



UTTEAKA NAU NAAWAK TOGETHERNESS, STRONG ROOTS

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE 2016-2018 ICWA REPORT

2016 - 2020 Tribal Council Members



The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council is an elected body that serves a four year term. The current Council took Office in June 2016. The Council selects four of its members to serve in Executive roles that include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Councilmembers also serve on various government operations through face-to-face, regularly scheduled meetings with Division/Department Directors and key staff.



Robert Valencia, Chairman

Peter Yucupico, Vice Chairman

Mary Jane Buenamea, Secretary
Chair of the Language, Culture & History Oversight Committee

Raymundo Baltazar, Treasurer

Herminia Frias, Councilmember
Chair of the Health Oversight Committee

Francisco Valencia, Councilmember
Chair of the Development Services, Economic Development, Land and Environment & Regulations Oversight Committee

Francisco Munoz Jr., Councilmember
Chair of the Employment, Labor and Human Resources Oversight Committee

Rosa Soto Alvarez, Councilmember

Chair of Public Safety, Police, Fire, Public Defender and Prosecutor Oversight Committee

Antonia Campoy, Councilmember
Chair of the Education and Workforce Development Oversight Committee

Cruzita Armenta, Councilmember
Chair of the Social Services Oversight Committee

David Ramirez, Councilmember
Chair of the Housing & Government Facilities Oversight Committee
Chair of Veterans Affairs Oversight Committee

HISTORY OF THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

BACKGROUND

The Yaqui people have inhabited many parts of North America, from Northern Mexico and the Southern United States from Arizona, west to California and north to Colorado since 500 AD. The Yaquis' main territorial base is located along the Rio Yaqui in Sonora, Mexico and consists of eight original pueblos: Benem, Huiviris, Rahum, Potam, Vicam, Torim, Bacum, and Cocorit. The name Yaqui was given to the "Yoeme" (the Yaqui word for "People"), by the Spanish who called the Yoeme Hiaki (Yaqui), which is the Yoeme word for "speech."

Historically, the Yoeme resided in six main Yaqui communities: (1) Guadalupe, near Phoenix; (2) old Pascua Village, in downtown Tucson; (3) Pascua Yaqui Pueblo, which is the Yaqui Reservation outside of Tucson; (4) Barrio Libre, in the City of South Tucson; (5) Yoeme Pueblo, in Marana; and (6) Penjamo in Scottsdale. These six communities, in addition to others in Coolidge, Scottsdale, and elsewhere, continue today.

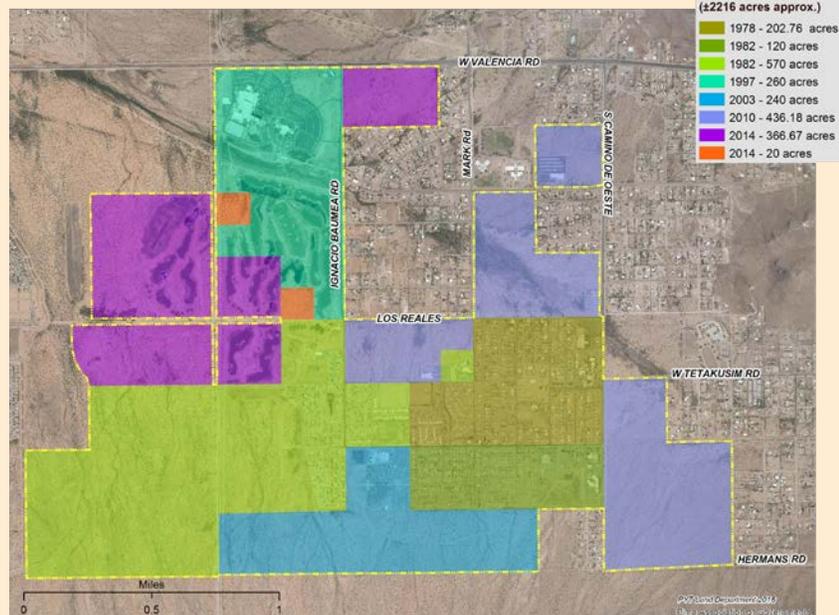
In 1964, a bill was passed for the transfer of two hundred and two acres of desert land to the Yoeme where they could maintain their tribal identity. Many Yoeme moved to this new land, now the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, located seven miles west of I-19, south of Valencia Road. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe gained federal recognition as an Indian Tribe on September 18, 1978 and passed its first Constitution in 1988. On October 14, 1994, Congress adopted Public Law 103-357, recognizing the Pascua Yaqui Tribe as a "Historic Indian Tribe," possessing all sovereign rights of an Indian Tribe.

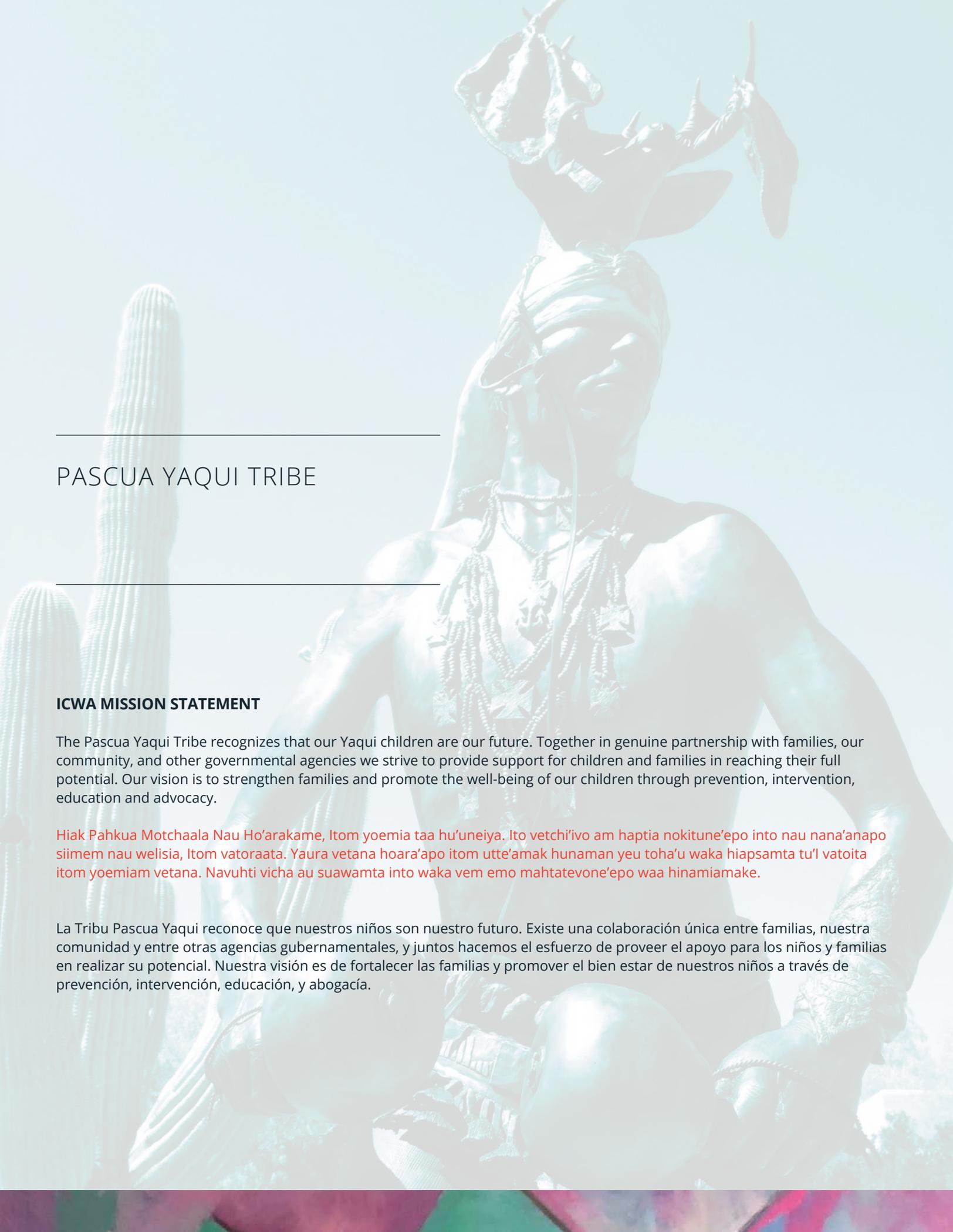
The tribal and federal governments provide health, education, social services, vocational training, and housing services to tribal members. Additionally, the reservation community is provided public safety services.

Annual celebrations include Tribal Recognition Day on September 18 and the Easter ceremonies, which start each year on Ash Wednesday and continue through the Lenten Season.



PASCUA YAQUI RESERVATION Approximately 2,216 acres Last updated June 2016





PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

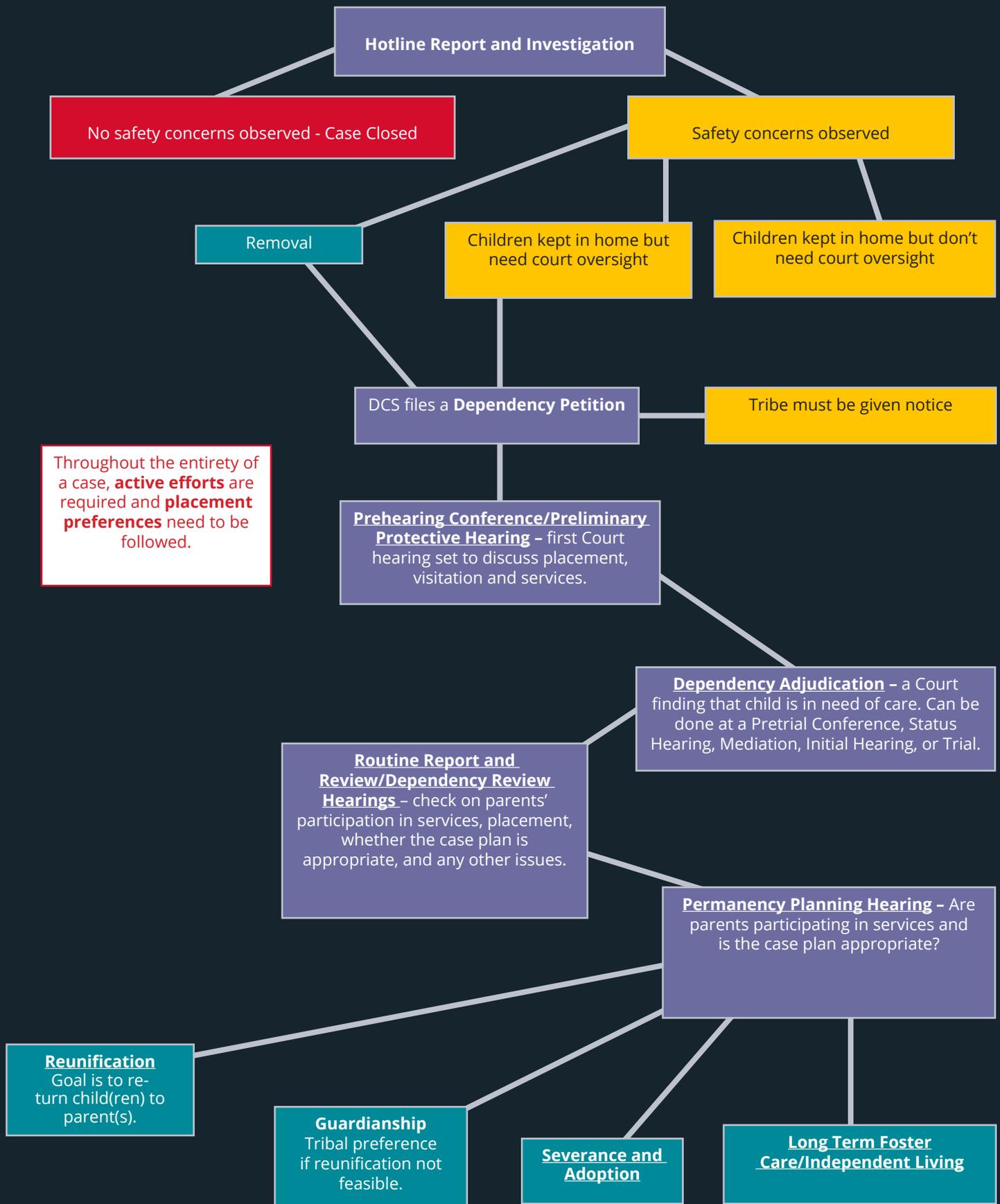
ICWA MISSION STATEMENT

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe recognizes that our Yaqui children are our future. Together in genuine partnership with families, our community, and other governmental agencies we strive to provide support for children and families in reaching their full potential. Our vision is to strengthen families and promote the well-being of our children through prevention, intervention, education and advocacy.

Hiak Pahkua Motchaala Nau Ho'arakame, Itom yoemia taa hu'uneiya. Ito vetchi'ivo am haptia nokitune'epo into nau nana'anapo siimem nau welisia, Itom vatoraata. Yaura vetana hoara'apo itom utte'amak hunaman yeu toha'u waka hiapsamta tu'l vatoita itom yoemiam vetana. Navuhti vicha au suawamta into waka vem emo mahtatevone'epo waa hinamiamake.

La Tribu Pascua Yaqui reconoce que nuestros niños son nuestro futuro. Existe una colaboración única entre familias, nuestra comunidad y entre otras agencias gubernamentales, y juntos hacemos el esfuerzo de proveer el apoyo para los niños y familias en realizar su potencial. Nuestra visión es de fortalecer las familias y promover el bien estar de nuestros niños a través de prevención, intervención, educación, y abogacía.

DEPENDENCY PROCESS IN ARIZONA STATE COURTS



Throughout the entirety of a case, **active efforts** are required and **placement preferences** need to be followed.

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE

ICWA STAFF

PIMA COUNTY



Left to Right: Juanita Valenzuela, Christopher Molina Jr., Tony Sanchez, Tamara Walters, Marissa Quiroz, Norena Valencia

MARICOPA COUNTY



Left to Right: Veronica Perez, Selena Gortariz, Tara Hubbard, Maria Vasquez

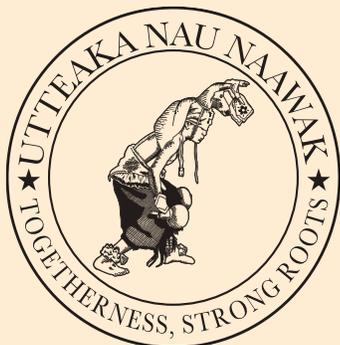
TESTIMONIAL FROM ICWA ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tamara Walters



When I first began representing the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in all ICWA cases 15 years ago, there were 5 cases in Maricopa County and 20 in Pima County. Once the word got out that the Pascua Yaqui Tribe was an active participant, the caseload doubled within a few years through contact with families and DCS. Today the caseload is three times what it was fifteen years ago, and the amount of litigation has increased as well. Because the Pascua Yaqui Tribe appears in person at all court hearings and most team decision meetings, the volume of work and driving became overwhelming for one attorney. The addition of an Assistant Attorney General in Maricopa County through Tiwahe funding enabled the Tribe to have local counsel in each County.

Through our hands-on involvement in all ICWA cases, the return of Yaqui children to their parents has greatly increased, as well as placement of Yaqui children with family members and Yaqui foster homes. With hard work and dedication, the goals of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and ICWA are being met.



"If it wasn't for ICWA I wouldn't have been raised in the Yaqui Community, with my two Yaqui parents, my siblings and I would not have met my husband who is full blooded Yaqui. Because of ICWA I am now a foster mom, I am definitely honored and blessed to be given this opportunity. I've seen a lot of kids in and out of my home, I have guardianship over 3 children right now and custody over 2 boys. Definitely, ICWA is a law that works and has helped get to where I am today."

TIWAHE INITIATIVE

Federal Demonstration Project

OVERVIEW

The Tiwahe Initiative began under President Obama as part of his commitment to protect and promote the development of prosperous and resilient tribal communities. The Tiwahe Initiative is a federal demonstration project being implemented in six tribal communities. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe became a Tiwahe tribe in 2016. The Tiwahe Initiative is grounded in the fundamental understanding that there is no asset more precious to the Tribe than the health, safety, and well-being of our children, youth, and families.

The Tiwahe Initiative is designed to build Tribal programs that invest in children, youth, and families, while preserving tribal cultural values and traditions. The overarching goal is to promote family stability and strengthen the tribal community. The objectives are to: (1) address the interrelated problems of substance abuse, child abuse & neglect, poverty, family violence, unemployment, and a high incidence of incarceration; and (2) demonstrate the importance of service coordination between programs within tribal communities and effective interagency collaborations. There is funding across five specific areas: Social Services funding to develop and institutionalize programming to effectively target funding and evaluate outcomes in meeting social service needs; Law Enforcement Special Initiatives funding to create and expand alternatives to incarceration and reduce recidivism; Court funding targeted at Juvenile Presenting Officers, Guardians Ad-Litem, Parents' Attorneys, CPS code development and CPS procedural manuals, and ICWA implementation; Housing funding for more functional dwellings and to institute change to alleviate overcrowding; and Job Placement and Training to expand job placement and training programs. The Pascua Yaqui Tiwahe Initiative aims to ensure Yaqui children remain connected to their culture and to empower Yaqui Families to achieve healthy self-sufficiency.

In June 2016, after a study established the need for additional ICWA Team members, funding was awarded by the Tiwahe Initiative to hire more staff to assist in ICWA cases. The ICWA Team has expanded to include a total of five members: two legal assistants, two attorneys, and a database coordinator. With the help of Tiwahe funds, outcomes demonstrating that the strategies applied by the Tribe's ICWA Team resulted in positive results for Yaqui children. Remarkably, even with a steady case increase, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has improved its ability to achieve outcomes that are favorable under the ICWA, Arizona Law, and the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Code.

The success of ICWA representation strategies can be measured by the ICWA Team's ability to comply with permanency preference provisions mandated by ICWA. In dependency cases, reunification with parents is the permanency preference according to ICWA, Arizona law, and Pascua Yaqui Tribal Code. In 2006, only 13% of the Tribe's ICWA cases resulted in parent reunification. In 2015, 48% of ICWA cases resulted in parent reunification, this is an increase of 35% from 2006. This increase in parental reunification is a result of the ICWA Team's dedication to "to prevent the breakup of the Indian family."

With the help of the Tiwahe Initiative, overall, the transition from the Tribe's original method of representing children in ICWA cases to the methods used by the ICWA Team now have resulted in positive outcomes for Pascua Yaqui families. These positive outcomes are the intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act. The decision by the Tribe to establish in-house counsel and develop an ICWA Team has been pivotal in the positive outcomes demonstrated in the 2016 ICWA Data Report.

TESTIMONIAL FROM COUNCIL WOMAN

♦
Rosa Soto Alvarez



Rosa Soto Alvarez is a proud Pascua Yaqui Tribal member who was raised on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation since the early age of 10. She is happily married, a mother of three beautiful children and two awesome step daughters; and a grandmother to four adorable children.

Mrs. Alvarez and her 3 siblings were raised in the child welfare system from the age of 6 to 18 by her loving foster parents, whom she just calls “mom and dad.” Prior to her placement with “mom and dad” she recalls difficult and painful experiences in the child welfare system. As the eldest sibling she remembers channeling a motherly role to protect and care for her younger siblings. Her experiences have shaped her into the person she is today: a strong leader with a life’s mission to protect, advocate and improve upon the lives of children. She understands the important role foster parents have in raising children in safe, stable and caring homes that encourage healthy development. Therefore, it is understandable that her favorite proverb is “it takes a village to raise a child”, as she shares her home not only with her immediate family but also with four foster kids: two nieces and two nephews. Mrs. Alvarez has been a foster parent for 14 years and has always been actively engaged in her community serving as a mentor, coach, volunteer and prayer warrior.

Mrs. Alvarez was elected to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe’s Council in June 2012 and is currently serving her second term. Prior to being elected she worked as a Victim Advocate assisting people in crisis for the Pascua Yaqui Police Department, a role she took personally after her only brother was murdered in 2005. She felt it was her calling to run for elected office and utilize her experiences and passion to improve upon the child welfare system, public safety, education and other youth development services. Mrs. Alvarez describes her service as a blessing and honor. She is a woman of faith and is passionate about her love for Jesus Christ.

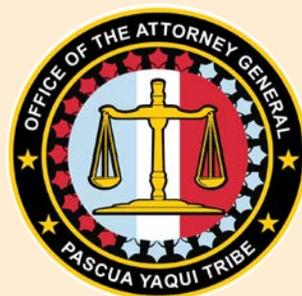


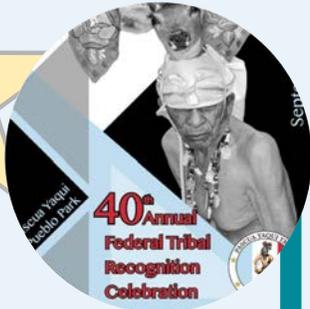
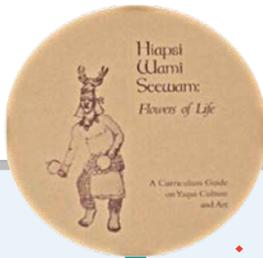


OFFICE OF THE **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) represents the Tribe in all Indian Child Welfare Act matters in state courts. The OAG receives about 370 notices from various states a year. For every notice that is received, we create and submit an ICWA enrollment verification to determine the child(ren’s) and/or parent(s) eligibility status. Once eligibility confirmation is received from the Tribe’s Enrollment Department on eligibility status, our Assistant Attorney Generals will intervene in the case. If eligibility is not confirmed, a Non-Intervention Letter will be mailed. Every month the Assistant Attorney Generals, Ms. Tamara Walters and Mrs. Tara Hubbard, and their legal assistants compile a report on the status of all ICWA cases.

In December 2016, the Tribe completed the Pascua Yaqui Tiwahe Initiative 2016 Plan (the “Plan”), which set forth the planning, development, and implementation methods to be used to implement the Initiative. The Plan identifies demographics, community needs, staffing needs, departmental involvement, board creation, training needs, departmental goals and newly proposed initiatives. With funding from Tiwahe Initiative for fiscal year 2016-2017, the OAG was able to hire another Staff Attorney and Legal Assistant to serve Maricopa County. That important step has allowed the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to improve the overall welfare of the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Community and better advocate for our Yaqui children and families impacted by child welfare removals off the reservation.





1980

"PROJECT CHOKI"-Developed to benefit students of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), and Richey School. The material resulting from the project was 30 years of work that included the book "Hiapsi Wami Seewam: Flowers of Life" curriculum guide on Yaqui Culture.



DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES- From infancy all young children benefit from early education. Early education opportunities can help the community meet the education needs of its young residents, families, and educators.

1982

"PROJECT YAQUI" WAS IMPLEMENTED- This program developed to create a culturally sensitive education program for Native American handicapped preschool children.

1978

FEDERAL RECOGNITION-The Pascua Yaqui Indian people were recognized and declared to be eligible... for services and assistance provided to Indians because of their status as Indians. The Act of September 18, 1978.

"INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978" ENACTED BY CONGRESS- to protect the best interests of Indian children...and the placement of such children in homes that reflect the unique values of Indian culture, and by providing for assistance to Indian tribes in the operation of child and family service programs... designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family.

1984

"PROJECT YAQUI II" -The implementation of "Project Yaqui II" in a joint effort between the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. TUSD began to use appropriate materials for "Project Yaqui II" to assist in a program developed on the reservation.

1979

THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE ESTABLISHED A SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM- Currently, the Tribe offers the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Program: The CATCH program is offered during Summer and Winter school breaks. CATCH offers youth a structured day program filled with fun sporting activities and games, hiking, swimming, weekly field trips and healthy snacks and meals. The program helps kids learn about being healthy with their peers.



1981

THE TRIBE FORMALLY REQUESTED FUNDING TO SECURE THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AFFORDED TO YAQUI CHILDREN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ICWA-The Tribal Council requested this discretionary funding to plan, develop, and implement services for Yaqui children and their families under the ICWA.

THE TRIBE AGREED TO CREATE A CHILDREN'S SERVICE UNIT- The Unit was specified to provide preventive and treatment services for families at high risk for abuse or neglect. This plan focused on infants, children, and youth.

1985

CHILDREN'S SERVICE UNIT project as a result of the funding allows for services through the tribe.



HISTORY OF THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE ASSISTING FAMILIES AND TEACHING THE UNIQUE VALUES OF INDIAN CULTURE

2016-2018 ICWA REPORT



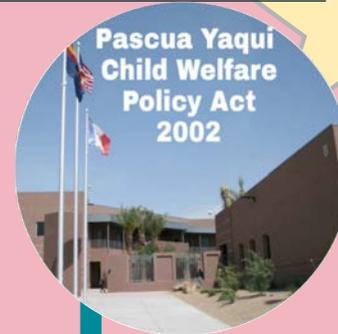
1989

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING- This funding is used to plan, develop and implement service and programs for Yaqui children and their families. This funding provides services to victims of child abuse and child sexual abuse.



1996

THE TRIBE ESTABLISHES THE WIC PROGRAM- WIC is a nutrition program that helps families feed their children healthy foods. WIC provides nutrition and breastfeeding information, healthy foods, and help accessing health care to families. The program is available to families with pregnant women, new mothers, and children under the age of five.



2002

THE TRIBE IMPLEMENTS THE PASCUA YAQUI CHILD WELFARE POLICY ACT OF 2002- The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. §1901 et. seq., gives the Tribe authority to advocate and enforce the Tribe's law in state child welfare cases. The Tribe established placement preferences in dependency cases.

ADULT, YOUTH AND FAMILIES PROJECT- This assists Tribal members to receive casework and other social services. This funding assists tribal members to receive DES services through the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Social Services.

1993

1993: TUSD AND PASCUA YAQUI COLABORATE TO CREATE THE YAQUI DICTIONARY- The Tribe and TUSD have had a long standing tradition of working together to serve the educational and cultural needs of the Pascua Yaqui children. This effort eventually led to the creation of the Yaqui dictionary.



2001

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM-The Arizona Department of Education and the Tribe established a summer food service program for children on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation.



SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD SERVICES



The mission of the Social Services Department is to protect, assist, and empower all tribal families by working together to build a resilient and thriving nation. The Children's Services Program-Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Unit under the Social Services Department strives to achieve this mission by providing support and guidance to families in any state child welfare system through case management services; consultation, collaboration and coordination with state child welfare agencies and courts; education on cultural teachings and ICWA; and advocating for Yaqui children and their families in and out of the court. While the Indian Child Welfare Act itself is a state responsibility, the ICWA Unit ascribes the success of maintaining the stability and security of Yaqui children and families to the Tribe being an integral part of the process. The ICWA Unit becomes involved as early as possible in state child welfare investigations and cases with the assistance of the Office of the Attorney General and Enrollment Department. The ICWA Unit works in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General to prevent the breakup of Tribal families during state investigations and team decision making meetings, to place children with family or in Yaqui homes when removals do occur, and to advocate for reunification services. Most of the ICWA cases come from the State of Arizona and the ICWA Unit has cultivated an extraordinary working relationship with the State Through collaborative efforts with the Office of the Attorney General and the State, the ICWA Unit is also actively involved in any other state's ICWA cases involving Yaqui children. The ICWA Unit has been able to increase the number of parent reunifications and the outcomes where Yaqui children end up with Yaqui relatives. The ICWA Unit ensures that families remain together when possible and that the children removed from their homes are connected to their culture and traditions and remain part of the Yaqui community.



PASCUA YAQUI

ENROLLMENT

The Enrollment Department Director, in collaboration with Enrollment staff, created within the department the position of Senior Enrollment Research Specialist ICWA, in order to serve as a liaison between the Office of the Attorney General and Tribal Social Services. In doing so, the Senior Enrollment Research Specialist ICWA concentrates on providing Enrollment verifications and vital tribal information for child welfare cases.

The Specialist conducts a thorough review of all Enrollment databases in order to not only verify whether the child is enrolled but also to link that child to family members which information is then reported on a Kinship Report. The Kinship Report is vital in the placement of children in the child welfare system. When the child is an enrolled tribal member, the Specialist will also issue a Certificate of Indian Blood for the child to show tribal affiliation. The Enrollment Director and the Specialist are working to expand the level of services able to provide to the welfare system. We have proposed that the Specialist initiate the Application for Membership as well as request the Birth Certificate from Arizona's Department of Vital Records for eligible children. In doing so, we are looking to enroll eligible children more quickly so that they can remain connected with their culture and maintain a sense of identity. We are also hopeful that this may alleviate some of the work from case workers' workload.

The following is a report of the number of requests and applications received by our office as they pertain to ICWA. You will find the monthly totals as well as the fiscal year totals as they relate to requests and applications on the two tables below. The count contained herein reflects the number of children for whom research has been completed in the given month. Therefore, in this report, requests refer to the individual children not just the request form. While maintaining the original mission, the Enrollment Department and staff are ready to explore ways to best support tribal departments and build collaborative efforts to better service the Pascua Yaqui tribal members.



The mission of the Enrollment Department is to carry out the responsibilities of enrollment as deemed necessary by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Constitution and Membership Ordinance. The Enrollment Department will maintain and protect the tribal membership roll and the documentation provided for and by tribal members and applicants. Yaqui tribal members.

1ST QUARTER FY 2017 -2018

Month	Non Member request	Member Request	Total
October	68	1	69
November	37	7	44
December	51	0	51
1st Quarter Totals	156	8	164
YTD	156	8	164

2ND QUARTER FY 2017 -2018

Month	Non Member request	Member Request	Total
January	52	8	60
February	33	4	37
March	32	1	33
2nd Quarter Totals	117	13	130
YTD	273	21	294

ICWA STATUS REPORT DATA

REUNIFICATION WITH PARENT

24%

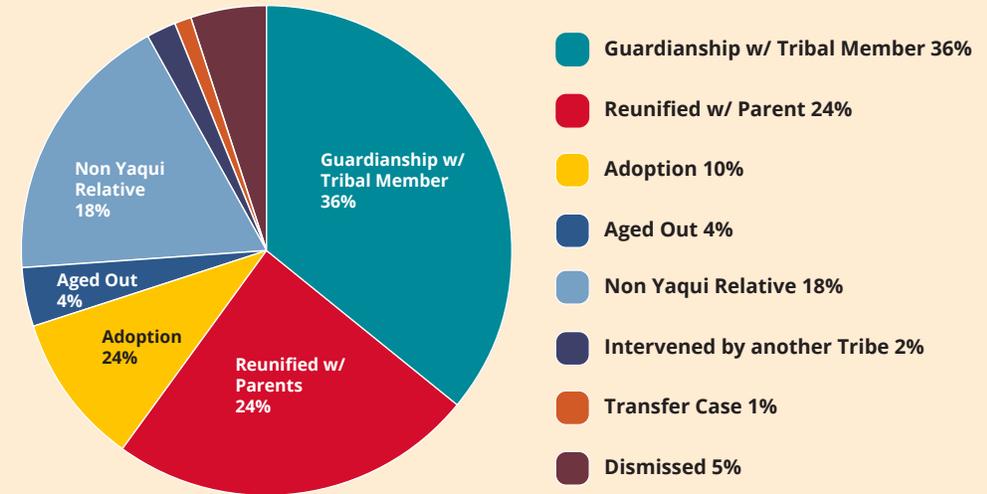
The ideal case plan resolution is reunification with a parent. As the data shows, 24% of ICWA cases result in reunification with a parent.

GUARDIANSHIP W/ TRIBAL MEMBER

36%

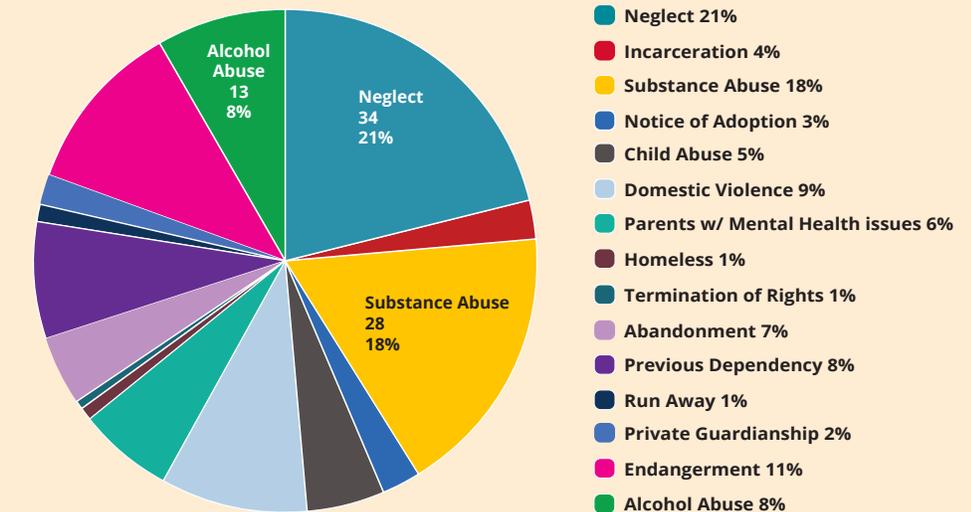
If reunification is not likely, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has a placement preference for guardianship over severance and adoption. The data shows, 36% of ICWA cases result in guardianship with an ICWA complaint placement.

STATUS REPORT-DATA AUGUST 2017-MARCH 2018



An evaluation of monthly case data between November 2016 through March 2018 shows that there were **137** dependency cases opened in both Maricopa and Pima County. Additionally, there were **91** dependency cases closed in both Maricopa and Pima County. In that same time period the ICWA team received **449** notices for eligibility determination. Moreover, there were **888** children in total that were addressed that were either (1) enrolled, (2) eligible for enrollment, or (3) non-member/not enrolled. The ideal case plan resolution is reunification with a parent. As the data shows, 24% of ICWA cases resulted in reunification with a parent. If reunification is not likely, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has preference for guardianship over severance and adoption. The data shows, 54% of ICWA cases resulted in guardianship with an ICWA compliant placement.

STATUS REPORT DATA AUGUST 2017-MARCH 2018



Per the open dependency cases shown on **Table: Status Report Data August 2017-March 2018**, we have identified multiple reasons for cause of removal of the children. Majority of the cases have more than one cause of removal and more than one child involved. The table shows the percentage makeup for each cause of removal.



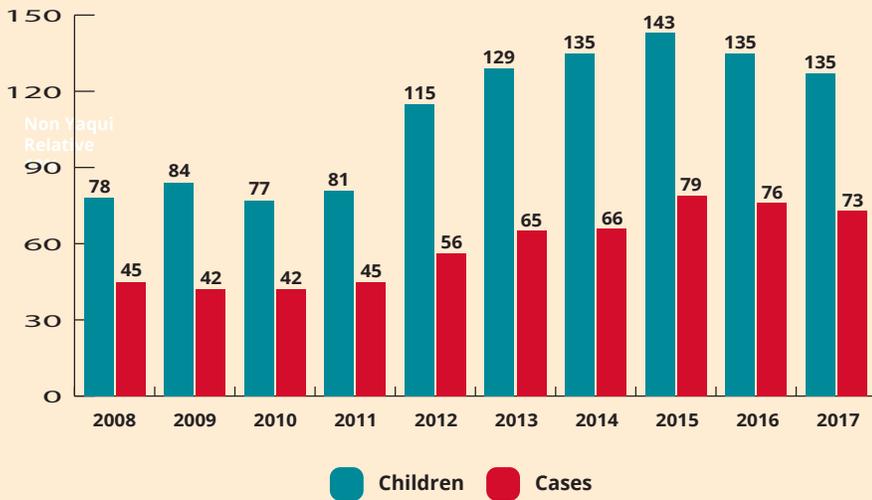
How long were you an ICWA child before you aged out?

"I was in the system from 4 years old until I aged out at 18 years old"

Tell me about your experiences being an ICWA child?

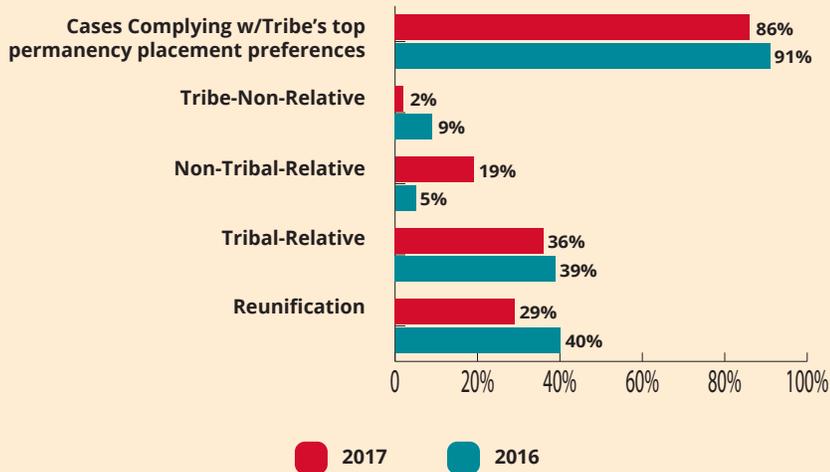
I was a problem child, I bounced around a lot to different foster families, and I always ran away and never wanted to listen. One day I started turning everything around, started doing well in school and making my grades. The caseworker was a real big cheerleader for me at the time. Because I didn't have any family or a support system, my caseworkers became that for me, and we all went through this experience together.

AVERAGE CASELOAD AND CHILDREN PER MONTH 2008-2017



From 2008 to 2017, the average number of cases and number of children served each month by the ICWA team has substantially increased. In 2008, there was an average of 45 open cases per month and an average of 78 children served each month by the ICWA team. In 2015 the average number of open cases per month peaked to 79 and the average number of children served per month jumped to 143. In 2017 the average number of open cases per month was 73 and the average number of children served per month was 127.

PERMANENCY PREFERENCE COMPLIANCE 2016-2017



The Tribe established the following permanency preferences Yaqui children in state court and the tribal court dependency cases:

(1) Family reunification, (2) Extended family member or foster parent permanent guardianship, (3) Termination of parental rights and adoption only when absolutely necessary.

The Tribe also established the following placement preferences for Yaqui children, which are effective for any temporary or permanent placements:

(1) A Yaqui extended family member, (2) A non-Yaqui extended family member, (3) A non-related Yaqui family, (4) An Indian family, (5) A non-Indian family licensed or approved by the Tribe.



What does being a foster parent mean to you for the past present & future?

"I feel like I am blessed to have the opportunity to help other people and children. It means a lot to me. You have their lives in your hands and I remember being young and people saying and doing small little things of kindness for me that they wouldn't remember but to me it meant the world. So I remember that when I have my niece or if I think about taking any other kids the littlest thing can have the biggest impact for kids and just to be able to influence them in a positive way is pretty awesome!"

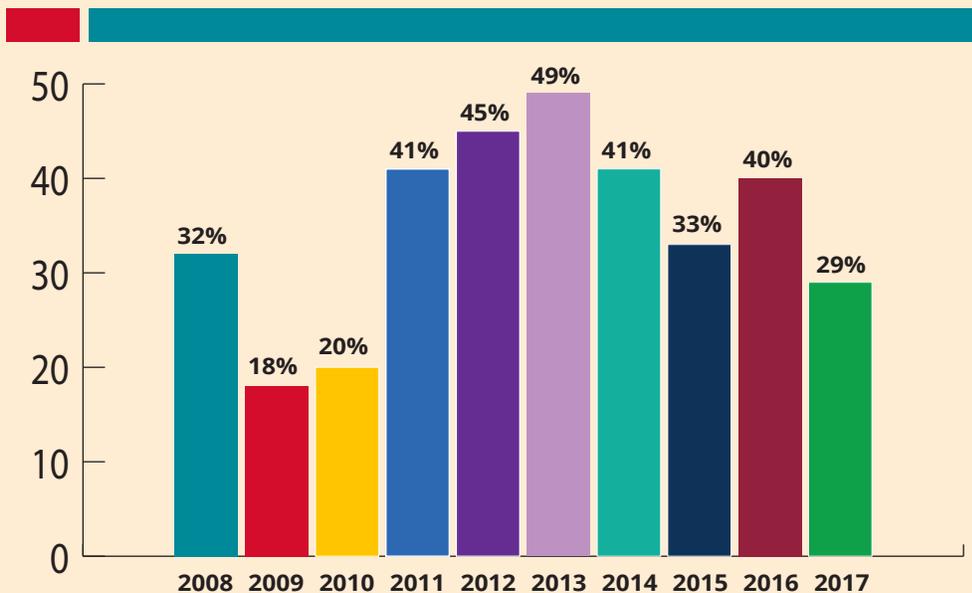
"Even the smallest and youngest of children can be emotionally affected by things and it really just opens your eyes"



With the additional attorney and legal secretary added to the ICWA Team in 2016, the Team now can document compliance with the Tribe's placement preferences. The Team has successfully complied with the Tribe's top permanency placement preferences in **91%** of the cases in 2016 and **86%** of the cases in 2017.

ICWA STATUS REPORT DATA

REUNIFICATION STATISTICS 2008-2017



Pursuant to the inherent sovereign authority of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tribe established family reunification as the Primary permanency preference for Yaqui children. The Pascua Yaqui Children's Code emphasizes reunification of children with their parents whenever feasible and does not allow for termination of parental rights. Through active efforts, the ICWA Team, Pascua Yaqui Social Services, and State Juvenile Courts have successfully reunified many Yaqui children back with their parents. The chart shows the percentage of the Tribe's ICWA cases that resulted in family reunification from 2008 through 2017.

PEAK MONTHS OF CHILDREN IN OPEN DEPENDENCY CASES 2008-2017

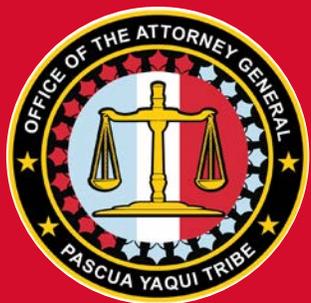
Over a ten year period the month of August had the highest number of children in open dependency cases

Identifying peak months of children in dependency cases:

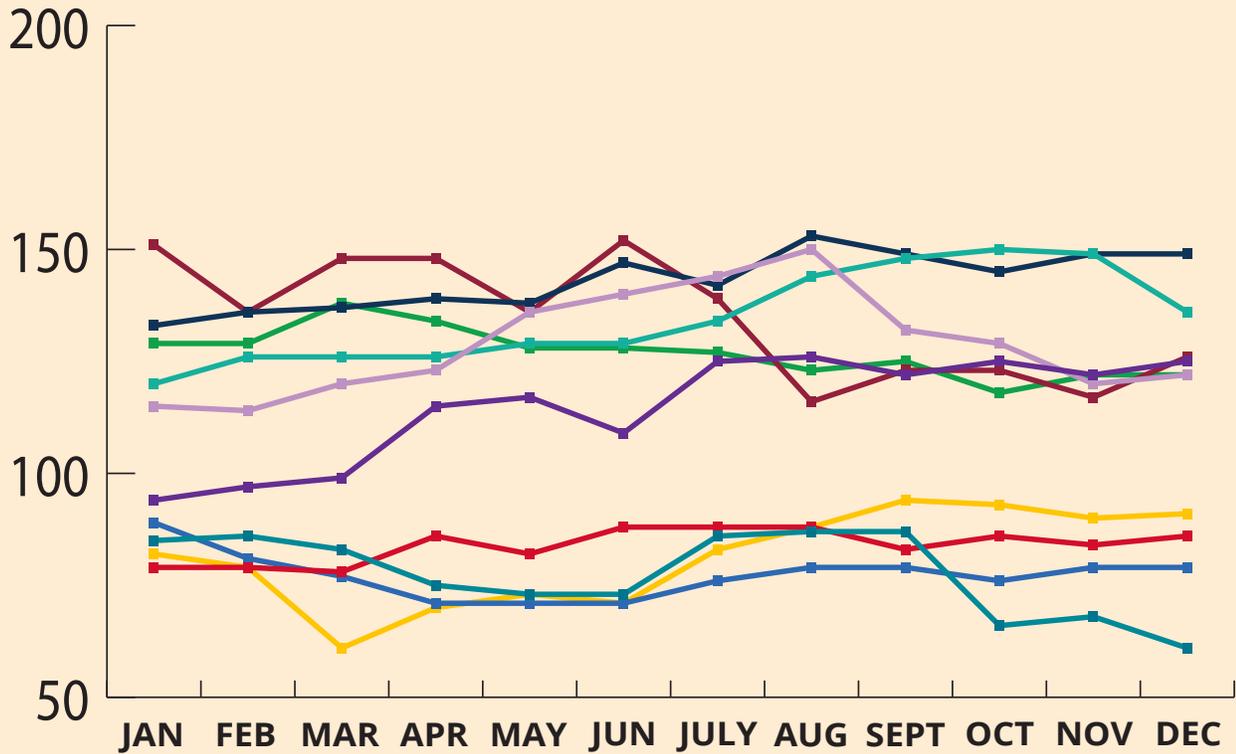
2008	August, September	87 Children
2009	June, July, and August	88 Children
2010	January	89 Children
2011	September	94 Children
2012	August	126 Children
2013	August	150 Children
2014	October	150 Children
2015	August	153 Children
2016	June	152 Children
2017	March	138 Children



"Prior to working for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, I represented the Department of Child Safety. I managed hundreds of cases, both non ICWA and ICWA cases. Unfortunately, many of my non ICWA cases had children placed in licensed foster homes as opposed to relatives. When DCS gets involved, they are only equipped with information about family members if the parents provide it. Since working for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, I have seen the impact of ICWA on Yaqui families and it is tremendous. Yaqui families band together for their children. If a Yaqui family member is not appropriate, I have noticed that more often than not, other Yaquis step up. With ICWA, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's involvement ensures that no child is left behind."



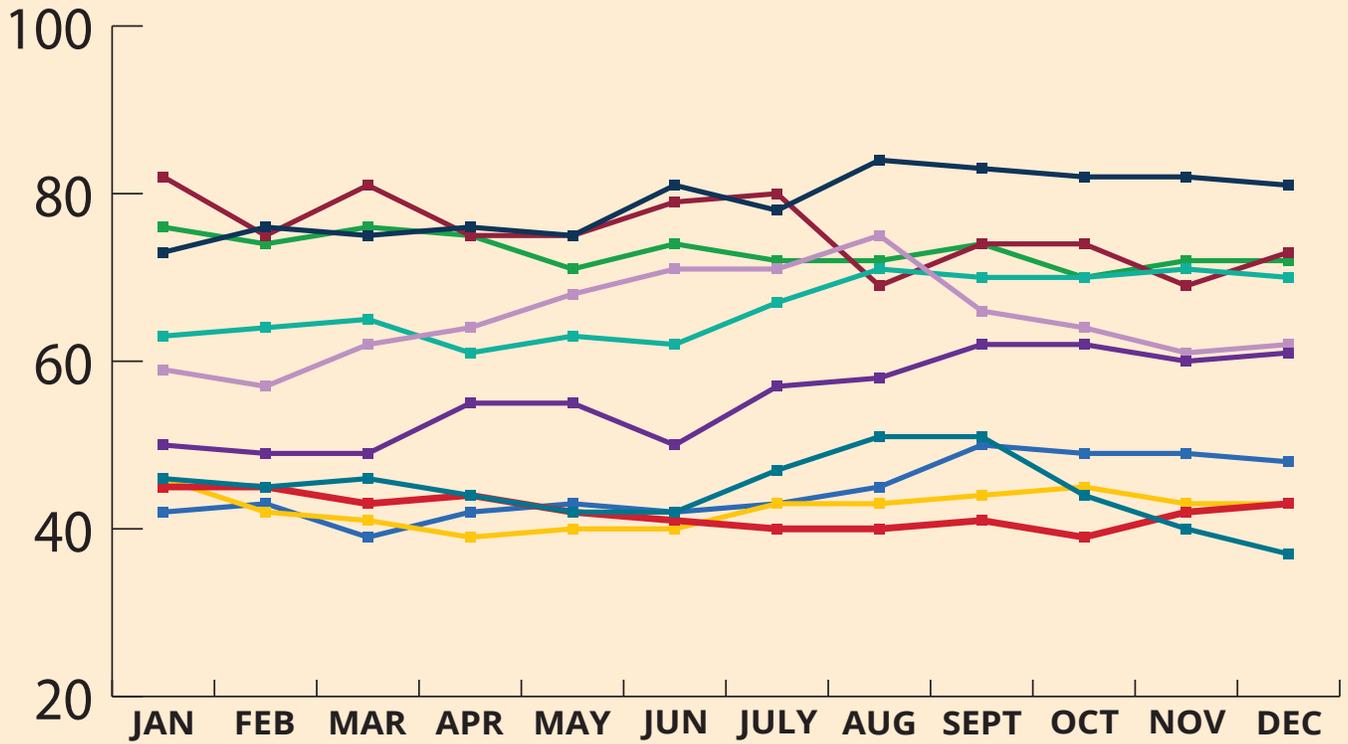
PEAK MONTHS-CHILDREN IN OPEN DEPENDENCY CASES
2008-2017



	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2008	85	86	83	75	73	73	86	87	87	66	68	61
2009	79	79	78	86	82	88	88	88	83	86	84	86
2010	89	81	77	71	71	71	76	79	79	76	79	79
2011	82	79	61	70	73	71	83	88	94	93	90	91
2012	94	97	99	115	117	109	125	126	122	125	122	125
2013	115	114	120	123	136	140	144	150	132	129	120	122
2014	120	126	126	126	129	129	134	144	148	150	149	136
2015	133	136	137	139	138	147	142	153	149	145	149	149
2016	151	136	148	148	136	152	139	116	123	123	117	126
2017	129	129	138	134	128	128	127	123	125	118	122	122

ICWA STATUS REPORT DATA

PEAK REMOVAL MONTHS 2008-2017

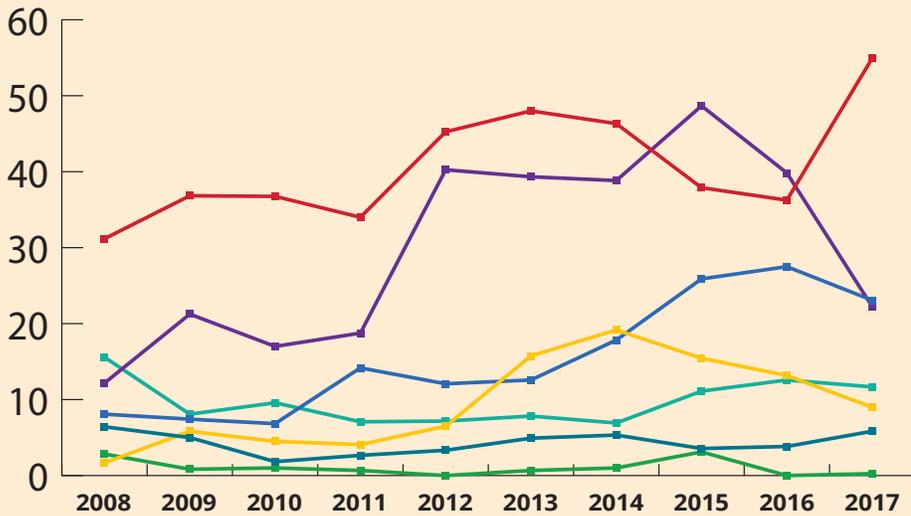


OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD JANUARY AND AUGUST HAD BOTH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES.

IDENTIFYING PEAK MONTHS OF REMOVAL 2008-2017

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2008	46	45	46	44	42	42	47	51	51	44	40	37
2009	45	45	43	44	42	41	40	40	41	39	42	43
2010	46	42	41	39	40	40	43	43	44	45	43	43
2011	42	43	39	42	43	42	43	45	50	49	49	48
2012	50	49	49	55	55	50	57	58	62	62	60	61
2013	59	57	62	64	68	71	71	75	66	64	61	62
2014	63	64	65	61	63	62	67	71	70	70	71	70
2015	73	76	75	76	75	81	78	84	83	82	82	81
2016	82	75	81	75	75	79	80	69	74	74	69	73
2017	76	74	76	75	71	74	72	72	74	70	72	72

**ICWA TEAM
OPEN CASE PLACEMENT COMPLIANCE
2008-2017**



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
PARENT	6.42	5.00	1.83	2.67	3.33	4.92	5.33	3.56	3.83	5.83
Yaqui Relative Foster Parent	31.17	36.83	36.75	34.00	45.25	48.00	46.33	37.89	36.25	54.92
Non-Relative Yaqui Foster Parent	1.67	5.83	4.50	4.08	6.50	15.75	19.17	15.44	13.17	9.00
Non-Yaqui Relative Foster Parent	8.08	7.42	6.83	14.17	12.08	12.58	17.83	25.89	27.50	23.08
Non-Relative Non Yaqui Foster Parent	12.17	21.25	17.00	18.75	40.25	39.33	38.83	48.67	39.83	22.25
Group Home, Detention, Hospital	15.58	8.08	9.58	7.08	7.17	7.83	6.92	11.11	12.58	11.67
Run-away	2.83	0.83	1.00	0.67	0.00	0.67	1.00	3.11	0.00	0.25

The chart above shows the open dependency case placements from 2008-2017. The ICWA Team's dedicated efforts has resulted in significant increases in the placement of Yaqui children within the Tribe's placement preference structure. From 2008-2017 the average of number of cases per month that resulted in Yaqui Relative Foster Parent Placement went from 31.17 to 54.92. Additionally, Non-Yaqui Relative Foster Parent Placement went from an average of 8.08 cases per month in 2008 to 23.08 cases per month in 2017. And, Non-Relative Yaqui Foster Parent Placement went from an average of 1.67 cases per month in 2008 to 9 cases per month in 2017.



Victor was a month old infant when he became a foster child. He came from California to Tucson to be placed with his grandmother on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation. Victor was introduced to the Yaqui culture at a very young age. At 3 years old he wanted to learn how to become a Ma'aso (deer dancer). Now he is a well-known cultural participant. He is still learning and growing to become a role model for the community.

**"I love dancing"
"Dancing is important to me"**

A Ma'aso is a person who dances during Yaqui ceremonies. Our elders believe that a person is born with the gift to bring blessings to the community.



PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
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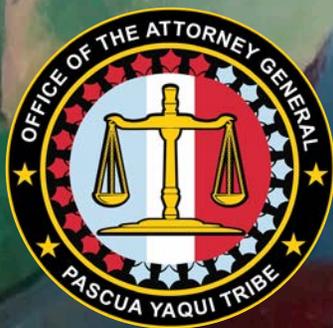
In 2016, the Tribe entered into formal partnership with Casey Family Programs (“Casey”). The Tribe and Casey are working to develop and implement culturally relevant training for multiple tribal program workers. This partnership also includes collaboration with a statewide taskforce aimed at increasing the number of Native American foster placements in the State of Arizona. This taskforce provides cultural competency training to stateside workers, including the Arizona Department of Child Safety workers, state court judges, and state attorney generals.

In 2016, Casey and the Tribe staged a child welfare evidence training at the Tribe’s Casino Del Sol Conference Center. This training aimed at the child welfare workers and attorneys, focused on preservation of evidence and trial preparation and testimony in child welfare cases. Currently Casey and the Tribe are in the final stages of a film production featuring the passion and effort that the Tribe has put forth to create a positive community for families. Casey has hosted key tribal employees and council members at symposiums and conferences focused on best practices, informational updates, and discussions on matters related to tribal child welfare issues. Casey has also hosted a round table among the Tribe’s departments to brainstorm ways to decrease recidivism, decrease incarceration rates, decrease high school dropout rate, and increase graduation rates.

This partnership between Casey and the Tribe continues to have a positive impact on the Yaqui community, and prevent breakup of Indian families. The Tribe remains excited to move forward in creating a hopeful future for Tribal children and families.

See DVD disc to see the Pascua Yaqui film production in collaboration with Casey Family Programs





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