

# ADOPTION: IS IT ABOUT THE MONEY?

In Adoption, Adoption Trafficking, Agency Complaints, Excerpts by Adoptionland News / December 8, 2015

#### Child 'protection' is one of the biggest businesses in the country. We spend \$12 billion a year on it.

A recent CDC study, *The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implications for Prevention*, found the total lifetime estimated financial costs associated with just one year of cases associated with child protection services is approximately \$124 billion. [1]

## ARIZONA LEADS THE NATION IN CHILDREN REMOVED FROM HOMES AND SENT TO FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

The State of Arizona has increased the percentage of kids in out-of-home placement by almost 50% between 9/30/2007 and 9/30/2012. That is 20% higher than the next closest state, Oregon, who increased only 20% in those five years. Nationwide 41 states actually lowered the percentage of children in out-of-home placements. Arizona has recently passed the mark of more than 16,000 children in out-of-home placements and is still increasing this trend. [2]

Why would Arizona be continuing to take more children than ever before and adopt out so many of these children to other families? Is it about the money?

Certainly, "yes", the state government and the state economy needs every business opportunity it can achieve, and the taking of children by the state and adopting these children to others is a financial windfall for the State of Arizona, the state budget, and the economy. It is easily a billion-dollar business and growing every day in Arizona.

According to Wall St., Arizona is the 45th worst-run state in the nation, has a poverty rate of 18.6%, the 9th highest in the nation, and a 2013 unemployment rate of 8.0%, 12th highest in the country. [3]

So why does Arizona lead the nation in the percentage of children removed from their parents' homes?

- 1. Money: Federal Financial Incentives for taking and keeping children. (\$72,000.00 Base)
- 2. Adoption Bonuses: \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00+ per each time [4]
- 3. Adoption Subsidies: Even after an adoption is completed until 22 years of age
- 4. Physicians: Completing research or hiding medical malpractice mistakes
- 5. Hospitals: Completing research or hiding medical malpractice mistakes
- 6. Pharmaceutical Companies: Endless pool of test subjects
- 7. Employment: Hundreds if not thousands of jobs depend on the state taking these children, especially since they are already built into the state budget now.

# ARE ARIZONA CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION MOVING ON TO BETTER LIVES?

So after millions of dollars in services, thousands of employees from hundreds of businesses, both state and federal, including in-state and out-of-state experts, are the children being protected ending up in safe and secure environments? Are the children being treated better or worse in state custody?

A reasonable taxpayer would assume that children are going from a bad environment to a good environment, a sick environment to a healing environment. We would assume they are going to a new environment totally void of any more suffering or trauma, safe from abuse or neglect of any kind, right?

Wrong!

Some of these children have suffered more trauma by being taken by CPS than they ever suffered in their

own homes. Being taken from your own home and placed in another home with strangers while often not having any clue why is extremely traumatizing. The impact is just like that of an illegal kidnapping, but in these cases, the kidnapping is totally legal.

Or, imagine being told that your mother tried to harm you when in fact nothing ever happened. Purely speculative areas that are not researched but are based on diagnoses like <u>Munchausen Syndrome By</u> <u>Proxy</u> (MSBP) and others are often made up signs and symptoms to qualify the child for a disability that can receive massive amounts of federal funding.

## NATIONWIDE, STATISTICS SHOW CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER HOMES SUFFER MORE AFTER THEY LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES

According to Cornell University, about 68% of all child protective cases "do not involve child maltreatment." [4]

According to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) in Washington, the calculated average is for every 1 abused child removed from an abusive home, there are 17 children removed from loving non-offending homes nationwide. [5]

Take a look at statistics of children who are removed from their families by CPS:

Number of Cases per 100,000 children in the United States. These numbers come from The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) in Washington D. C. [5]

Children in CPS custody:

- Physical Abuse (160)
- Sexual Abuse (112)
- Neglect (410)
- Medical Neglect (14)
- Fatalities (6.4)

Children in Parent Custody:

- Physical Abuse (59)
- Sexual Abuse (13)

- Neglect (241)
- Medical Neglect (12)
- Fatalities (1.5)

A child in CPS custody is:

- Almost three times more likely to be physically abused in CPS custody than at home
- Over eight times more likely to be sexually abused in CPS custody than at home
- Almost two times as likely to be neglected in CPS custody than at home
- Almost equally likely to be medically neglected (How can that be in CPS custody?)
- Almost five times more likely to die in CPS custody than at home

Perpetrators of Maltreatment (Number of Cases Per 100,000)							
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Medical Neglect	Fatalities		
Parents	59	13	241	12	1.5		
State	160	112	410	14	6.4		

As you can see, children are abused far more in CPS care and custody than at home. [6]

More Children in the Adoption System = More Money for the State Financial Opportunities for the State

#### of Arizona and Economic Growth; Stability

The State Actors						
CPS Investigators	Assistant Arizona Attorney General (CPS)					
CPS Case Managers	Guardian Ad Litem (CPS)					
CPS Case Manager Supervisors	Attorney for Child (CPS)					
CPS Physician	Juvenile Judge					
Child's Therapist/Counselor (CPS)	In-State Experts (CPS)					
Child's Psychologist (CPS)	Out-of-State Experts (CPS)					
Visitation Therapist/Counselor (CPS)	Foster Parents (CPS)					
Physician Making Report	Court Reporters/Staff					
Hospital Making Report	Physicians Attorney & Law Firm					
Social Worker Making Report	Hospital Attorney & Law Firm					
Hospital Social Workers	Pharmaceutical Company Attorneys					
Parent Counselor (CPS)	State of Arizona Judges					
Parent Psychologist (CPS)	Arizona Supreme Court Judges					
Family Counselor (CPS)	9th Circuit Court of Appeals					
Group Homes	Pharmaceutical Companies – Research					
Therapeutic Group Homes	Non-Emergency Medical Transportation					
Residential Treatment Centers	Special Education Service Providers					
Hospitals – Mental Health	Behavioral Health Providers					
Psychiatrists: Very rare and not in court	OT/PT/Speech/Therapies/Crisis Services					
The Parents (Victims)						
Parent's Court Appointed Attorney (CPS) In-State Experts (Parent)						

4 of 12

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n b courreppondermonie, (cr.s) ---sure Enperie (1 meni These Attomeys lose their jobs if they win too Out-of-State Experts (Parent) many cases; often never submitting evidence Family Members (Parent) Income Sources for Arizona; Related to Child Systems Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act 1973-1974 (CAPTA) Public Law 93-247 . Title XX of the Social Security Act of 1975, 42 U.S. Code Chapter 7 - SOCIAL SECURITY ٠ Adoption Assistance Child Welfare Act of 1980, Public Law 96-272 . Child Abuse Prevention, Adoption and Family Services Act of 1988, P.L. 100-294 . Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) Public Law 105-89 . Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 Public Law ٠ Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program . State Children's Health Insurance Programs in Schools (Medicaid) (AHCCCS) Free and Reduced School Breakfast and Lunch programs

*Note:* All of these funding sources vary based on the child's age and how many areas of "special needs" the state can qualify the child in, such as special education, mental health diagnosis, or psychotropic medications to name a very few.

One local hospital in Arizona was billing the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Medicaid) over one million dollars a year on one child, but then the same physicians/hospitals were testifying in "kiddie court" there was nothing wrong with the child. The Mom must have done something? The true medical condition of the child was never given to the judge!

#### How do Child Protection Services Pick which Children to Take? Poverty

Poverty is the single best predictor of child abuse and neglect. According to one frequently cited federal study, children in families earning below \$15,000 a year are **22 times** as likely to be considered maltreated as kids in families with incomes above \$30,000. These numbers are readily available through documents CPS Investigators have about AHCCCS (Medicaid) [7] It is also well known that these parents cannot afford private attorneys to represent them and fight to get their children back. They must rely on court-appointed attorneys who are generally quick to encourage them to settle with the State and lose all custody of their children.

#### Research

There seems to be a trend in this area as certain Arizona hospitals have relationships with pharmaceutical companies and there seems to be a parallel between CPS reports, the genetics of the child, the medical conditions of the child, Arizona elected officials, and the research of the pharmaceutical company. The numbers are difficult to find, but apparently, some parents have found their children in those research studies.

#### Medical Malpractice

There are several cases where there is no evidence whatsoever of any neglect, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and CPS is called by the physician or hospital involved. In many of these cases, there is specific evidence and expert testimony, from nationally recognized experts, of medical mistakes or care below the community standards. Interestingly, CPS has never done an investigation of many of these cases and yet severs the rights of the parent as quickly as possible. "Bazinga" the medical malpractice disappears, saving hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements, legal fees, and increased liability insurance costs.

#### Federal Government Incentives

The United States Federal Government, through an array of laws and grants, provides billions of dollars in incentives to states to take children from their parents. Arizona takes more percentage-wise than any other state.

#### Adoptions

People who do not have children and want children create a market for children. Where is there an endless availability of children? Child Protective Services! The younger and healthier the child the more adoptable that child will be. Younger and healthier children are significantly more adoptable. A reasonable person might conclude the demand is so high that there could possibly be a connection between this demand and the increase in the taking of children before they ever leave the hospital.

#### The Funds?

It is easier to build a round pizza puzzle with 1,000 pieces than find the exact money a state gets per child from the moment CPS takes that child and then from month to month. The amount most consistently quoted and spoken about is \$6,000.00 per month.

"For instance, in the case of foster care, the present reimbursement to state and local government for each child taken into foster care is approximately \$6000/month. Yet the foster care provider (the foster parent) receives only somewhere around \$600/month. Allowing about the same for administrative costs, each child in foster care is worth about \$5000/month; that's pure profit on the bottom line!" [8]

On October 11, 2014, Arizona Central reported the following:

"Arizona had the second-largest increase in the nation over the decade, adding 7,296 children to Texas' 8,294 (which has 4x the population of Arizona). There were 15,751 foster kids in Arizona at the end of March, according to the latest numbers from the state." (Data given on March 2013) [9]

Assuming these numbers are correct, and the accepted dollar amount is correct:

The Arizona State child welfare and adoption services would have generated for Arizona approximately 94.5 million dollars a month or 1.134 billion dollars a year.

Demographics. Child wehate Summary. Arizona. 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 [10]							
	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Total Children Under 18 Years	1,732,019	1,629,537	1,617,596	1,620,894			
Child Maltreatment Victims	3,803	6,023	8,708	10,039			
Foster Care Entry Rate per 1,000	4.3	4.8	5.2	6.6			
Children in Foster Care on 9/30	9,421	9,963	10,956	13,621			
Children Adopted	1,706	2,045	2,275	2,244			

Demographics: Child Welfare Summary: Arizona: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 [10]

Conclusion: American Families Under Attack in Government-Sponsored Children for Profit Adoption PracticesMost American's find it nearly impossible to believe that our own Government, both state and federal, would allow some scheme this obscene to be perpetrated against the American family unit and our precious children. And yet, there is so much evidence that something perverse is happening that it begs for an independent audit by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Justice.

A few questions that I believe should be addressed during both investigations:

- 1. How much-combined funding is each state getting for each child?
- 2. What is the amount of <u>Medicaid fraud</u> by the state in relation to these children?
- 3. How do race, poverty, medical research, medical malpractice, federal government incentives, and adoptions impact the number of children taken by each state?
- 4. Why have the states or federal government not researched if the current system even works to do anything but pay for itself?
- 5. How many children in the Foster Care system, as it currently exists, end up with criminal records, prison sentences, post-traumatic stress disorder from Foster Care, and suicide attempts and deaths?

#### About the Author

Steven R. Isham has educated, advocated, and fought for children and families since 1975, going on 40 years. His experience spans education, special education, school administration, behavioral health, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, curriculum development, coaching, author of a book on Child and Family Advocacy, and service to others throughout his career.

By Steven R. Isham M.A., L.B.S.W. **Special to Health Impact News** 

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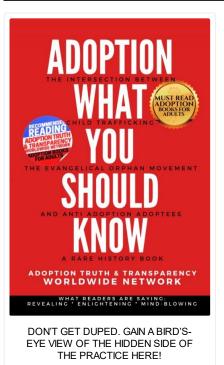
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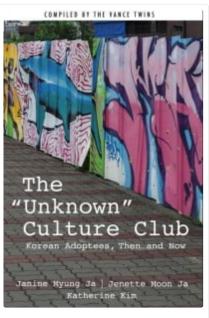
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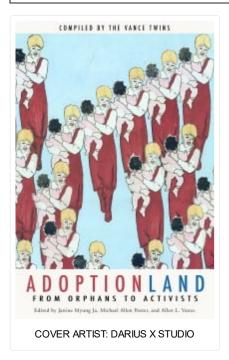
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#### KOREAN ADOPTEES, THEN & NOW

## EVER WONDERED WHAT ADOPTED PEOPLE ARE SAYING RIGHT NOW ABOUT ADOPTION?



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#### RARE ADOPTION QUOTES



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