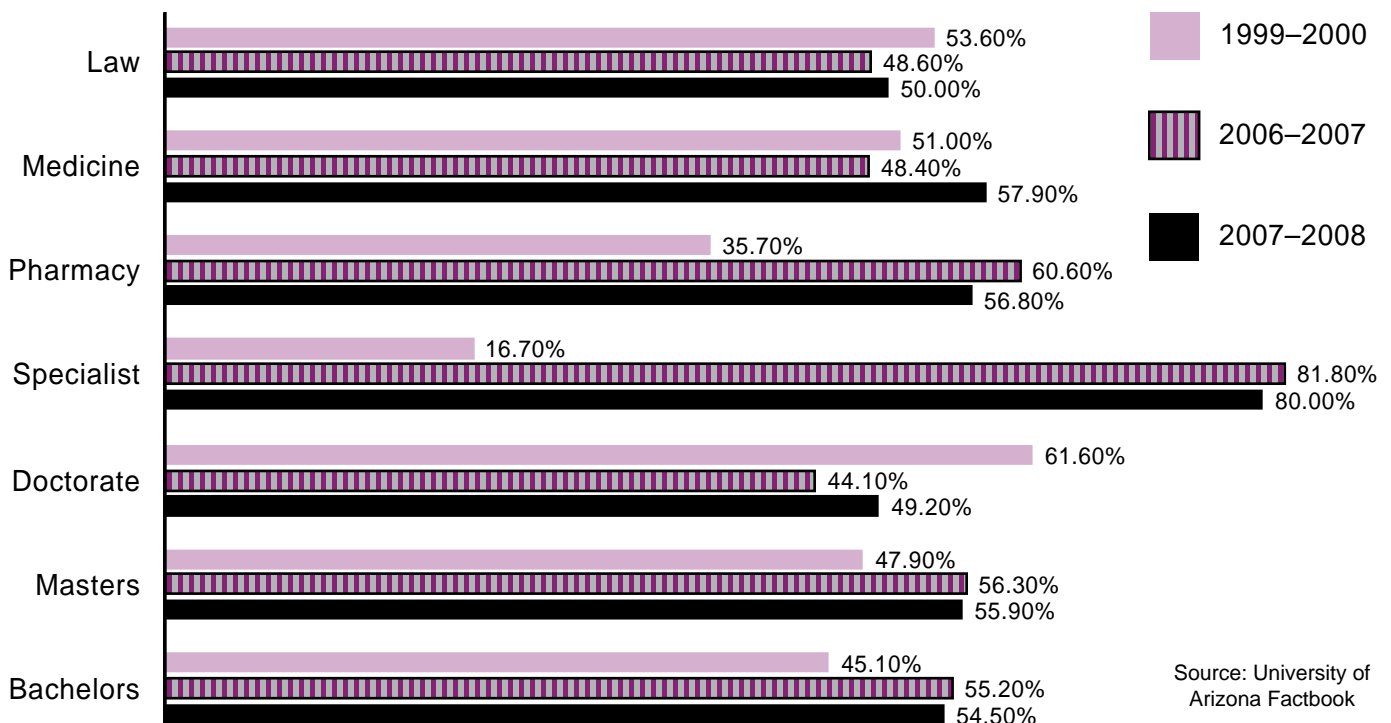
Between the 1999-2000 academic year and the 2007-2008 academic year, the proportion of degree earners who were women increased in every area – except Doctorate and Law degrees.

Proportion of Women with Post-Secondary Education



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

Proportion of University of Arizona Degree Earners Who Were Women



Source: University of Arizona Factbook



Employment and Earnings

Times are tough in Southern Arizona. Employment is down. Unemployment is up. Earnings are down. Poverty is up. And women often fare poorly in times of economic downturn. While much of the media's focus has been on the impact of economic hardship on men – loss of manufacturing and construction jobs, for example – we know that the recession has also hit women hard.

Key Facts

In 2005-2007*:

- As in 2000, women account for 46.3 percent of all employed people in Southern Arizona and more than 50 percent of workers in both office/sales and service sector jobs.
- In Southern Arizona, a woman's median earnings for full-time year-round work is between 71.4 percent and 80.1 percent of a man's earnings, depending on her county of residence.
- While the female poverty rate has remained steady since 1990, the male poverty rate has dropped from 20.0 percent in 1990 to 14.4 percent in 2005-2007.
- 29.2 percent of Southern Arizona households headed by women are in poverty, compared to just 5.6 percent of married couple households or 14.9 percent of male-headed households. If children are added to the household, poverty rates go up. Nearly 38 percent of single woman-headed households with children in Southern Arizona are poor.
- About one in four Hispanic females in Southern Arizona were poor, a very slight reduction since 2000.

*Note: All 2005-2007 numbers use three-year rolling averages unless otherwise indicated.



The National Economic Picture for Women

While up-to-date economic data are not available for Arizona, data indicate that the national economic picture for women is quite grim.

- The unemployment rate of women head of households was 12.6 percent in July 2009 – higher than the overall unemployment rate of 10.5 percent for men and substantially higher than the unemployment rate of men with a spouse (6.9 percent).
- In April 2009, nearly 1 million working-age female heads of household wanted a job but could not find one.
- The downturn has caused women's wages to fall, and this decline is significantly larger than what men have suffered. In 2007, the real median wage for adult women workers dropped 3 percent; wages for adult male workers dropped by 0.5 percent over the same period.
- Women are also disproportionately at risk in the current foreclosure crisis, since women are 32 percent more likely than men to have subprime mortgages.
- Existing pay disparities for women exacerbate the economic strain on women and on households run by women, since women earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.
- Women have significantly fewer savings to fall back on in a time of economic hardship. Non-married women have a net worth 48 percent lower than non-married men, and women are less likely than men to participate in employer-sponsored retirement savings programs.



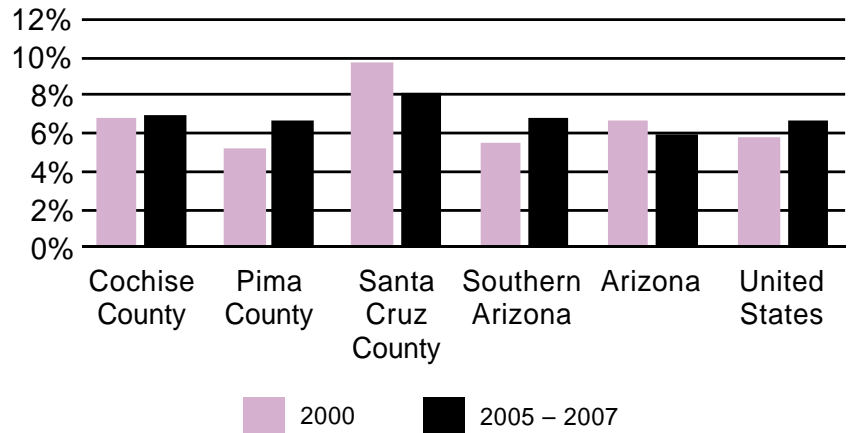
Employment: Nationwide unemployment has been on the rise, and Southern Arizona has not been immune to this trend¹⁰.

- In 2005-2007, 526,607 people over age 15 were in the labor force and 46.3 percent of these were women. Of all working age women in Southern Arizona in 2005-2007, 53.9 percent were employed compared to 66.6 percent of men.
- A mirror image to employment is unemployment. In 2005-2007, the Southern Arizona unemployment rate was 6.8 percent for women and 6.1 percent for men.
- As we know, unemployment rates have been increasing. Between 2000 and 2005-2007 female unemployment in Southern Arizona increased from 5.5 percent to 6.8 percent. During this time period, Santa Cruz was the only county to see a decline in women's and men's unemployment rates.
- The data we have available unfortunately do not capture the most recent economic trends, and we know the current employment picture is not good. For example, between September 2008 and September 2009, the statewide unemployment rate increased from 6.0 percent to 9.1 percent. In Pima County it increased from 5.6 percent to 8.2 percent.

Occupations: The kind of job a person holds indicates much about their current income as well as their potential earnings trajectory. Historically, when women have worked outside the home, they have been employed in service sector positions which typically offer lower pay, fewer benefits and limited upward mobility compared to jobs in other sectors¹¹.

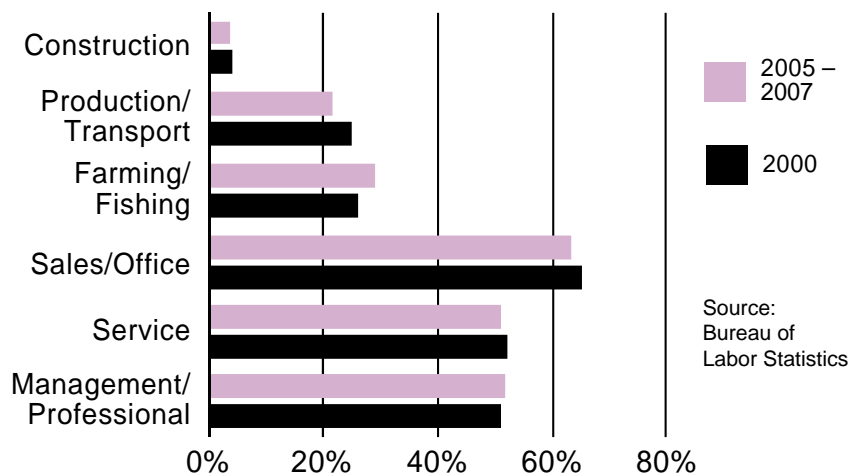
- A slight shift occurred between 2000 and 2005-2007 in terms of the kinds of positions held by Southern Arizona women. In 2000, 37.7 percent of employed women held sales and office jobs and 36.1 percent held management and professional jobs.

Women's Unemployment Rates



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

Proportion of Occupations Held by Women in Southern Arizona



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

- In 2005-2007, of all employed women, fewer held sales jobs (35.8 percent) and more held managerial positions (37.9 percent) than in 2000. Santa Cruz is the only county that diverges from this trend with a decrease in the representation of women in managerial positions and an increase in sales and office positions. During this same time, the percentage of employed women in service sector jobs increased from 20.1 percent to 21.1 percent.

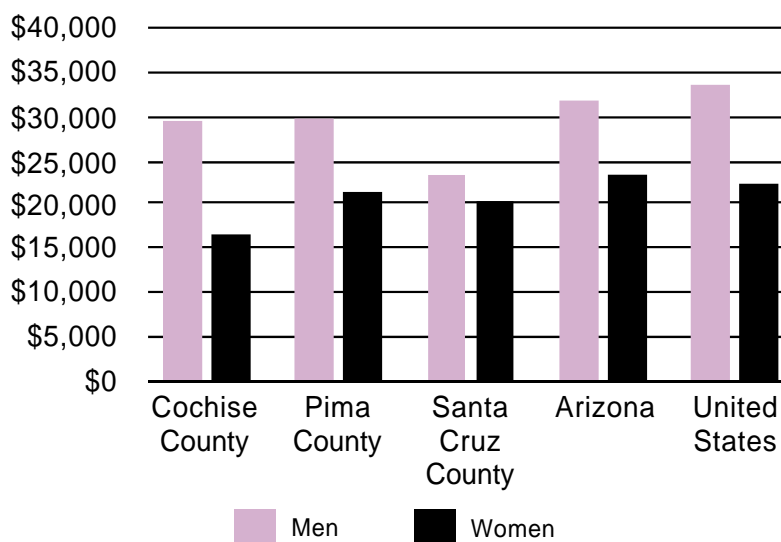


- While there have been some slight shifts, women still dominate sales and office positions whereas men still dominate construction jobs. This has substantial implications as Arizona looks to use new economic stimulus funds to support “shovel ready” construction jobs – excluding many women from economic recovery opportunities.¹²
- Historically, even when women hold similar jobs to men, their salaries are lower. For example, in 2005-2007 in Pima County, the median earnings of women in managerial/professional positions is equivalent to 67.6 percent of men’s median earnings in the same category; that decreases to 59.5 percent in Cochise County and to 58.6 percent in Santa Cruz County.

Earnings: Financial stability has much to do with earnings. Historically, women have earned less than men, even for the same work¹³.

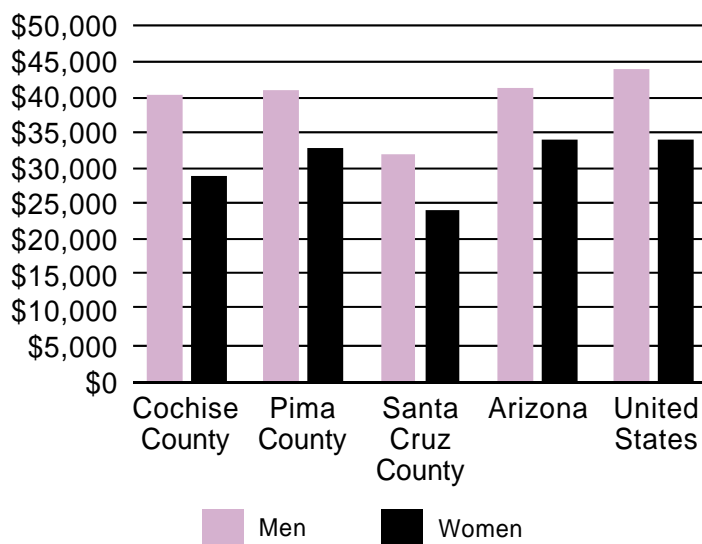
- Of people over age 15 with earnings, the 2005-2007 median earnings (of all workers, regardless of the amount of time they work) ranged from a low of \$21,150 in Santa Cruz County to \$22,688 in Cochise County and \$25,461 in Pima County. Across Southern Arizona, median earnings have been increasing: for example, in Pima County, median earnings increased 24.5 percent between 2000 and 2005-2007; for men in Pima County, the increase was 21.3 percent, while women’s median earnings increased by 28.7 percent. Interestingly, the earnings increase between 2000 and 2005-2007 was lower for women in Cochise County (15.5 percent), but higher for women in Santa Cruz County (59.6 percent).
- Because the difference in earnings between full-time and part-time work can alter our understanding of median earnings, it is important to review earnings independently for those employed full time. Across the three Southern Arizona Counties, women working full time are still earning less than men are. For example, in 2005-2007 in

Median Earnings 2005 – 2007



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

Median Earnings for Full-Time Work 2005 – 2007



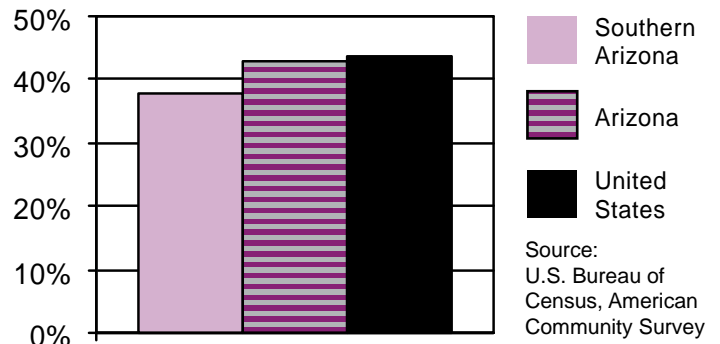
Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

Cochise County, median earnings for women were 71.4 percent of men’s earnings; in Pima County, they were 80.1 percent; and in Santa Cruz County they were 76.1 percent of men’s median earnings.

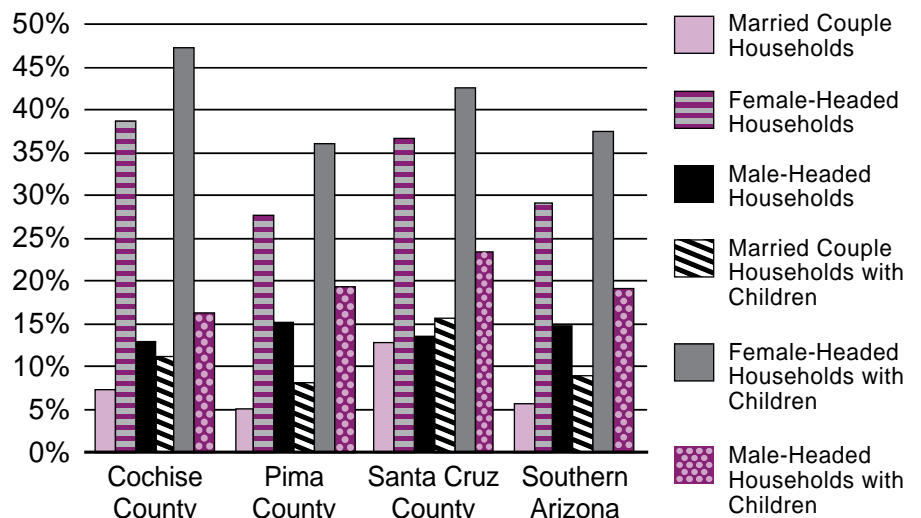


Poverty: The United States still operates under an antiquated definition poverty created in the 1960s (see pgs. 26-27, *The Status of Women and Girls in Southern Arizona 2009*). In 2009, the federal poverty-level income for a family of three is \$18,310 annually or less.¹⁴ Congress is now considering fundamental changes to the poverty measure that would factor in increases in the cost of housing, child care, food, transportation and other expenses. In addition, the new poverty measure would not only account for earned income, but income gained through programs including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Food Stamps, and other social welfare programs. Many feel that an updated measure of people living in poverty would allow policy makers and program providers a better sense of our nation's most economically distressed families¹⁵.

Proportion of Single-Female Headed Households with Children Living in Poverty, 2005 – 2007



Poverty Rate Among Southern Arizona Households 2005 – 2007



- In Southern Arizona in 2005-2007, 91,636 females lived below the poverty line. This accounts for 15.9 percent – or one in every six – of all females. While the female poverty rate has remained steady since 1990, the male poverty rate has dropped from 20.0 percent in 1990 to 14.4 percent in 2005-2007. In 2005-2007, Santa Cruz had the highest female poverty rate at 20.4 percent, while Pima County had the lowest at 15.9 percent. Of all age groups of Southern Arizona females, girls under age 18 have the highest poverty rates. This is especially disturbing because research indicates that when children grow up poor, it leads to negative education, health, and economic outcomes later in life¹⁶.
- Female-headed households (with or without children) are more likely to be poor than other family types. Indeed, in 2005-2007, 29.2 percent of households headed by females were in poverty, compared to 5.6 percent of married couple households or 14.9 percent of male-headed households. If children are in the household, poverty rates rise. Nearly 38 percent of single female-headed households with children in Southern Arizona were poor, and these figures have remained fairly constant since 2000. At the county level in 2005-2007, poverty rates among single female-headed households with children varied from 36.1 percent in Pima County to 42.5 percent in Santa Cruz County and 47.0 percent in Cochise County.

- Poverty does not affect all people equally. Across the nation, non-white individuals tend to have higher poverty rates than white individuals. In 2005-2007, 23.9 percent of black females and 12.1 percent of white females in Pima County were poor. The data for 2005-2007 was inadequate to calculate poverty rates by race in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.
- In 2005-2007, 24.4 percent of Hispanic females in Southern Arizona were poor compared to 21.3 percent of Hispanic males.



Health and Well-Being

The current health care debate has brought new attention to the uninsured, and it reminds us that health is a critical issue to all Americans.

Key Facts

- In 2008, one in eight births in Southern Arizona was to a female under age 20, which is similar to rates in recent years.
- In 2007, more than one-fourth of births did not receive any prenatal care in the first trimester.
- The 2008 median age of death for females was 80. On average, Southern Arizona women live 6 years longer than men.
- In 2007, the leading causes of death among Arizona females were accidents (ages 1-44), cancer (ages 45-65) with lung cancer being the most prevalent, and heart disease (ages 65 and older).
- In 2005, more than one in six females in Southern Arizona lacked health insurance. Among males, the uninsured rate is one in five.

Maternal and Newborn Health: Health begins before birth with the good health practices of pregnant mothers¹⁷.

- In 2008, 16,080 infants were born in Southern Arizona. Mothers under age 20 accounted for 12.6 percent of these births. More than half of all births are to mothers ages 20 to 29. These percentages are relatively similar to the 2006 Southern Arizona figures and the percentages statewide.
- Of all Southern Arizona births in 2007, 27.7 percent did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester.
- In 2008, 1,024 Southern Arizona infants were born with low-birth weights, representing 6.4 percent of all births. This is below the statewide low-birth weight rate of 7.1 percent and a decrease over the 2006 Southern Arizona rate of 7.9 percent.

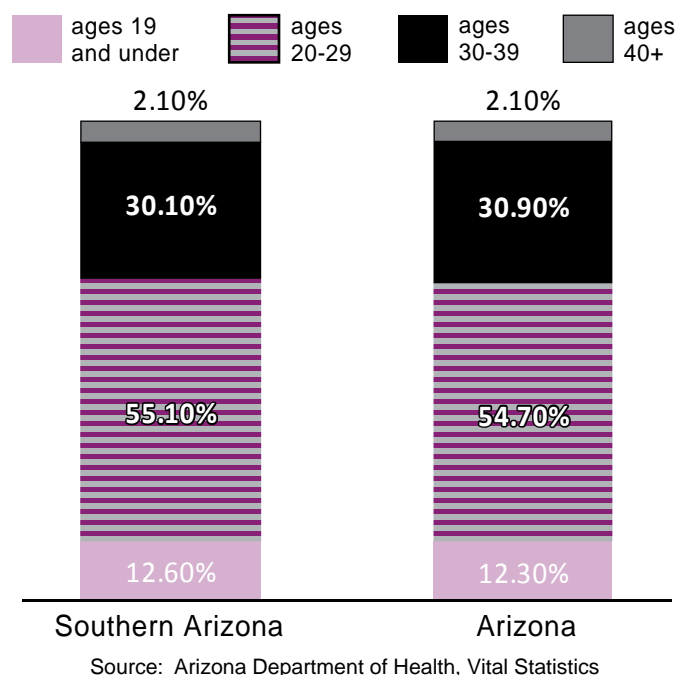
Women, Girls and Disease: Disease can be a major indicator of the health of the population as well as provide some insight into the demands on the health care system¹⁸.

- With the recent H1N1 flu outbreak, the nation is more focused than ever on communicable diseases. A

communicable disease is one that can be transmitted from one human to another by physical contact or close proximity. In 2007, there were 2,865 reported cases of communicable diseases in Southern Arizona. Of that number, 48.7 percent were contracted by females.

- In 2007, there were 5,346 new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), of which 68.8 percent were reported by females. This represents a very slight decrease in the number of female STD cases since 2006.
- Data on HIV/AIDS are not available by gender for Southern Arizona counties. However, in 2007 in Southern Arizona, there were 122 new cases of HIV/AIDS. The number of new AIDS/HIV cases in Southern Arizona has declined for three years in a row. According to an Arizona Department of Health report, females accounted for an estimated 14 percent of prevalent HIV/AIDS cases in 2007.
- In 2006, of the 4,522 reported cases of cancer in Southern Arizona, 47.9 percent were reported by females. The female cancer incidence rate was 380 per

Ages of Mothers Giving Birth 2008





100,000 females in Southern Arizona. That is slightly higher than the female cancer incidence rate statewide (347 per 100,000), but lower than the male cancer incidence rate in Southern Arizona (431 per 100,000 males). Between 2004 and 2006, the cancer rates for females and males in Southern Arizona decreased.

- Very few data are available to help illuminate the mental health status of Southern Arizona females. However, drug and alcohol abuse, two indicators of mental health, are tracked. In 2007, there were 22,994 inpatient discharges and emergency room visits due to drug and/or alcohol dependence or abuse. Of these, 32.9 percent were females.
- Another indicator of mental health is suicide. In 2008, 30 females committed suicide in Southern Arizona. This is a decline from 41 suicides among Southern Arizona females in 2006. The 2008, age-adjusted¹⁹ suicide rate for females Southern Arizona counties varied from 0 in Santa Cruz to 5.6 per 100,000 females in Pima County.

Cause of Death: While death is a natural part of life, examining the causes of death can provide a glimpse of the health of women and girls²⁰.

- In 2008, 4,560 females died in Southern Arizona. The median age of death among females in 2008 was 80, similar to the rate in 2006. By comparison, men in Southern Arizona typically live until age 74. The male death rate has remained similar over the past two years.
- Statewide the infant mortality rate in 2008 was 6.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Across Southern Arizona the rates vary from 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in Santa Cruz County to 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in Pima County. More than one-fifth of infant deaths are due to birth defects and one-in-six is due to a short gestation period.
- Adjusting for age, the leading causes of death among females in 2008 were cardiovascular disease, cancer, and chronic lower respiratory disease.
- In 2008, the age-adjusted death rate among females due to diabetes ranged from 13.3 deaths per 100,000 females in Pima County to 31.8 deaths per 100,000 females in Santa Cruz County.
- Causes of death vary significantly by age. While gender specific information is not available for the individual

counties, we know that statewide in 2007, the leading cause of death for females in the 1-44 age group was accidents; for females ages 45-65, it was cancer; for those over the age of 65, the leading cause of death was heart disease.

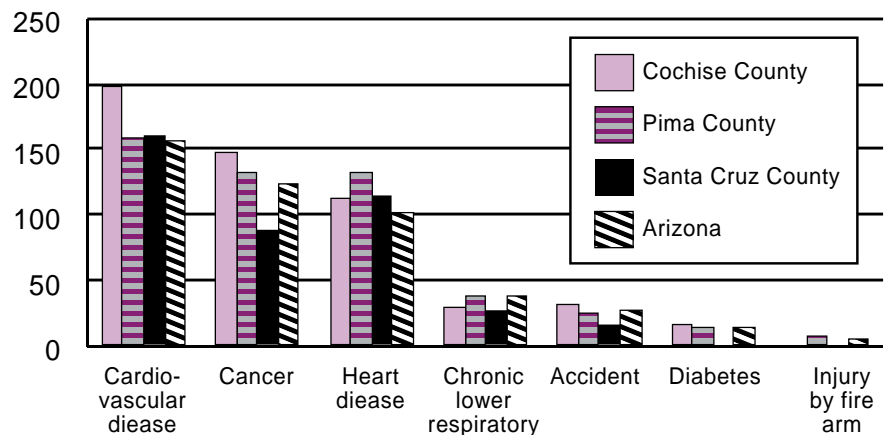
Health Insurance and Health Care Services:

Availability of affordable health insurance and access to health services is a centerpiece of the current national policy debate²¹.

- In 2005 (the year for which the most recent gender-specific, county-based data are available), an estimated 18.1 percent of females under age 65 in Southern Arizona lacked health insurance. This is very similar to the statewide lack-of-insurance rates for females. Across the state, men under age 65 are more likely to be uninsured than women.
- In 2005, there was substantial variation in the rates of uninsured females among the counties: for example, 17.2 percent of females lacked health insurance in Cochise County, 18.0 percent lacked it in Pima County, and 23.7 percent lacked health insurance in Santa Cruz County.
- In 2005-2007, 22 percent of Arizona's women ages 18-64 were uninsured. This was higher than the nationwide rate of 18 percent of women ages 18-64. The data would seem to indicate that the percent of women in this age group without health insurance increased in 2006-2007.

Female Death Rates by Cause, 2008

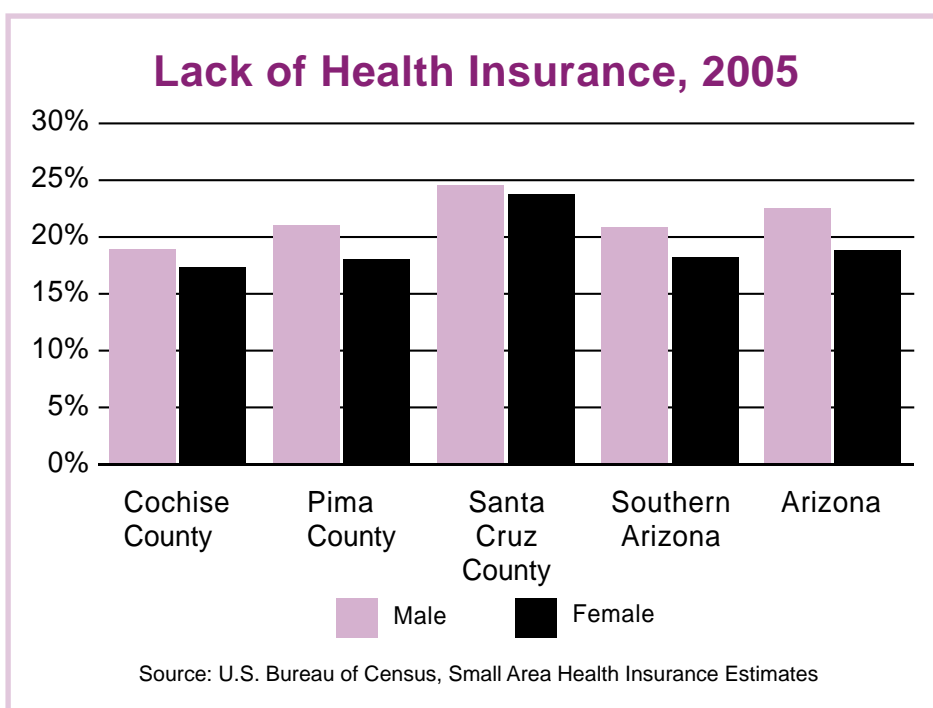
(deaths per 100,000 women)



Source: Arizona Department of Health, Vital Statistics



- Nationally we know that of the 1.4 million women who lost health insurance in the last two years, 71 percent were due to the loss of a spouse's job and 29 percent were due to the loss of their own job²².
- AHCCCS, Arizona's health insurance program for very poor families, is designed to deliver health care services to uninsured adults and children. In Southern Arizona, about 18.5 percent of the population was enrolled in AHCCCS in 2008. There is considerable variation in enrollment by county, from a low of 18.0 percent in Pima County to a high of 29.4 percent in Santa Cruz County. Unfortunately, no gender specific data is readily available by county.
- Getting and staying healthy can be dependent on a person's ability to access needed care. Across the state in 2008, there were about 478 people for every primary health care provider. Here in Southern Arizona, availability of primary care providers ranged from about 492 people per primary care provider in Pima County to more than 1,447 people per primary care provider in Santa Cruz County.





Violence and Crime

Unfortunately, violence and crime are a part of our everyday lives. Women and girls in Southern Arizona are neither shielded from this feature of our modern life nor free from participation in crime and violence.

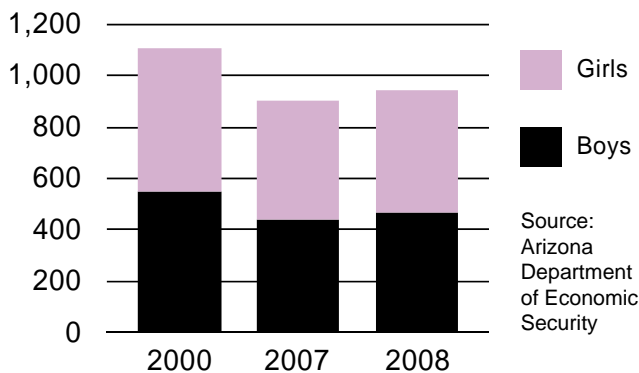
Key Facts

- In 2008, 477 Southern Arizona girls were victims of abuse or neglect, down from 562 in 2000.
- In 2009, 1,282 girls were in foster care in Southern Arizona, identical to the year before.
- 28 percent of crimes in Southern Arizona were committed by females in 2008, up from 27 percent in 2007. More than one-quarter of the crimes committed by females were committed by girls under age 18.

Abuse and Neglect of Girls: Far too often, our children experience abuse and neglect. These experiences shape their lives²³.

- In 2008, there were 944 cases of abuse and neglect in Southern Arizona. More than 50 percent were girls. Fortunately, the numbers of abused and neglected girls has decreased in recent years – from a total of 562 in 2000 to 477 in 2008.
- As of February, 2009, there were about 2,621 Southern Arizona children in foster care. About 48.9 percent – or, 1,282 – were girls. The number of children in foster care has remained fairly constant over the past several years.

Number of Abused and Neglected Children in Southern Arizona



Women and Girls as Victims of Violence: Violence runs the gamut from fraud and petty crime to gun violence and domestic violence.

- Unfortunately, little systematic data are collected on women as victims of violence. The most updated information was collected by the Morrison Institute, and indicated that, in 2004, there were 6,382 domestic violence arrests (nearly 18 per day) in Southern Arizona. In that same year, there were 1,283 domestic violence convictions²⁴.
- Women who are victims of domestic abuse may seek refuge with a friend or family member. Low-income women often have the most limited options and look for shelter in publically-supported domestic violence shelters. Again, limited data exists. In 2008 the Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse in Tucson turned away 776 women seeking shelter because of lack of space. This is down from the 801 the shelter turned away the previous year. Shelters in other areas of Southern Arizona either did not turn any females away or were not able to provide data.

Women and Girls Committing Crime: We know that women and girls are not only victims of crime; they are also perpetrators of crime²⁵.

- In 2008, 88,431 crimes were committed, 27.9 percent of them by females. Unfortunately, crimes committed by females have been increasing in Southern Arizona from 18,034 in 2000 to 24,630 in 2008. This is an increase of 36.6 percent, rapidly outpacing the 11.7

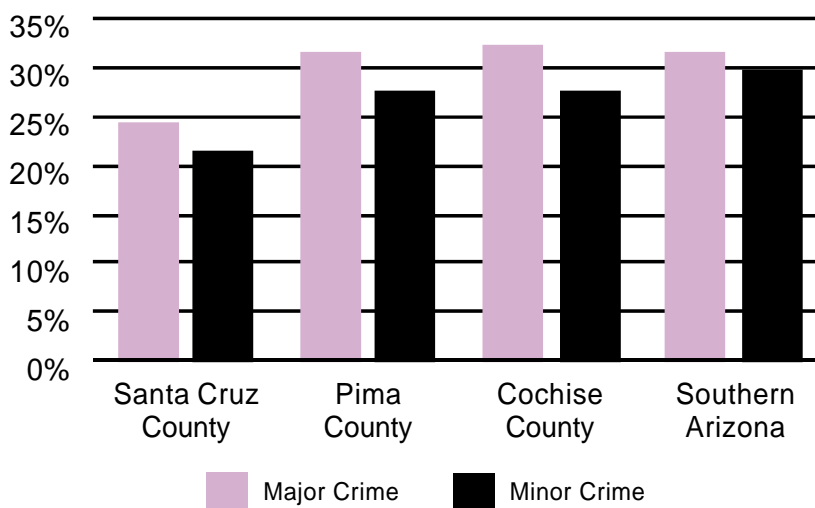


percent growth in population during this time frame, and representing a substantially faster increase than the increase for crimes committed by men of 14.3 percent between 2000 and 2008.

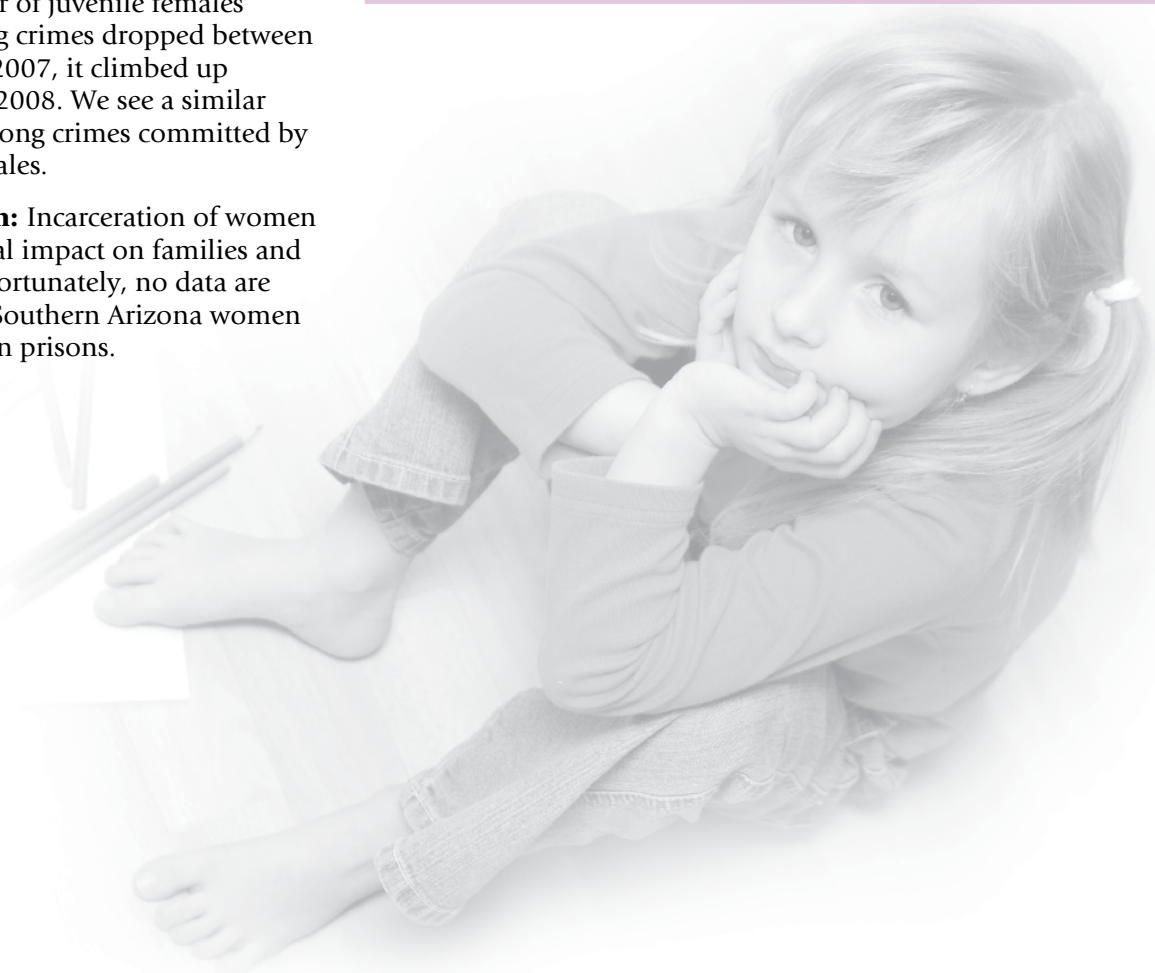
- Of all crimes committed by females in 2008, 25.5 percent were committed by girls under age 18. Interestingly, of all crimes committed by males, only 17.8 percent are committed by boys under the age of 18.
- Of female crimes in 2008, the vast majority – 86.2 percent – were minor crimes²⁶. This is similar to the trend for men, where minor crimes account for 88.4 percent of all crimes in 2008.
- In 2008, 6,291 juvenile females committed crimes, of which 84.7 percent were minor crimes. While the number of juvenile females committing crimes dropped between 2000 and 2007, it climbed up slightly in 2008. We see a similar pattern among crimes committed by juvenile males.

Incarceration: Incarceration of women has substantial impact on families and children. Unfortunately, no data are available on Southern Arizona women incarcerated in prisons.

Proportion of all Crimes Committed by Females, 2008



Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports





Political Participation

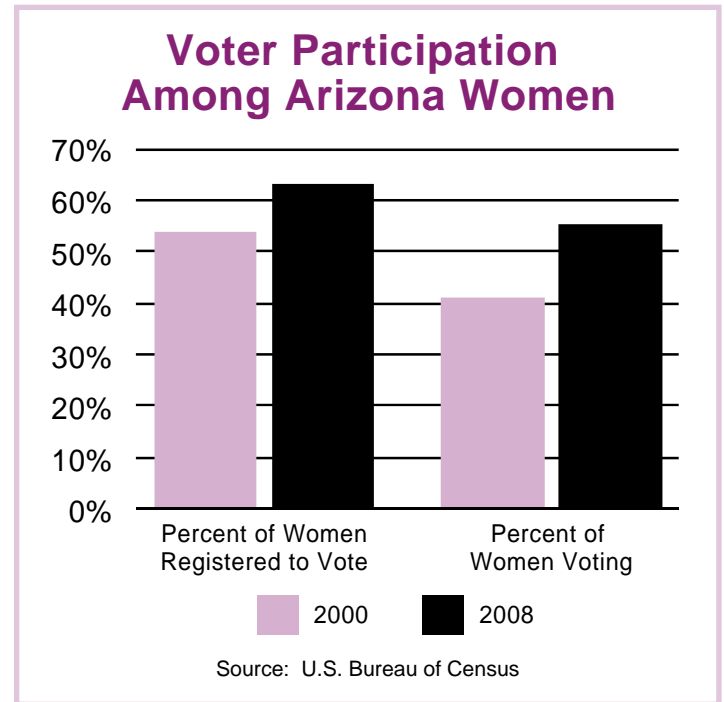
Women have a long and strong history of political participation and leadership in Arizona. That tradition carried through in the November 2008 election. After the election of President Obama, our sitting Governor, Janet Napolitano, was appointed to lead the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Filling the Governor's position was Jan Brewer, the former Secretary of State.

Currently, of the two U.S. Congressional representatives serving Southern Arizona, one is a woman. Women comprise 25 percent of the region's state House members (versus 27 percent statewide) and 33.3 percent of state Senators (versus 40 percent statewide)

Women and Voting

2008 was an important year in American elections. In Arizona, 2.9 million people reported being registered to vote in the November 2008 election. This represented 61.3 percent of the voting age population. Of all registered voters, 53.3 percent voted. More women than men in Arizona were registered to vote (63.2 percent of Arizona's females) and voted (55.3 percent). Arizona's female voter participation is slightly lower than that of females across the country, where 67.0 percent were registered to vote and 60.4 percent voted in the November 2008 elections.²⁷

While Arizona's female voting participation rates are lower than national rates for women they are improving. In 2000, only 54 percent of Arizona women were registered to vote.



Women's Political Representation in Southern Arizona, 2009

	Cochise County	Pima County	Santa Cruz County
Percent of City, Town and Tribal Council Members who are Female	28 percent	47 percent	40 percent
Percent of Mayors who are Female	0 percent	29 percent	0 percent
Percent of Justice Court Judges who are Female	17 percent	50 percent	50 percent
Percent of Superior Judges who are Female	33 percent	42 percent	67 percent
Percent of County Supervisors who are Female	33 percent	40 percent	0 percent



Endnotes

- ¹ Data in this section are drawn from the U.S. Bureau of Census American Community Survey, and Decennial Census.
- ² The U.S. Bureau of Census and American Community Survey have changed the questions used to derive these statistics over time making comparisons to previous years impossible. The ACS question now reads "Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchild(ren) under the age of 18 who live(s) in this house or apartment?"
- ³ Meara, E., Richards, S. and Culter, D. The Gap Gets Bigger: Changes in Mortality and Life Expectancy, by Education 1981-2000. *Health Affairs*. Vol. 22:2. 2008.
- ⁴ Vernez, G., Krop, R.A., et.al. *Closing the Education Gap: Benefits and Costs*. Santa Monica, CA. RAND Corporation. 1992.
- ⁵ Data in this section are drawn from U.S. Bureau of Census American Community Survey, and Arizona Department of Education.
- ⁶ "Graduating on time" references graduating high school in four years.
- ⁷ Cheeseman, J. and Newberger, E. *The Big Pay Off: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings*. U.S. Bureau of Census. July 2002.
- ⁸ Data in this section are drawn from U. S Bureau of Census American Community Survey, Decennial Census, area community colleges, and the University of Arizona *Factbook*.
- ⁹ The exact reason why a lower percentage of certificate and degree seekers in our community colleges are women is not clear. It could be because more are getting undergraduate degrees and advanced degrees, it could be because some are transitioning to on-line and remote courses offered by non-Southern Arizona institutions, and it could be because the economy has driven some away from pursuing post-secondary education.
- ¹⁰ Data in this section are drawn from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- ¹¹ Data in this section are drawn from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- ¹² While it is estimated that most of the jobs created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will be in occupations that have historically been heavily dominated by men (construction, plumbers, electricians, etc.) some will be created in administration, managerial or scientific positions. While women have greater representation in these occupations than they do in heavy labor jobs, the proportions are still small.
- ¹³ Data in this section are drawn from U.S. Bureau of Census American Community Survey.
- ¹⁴ 2009 HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>
- ¹⁵ Data in this section are drawn from U.S. Bureau of Census American Community Survey.
- ¹⁶ Duncan, G. and Gunn, J. B. eds. *The Consequences of Growing up Poor*. Russell Sage Foundation. 1999.
- ¹⁷ Data in this section are drawn from the Arizona Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
- ¹⁸ Data in this section are drawn from the Arizona Department of Health, Vital Statistics.
- ¹⁹ Age standardization, often referred to as "age-adjustment," is a way to account for the confounding effects of differences in the age composition among different populations or across time. The age-adjusted death rate is defined as the death rate that would occur if the observed age-specific death were present in a population with an age distribution equal to a standard population.
- ²⁰ Data in this section are drawn from the Arizona Department of Health, Vital Statistics.



Endnotes continued

- ²¹ Data in this section are drawn from the U.S Bureau of Census, Small Area Estimates of Health Insurance, 2005 and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.
- ²² Joint Economic Committee. *Comprehensive Health Reform an Essential Prescription for Women*. August, 2009.
- ²³ Data in this section are drawn from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Welfare Unit.
- ²⁴ Morrison Institute for Public Policy. *System Alert: Arizona's Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence*, 2007.
- ²⁵ Data in this section are drawn from the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- ²⁶ Major crimes include murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson. Minor Crimes include manslaughter by negligence, other assaults, forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons-carrying, possessing, prostitution and vice, sex offenses, drug sales, drug possession, bookmaking, offense against the family, DUI, liquor laws, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and vagrancy.
- ²⁷ Data are drawn from U.S Bureau of Census.





2250 E. Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85719

P: (520) 622-8886 | F: (520) 770-1500

www.womengiving.org