The Arizona We Want Progress Meters
Background & Technical Notes

The Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit committed to bringing Arizonans together to build a bright future for our state. The Arizona We Want Progress Meters serve as a source of trusted information on how we are progressing on the issues that matter most to Arizonans.

CFA launched the Arizona We Want, a shared vision of success derived from the first of its kind Gallup Arizona Poll that captured the views and priorities of Arizonans. The Progress Meters are an evolving, dynamic tool to measure the eight priorities that Arizonans identified of critical importance to the future of the state.

The Progress Meters were developed through the following milestones:

- CFA partnered with leading education organizations, with Expect More Arizona as lead partner, to develop and launch the Education Progress Meter, which engaged over 40 partners in its launch and has now been formally adopted by more than 40 cities and towns. Arizona State University’s Morrison Institute for Public Policy is the data steward for the Education Progress Meter.
- CFA partnered with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) to use the nationally developed and recognized Civic Health Index to provide an array of metrics and data to track progress on two additional Progress Meters: Connected Communities and Civic Participation.
- CFA led an extensive process for developing metrics for the following Progress Meters: Jobs, Health & Well-being, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure. It engaged a Task Force, involved content experts, held focus groups in using consensus-building around which metrics are most critical to track for each of the four meters. It followed this process with what has become a consistent practice in using critical readers statewide to provide feedback. 100 of 300+ critical readers rated metrics that were included and those excluded at the time along with providing feedback on the metrics.
- CFA held 12 focus groups with young people with a target of ages 18-39. The groups represented diverse, statewide communities. Young people were asked what brought them to Arizona, what keeps them here and what might cause them to move away from Arizona. The results produced individual stories about young Arizonans. The stories were content-analyzed, and specific metrics focused on young talent are under development.
Throughout this process, careful consideration was given to the following criteria which must be met for metrics to be included in the Arizona We Want Progress Meters:

- They must be supported by publicly available, trusted, and regularly updated data;
- They must be understandable by most Arizonans;
- And they must be useful as a guidepost for assessing policy initiatives.

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters Next Steps

The Arizona We Want is a dynamic expression of the aspirations of the people that live here. We are on a journey to capture, refine, and report out on the most pressing issues impacting Arizona communities. CFA will engage with many different communities across the state through community conversations designed to spark dialogue about the aspirations Arizonans hold for the future of our state, share what other Arizonans have identified as highest priority issues, learn about the challenges communities face, and bring tools to help communities frame conversations, drive action, and measure progress. Metrics will be evaluated for their relevance to the Arizona We Want and may be added or removed on occasion with the input of Arizona’s leaders, communities, and technical experts.

Technical Notes

Additional technical notes and information about data sources and analysis is provided below:

Jobs Progress Meter

The Jobs progress meter currently reports on five metrics that are provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

1. Job Growth: This metric is updated monthly and compares the total number of jobs to the number in the same month of the previous year. Reported as a percentage for the nation, states, and certain Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).
2. Average Wages: This metric is updated annually and reports the annual average wages for employed persons within the nation, each state, and each county.
3. Unemployment: Unemployment numbers are updated monthly and are available for the nation, each state, and each county. The “U-3” rate is used, consistent with nation-wide reporting. Unemployed people in this measure are defined as including all jobless persons who are available to take a job and have actively sought work in the past four weeks.
4. Underemployment: Underemployment numbers are reported annually for the nation and all states and include total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus...
total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers. This is also known as the “U-6” rate.

5. Labor Force Participation: This number is measured monthly and reports the total number of people employed and unemployed as a percentage of the total population within the nation, states, counties, and MSAs. Those who are not seeking work such as retired persons, do not count toward the labor force.

Education Progress Meter

1. Post-Secondary Attainment: The annual percentage of Arizona residents who have some form of post-secondary certificate or degree. This could include education from a technical school, college or university. Data available for nation, states, counties, and MSAs. Source: US Census Bureau Current Population Survey. Updated annually.


3. Opportunity Youth: Percent of 16-24-year olds that are NOT going to school or working. Data provided from American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) and available at the national, state, and county level. Updated annually.

4. High School Graduation Rate: The percentage of people who graduate from high school as measured at the state, county, and municipal level. Source: Arizona Department of Education. Updated annually.

5. Eighth Grade Math: The percentage of 8th Graders who pass one or more of their eighth grade assessments with a rate of “proficient” or “highly proficient”. Source: Arizona Department of Education. Updated annually.

6. Third Grade Reading: The percentage of 3rd Graders who pass their language arts assessment with a rate of “proficient” or “highly proficient”. Source: Arizona Department of Education. Updated annually.


8. Teacher Pay: The rank of Arizona’s elementary school teachers as compared to the other US states and British Colombia. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics as adjusted to relative cost of living as measured by the Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Price Parities. Importantly, these data measure the salaries of all teachers, including those at charter schools and account for primary and secondary school teachers separately. Updated annually.
Health and Well-being Progress Meter

Health and well-being metrics are divided into outcomes and health-related inputs or intermediate metrics. Health practitioners and researchers have increased attention on reducing the incidents of disease by intervening at the root causes or “determinants of health.” Increased awareness and actions that address individual’s choices around healthy behavior, as well as environmental or community-related conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes can all improve wellness and reduce the amount of disease outcomes without requiring healthcare treatment.

Health-related outcomes:


2. Incidence of Diabetes:
   a. Percent of Arizonans who reported they have been told by a health care professional that they have diabetes. Data available for state, and county. Source: Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016 Report, Arizona Department of Health Services. Updated annually.

3. Incidence of Cardiac and Cerebral Disease:
   a. Percent of Arizonans who reported they have been told by a health care professional that they had a heart attack. Data available for state and county. Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016 Report, Arizona Department of Health Services. Updated annually.
   c. Percent of Arizonans who reported they have been told by a health care professional that they had a stroke. Data available for state and county. Source: Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016 Report, Arizona Department of Health Services. Updated annually.

4. Mental Health Distress: Percent Arizonans who reported frequent mental distress which is defined as 14+ days of poor mental health in the last 30 days. Data available for state and county. Source: Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016 Report, Arizona Department of Health Services. Updated annually.
5. Asthma: Percent Arizonans who reported they have been told by a healthcare professional that they have Asthma. Data available for state and county. Source: Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016 Report, Arizona Department of Health Services. Updated annually.

6. Hypertension Percent Arizonans who reported they have been told they have high blood pressure. Data available for nation, state, and county. Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011-2017. Updated annually.

*Health-related Input or intermediate metrics:*

1. Relative amount of Arizonans with Health Insurance: The percentage of Arizonans who reported they have health insurance as compared to the national average. Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011-2017. Updated annually.

2. Relative Cost of Arizona Healthcare:
   a. The percentage of Arizonans who reported they did not seek medical treatment in the past year due to cost as compared to the national average. Data available for nation, state, and counties. Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011-2017. Updated annually.
   b. Arizonan’s health spending per capita: The total amount of spending on healthcare in Arizona as divided by the total population. Data available for nation and state. Source: Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation.


5. Air Quality: Number of days that exceed the federal Environmental Protection Area standard for maximum pollutant concentrations. Measures are only available in areas that are considered “Nonattainment Areas”. Depending on the area, ozone and particulate matter are measured. Source: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Data available annually.
6. Physical Activity:
   b. Percentage of Arizonans who report exercising for at least 30 minutes three or more days per week. Data available for nation and state. Source: Gallup Sharecare Well-Being Index. Updated annually.
   c. Percentage of Arizona youth who are active at least five days of the week. Data available for nation and state. Source: National Physical Activity Plan Alliance. The 2018 United States Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth. Updated annually.

Natural Resources Progress Meter

Water metrics

1. Likelihood of Water Shortage from the Colorado River: The percent likelihood of any shortage condition in a given year. Source: Bureau of Reclamation Colorado River System 5-Year Projected Future Conditions. Updated every January and August. Officially, the August 24-month Operation Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs projection is used to determine if a shortage will be declared in the following year based upon the January 1 expected water level.

2. Per Capita Water Use: The amount of water used per day as divided by the number of people in the geographic or service area (GPCD). Data available for state and within the service areas of water providers that are either within an Active Management Area (AMA) or who report to the Department of Water Resources. Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources. Updated annually.

3. Efficiency of Water Infrastructure: The amount and percent of water withdrawn by a water provider that is lost or undeliverable before reaching the end user. Average of the water loss percentages of providers in AMAs. Data available for water providers within AMAs and Community Water Systems (CWS). Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources. Updated Annually.

4. Relative amount of population living within Protected or Somewhat Protected Areas of Arizona: Percentage of the state’s population that is within the boundaries of a geographic area that provides statutory regulation greater than the general statewide provisions of the Groundwater Code. Currently, the Protected Areas are the Active Management Areas and the Somewhat Protected Areas are the Irrigation Non-expansion Areas and the Mandatory Adequacy jurisdictions. Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources. Updated Annually.
5. Relative amount of Arizona land within Protected or Somewhat Protected Areas of Arizona: This metric is the percentage of the state’s land area that is within the boundaries of a geographic area that provides statutory regulation greater than the general statewide provisions of the Groundwater Code. Currently, the Protected Areas are the Active Management Areas and the Somewhat Protected Areas are the Irrigation Non-expansion Areas and the Mandatory Adequacy jurisdictions. Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources. Updated Annually.

6. Extent of Resolution of Arizona’s Disputed Water Rights: Arizona’s adjudication of the Gila River System and Source, and Little Colorado River System and Source have been ongoing for decades. As an early requirement within this process, the Superior Court will mandate that the Arizona Department of Water Resources complete a report known as “Hydrographic Survey Reports” (HSR). This metric counts the number of those reports for the ten basins within the adjudications. Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources. Updated when reports are ordered.

Open Space metrics


2. Adoption of Regional/Municipal Resource Conservation Plans: Number of adopted natural resource conservation plans within Arizona. Qualifying Natural Resource Conservation Plans must meet the following conditions: 1) Developed with transparency and input from a broad set of constituents, 2) Establishment of goals for ecological resources, may include cultural resources, 3) Evaluation of all lands and waters within its jurisdiction to measure benefits to resources, 4) Establishment of an implementation plan for acquisition or protection of resources as required by goals, and 5) Adoption by an agency with land use jurisdiction. Data available for counties and cities within Arizona. Source: Survey of municipalities within the state. Updated when plans are adopted.


4. Trail Miles and Ratio of Trail Miles to Population - municipal, county, state, federal: Under development.

5. Extent of Forest Treatment to Reduce Damage from Catastrophic Forest Fires: Under development.
Infrastructure Progress Meter

1. Quality of Public Transit: The national or statewide ranking of peer communities with the AllTransit™ performance score. “The AllTransit Performance Score is a comprehensive score that looks at connectivity, access to land area and jobs, frequency of service, and the percent of commuters who use transit to travel to work. (alltransit.cnt.org)” Data available for all US cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Municipal Statistical Areas (MSA). Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology, AllTransit™. Updated annually.

2. Bridge and Pavement Conditions:
   b. Interstate highway conditions: Percent of Arizona interstate highway line miles that are in poor condition. Data available for state. Source: Arizona Department of Transportation. Updated annually.
   c. Interstate highway conditions: Percent of Arizona interstate highway line miles that are in poor condition. Data available for state. Source: Arizona Department of Transportation. Updated annually.

3. Relative amount broadband access for Arizona rural and urban communities: The percentage of Arizonans who do not have access to broadband which is defined as internet providing speeds of at least 25 Megabits (Mb) per second download and 3 Mb per second upload. Data available for nation, states and counties. Source: Federal Communications Commission. Updated annually.

4. Highway Fatalities & Serious Injuries:

5. Metropolitan highway travel time reliability: The Travel Time Index is the ratio of travel time in the peak period to the travel time at free-flow conditions translated into percent longer travel time. For example, a nighttime 30 minute commute would be multiplied by 1.22 (22% longer) (Travel Time Index) to equal 36.6 minutes at peak times. Data available for select metropolitan areas nationally. Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, National Transportation Statistics. Updated annually.
7. AZ Vehicles that Rely on Fossil Fuels, Hydrogen or an Electric Energy: Under development.

Civic Health: Civic Participation & Connected Communities Progress Meters

Unless otherwise noted, findings presented are based on the National Conference on Citizenship’s (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Any and all errors are NCoC’s own. Volunteering and Civic Engagement estimates are from CPS September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement from 2017 and voting estimates from 2016 November Voting and Registration Supplement.

Using a probability selected sample of about 150,000 occupied households, the CPS collects monthly data on employment and demographic characteristics of the nation. Depending on the CPS supplement, the single-year Arizona CPS sample size used for this report ranges from 797-859 (volunteering/civic engagement supplement) and to 1,451 (voting supplement) residents from across Arizona. This sample is then weighted to representative population demographics for the district. Estimates for the volunteering and civic engagement indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on U.S. residents ages 16 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on U.S. citizens who are 18 and older (eligible voters). When we examined the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are based on adults ages 25 and older, based on the assumption younger people may be completing their education.

Because multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes are used, the report is not able to compute one margin of error for Arizona across all indicators. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (e.g., gender, education) will have smaller samples and therefore the margin of error will increase. Furthermore, national rankings, while useful in benchmarking, may be small in range, with one to two percentage points separating the state/district ranked first from the state/district ranked last.

It is also important that our margin of error estimates are approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.

Voter participation: Unless otherwise cited, voter participation data are sourced from Michael McDonald and the United States Elections Project and are a calculation of eligible voters rather than registered voters as reported by most Secretary of State offices. Measuring the turnout of eligible voters is considered to be a better metric for participation as it will account for those
who do not participate due to registration issues in addition to those who do not vote who are registered. More information can be found at http://www.electproject.org/.

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