

APPENDIX D. Arizona Poverty Statistics

Arizona's low income utility customers are located throughout the state, with higher concentrations in certain metropolitan and rural locations. Arizona's 1996 poverty rate of 20.5 percent is significantly higher than the national average of 13.7 percent, based upon United States Census Bureau estimates. Within Arizona, the percentage of people in poverty has risen from 12.8 percent in 1980 to 13.7 percent in 1990 to an estimated 20.5 percent in 1996. As shown in data from Table 2, the total number of low income people increased 61 percent in Arizona from 1980 to 1990, compared to a national increase of 16 percent. Federal poverty thresholds in 1996 were \$10,233 for a two person family and \$16,036 for a four person family at 100 percent of the poverty level.

Most tables in this Appendix reflect the 100 percent poverty level. Because utility programs often use 125 or 150 percent of the poverty level to determine eligibility for their low income programs, significantly more people are eligible for these programs than are shown with the 100 percent threshold.

In 1993, poverty levels in Arizona counties ranged from 40.8 percent in Apache County to 12.8 percent in Greenlee County, with Maricopa County at 16.0 percent and Pima County at 19.0 percent. In 1990, of the cities listed in Table 8, the Arizona city with the highest poverty rate was Chinle at 57.9 percent and the lowest poverty rate was 2.4 percent at Sun Lakes. Other city level poverty rates include Phoenix at 14.2 percent, Tucson at 20.2 percent, and Mesa at 9.5 percent. The following tables present a variety of information on the poverty levels in on a city, county, state, and national basis.

Section 1. National and Statewide Statistics

Table 1. Federal Poverty Thresholds at 100 Percent

Family Unit Size	Actual Dollars			Adjusted to 1997 Dollars ¹		
	1980	1990	1996	1980	1990	1996
2 Person Family	\$5,363	\$8,509	\$10,233	\$10,923	\$10,663	\$10,442
3 Person Family	\$6,565	\$10,419	\$12,516	\$13,371	\$13,056	\$12,771
4 Person Family	\$8,414	\$13,359	\$16,036	\$17,136	\$16,741	\$16,363
6 Person Family	\$11,269	\$17,839	\$21,389	\$22,951	\$22,355	\$21,826

Source: United States Census Bureau

¹ The adjustment to 1997 dollars is based upon the 1997 Gross Domestic Product Index.

Table 2. Number of Poor and Poverty Rate

	1980		1990		1996	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
United States	27,392,580	12.4	31,742,864	13.1	36,529,000	13.7
Arizona	351,365	13.2	564,362	15.7	980,000	20.5
California	2,626,580	11.4	3,627,585	12.5	5,472,000	16.9
New Mexico	225,513	17.6	305,934	20.6	472,000	25.5

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census. Data for 1996 are based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and are provided to illustrate trends only.

Source: United States Census Bureau

Table 3. National Percent of Persons by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level

Ratio of Income to Poverty Level	1980	1990	1996
50%	4.4%	5.2%	5.4%
75%	8.3%	9.1%	9.3%
100%	13.0%	13.5%	13.7%
125%	18.1%	18.0%	18.5%
150%	23.1%	22.7%	23.4%
175%	28.4%	27.6%	28.5%
200%	33.9%	32.3%	33.5%

Note: This table is read in the following way. For example, 18.1 percent of people had an income below 125 percent of the poverty level in 1980 and 23.1 percent of people had an income below 150 percent of the poverty level in 1980.

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census. Data for 1996 are based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and are provided to illustrate trends only.

Source: United States Census Bureau

Table 4. National Percent of Persons in Poverty, by Residence

	1980	1990	1996
Metropolitan	11.9%	12.7%	13.2%
Metropolitan, Central City	17.2%	19.0%	19.6%
Metropolitan, Not Central City	8.2%	8.7%	9.4%
Non-metropolitan	15.4%	16.3%	15.9%

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census. Data for 1996 are based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and are provided to illustrate trends only.

Source: United States Census Bureau

Section 2. Arizona County and City Statistics

As noted earlier, most tables in this Appendix reflect the 100 percent poverty level. Because utility programs often use 125 or 150 percent of the poverty level to determine eligibility for their low income programs, significantly more people are eligible for these programs than are shown with the 100 percent threshold.

Table 5. Poverty by County

County	1980		1990		1993	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Apache	20,675	40.0	28,640	47.1	27,120	40.8
Cochise	12,393	14.9	18,721	20.3	22,998	21.9
Coconino	14,141	20.4	20,805	23.1	22,937	22.0
Gila	5,961	16.2	7,234	18.3	9,543	21.3
Graham	4,132	19.3	6,523	26.7	7,150	26.1
Greenlee	1,002	8.8	1,010	12.6	1,172	12.8
La Paz*	N/A	N/A	3,875	28.2	3,774	26.4
Maricopa	156,813	10.5	257,359	12.3	379,587	16.0
Mohave	6,207	11.2	13,049	14.2	20,791	17.7
Navajo	19,963	29.7	26,458	34.7	27,034	31.2
Pima	67,739	13.0	111,880	17.2	139,155	19.0
Pinal	16,000	18.2	26,152	23.6	31,868	25.7
Santa Cruz	3,700	18.1	7,796	26.4	9,871	27.4
Yavapai	8,652	13.0	14,308	13.6	19,145	15.0
Yuma	13,987	16.0	20,552	19.9	35,412	28.0
Arizona	351,365	13.2	564,362	15.7	757,556	18.5

* La Paz County was part of Yuma County in 1980. La Paz County was incorporated in 1983.

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census. Data for 1993 are based on the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program and are provided to illustrate trends only.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Table 6. Median Household Income by County, All Households

County	Actual Dollars			Adjusted to 1997 Dollars ²		
	1980	1990	1993	1980	1990	1993
Apache	11,057	14,100	18,860	22,519	17,669	20,657
Cochise	13,668	22,425	26,346	27,837	28,102	28,857
Coconino	15,962	26,112	29,341	32,509	32,722	32,137
Gila	13,828	20,964	23,204	28,163	26,271	25,415
Graham	12,479	18,455	23,221	25,415	23,127	25,434
Greenlee	21,396	27,491	34,590	43,576	34,450	37,886
La Paz*	N/A	16,555	20,354	N/A	20,746	22,294
Maricopa	17,728	30,797	33,916	36,106	38,593	37,148
Mohave	14,160	24,002	24,232	28,839	30,078	26,541
Navajo	13,593	19,452	22,762	27,684	24,376	24,931
Pima	15,796	25,401	28,704	32,171	31,831	31,439
Pinal	14,478	21,301	23,521	29,487	26,693	25,762
Santa Cruz	14,575	22,066	21,824	29,684	27,652	23,904
Yavapai	13,076	22,060	24,110	26,631	27,644	26,407
Yuma	13,589	23,635	23,001	27,676	29,618	25,193
Arizona	16,448	27,540	28,427	33,499	34,511	31,136

* La Paz County was part of Yuma County in 1980. La Paz County was incorporated in 1983.

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census. Data for 1993 are based on the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program and are provided to illustrate trends only. Source: Bureau of the Census.

Table 7. Households in Poverty by County

County	1980		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Apache	4,523	35.8	7,171	44.2
Cochise	4,243	14.6	6,358	18.1
Coconino	3,957	18.1	6,288	20.8
Gila	1,973	15.4	2,687	17.2
Graham	1,366	20.7	2,010	24.7
Greenlee	348	9.6	385	13.9
La Paz*	N/A	N/A	1,362	25.1
Maricopa	57,024	10.5	88,126	10.9
Mohave	2,425	11.5	4,314	11.7
Navajo	4,792	26.2	7,081	31.5
Pima	26,019	13.3	40,959	15.6
Pinal	4,772	16.8	8,058	20.6
Santa Cruz	1,068	17.8	2,153	24.3
Yavapai	3,585	13.5	5,941	13.2
Yuma	4,467	15.0	5,926	16.5
Arizona	120,562	12.6	188,819	13.8

* La Paz County was part of Yuma County in 1980. La Paz County was incorporated in 1983.

Note: The 1980 and 1990 data are based on the decennial census.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

¹ The adjustment to 1997 dollars is based upon the 1997 Gross Domestic Product Index.

Table 8. Arizona City/Town Poverty Levels - 1990

City	People in Poverty		Households in Poverty	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Apache Junction	3,005	16.7	1,259	16.3
Avondale	4,493	28.2	1,237	25.2
Bisbee	1,351	21.6	539	20.2
Buckeye	1,238	24.6	371	21.8
Bullhead City	2,749	12.8	925	10.5
Camp Verde	1,229	20.3	439	18.9
Casa Grande	3,274	17.4	1,117	17.2
Chandler	8,701	9.7	2,491	7.9
Chinle	2,798	57.9	560	49.0
Clifton	367	13.3	175	17.8
Coolidge	2,497	36.2	687	29.4
Cottonwood-Verde Village	797	11.3	320	11.3
Douglas	5,512	43.1	1,559	38.3
Duncan	124	18.8	52	19.8
Eloy	2,631	36.7	721	35.1
Flagstaff	6,813	17.2	2,633	18.3
Flowing Wells	2,137	15.3	761	13.1
Fort Defiance	1,219	28.2	257	24.2
Fortuna Foothills	699	9.0	330	9.0
Fountain Hills	437	4.4	194	4.9
Gilbert	1,799	6.2	568	6.1
Glendale	16,756	11.5	6,164	11.5
Globe	682	11.7	294	12.5
Green Valley	397	3.0	277	3.7
Guadalupe	2,175	40.1	451	39.6
Kayenta	1,638	37.5	353	33.3
Kingman	1,167	9.4	542	11.0
Lake Havasu City	1,958	8.1	754	7.6
Mesa	27,087	9.5	9,976	9.2
Miami	424	21.1	158	21.2
Mohave Valley	836	12.2	273	10.8
Morenci	115	6.2	28	5.0
New Kingman-Butler	1,742	15.0	710	15.1
Nogales	6,051	31.2	1,689	32.0
Oro Valley	355	5.3	184	6.5
Page	604	9.2	216	10.6
Paradise Valley	388	3.3	170	3.9
Parker	492	17.0	166	17.5
Parker Strip	226	14.0	112	13.5
Patagonia	285	30.9	112	29.3
Payson	984	11.9	492	13.4
Peoria	3,914	7.9	1,278	7.0
Phoenix	137,406	14.2	46,293	12.5
Pima	428	24.9	138	23.7
Prescott	3,354	13.3	1,544	13.5

City	People in Poverty		Households in Poverty	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Prescott Valley	846	9.6	342	9.8
Quartzsite	430	23.5	163	19.9
Safford	1,431	20.1	592	22.8
St. Johns	370	11.2	141	15.0
San Luis	1,648	34.9	353	33.1
Scottsdale	7,583	5.9	3,870	6.7
Sedona	681	8.9	411	10.8
Show Low	927	18.5	302	17.3
Sierra Vista	3,288	10.7	1,247	10.7
Sierra Vista SE	952	10.3	321	9.3
Somerton	2,320	44.0	561	45.0
South Tucson	2,572	50.9	869	53.1
Sun City	2,021	5.4	1,559	6.7
Sun City West	560	3.5	386	4.4
Sun Lakes	160	2.4	92	2.6
Surprise	1,953	28.0	538	23.9
Tempe	18,603	13.6	7,362	13.3
Thatcher	810	22.6	255	22.3
Tuba City	2,622	36.2	520	29.5
Tucson	79,287	20.2	31,374	19.3
Wickenburg	689	15.8	330	15.9
Winslow	1,687	21.0	520	19.2
Yuma	8,621	16.0	2,797	14.5

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1990 Census