



# FATHERLESSNESS IN ARIZONA

Jack Brewer | August 25, 2022

Fatherhood is foundational to strong families, and strong families are essential to a strong nation. An absent father affects all aspects of a child's life, from socio-cognitive and socio-emotional development to academic performance and criminality. Unfortunately, the effects of fatherlessness are visible in the state of **Arizona**.

## FATHERLESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

- ★ Approximately **18.4 million** children in the United States live without a biological father, stepfather, or adoptive father present in the home.
- ★ **23%** of children in the United States are raised by a single parent. This is more than three times the world average (**7%**) of children raised by a single parent, and the highest rate of any country on Earth.
- ★ Approximately **41%** of children are born to unwed mothers. For women under age 30, the unwed birth rate increases to **53%**.
- ★ Fathers are absent in approximately 80% of single-parent homes.
- ★ Fatherless children are **more likely** to suffer from psychosocial development issues, live in poverty, drop out of school, engage in school violence, abuse substances, and enter the juvenile justice system.
- ★ **63%** of youth suicide victims, **90%** of all homeless and runaway children, **70%** of juveniles in state-operated institutes, **85%** of youths in prisons, and **80%** of rapists come from fatherless homes.

## FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY IN ARIZONA

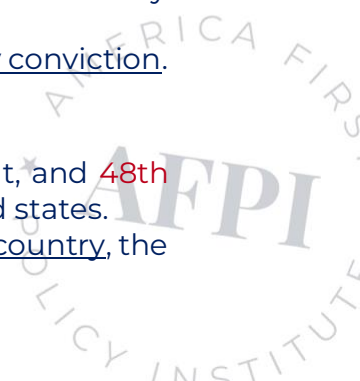
- ★ **36,000** births per year are to unwed mothers. This is equal to approximately **45%** of all annual births in Arizona.
- ★ Approximately **574,000** Arizona children, or **37%** of all children in the state, live in single-parent households.
- ★ This includes approximately **313,000** Hispanic children, **45,000** Black children, **61,000** Native American children, and **152,000** white children.

## CRIME IN ARIZONA

- ★ **868** of every **100,000** people in Arizona are incarcerated, compared to an incarceration rate of **664 per 100,000** in the United States as a whole.
- ★ Arizona spends more than **\$1 billion** on its prison system every year, and the prison population in Arizona has grown by **60%** since 2000 alone. This is nearly double the rate of general population growth.
- ★ **1 in 13** Arizonans — or **357,000** people — has a current or prior felony conviction.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN ARIZONA

- ★ Arizona ranks **38th** among all 50 states for educational attainment, and **48th** for school quality. It also ranks **47th** in a study of the most educated states.
- ★ Arizona has the **48th** highest spending per pupil of any state in the country, the



49th lowest graduation rate, and the highest number of students per teacher.

