



The State of Tempe's Children 2003

Tempe Communities For Kids Round Table
Forums

THE STATE OF TEMPE'S CHILDREN

2003

1. Introduction/Acknowledgment	1
2. Summary of General Population.....	2
Population Density	3
Ages of Tempe Residents.....	4
City of Tempe, Racial Composition.....	5
City of Tempe, Family/Non-Family Household Distribution.....	6
Poverty in Tempe and Surrounding Communities	7
3. Summary of Children.....	8
Children in Poverty in East Valley Cities	9
Timeline of Population Changes in TD#3.....	10
Race & Ethnicity Net Gain/Loss in TD#3.....	11
Selected Home Language/English Language Learners	12
Tempe Children in Poverty	13
Free/Reduced Lunch Trends, TD#3.....	14
Percent of Students in Special Ed., TD#3	15
Special Ed. Disabilities by Categories	16
Private/Charter School Enrollment	17
Miscellaneous Data by District	18
4. Summary of Economic Conditions.....	19
5. MAG Projections	20
6. Summary of CFK Focus Groups	21

Introduction

The Arizona Community Foundation's Communities for Kids--ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP is a statewide initiative designed to engage Arizona communities in the lives of young children, birth to 5 years. Tempe and Prescott were selected as pilot sites in early 2002. The objective of this planning process is to determine what needs to happen in Tempe, Arizona in order to arrive at a consensus as to what a "Community For Kids" is, why it is different from any other community, and how our children will benefit from this effort. As a group, we are striving to formulate a clear vision and create a sustainable infrastructure for providing the resources and nurturing support that families need to raise children who are healthy and ready to succeed in school. In order to achieve these goals, we need to:

- * Increase public awareness and knowledge of Birth-5 Development
- * Support comprehensive and systemic change aimed at ensuring that all parents have the knowledge and skills to support their children's early success
- * Mobilize the community of Tempe to advocate and act on behalf of all children
- * Develop sustained community engagement around our youngest citizens

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people who made it possible to compile the following information that is being shared at these Roundtable meetings; Steve Wise, Dr. Loui Olivas, Dr. John Wilson, and Sean Weiland.

We would also like to acknowledge our Communities For Kids Core Team Members:

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Patricia Goubeaux, Arizona Community Foundation
Erin Hunt, Staff
Barbara Milner, the Association For Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
Lynette Stonefeld, Tempe/Kyrene Communities In Schools (CIS)
Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe Social Services
Sherry Warren, Tempe Public Library
Susan Wilkins, Executive Director of the Association For Supportive Child Care
Jennifer Zuccone, Tempe St. Luke's Hospital



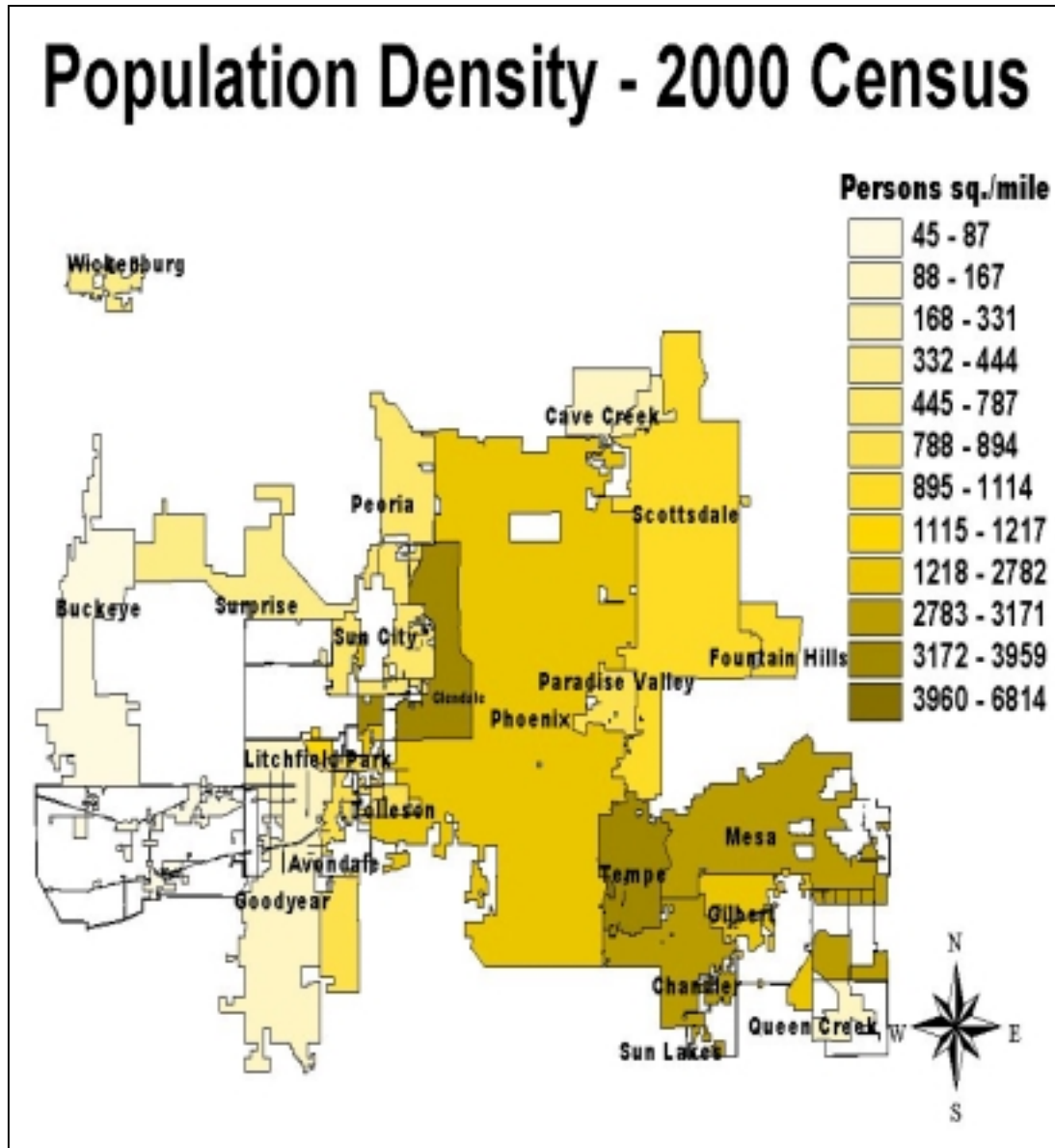
**Tempe
Community
Council**

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	Quick Facts Tempe	
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- Φ Tempe grew to a population of 158,625 in 2000, an 11.75% increase over 1990.
- Φ Tempe has a relatively small land area compared to other Maricopa County cities with 39.8 square miles.
- Φ Tempe is the densest community in Maricopa County, with over 3,900 persons per square mile. (*see graphic on page 3*)
- Φ Tempe has a very high percentage of residents ages 18-late 20's due to the university. (*see graphic on page 4*)
- Φ Tempe's minority population has increased significantly since 1990. Non-minority population grew by 2.5%, while the minority population grew by 85%. (*see graphic on pages 5*)
- Φ Just over half (51%) of Tempe residents are homeowners, while 49% are renters.
- Φ Family and non-family households are concentrated in particular areas of the city (*see graphic on page 6*)
- Φ Tempe's rate of poverty is 14.3%, which is higher than the 11.7% rate for Maricopa County. This gap has widened over the past 10 years (*see graphic on page 7*).

Population Density-2000 Census



Tempe city, Arizona

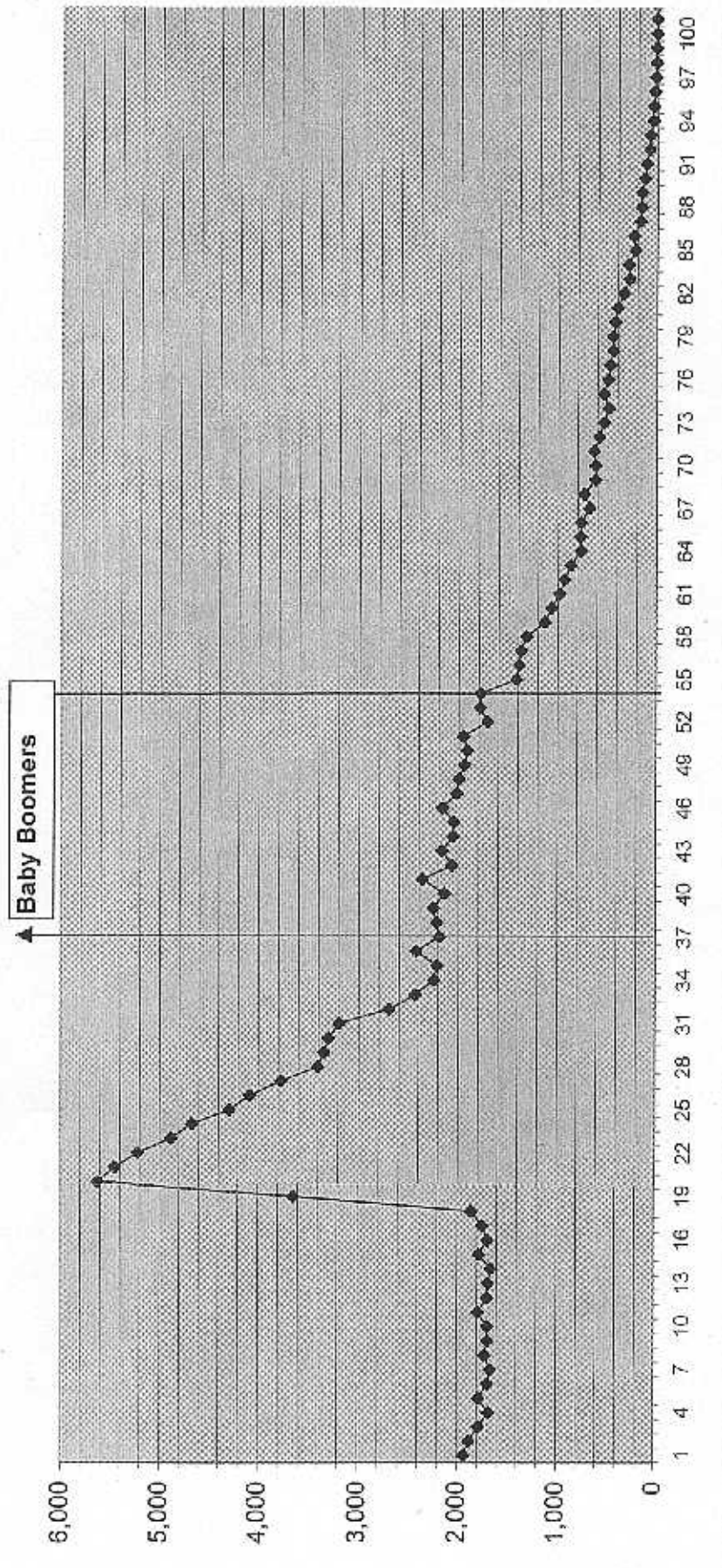
PCT3. SEX BY AGE [209] -- Universe: Total population

Race or Ethnic Group: Total population

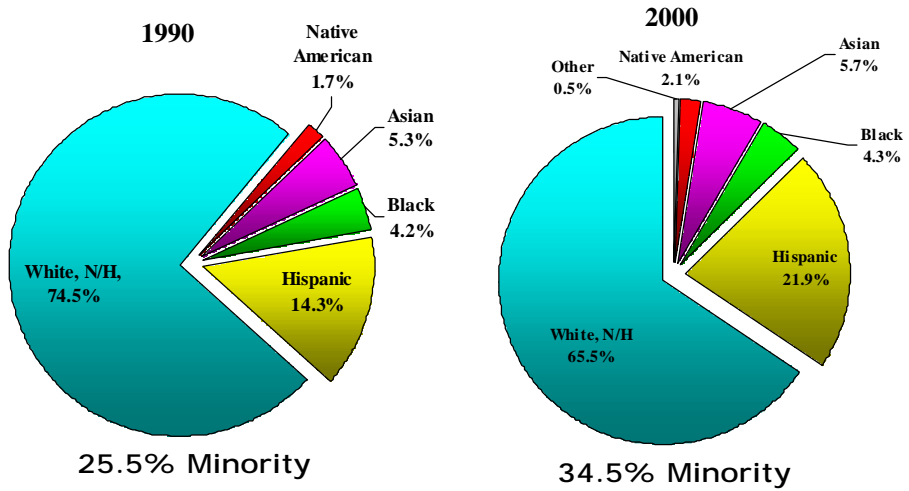
Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 2 (SF 2) 100-Percent Data

	Under 1 ye	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years
Male:	930	969	924	891	909	898	848	907	865	867	931	845	873
Female	1,005	915	861	794	876	795	817	814	828	827	860	854	815
Total:	1,935	1,884	1,785	1,685	1,785	1,693	1,665	1,721	1,693	1,694	1,791	1,699	1,688

Tempe Ages by Single Years - 2000

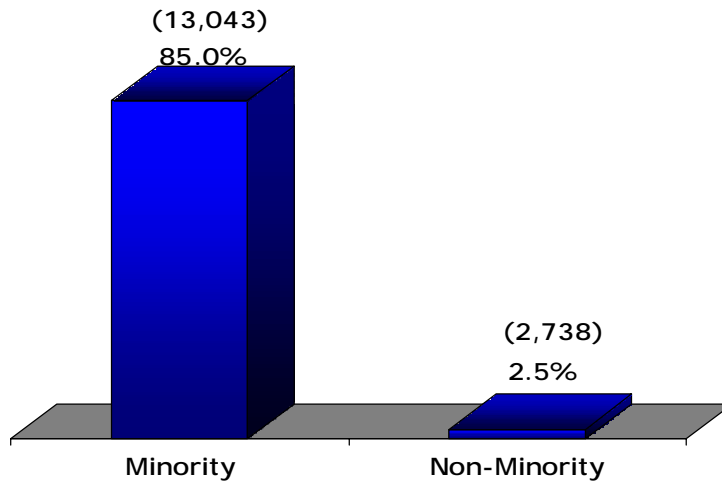


City of Tempe Racial Composition: Census 1990 & 2000



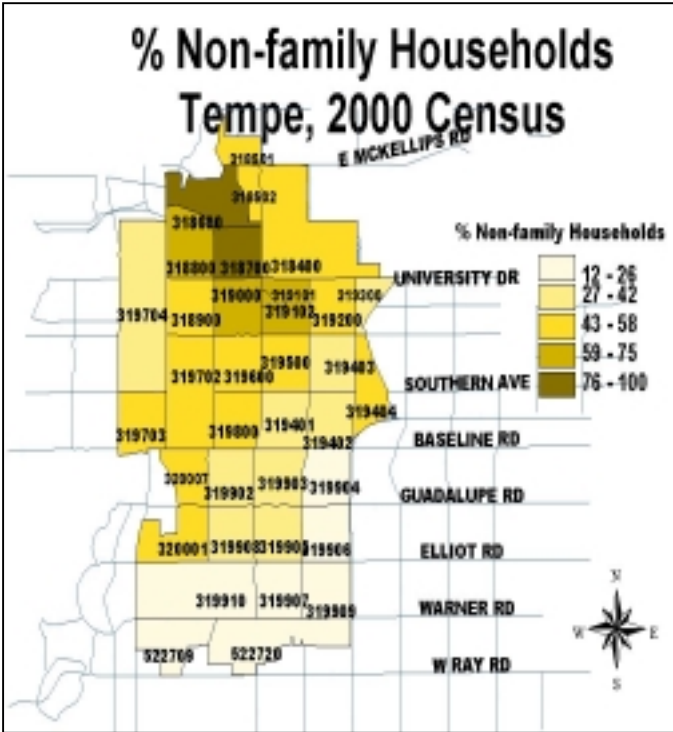
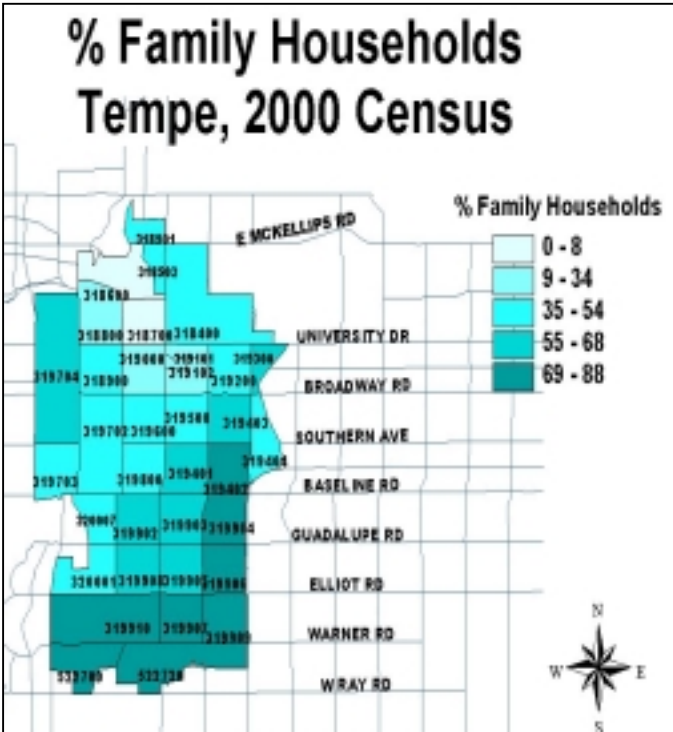
U.S. Census Bureau 2000, Census 2000 Redistricting Data Summary File
ST-99-23, July 1, 1990

City of Tempe Population: Numeric & Percent Increase 1990 - 2000



U.S. Census Bureau: 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF - 1) and
Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1)

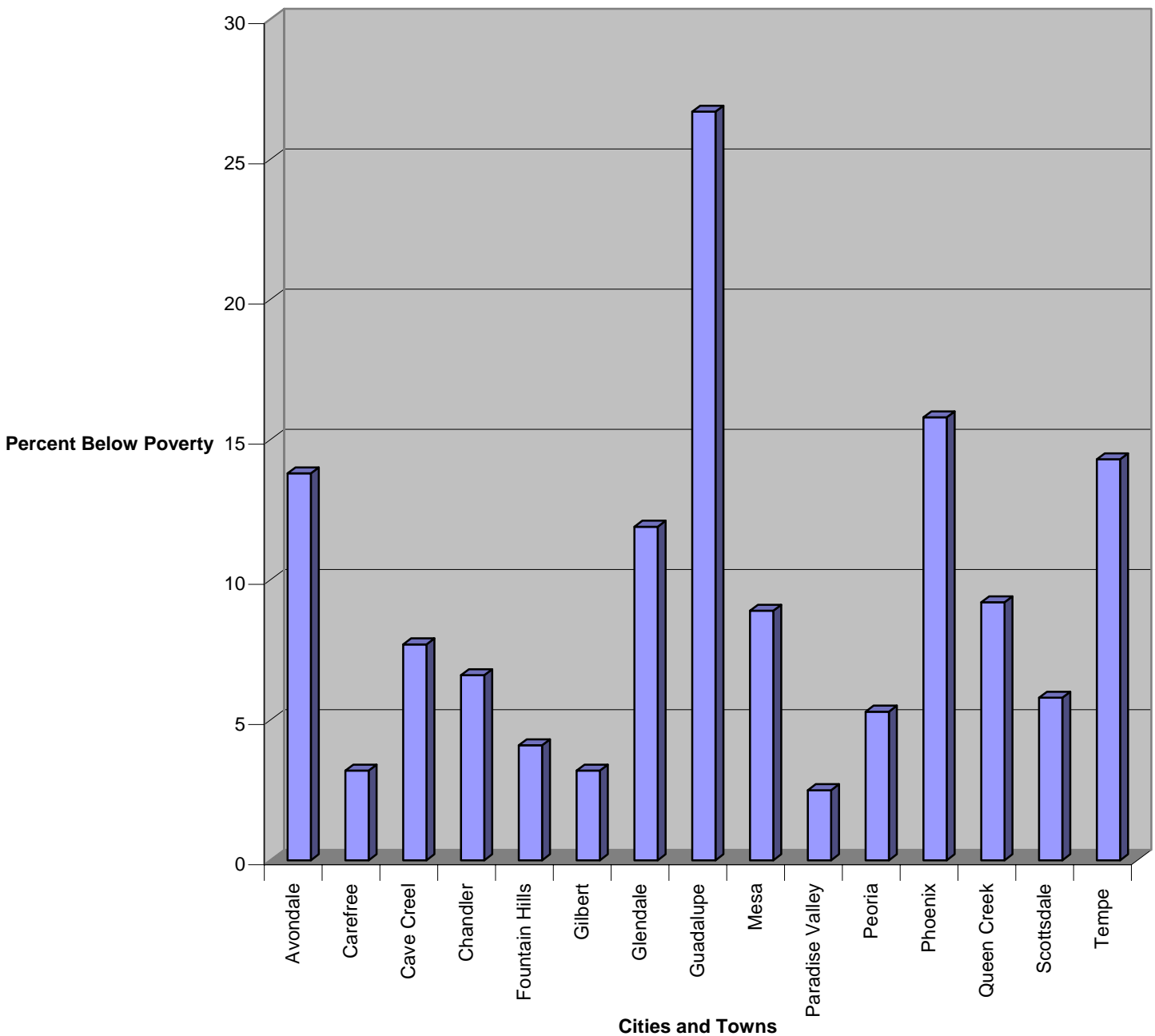
Family and Non-Family Households in Tempe



Poverty in Tempe and Surrounding Communities

Tempe's rate of poverty is 14.3%, which is higher than the 11.7% rate for Maricopa County. This gap has widened over the past 10 years.

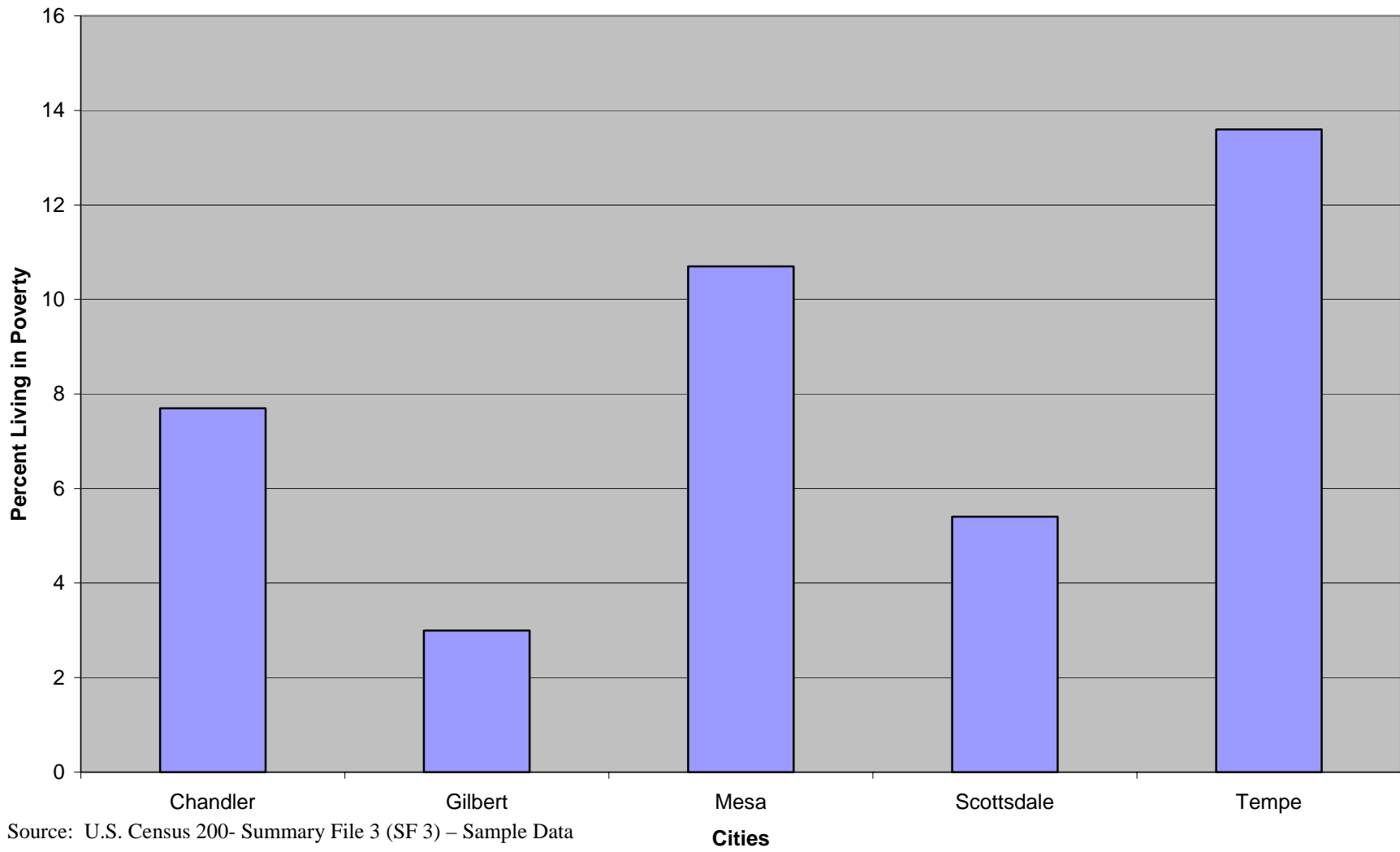
Percent of Population Below Poverty, 2000



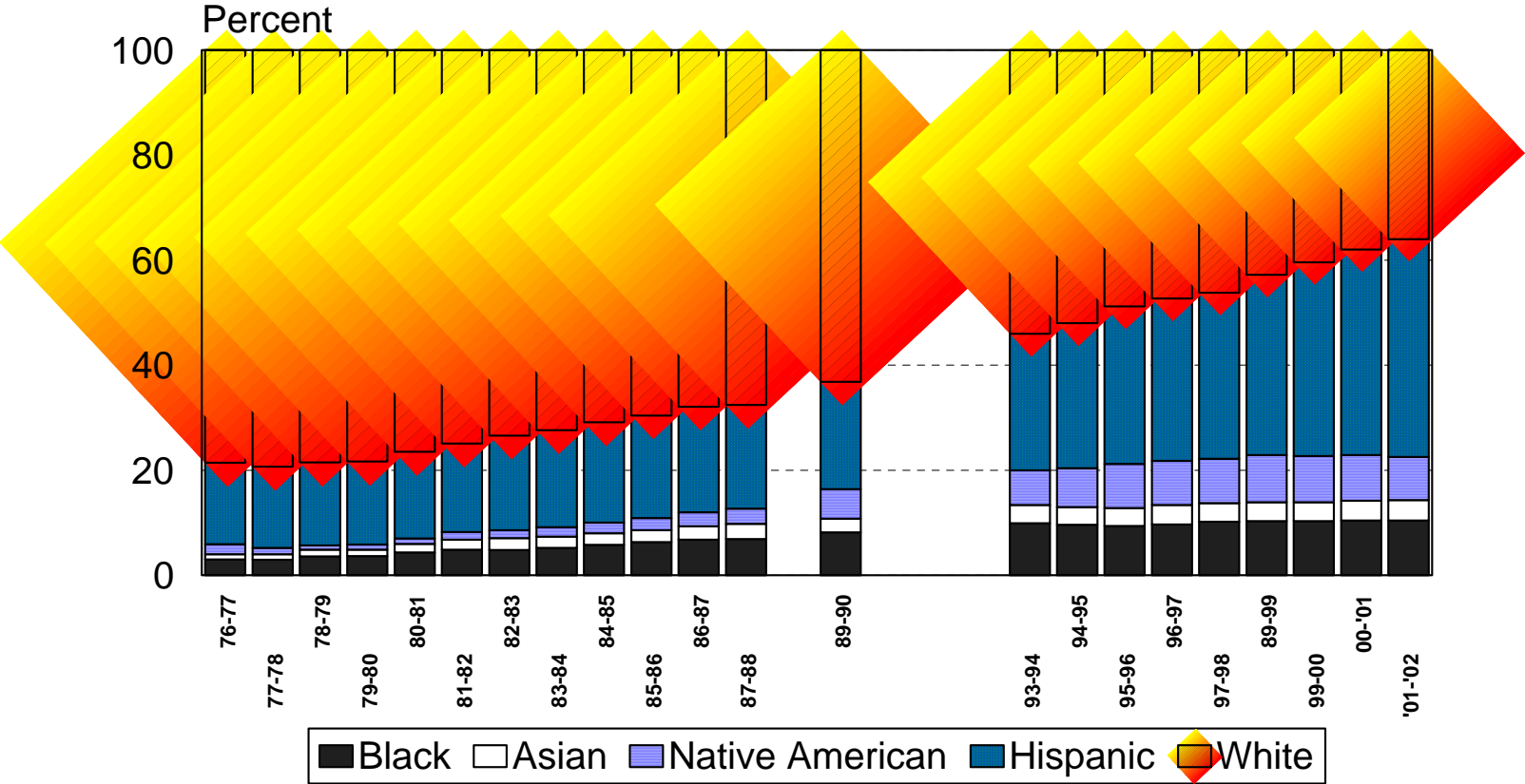
	Facts on Children Tempe	
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- Φ Just over 31,400 children under the age of 18 resident in Tempe. 9,704 of these children were under the age of 5.
- Φ Of the five most populous cities in the East Valley, Tempe has the highest rate of children living in poverty (*see graphic on page 9*).
- Φ Rates of children belonging to minority populations have increased over the past twenty-five years in the Tempe Elementary School District (TD#3) (*see graphic on page 10*).
- Φ While the total enrollment of children attending TD#3 has only increased by 3% in the past ten years, rates for all minority populations have increased by as much as 82%, while the total non-minority population has decreased by 35% (*see graphic on page 11*).
- Φ In addition to increase diversity, more Tempe families are speaking more languages other than English in their homes (*see graphic on page 12*).
- Φ Children living in poverty are clustered within the Tempe community (*see graphic on page 13*).
- Φ From 1987 to the present, the free/reduced lunch rate has increased from 22.8% to 55% (*see graphic on page 14*).
- Φ Approximately 11% of Tempe students are enrolled in Special Education (*see graphics on page 15 and 16*).
- Φ There are 2,013 students in private schools in Tempe and 1,899 students enrolled in charter schools in Tempe. It is not known in what city these students reside.

Children in Poverty in East Valley Cities



Distribution of Racial/Ethnic Groups in Tempe School District No. 3

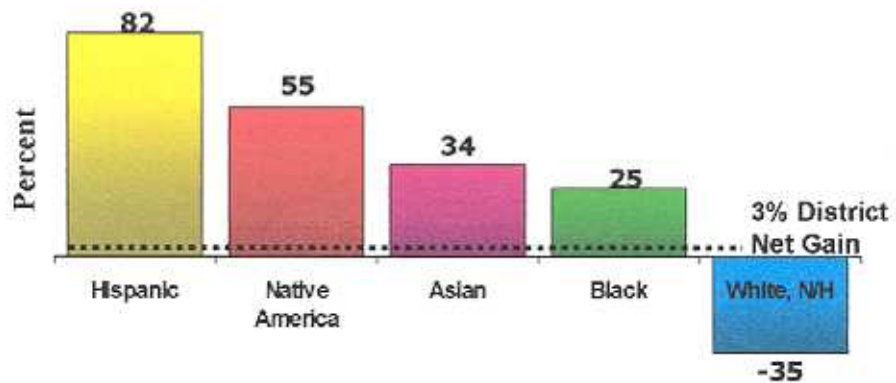


Note: Figures for the 2001-02 School Year are based on 13,480 Students.

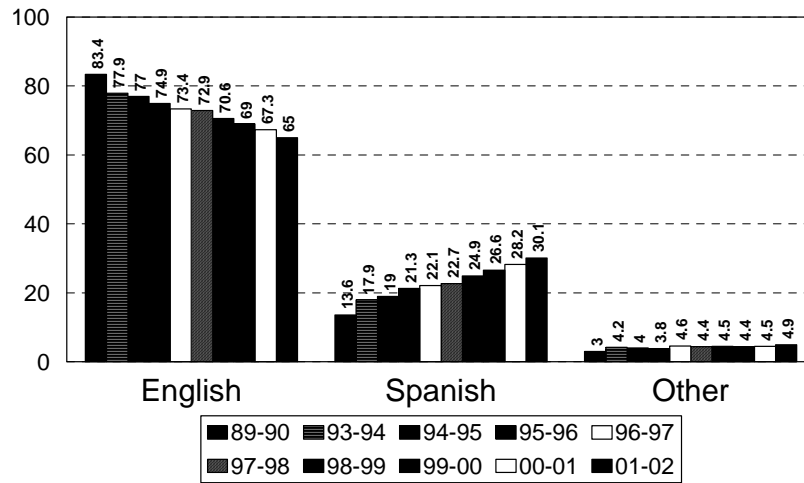
Enrollment Trends in Tempe ESD Race and Ethnicity / Grade Level K-8 (1990/91 - 2000/01)

Year	Total District Enrollment	White, Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander
1990-91	12,491	7,567	1,090	2,758	707	369
2000-01	12,882	4,919	1,367	5,007	1,095	494
Net Gain	391	<2,648>	277	2,249	388	125
Net % Gain	3%	<35%>	25%	82%	55%	34%

Enrollment Trends in Tempe ESD Race and Ethnicity / Grade Level K-8 (1990/91 - 2000/01)

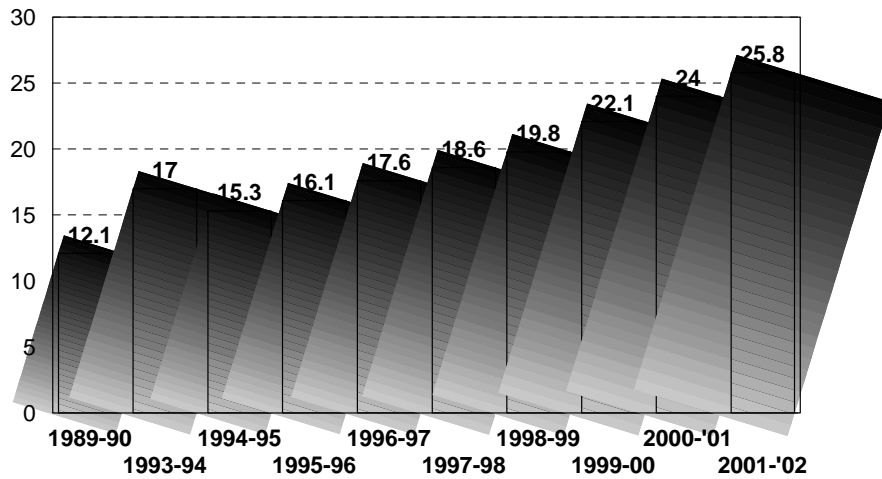


Percent of Students With Selected Home Language



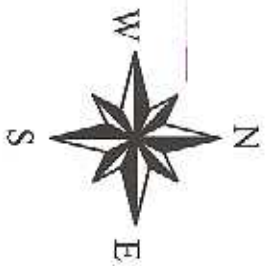
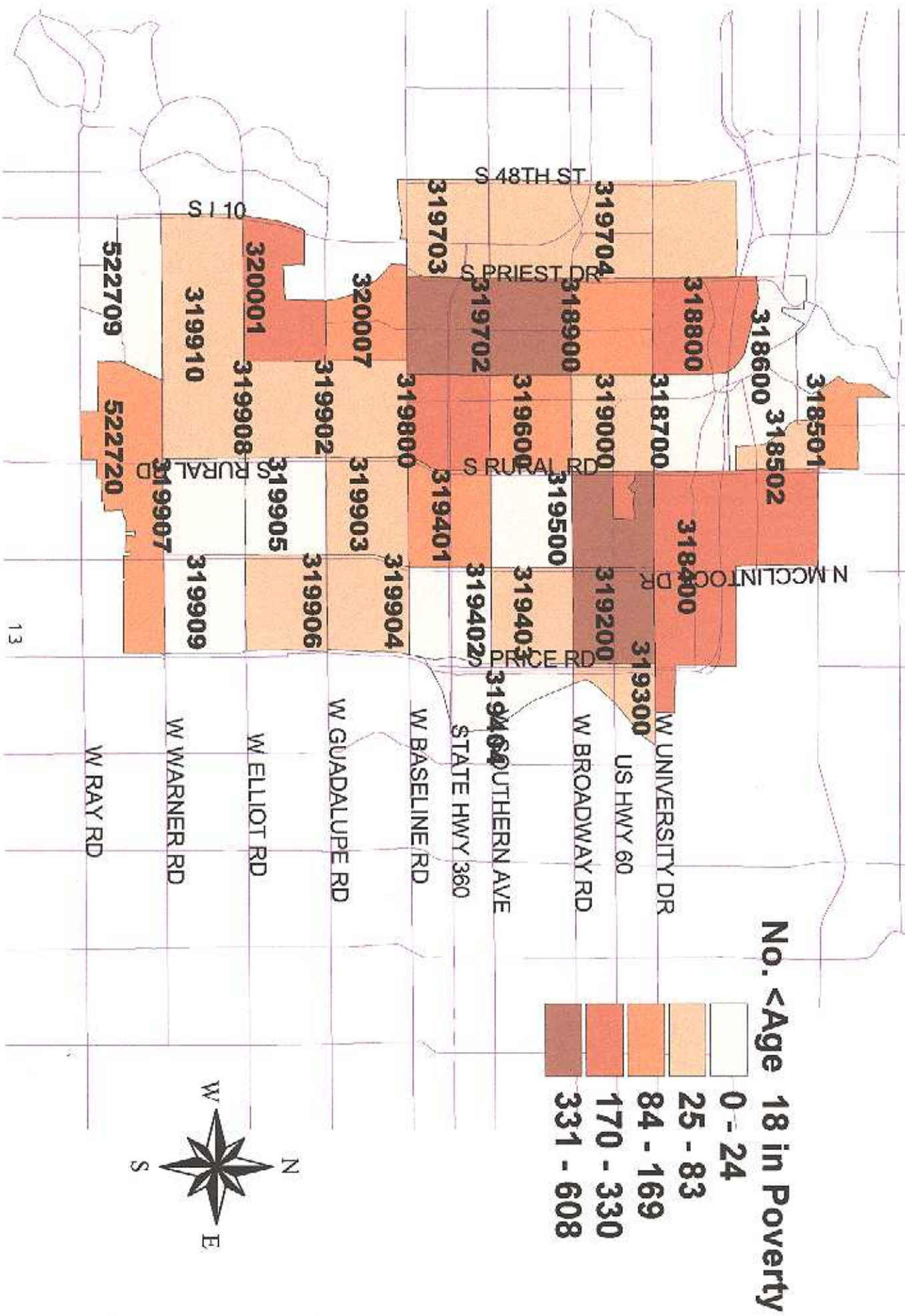
Note: Figures for the 2001-02 School Year are based on 13,480 Students.

Percent of Students Listed as English Language Learners Tempe Elementary Schools

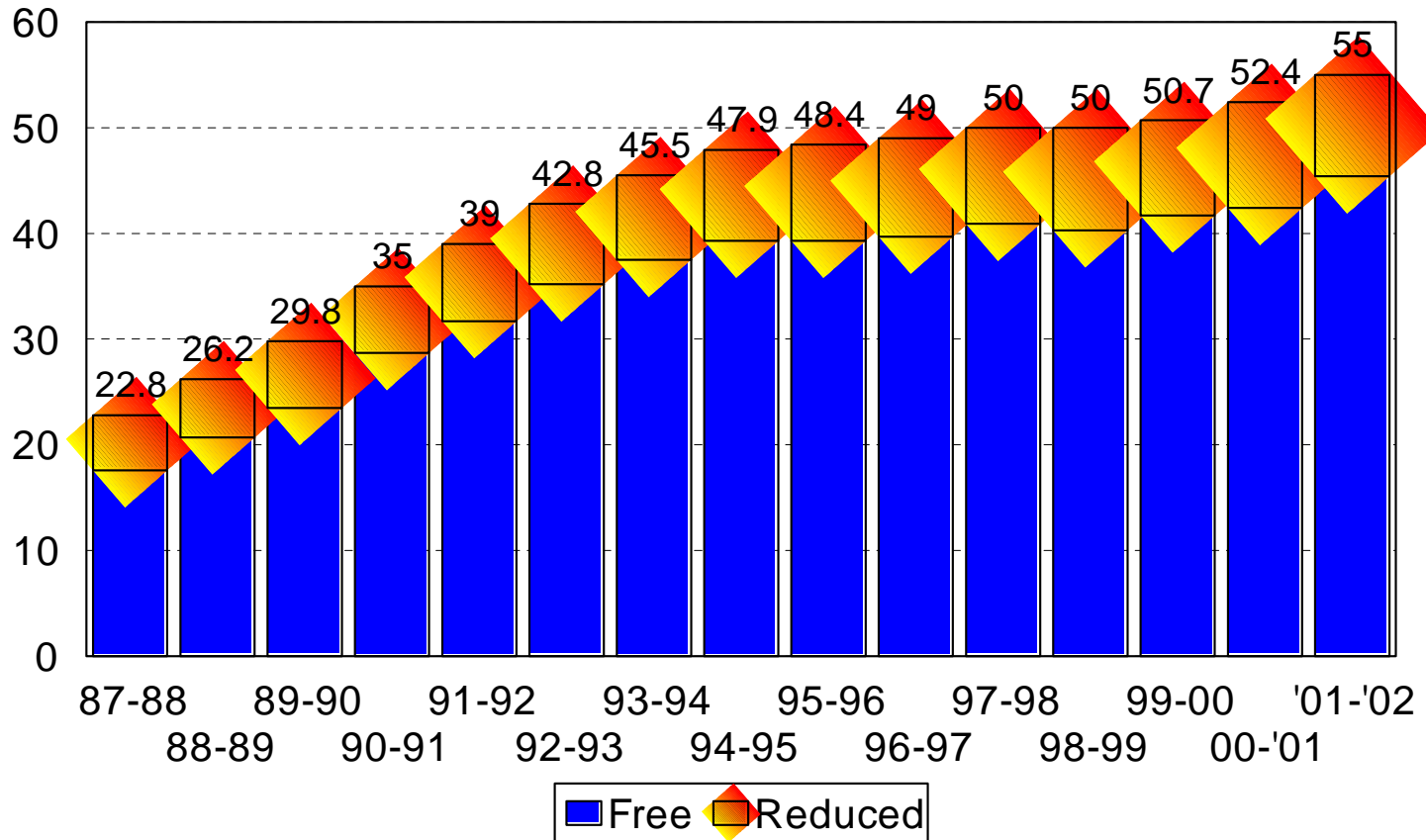


Year 2001-02 count of students classified as ELL: 3472.

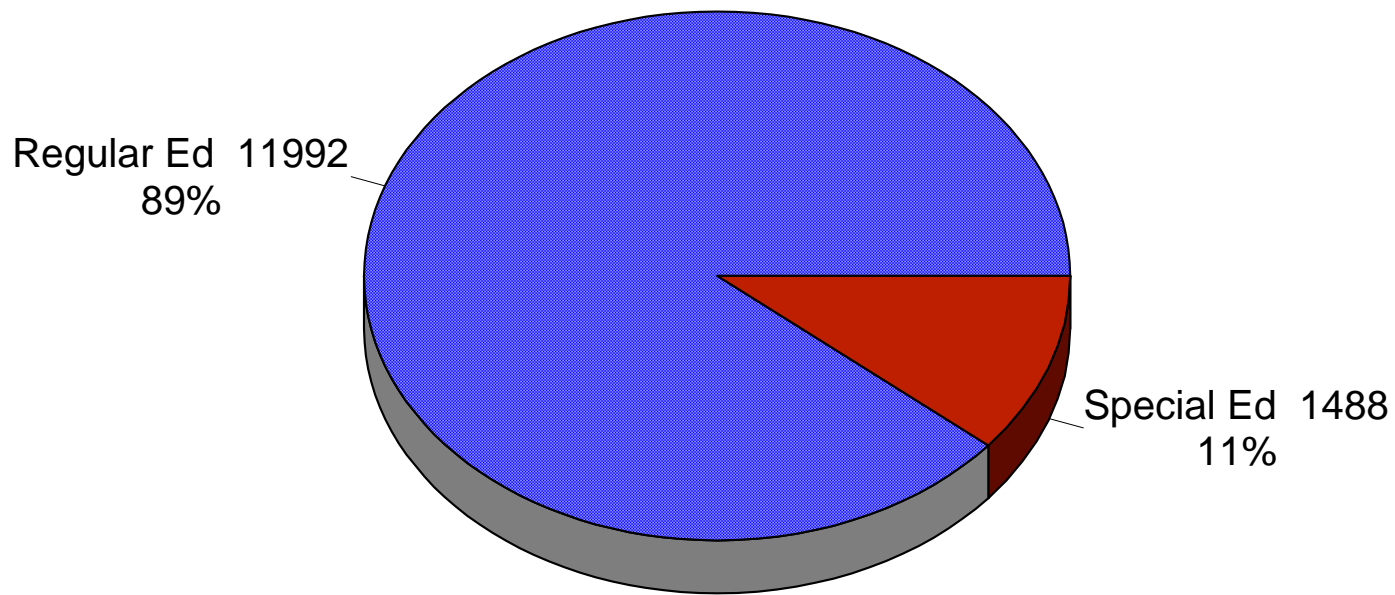
Tempe Children in Poverty - 2000 Census



Percent of Students on Free and Reduced Lunch Tempe Elementary Schools

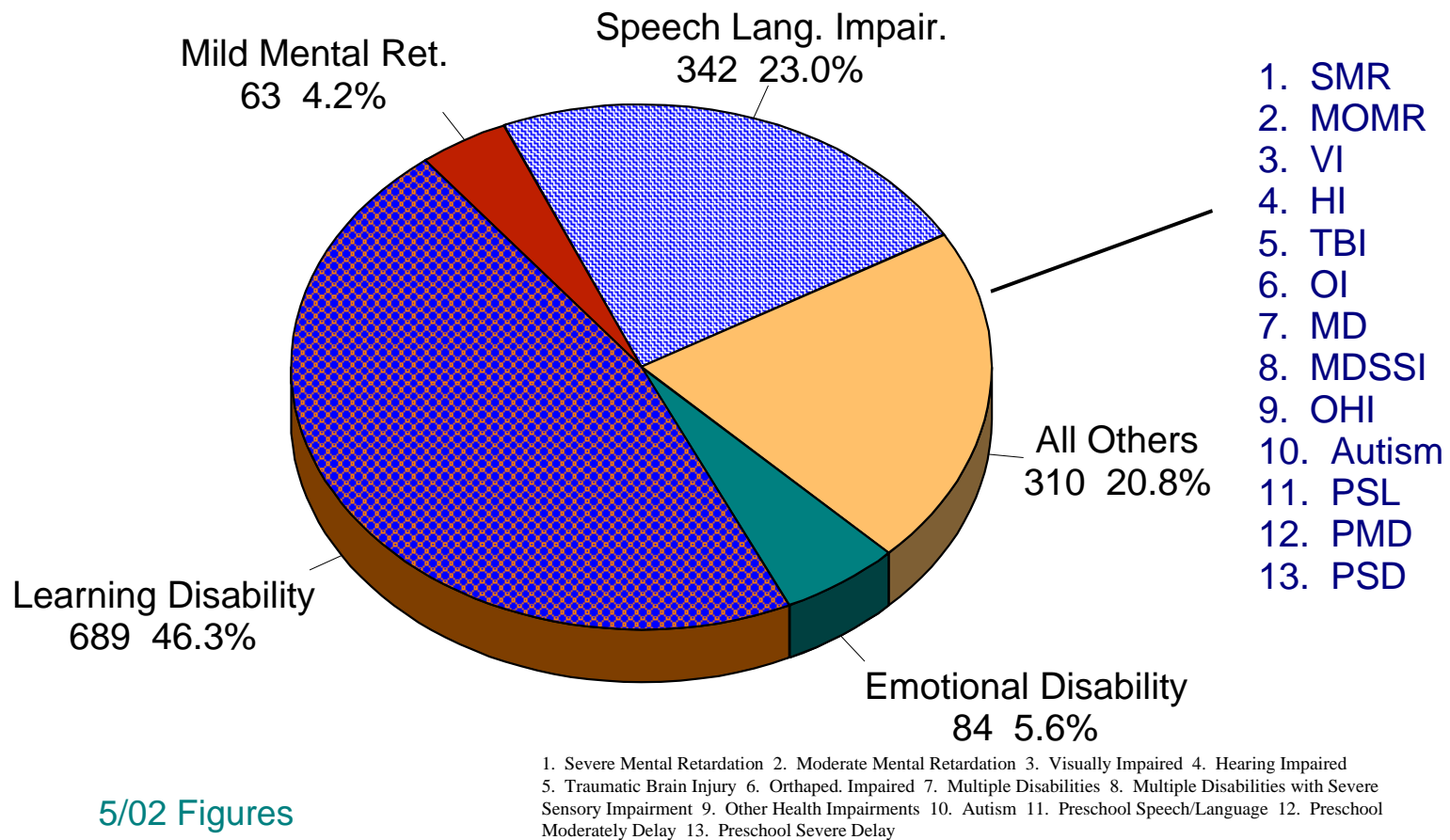


Distribution of Students in Regular Education and Special Education



5/02 Figures

Number and Percent of Special Education Students in Disability Categories



5/02 Figures

Tempe Private Schools Enrollment

School:	Enrollment:
Emmanuel Lutheran	129
Gethsemane Lutheran	135
Grace Com. Christian School	499
Montessori Day Care	78
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	481
Phoenix Metro Islamic School	67
Sunrise Preschool 102	65
Tempe Adventist Christian School	47
Tri-City Christian Academy	389
Tri-City Jcc School	23
Tempe Christian School	100
TOTAL	2013

Tempe Public Charter Schools Enrollment

School:	Enrollment:	Attendance %:	%Free and reduced Lunch
Center for Educational Excellence	78	96	49
Classical Kids Academy	39	99	-
D.W. Higgins	185	96	-
Grand Canyon College Preparatory	25	88	-
Humanities and Science High School	-	-	-
Integrity Education Center	104	90	68
International Commerce Institute	85	-	-
James Madison Preparatory School	130	98	-
LS Legends	254	98	-
Learning Crossroads Basic Academy	128	100	24
Montessori Day Public Schools	78	-	-
Pinnacle High School	174	100	-
Student Choice High School	43	100	-
Tempe Accelerated High School	326	100	-
Tempe Preparatory Academy	214	100	-
Tutor Time Charter School	36	100	
TOTAL	1,899		

TD#3 Stats

Enrollment:	%Free and Reduced Lunch:	% of Children with special needs:	Disciplinary referrals:	Attendance %:
13502	57.42	10.93	3219	95

Kyrene Schools in Tempe

School:	Enrollment	% Free/ Reduced lunch	% of Children with special needs	Disciplinary Referrals	Attendance %:
Kyrene de la Mariposa	531	11	10.36	1	95
Kyrene de Las Manitas	681	12	11.89	0	96
Kyrene de los Ninos	567	51	11.29	13	94
Kyrene del Norte	452	35	17.04	2	95
Total	2,231				

Languages Spoken in TD#3 Homes: 125
% of Children without Health Insurance in Arizona: 12.9%
Tempe Union High School Enrollment: 13,023
Tempe Union Attendance Rate: 96.5%

Tempe Union High School District Drop-out rates June 99

WHITE		BLACK		HISPANIC		IND/AM/AL		ASIAN/PAC		TOTAL		TOTAL
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
3.75	2.80	8.40	4.49	8.18	6.35	12.95	9.50	4.27	2.19	5.33	4.12	4.74

Child Care Resource and Referral on Child Care Programs in Tempe

of Child Care Centers: 68
of Family Group Home Providers: 5
of Certified Family Home Providers: 7
of Registered Family Home Providers: 37

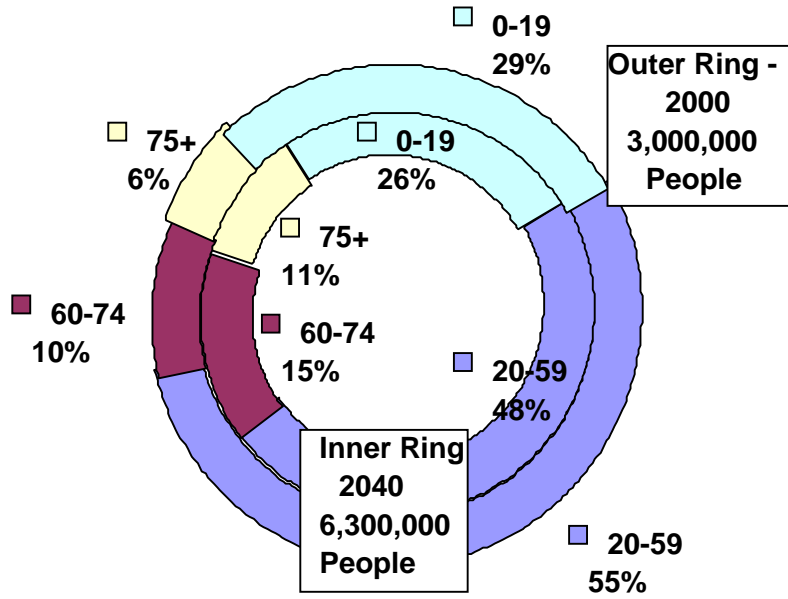
Summary of Economic Conditions

- Tempe has the highest concentration of high technology firms in Arizona. In addition, Tempe has the densest industrial area in Arizona, and two zip codes (85282 and 85281) represent the highest concentration of businesses in Arizona. While Tempe represents less than 4% of the State's population, more than 15% of Arizona's high-tech companies are located in Tempe.
- Many of Tempe's manufacturing and service firms are international companies. Familiar names include AlliedSignal, America West Airlines, Nelco Technology, Medtronic Micro-Rel, MicroAge, Microchip Technology, Simula and Varian. Some of Tempe's larger employers include Arizona State University, 14,000 employees; Salt River Project, 2,175; AlliedSignal, 1,800; America West Airlines, 4,000; Motorola, 3,775; Tempe Elementary School District, 1,700; Chase BankCard Services, 1,700; and City of Tempe, 2,000.
- Tempe has one of the largest "affordability gaps" in housing in the East Valley at 15%. (Mesa – 5%, Chandler- 9%, Scottsdale- 14%.) This measurement compares median income to housing prices.
- 21% of Tempe households pay more than they can afford for housing (>30% of income). This creates a situation of frequently being only a paycheck away from homelessness for many families.
- Almost half (40%) of all new jobs created are expected to pay less than half of the livable wage.
- Young children are disproportionately represented among Tempe's poor. The highest poverty rates in the community include female-headed households with children under age five (38.1%) and all families with children under age five (17.4%).

Maricopa Association of Governments

Maricopa Association of Governments has compiled projections of coming changes in Maricopa County over the next 40 years.

Age Groups 2000-2040 Maricopa County Population



Focus Group Results

The Tempe Community for Kids project conducted five focus groups, facilitated by an independent consultant, to gather ideas and concerns from parents about the community support needed to raise children, especially young children. The data will be used by the Tempe Community for Kids task force as part of their planning process. The focus groups, completed during September through November 2002, included members of 65 households from different geographic areas of Tempe. Demographic descriptors of the participants are included in Appendix A. Groups comprised of primarily Spanish-speaking participants were conducted through an interpreter. The focus groups were as follows:

Frank School Family Literacy Program – Spanish-speaking parents
Escalante Community Center – Spanish-speaking parents from a school-based nutrition program
Escalante Community Center – open enrollment evening group, English-speaking parents
Association for Supportive Child Care – day care providers (participating also as parents)
Cielo Elementary School Parents as First Teachers class

During the two-hour sessions, participants responded to a series of open-ended questions designed to elicit their perceptions about their experiences as parents, the community support systems they currently use, and ideas to make the community even more supportive of families with children. The questions are included in Appendix B.

The focus group sessions were intended to produce qualitative, anecdotal data of participant perceptions of community support for raising their children. Participant comments were written on a flip chart by the facilitator and tape recorded with the permission of the participants to ensure accuracy in reporting the data. Participants were guaranteed confidentiality and asked to speak openly. The data analysis identifies trends and patterns based on a content analysis of their comments. Results are not intended to draw quantitative, statistical conclusions regarding these issues.

Summary of Results

The purpose of the focus groups is to provide an assessment of issues affecting families with children, not recommendations or solutions. Although participants answered thirteen different questions during the group sessions, all were aimed at providing insight into one key issue for the planning task force: what would be included in a community that was VERY supportive of families with young children. The following eight statements sum up the main points. A discussion of each statement and the participant comments supporting each statement, when relevant, are included in section III of this report.

1. Participants expressed a need for more childcare choices, especially options for occasional childcare use and after-hours care.
2. Language is a significant barrier that diminishes a non-English speaking parent's confidence and sense of belonging in the community.
3. Participants receive nutrition and health information for their children primarily from the schools or government-sponsored programs such as WIC, their doctor, if they have health insurance, or from the media.

4. Government agencies such as police and fire departments and the media are the main sources of safety information for parents.
5. Participants value their children's' education and want to ensure that their children are recognized and treated as individuals by the school system.
6. Parks and libraries provide a significant source of low-cost social, recreational and educational activities for families. Participants expressed a need for more free recreation options for teens.
7. Participants need help keeping their children safe from outside influences such as peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, and drug dealers in their neighborhood.
8. Participants expressed a desire for opportunities to connect with other parents and discuss issues related to caring for their children.