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Arkansas 2007

Getting Ready

for School



Children Families Schools Communities

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

**Children, Families,
Schools, Communities
Arkansas, 2007**

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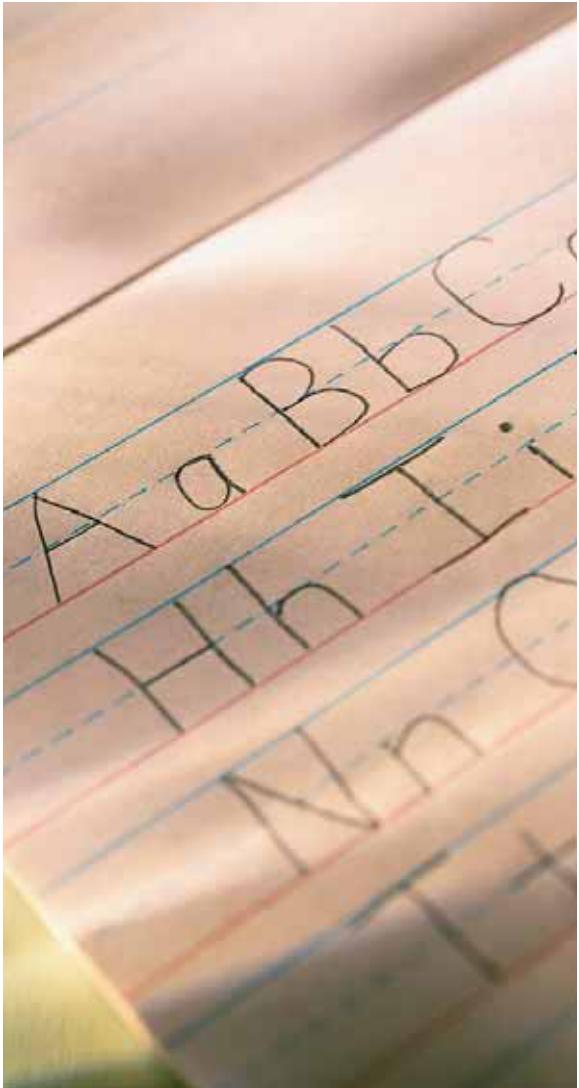
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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services
Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education

Preface



With the increased awareness that children need to start school ready to learn, we continue to track the School Readiness Indicators that were developed in 2003 by the Arkansas School Readiness Initiative Team. As a part of a 17 state initiative, these indicators were identified in order to change policies so we may have ready children, families, schools, and communities. The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative was sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

Arkansas' School Readiness Indicators are continually collected and updated. The regular tracking of these indicators enables policymakers and community leaders to identify areas most in need of intervention, track the results of investments, and monitor trends over time. These indicators are presented as a dynamic and ever-improving set of measurements to monitor child outcomes and tell the story of successes as well as areas that need improvement.

These data provide reliable measures with which the state's families, legislative leaders, educators, and communities may continue to track and pursue strategies that will move us toward the goal of *Getting Ready for School*.

Acknowledgements

The thematic maps were created by the UALR GIS Applications Laboratory, 501-569-8537.

Other staff members at the Institute for Economic Advancement who contributed time, effort, and skills to this report are Mary McFarland, Randolph L. Peterson, Jerry Bell, David Rasmussen, Neva Wayman, Inderpreet Farmahan, and Susan Jackson, who designed the publication.

Ready Children

A healthy child is ready to learn. Even before birth, opportunities exist to ensure the health of the child and the mother. To thrive, a child needs a healthy start in life with someone providing the necessary elements to ensure the future. A child needs the proper care provided by the family. However, a child can also benefit from the experiences provided through high quality early childhood programs and services.

The age at which adults become parents is a contributing factor in child well-being. In Arkansas, birth to teens, age 10-17, continues to decline from 2,486 in 1998 to 1,758 in 2005. The rate per 1,000 females is also declining, from 16.5 in 1998 to 11.8 in 2005.



The ARKids First program is a state sponsored insurance program to assist families in providing children with access to comprehensive health and mental health services and preventative care. The ARKids First program has increased its enrollment by 181.4% between 1999 and 2006 to a total of 313,623. According to Census Bureau's *Current Population Survey*, 38.5% of children in Arkansas at or below 200% of poverty have health insurance compared to 31.6% for the U.S. in 2005. This is an indication of the effectiveness of this program.

The Child Care Voucher program is a federal program which assists low-income working families with the cost of child care. Arkansas' Child Care Voucher program serving Low-Income Working Families had a 73.3% increase in families and a 75.6% increase in children served in those families since 2000. The amount paid through this program has increased 124.4%, and the Transitional Employment Assistance program has seen a small decline in families served and an increase in children served of only 5.8% since 2000.

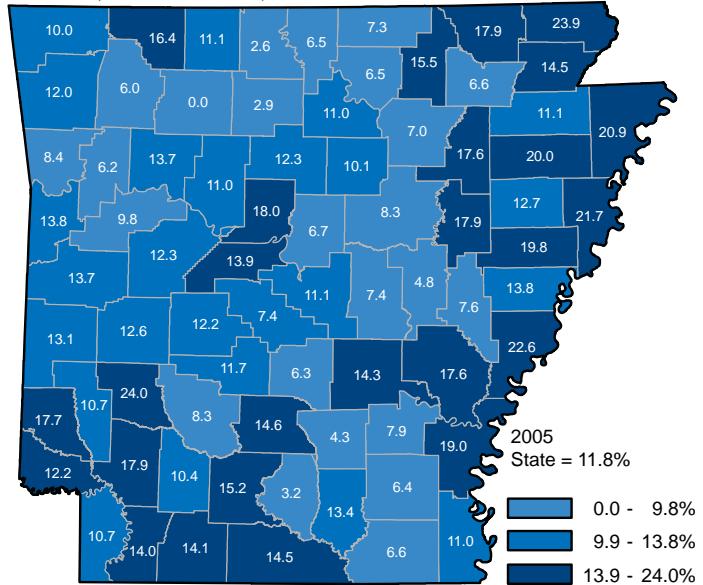
The number and capacity of Child Care Licenses have grown for all types, especially in centers licensed for school-age children, where capacity increased 96.5% since 2001. Also, more licensees are meeting state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards. These standards ensure quality programs for young children. The capacity meeting these standards was 36,748 in 2006, or 23%. This number has increased 54.7% since 2003.

The Arkansas Better Chance program was initiated in 1991 to offer high quality early education services to children birth to five exhibiting developmental and socioeconomic risk factors. Arkansas was recognized by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) for outstanding quality standards for pre-K programs. In 2003 the Arkansas General Assembly funded an expansion of the ABC program, titled Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS), over several years to serve low-income three- and four-year old children in areas at high risk for academic failure. The first installment of ABCSS funding occurred during 2004-05. As a result, the number of children served has grown at a rate of 53.8% over a two-year period to a total of 18,316 enrolled in 2005-06.

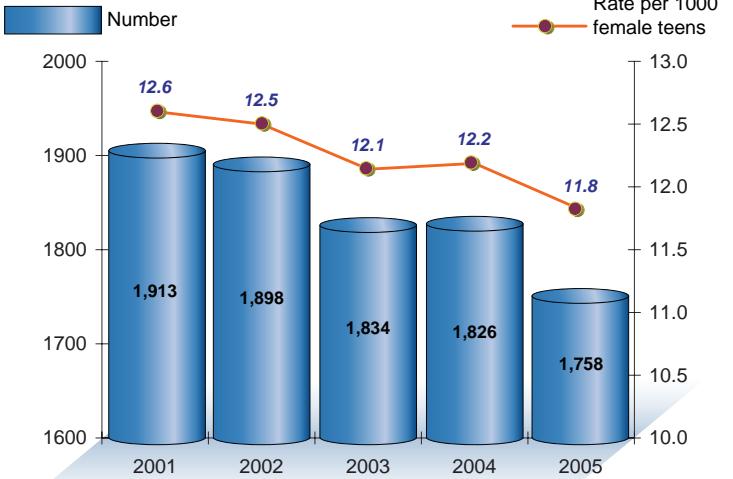
Ready Children

Births to Teens, Age 10-17

Rate Per 1,000 Female Teens, 2005 Data



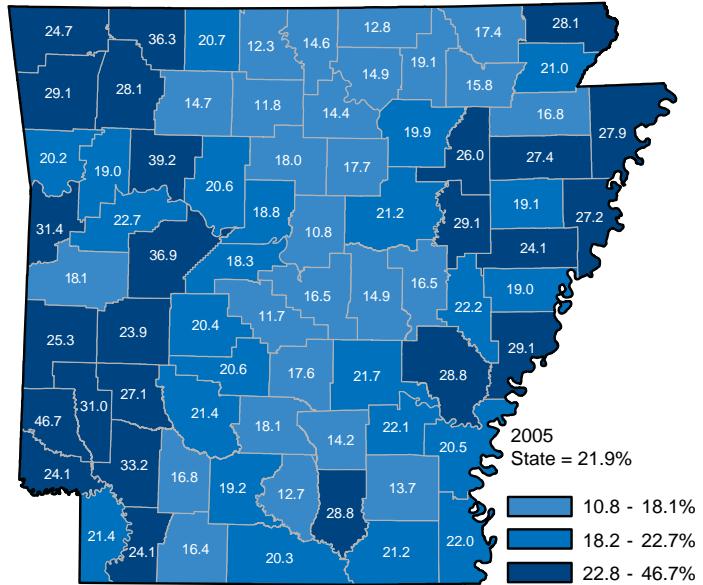
State Of Arkansas



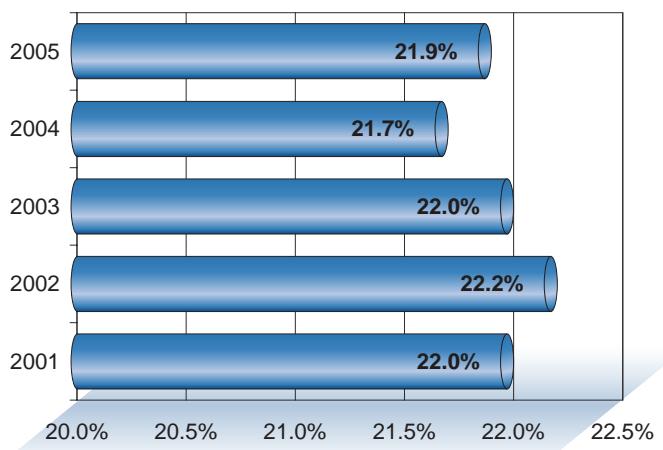
Births to Mothers with Less than 12th Grade Education

The percent of all births where the woman (all ages) has received less than 12 years of formal education

Percent of all Births, 2005 Data



State Of Arkansas

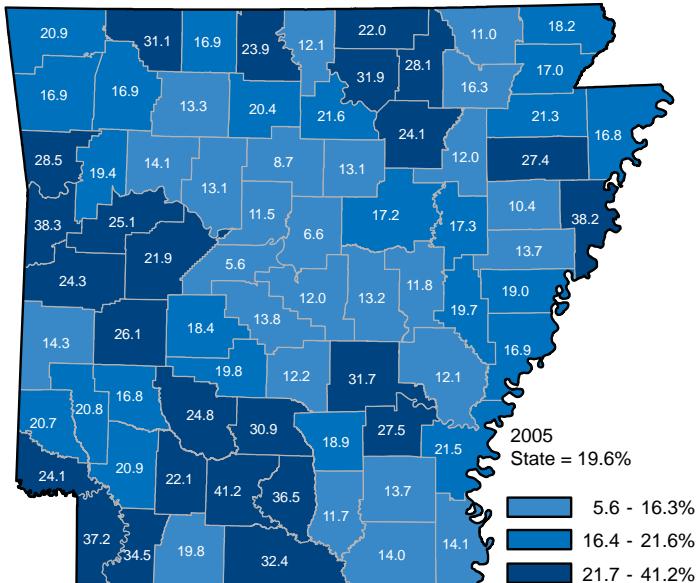


Ready Children

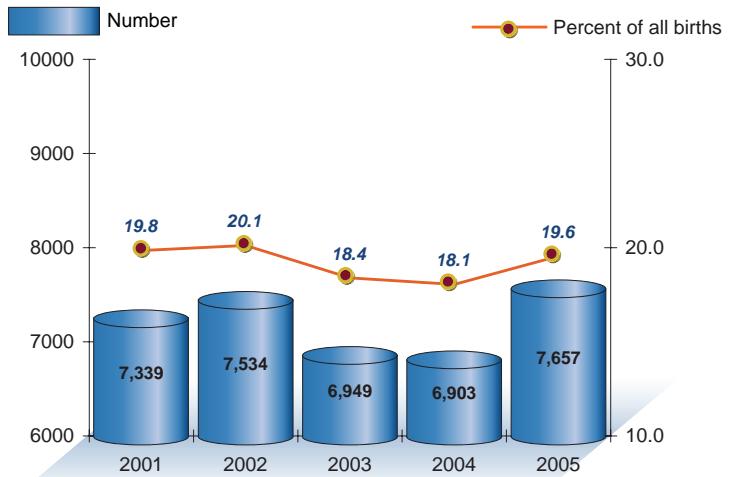
No Prenatal Care During First Pregnancy Trimester

The number of births in which the mother did not begin prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy

Percent of all Births, 2005 Data



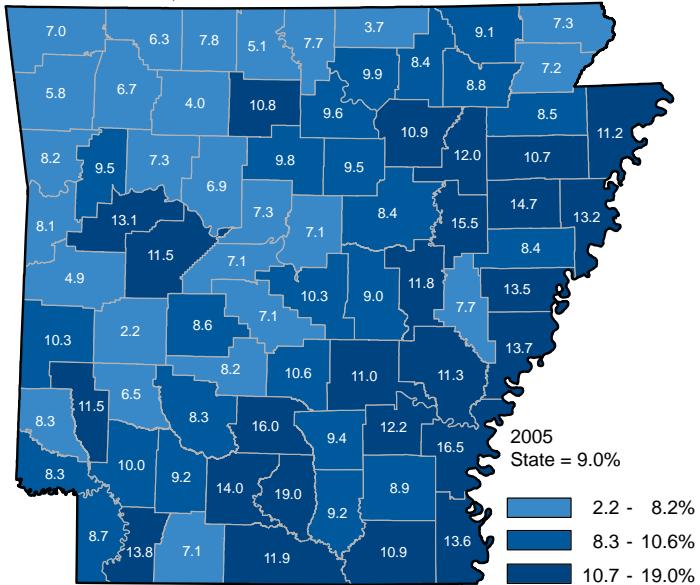
State Of Arkansas



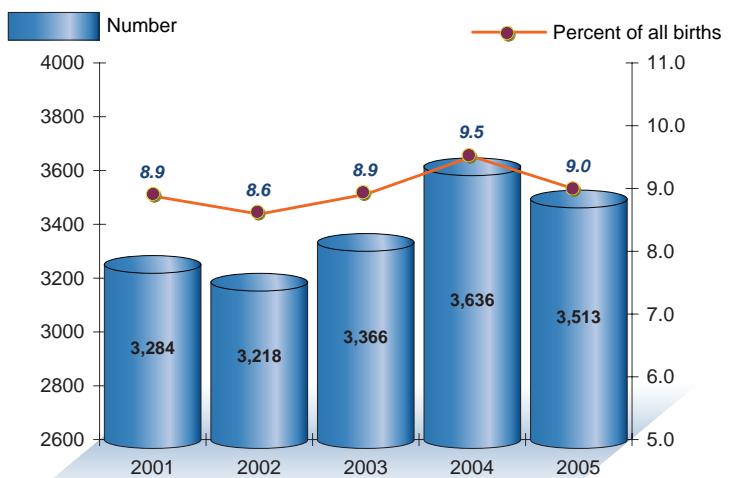
Low Birth Weight Babies

The number of births/infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds

Percent of all Births, 2005 Data



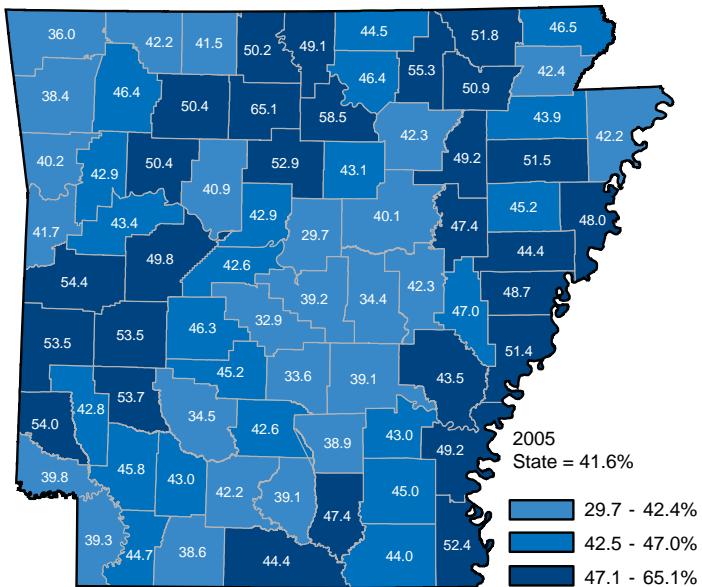
State Of Arkansas



Ready Children

ARKids First

ARKids First Enrollment as a Percent of Population
Age 0-19: June 2005*



ARKids First Enrollment

	JUNE 2002	JUNE 2003	JUNE 2004	JUNE 2005	JUNE 2006
ARKids A (FULL MEDICAL COVERAGE)	152,846	181,549	205,792	224,286	239,450
ARKids B (REDUCED COVERAGE)	54,581	56,672	63,831	69,042	74,173
Total ARKids	207,427	238,221	269,623	293,328	313,623

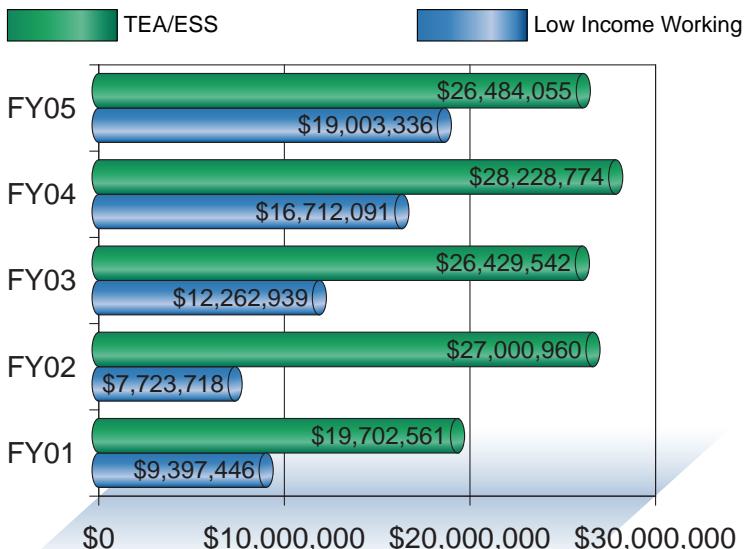
*Population estimates not available for 2006 comparison.



Child Care Voucher Program

State Fiscal Year 2005

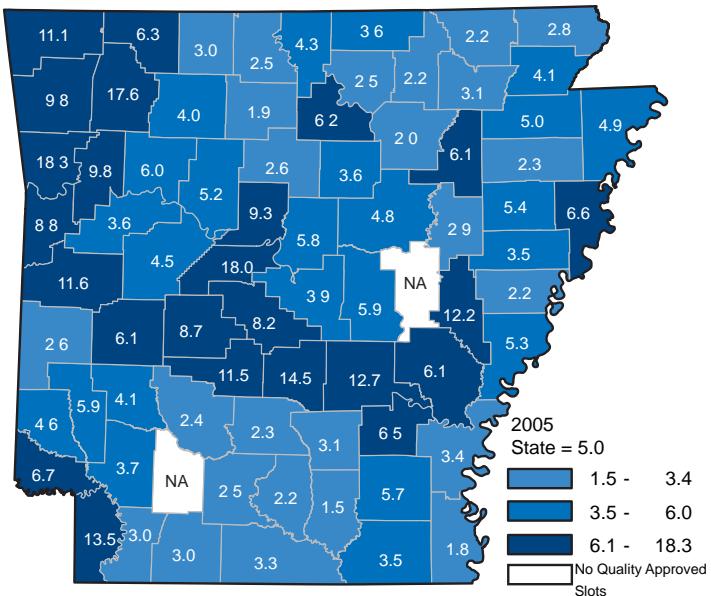
	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	AMOUNT
TEA/ESS	17,179	9,020	\$26,484,055
Low-Income Working	12,335	6,873	\$19,003,336
Foster Care	1,567	678	\$1,529,513
Protective Services	144	89	\$99,701



Ready Children

Child Care Licenses

Children, Age 3-5, Per Preschool Slot In Licensed Child Care Facilities Meeting Quality Approval Standards, 2005*



Child Care Licenses, 2006

	LICENSED NUMBER	LICENSED CAPACITY	CAPACITY MEETING QUALITY STANDARDS
Preschool Centers	1,722	77,703	26,439 34.0%
Infant/Toddler Centers	984	29,124	5,518 18.9%
School Age Centers	601	43,221	4,764 11.0%
Day Care Family Homes	869	9,987	27 0.3%
Total Licenses	4,176	160,035	36,748 23.0%

CHILDREN PER LICENSED SLOT

Age 0-13

3.3

CHILDREN PER QUALITY SLOT

Age 0-13

14.4

Age 0-4

6.0

Age 5-13

54.9

*Population estimates not available for 2006 comparison.

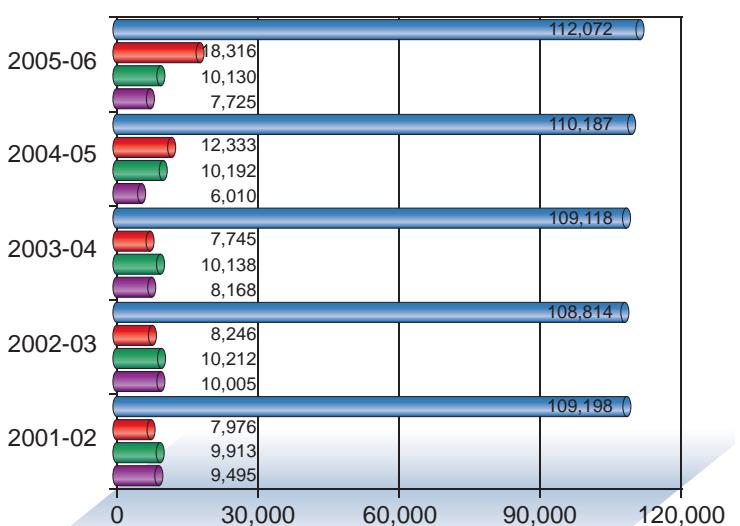
Number of Children Served At Any Time During Program Year

(Not Full-time Equivalent)

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
7,976	8,246	7,745	12,333	18,316

Total 3-5 Year Olds ABC Head Start Early Special Education



HEAD START

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
9,913	10,212	10,138	10,192	10,130

Ready Children

Number Of Children Served By State and Federally Funded Programs During Program Year



AGE 0-2

Early Head Start (2005-2006)	688
Early Invention Special Education (2005)	2,546

AGE 3-5

ABC (2005-06)	18,316
Head Start (2005-06)	10,130
Early Special Education (2005-06)	10,202

AGE 0+

CCDF (FY 2005)	29,514
Total Served	71,396
Population Age 0-5 (2005)	226,159

Percent Served 31.6%

USDA Child And Adult Care Food Program



State Fiscal Year 2006

DAY CARE CENTERS

Number	473
Licensed Capacity Participating	39,067

HEAD STARTS

Number	289
Licensed Capacity Participating	11,681

HOMES

Number	891
Licensed Capacity Participating	9,519

Total Children Participating = 60,267

Percent of the Licensed Capacity Participating = 37.7%

Ready Families

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and almost everything that children learn in the first years of their lives comes from families. The relationship between early home experiences and later school readiness and their success is significant and establishes habits that can influence the student's progress in school.

The best predictor of how well a child will succeed is the economic status of the family as measured by the poverty level. The 2006 poverty threshold for a family of four with two adults and two children is an income of \$20,444. The number of children, age 0-4, in poverty has dropped since 1993 from 31.3% but remains a high 28.1% affecting 51,948 children in Arkansas.

Even though the number of families and children under age 18 on welfare has declined, the poverty rate has increased, due to the increase in working poor, parents who are working but not earning enough to support their family's basic needs. The poverty rate for children under age 18 was 22.7% in 2004, up slightly from 21.8% in 1999.

The number of children under 19 years of age who receive food stamps has increased by 67,336 or 34.3% between FY2000 to FY2006. The program is now serving 36.2% of children under 19 years of age.



Ready Families

Federal Poverty Level Income Thresholds For 2006

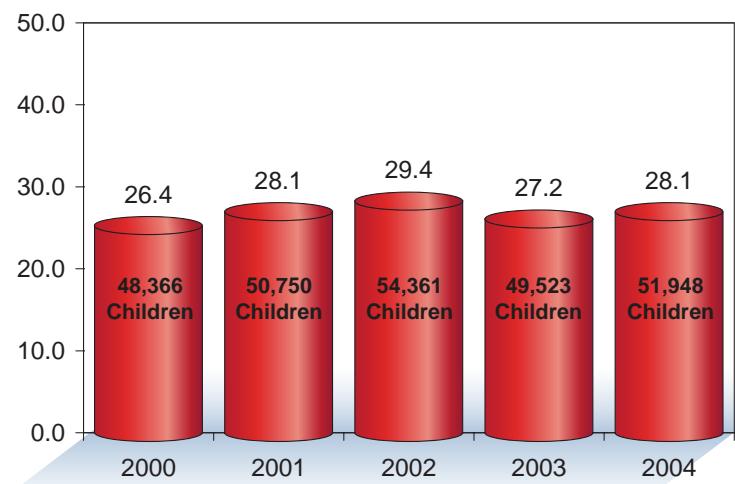
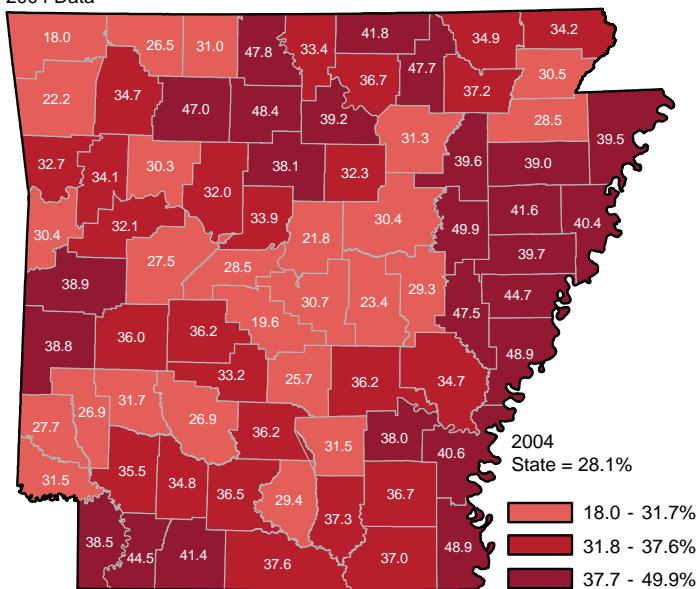
Size of family and number of related children under 18 years

SIZE OF FAMILY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN							
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	SEVEN	EIGHT OR MORE
Two Persons								
Householder < 65 Years	\$13,896							
Three persons	\$16,227	\$16,242						
Four persons	21,134	20,444	\$20,516					
Five persons	25,441	24,662	24,059	\$23,691				
Six persons	28,957	28,360	27,788	26,938	\$26,434			
Seven persons	33,394	32,680	32,182	31,254	30,172	\$28,985		
Eight persons	37,444	36,770	36,180	35,342	34,278	33,171	\$32,890	
Nine persons or more	44,865	44,269	43,768	42,945	41,813	40,790	40,536	\$38,975

Percent Of Children In Poverty, Age 0-4

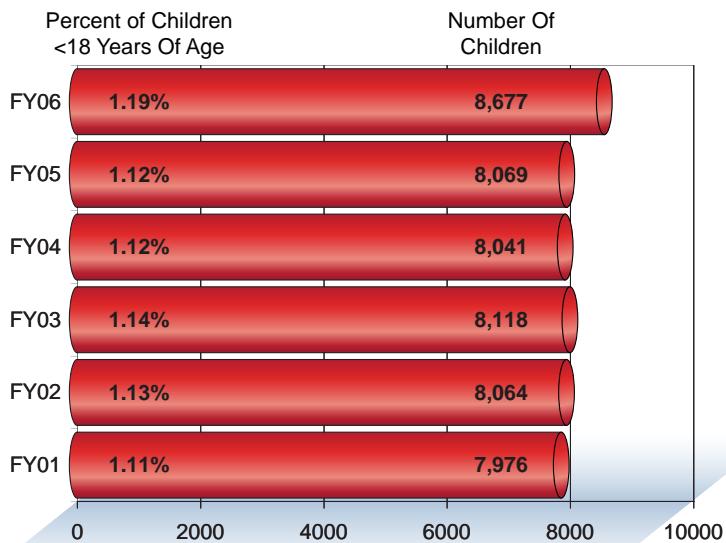
2005 Data Available December 2007

2004 Data

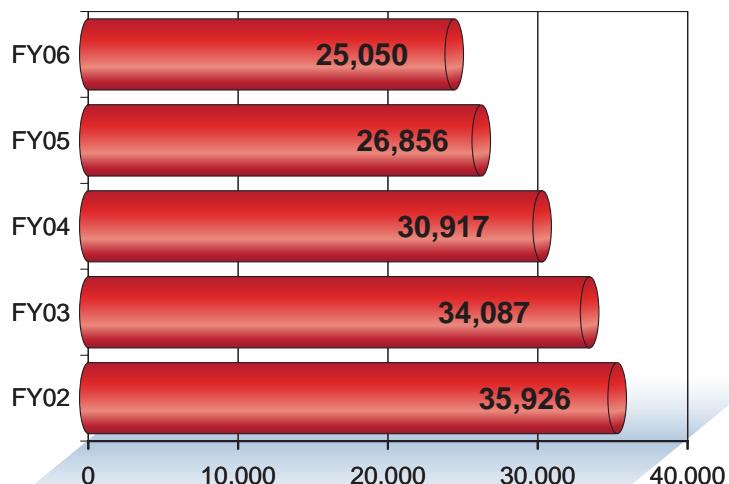


Ready Families

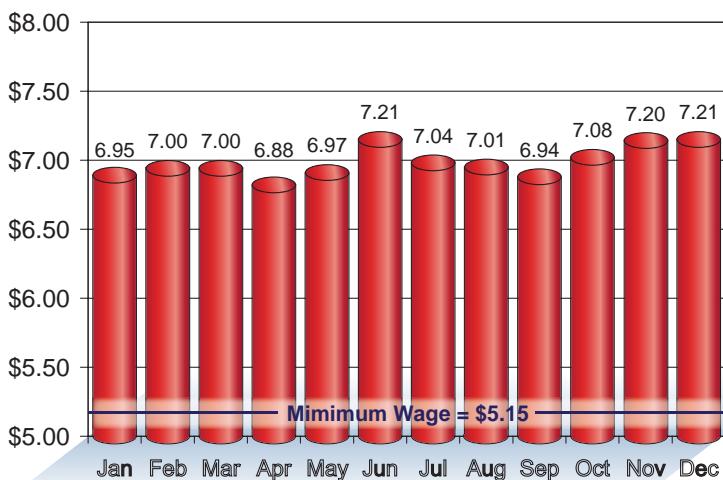
Victims Of Child Maltreatment



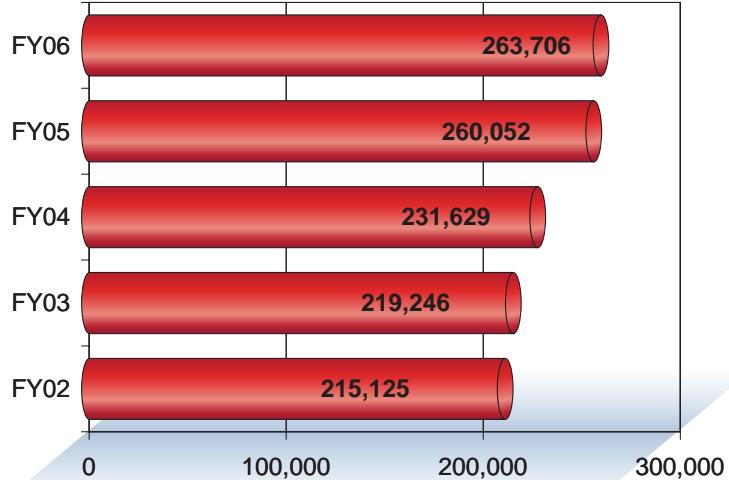
Transitional Employment Assistance Children



Average Hourly Wage Of TEA Recipients, 2006

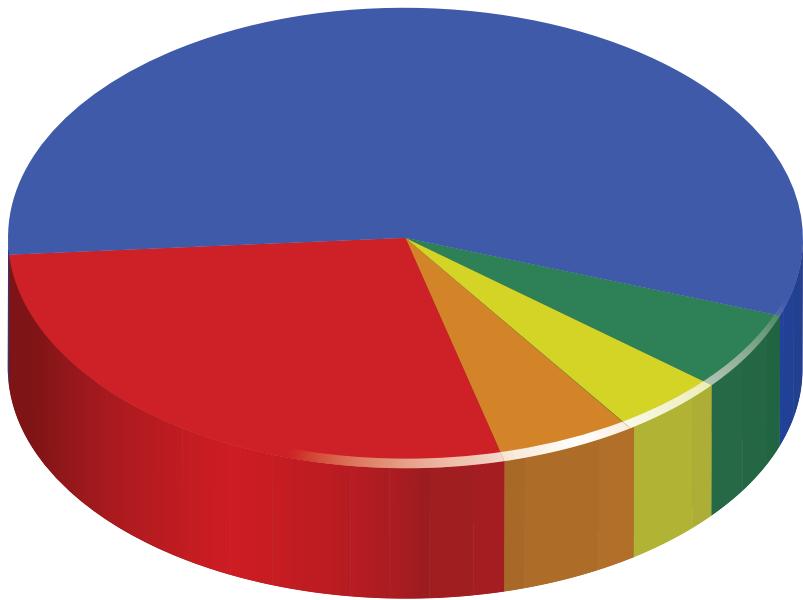


Food Stamps, Under 19 Years Of Age



Ready Families

Time Limited Transitional Employment Assistance Closures, By Reason



December 2006, 675 Closures

Due to Earnings	58%
Other Income	5%
Federal Time Limits	0%
State Time Limits	4%
Progressive Sanctions	5%
Other	28%

*Failed to keep appointment
Requested by client
Failed to provide information
Moved out of state
No eligible child in home
Unable to locate
Other*

Ready Schools

Research shows that the transition from preschool to kindergarten is one of the most difficult that a child faces throughout their education. Schools must be ready and responsive to the diverse cultural, physical, emotional, and developmental needs of children, especially children in poverty, children of color, children for whom English is not their first language, and children with disabilities.



Since the mid-1990s, Arkansas has experienced a tremendous growth in the Hispanic population. This influx presents special challenges to our public schools requiring additional resources since many children speak only Spanish at home. The K-3 Hispanic enrollment has increased 103% in the past six years. In addition, the Asian population has increased 110.8% although those numbers remain small.

Public school enrollment continues to grow steadily at a rate of 0.2% over 10 years. High school completion rates have remained between 80-85% since 1998-99.

The number of students eligible for reduced and free lunches has increased steadily since 2000 from 205,062 to 254,572 in 2006, an increase of 24.3%.

School age children living in poverty continues to be a problem in many parts of the state. In 2004 poverty rates ranged from a low of 2.3% in Valley View School District in Craighead County to a high of 45.0% in the Elaine School District in Phillips County. Statewide the poverty rate for children 5-17 years of age dropped from 23.4% in 1993 to 20.0% in 2004.

The percentage of students in Grade 4 who met or exceeded proficiency in math and literacy on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Exam in 2006 was up 9 percentage points in math and 8 percentage points in literacy from 2005.

Ready Schools

Hispanic Enrollment, School Districts With Highest Rates

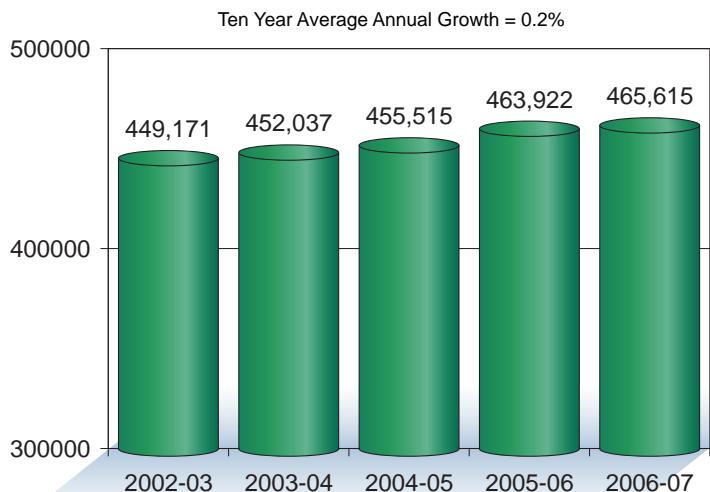
COUNTY	DISTRICT	HISPANIC	2005-06			2006-07		
			TOTAL	PERCENT	HISPANIC	TOTAL	PERCENT	
Sevier	DeQueen School District	1,108	2,098	52.8%	1,200	2,484	48.3%	
Yell	Danville School District	413	892	46.3%	431	895	48.2%	
Washington	Springdale School District	5,524	15,660	35.3%	6,258	16,476	38.0%	
Benton	Rogers School District	4,482	13,063	34.3%	4,912	13,241	37.1%	
Carroll	Green Forest School District	342	1,250	27.4%	382	1,255	30.4%	
Polk	Wickes School District	198	692	28.6%	194	697	27.8%	
Johnson	Clarksville School District	498	2,377	21.0%	561	2,447	22.9%	
Yell	Dardanelle School District	364	1,811	20.1%	409	1,820	22.5%	
Sebastian	Fort Smith School District	2,751	13,370	20.6%	3,059	13,633	22.4%	
Benton	Siloam Springs School District	695	3,504	19.8%	786	3,577	22.0%	
Benton	Decatur School District	92	556	16.5%	128	600	21.3%	
Bradley	Hermitage School District	108	499	21.6%	108	517	20.9%	
Hempstead	Hope School District	485	2,711	17.9%	542	2,635	20.6%	
Carroll	Berryville School District	349	1,804	19.3%	384	1,867	20.6%	
Sevier	Horatio School District	147	826	17.8%	149	808	18.4%	
Pike	Centerpoint School District	151	1,036	14.6%	163	1,083	15.1%	
Bradley	Warren School District	224	1,627	13.8%	233	1,577	14.8%	
Yell	Western Yell County School District	67	442	15.2%	66	467	14.1%	
Craighead	Buffalo Island Central School District	127	855	14.9%	118	844	14.0%	

Kindergarten-Grade 3 Enrollment By Race Or Ethnicity

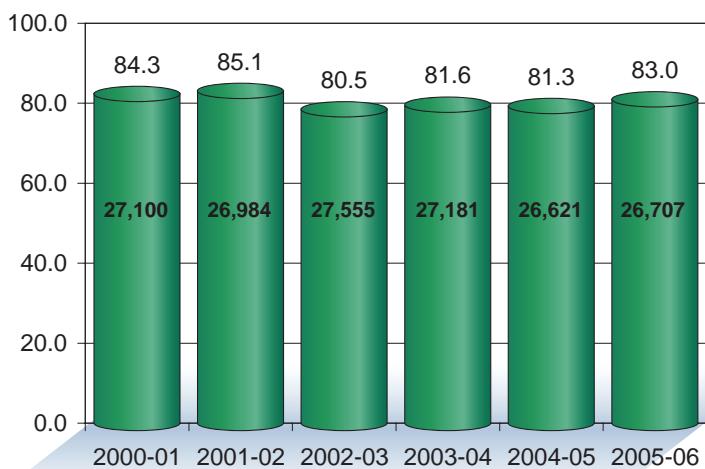
	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE
2006-07	2,340	33,011	13,285	1,034	98,128
2005-06	2,100	33,307	12,109	948	98,157
2004-05	1,837	32,367	10,756	893	96,642
2003-04	1,632	32,170	9,562	826	95,700
2002-03	1,435	31,890	8,539	782	94,801
2001-02	1,223	32,175	7,529	698	94,666
2000-01	1,110	32,744	6,545	665	96,469
% Change	110.8%	0.8%	103.0%	55.5%	1.7%

Ready Schools

Public School Enrollment Grades K-12

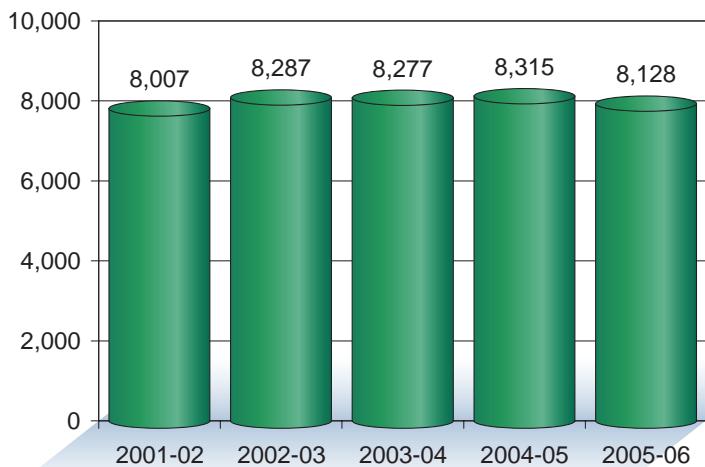


High School Graduation Rates

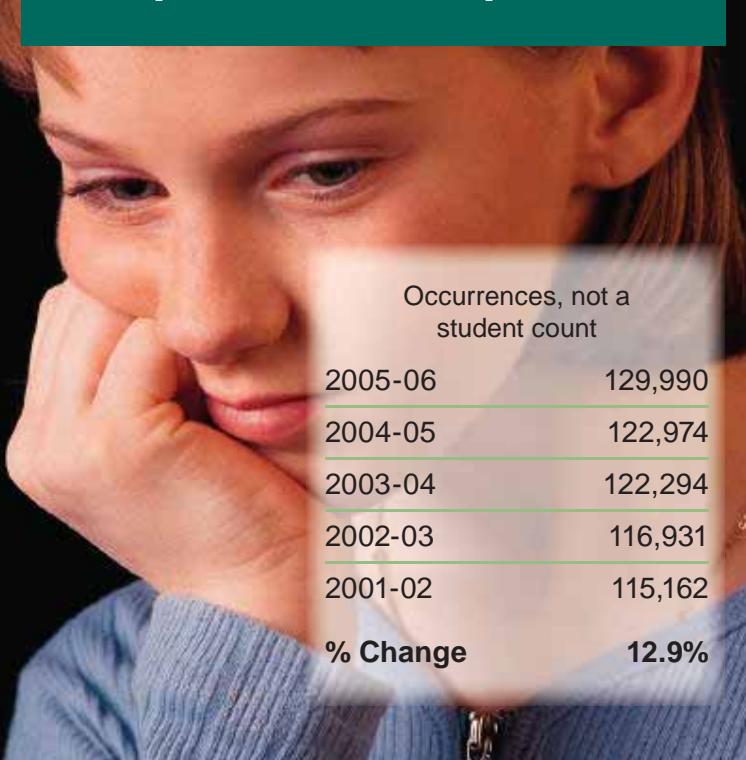


Retentions

Students retained from the prior year
at the same grade level

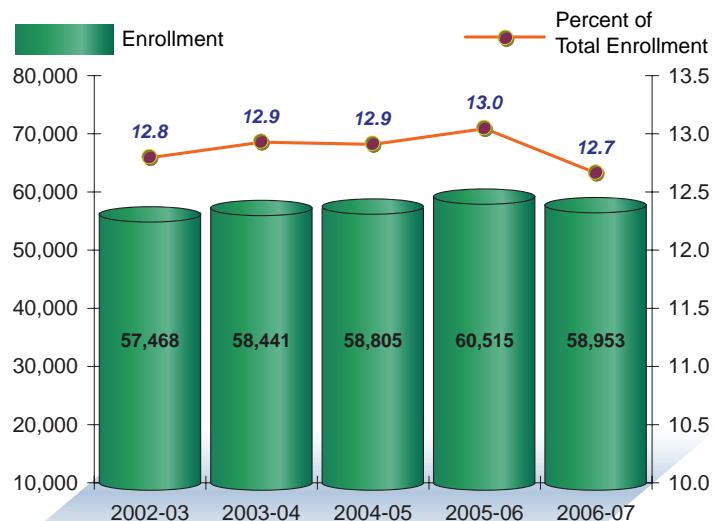


Suspensions & Expulsions

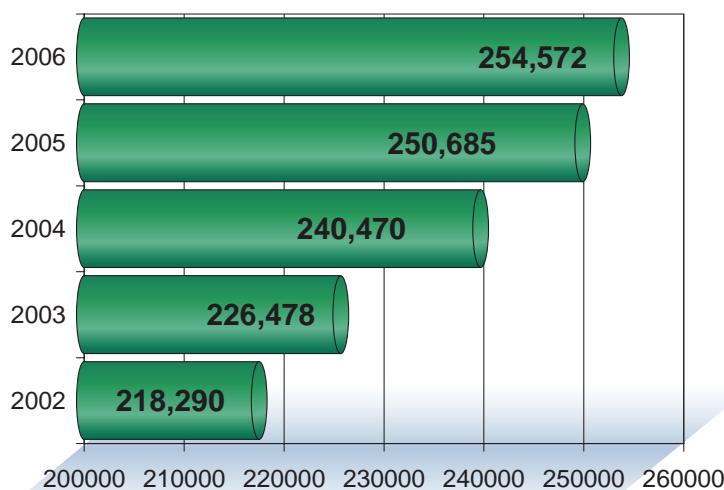


Ready Schools

Children Receiving Special Education K-12 In School Districts

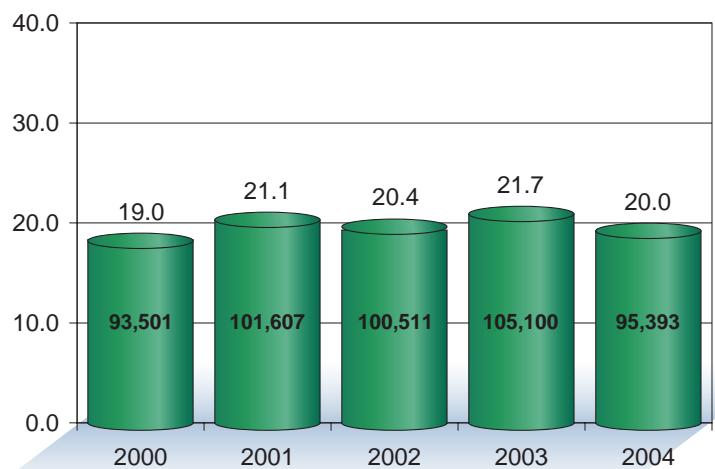


School Lunch Program, Students Eligible



Children In Poverty, Age 5-17

2005 Data Available December 2007

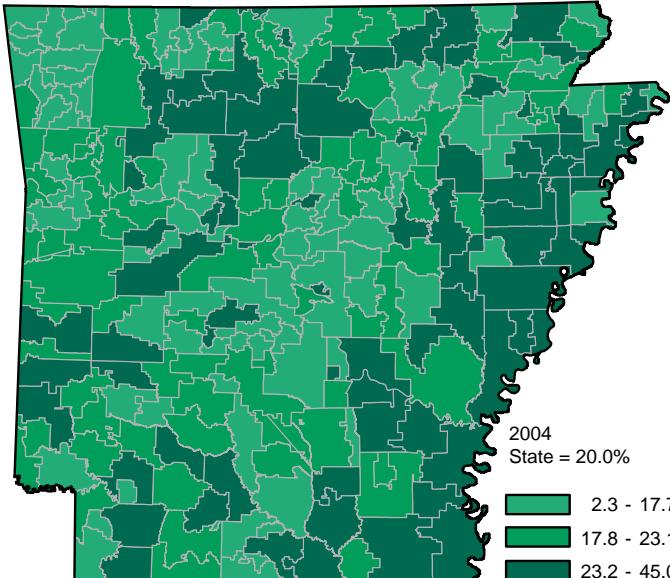


Ready Schools

Children In Poverty, 5-17 Years Of Age, By School Districts, 2004

2005 Data Available December 2007

2004 Data



COUNTY	SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY	POVERTY RATE
<i>Lowest Poverty Rates</i>			
Craighead	Valley View School District	32	2.3%
Mississippi	Armored School District	18	5.8%
Washington	Farmington School District	117	6.1%
Logan	Scranton School District	24	6.5%
Cleveland	Woodlawn School District	33	7.3%
<i>Highest Poverty Rates</i>			
Woodruff	Augusta School District	306	36.9%
Phillips	Helena-West Helena School District	1,332	38.2%
Crittenden	Earle School District	381	40.1%
Phillips	Marvell School District	297	40.6%
Phillips	Elaine School District	185	45.0%

Grade 4 Test Scores On ACTAAP, 2006

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

	BELOW BASIC	AT BASIC	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED	2006 MEETING OR EXCEEDING PROFICIENCY	2005 MEETING OR EXCEEDING PROFICIENCY
MATH						
Number	5,727	7,748	11,791	8,422	20,213	16,872
Percent	17.0	23.0	35.0	25.0	60.0	51.0
LITERACY						
Number	3,706	9,433	12,465	8,085	20,550	17,534
Percent	11.0	28.0	37.0	24.0	61.0	53.0

Ready Communities

The economic state of the community is critically important for the success of families and schools since all the elements are interdependent. Stable populations, low crime rates, affordable housing, plentiful jobs with adequate wages, and access to health care are some of the characteristics that make a community a viable and supportive place to live.

Since 2000, the number of people employed in Arkansas increased, and the unemployment rate ranged between 4.2% and 5.8%.

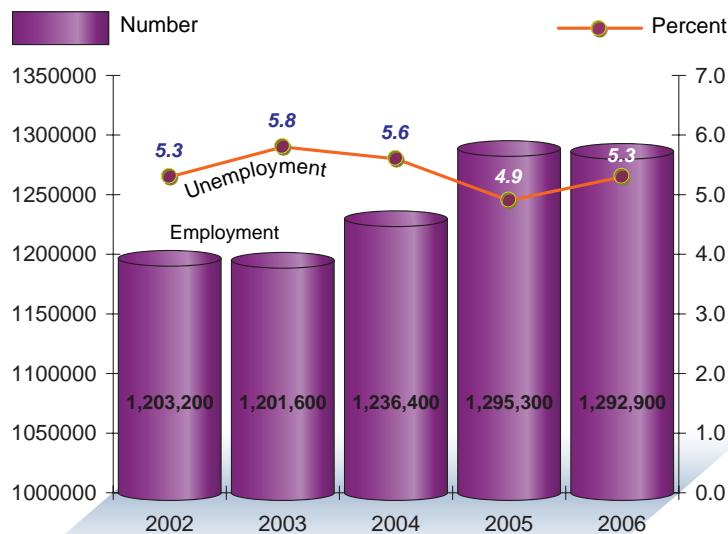
In Arkansas 33.8% of total employment was in the Services industry in 2005. The average annual wage in this segment was \$28,319. Government, Trade, and Manufacturing make up another 42.7% of those employed with an average wage of \$40,155.

Per capita personal income for the state was \$26,681 in 2005. This was 77.4% of the U.S. per capita personal income. However, in 2000 Arkansas' percent of the U.S. was only 73.7%.

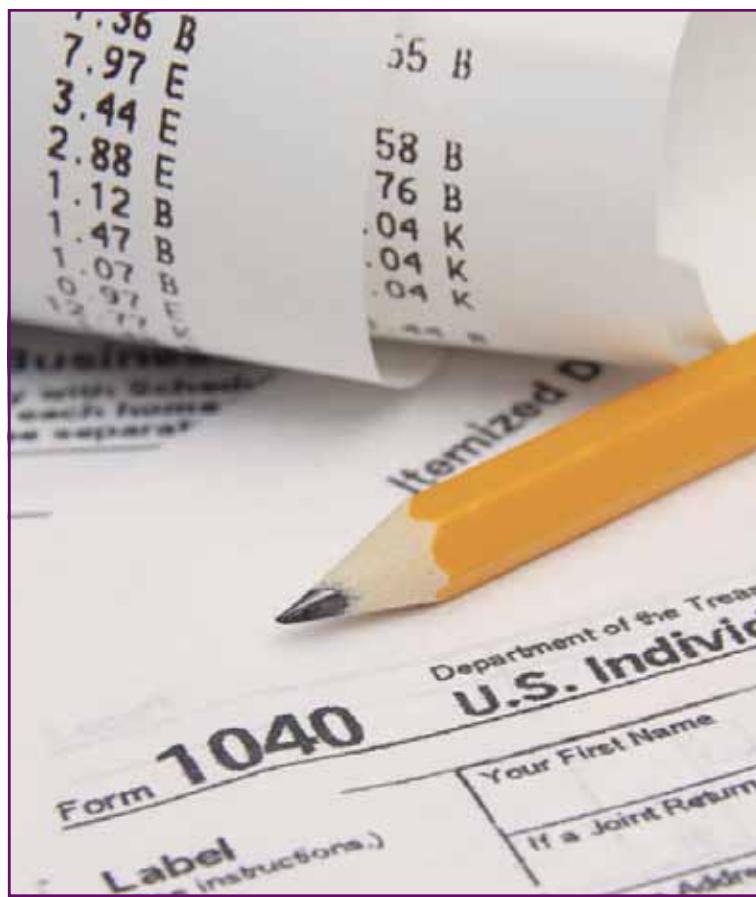
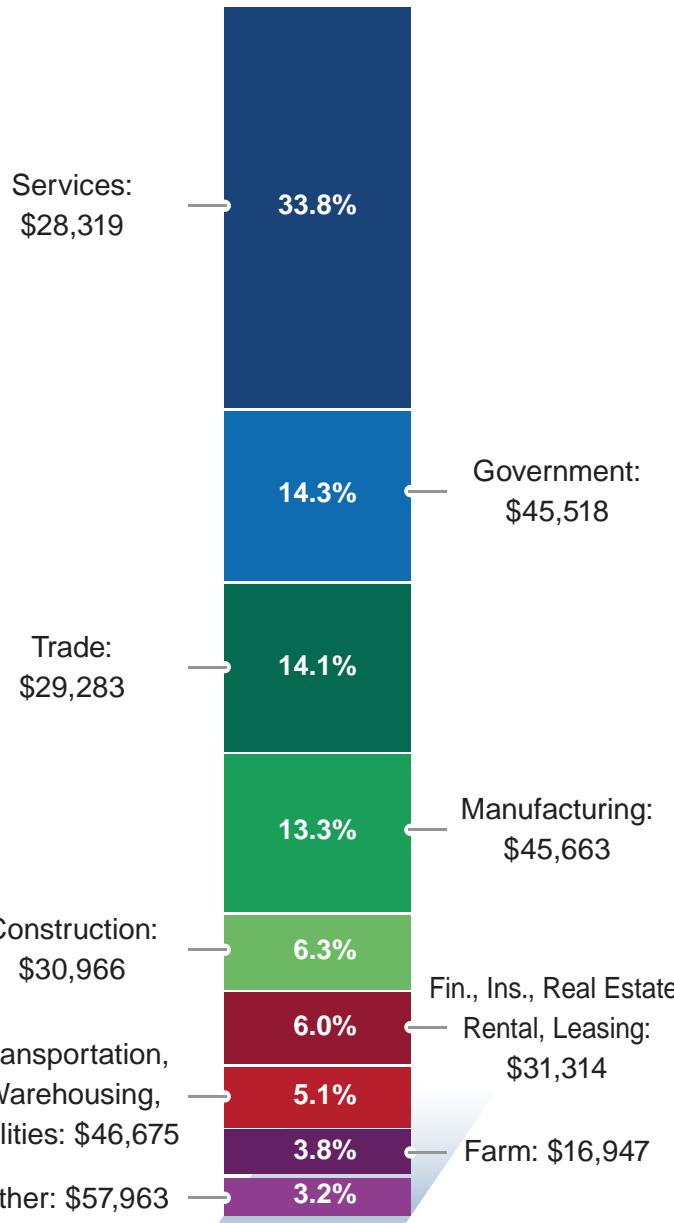


Ready Communities

Employment And Unemployment Rate



Employment Distribution And Average Annual Earnings In Arkansas, 2005



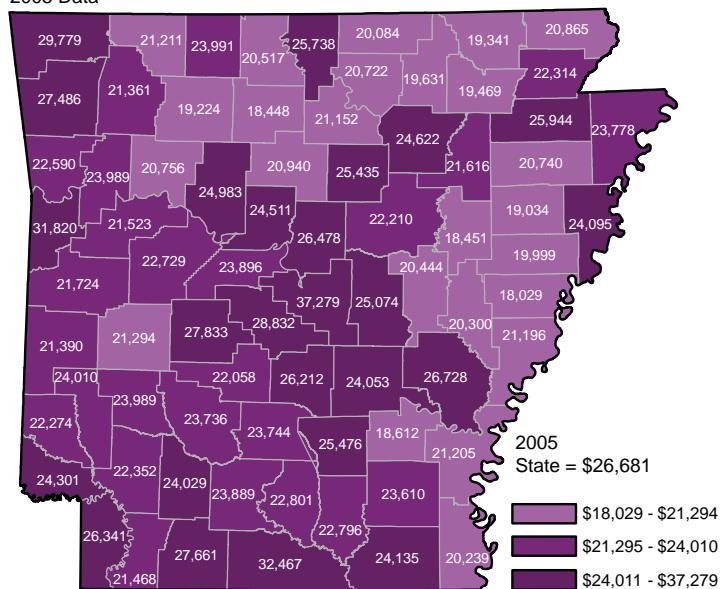
Ready Communities

Top Six Private Employers, 2005

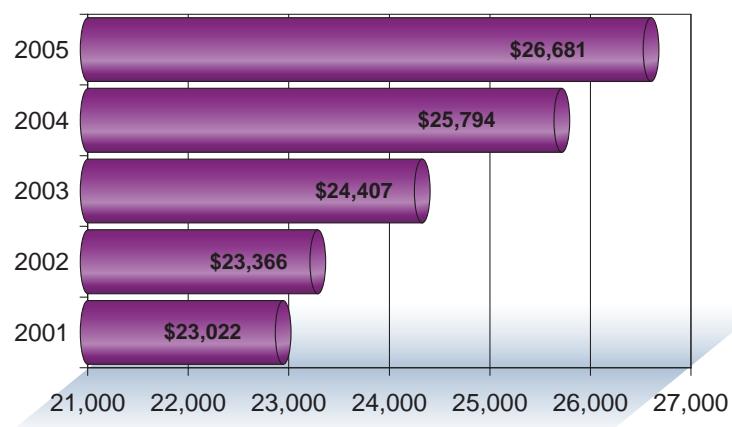
NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	EMPLOYEES	PRIMARY LINE OF BUSINESS
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	702 SW 8th St.	Bentonville	51,405	Department Store
Tyson Foods, Inc.	2210 W. Oaklawn Dr.	Springdale	24,000	Meat Processing Plants
Baptist Health	9601 Interstate 630	Little Rock	7,618	Health Care Management
Triad Hospitals, Inc.	5800 Tennyson Pkwy	Plano, TX	5,500	Health Care Management
Whirlpool Corp.	2000 N. M-63	Benton Harbor, MI	4,500	Major Appliance Manufacturing
Pilgrim's Pride Corp.	110 S. Texas St.	Pittsburg, TX	4,100	Meat Processing Plants

Per Capita Personal Income

2005 Data



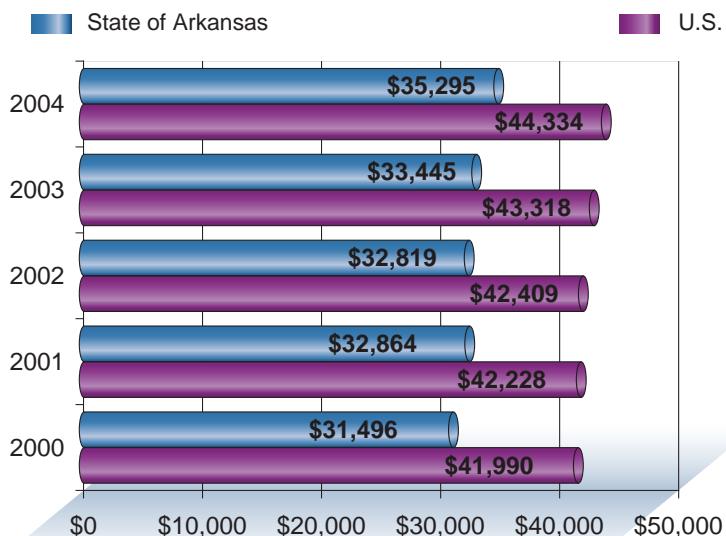
State Of Arkansas



Ready Communities

Median Household Income

2005 Data Available December 2007



Health Professionals, 2006

A table showing the number of health professionals in Arkansas in 2006. The background of the table features a close-up photograph of a human eye.

Total Physicians	5,563
Primary Care Physicians	2,830
Total Chiropractors	468
Dentists	1,168
Total Optometry	333
Total Social Work	2,293
Total Nursing	40,558
Licensed Practical Nurse	14,236
Registered Nurse	26,548

Terms and Definitions

- 1 **Births to Teens:** The number of births in which the woman was less than 18 years of age. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics*. Calendar year.
- 2 **Births to Mothers with Less than 12th Grade Education:** The percent of all births where the woman (all ages) has received less than 12 years of formal education. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics*. Calendar year.
- 3 **No Prenatal Care During First Pregnancy Trimester:** The number of all births in which the mother did not begin prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics*. Calendar year.
- 4 **Low Birth Weight Babies:** The number of all births in which the infant weighed less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics*. Calendar year.
- 5 **ARKids First Enrollment:** The number of children enrolled in ARKids First, an insurance program provided by the state of Arkansas for children who come from working poor families without insurance. The ARKids First waiver program and SOBRA Medicaid, the largest category of children's Medicaid, were combined under the ARKids umbrella. SOBRA became ARKids A and the waiver program became ARKids B. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Report IM-2414.
- 6 **Child Care Voucher Program:** The number of children attending child care through the voucher program which provides subsidized child care to low income working families. The voucher program is a federal program which assists families who meet eligibility criteria with the cost of child care. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. State fiscal year.
- 7 **Child Care Licenses:** The number of child care licenses issued and the capacity by type of facility. Children per slot: The total number of children by age groups divided by the total capacity of licensed centers or the total capacity of those meeting the state early childhood accreditation/quality approval standards. These standards ensure quality programs for young children. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.
- 8 **Number of Children Served at Any time During Program Year:**

Arkansas Better Chance Program: The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC). The summer ABC program was discontinued after 1999, and the funds were transferred to the classroom and HIPPY programs. The ABC program is intended to serve educationally deprived children, birth to 5 years of age. The Arkansas Better Chance Data Center and Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

Head Start: Each Head Start program is funded to provide services to a designated number of children and exists to provide and to promote a high quality, developmentally appropriate child development program for economically deprived children 3-5 and/or 0-3 years of age, thus reducing the potential for school failure. Arkansas Head Start Association-State Collaboration Project, *Arkansas Head Start Association Directory*.

Children Served Compared to 3-5 Year Old Population: A comparison of the number of ABC, Head Start slots, and Early Special Education with the 3-5 year old population. Number of slots does not include migrants. The Arkansas Better Chance Data Center and Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Head Start Association-State Collaboration Project, Arkansas Head Start Association Directory, the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research partnership with UALR College of Education, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Terms and Definitions

- 9 **Number of Children Served by State and Federally Funded Programs:** The number of children served in various early childhood programs during the program year divided by the population 0 - 5 years of age.
- The ABC and Head Start programs have been defined above.
- Early Childhood Special Education:** Early Childhood Special Education services are defined as "special education and related services provided to eligible children with disabilities aged three to five, inclusive" in the federal law Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Arkansas Department of Education is designated as the agency for administering and providing general supervision of education programs statewide for children with disabilities ages three through five. The federal law "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) defines Early Intervention Services as services designed to meet the developmental needs of each child birth to three with disabilities and the needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development. The Lead Agency in Arkansas for Early Intervention is DHS/Developmental Disabilities Services. Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education.
- Child Care and Development Fund:** The number of children served at any time during the program year in the Child Care and Development Fund, which assists low-income families and those transitioning off welfare to obtain child care so that they can work or attend training or education. Eligible children are those under age 13 (or up to age 19, if disabled). The state currently serves families at 60 percent of the state median income. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. State fiscal year.
- Early Head Start:** Head Start programs for age 0-3.
- 10 **USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program:** The number of children served by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which is a federal program providing healthy meals and snacks to children and adults receiving day care. Facilities serving children include child care centers, Head Start programs, after school care programs, and family day care homes. Arkansas Department of Human Services, Special Nutrition Program. State fiscal year.
- 11 **Federal Poverty Level Income Thresholds:** Poverty status is determined from income data. Poverty thresholds are arranged in a two dimensional matrix based on family size and number of children in the family. The total income of the family was tested against the appropriate threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family income is less than the corresponding cutoff, the family is classified as *below poverty level*. The number of children below poverty is the sum of all children in families below the poverty level. The percent of children in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of all children in families. U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Poverty Thresholds, 2006. Calendar year.
- 12 **Percent of Children in Poverty, Age 0-4:** The percent of children 0-4 years of age in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of all children 0-4 years of age in families. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Calendar year.
- 13 **Child Maltreatment:** The number of children for whom an allegation of maltreatment has been founded and the percent of the population that is less than 18 years of age. Arkansas Department of Human Services, *Annual Statistical Report*. State fiscal year.
- 14 **Temporary Employment Assistance Children:** The number of children who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children/Transitional Employment Assistance. AFDC was a cash assistance program designed to meet the basic needs of children under age 18 who are deprived of the care or support of one or both parents. Arkansas implemented the Transitional Employment Assistance program on July 1, 1998, a result of the national welfare reform movement. Arkansas Department of Human Services, *Annual Statistical Report*. State fiscal year.

Terms and Definitions

- 15 **Average Hourly Wage of TEA Recipients:** The average hourly wage from January 2006 through December 2006. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, *Transitional Employment Assistance Status Report*, December 2006 Update.
- 16 **Time Limited Transitional Employment Assistance, Closures by Reason:** The reasons cases were closed during December 2006. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, *Transitional Employment Assistance Status Report*, December 2006 Update.
- 17 **Food Stamps, Under 19 Years of Age:** The number of children under 19 years of age, who receive food stamps. The Food Stamp program is designed to provide nutrition to low income individuals and households in the form of coupons. The amount of coupons allotted is based on the household size, resources, and income. Arkansas Department of Human Services, *Annual Statistical Report*. State fiscal year.
- 18 **Hispanic Enrollment, School Districts with Highest Rate:** The school districts where the number of Hispanic students is above 14.0 percent of total enrollment for year 2006-07. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration, Statewide Information System.
- 19 **Kindergarten-Grade 3 Enrollment by Race or Ethnicity:** Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration, Statewide Information System.
- 20 **Public School Enrollment Grades K-12:** The enrollment in grades K-12, for all districts combined for the county total. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration, Statewide Information System.
- 21 **High School Graduation Rates:** Graduation (completion) rates are the percent of students enrolled during grade 9 and completing grade 12. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration.
- 22 **Retentions:** Students retained from the prior year at the same grade level. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration, Statewide Information System.
- 23 **Suspensions and Expulsions:** School disciplinary actions taken, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expelled, expelled for weapons, expelled for drugs, and expelled for dangerousness. Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Data Administration, Statewide Information System.
- 24 **Children Receiving Special Education K-12 in School Districts:** The number of students counted under the P.L. 94-142 grant for all districts combined for each school year. Students in special education placements are those who have been identified as disabled according to criteria set forth in state and federal regulations, and who are receiving special education and related services as necessary. The percent is determined by dividing the enrollment in special education by the total enrollment. Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, IDEA Data and Research partnership with UALR College of Education.
- 25 **School Lunch Program, Students Eligible:** The number of students eligible for free/reduced price lunches in the public schools, grades K-12. Students are eligible based on income and family size guidelines established for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Arkansas Department of Education, Statewide Information System.
- 26 **Children in Poverty, Age 5-17:** See number 11 for definition of poverty. The percent of children 5-17 years of age in poverty is the sum of children below the poverty level divided by the total number of all children 5-17 years of age in families. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Calendar year.
- 27 **Children in Poverty, 5 to 17 Years of Age, by School District:** See number 11 for definition of poverty. Estimates of poverty levels for school age children will be made biennially by the US Census Bureau to comply with Title 1 requirements. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Calendar year.

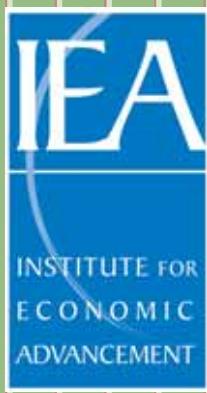
Terms and Definitions

- 28 **Grade 4 Test Scores on ACTAAP:** Number and percent of Students in Grade 4 meeting or exceeding proficiency in math and literacy on the Criterion Referenced Test, Benchmark Examination, Combined Population, April 2006. Arkansas Department of Education.
- 29 **Employment and Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons age 16 and over who are employed. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the civilian labor force. Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information Section, Arkansas Labor Force Statistics, Annual Averages. Calendar year.
- 30 **Top Six Employers:** The employers employing the largest number of employees. *Arkansas Business, 13th Edition-2006 Book of Lists.*
- 31 **Employment Distribution and Average Annual Earnings:** Compiled from Private Nonfarm Employment and Earnings by Industry. Based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Calendar year.
- 32 **Per Capita Personal Income:** Total personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Calendar year.
- 33 **Median Household Income:** Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Calendar year.
- 34 **Health Professionals:** Total physicians (all medical doctors licensed to practice in the state of Arkansas), primary care physicians (medical doctors participating in family practice, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics or internal medicine), chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, social workers, and all nurses. Arkansas Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. Calendar year.



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