

Notes

Children in Poverty

The official and most current source of poverty estimates is the March supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which samples about 50,000 households across the U.S. The data reflect the status of persons during calendar year 2001.

To improve the statistical reliability of poverty estimates, the Census Bureau also calculates a three-year average of poverty for the U.S. and for individual states. The Census does not estimate state rates using single years of data.

To provide more current estimates of income and poverty than provided by the decennial Census, the U.S. Census Bureau implemented the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program. Estimates are calculated by modeling “the relation between income or poverty and tax and program data for the states and a subset of counties using estimates of income or poverty from the Current Population Survey.”¹ The Bureau then uses “the modeled relations to obtain estimates for all states and counties.”²

Child Care

Useful descriptions for Nevada child-care facilities are defined by law and may be found in *Services for Facilities for Care of Children* NAC-432A.³

Accommodation facility: *a facility which 1. By a business that is licensed to conduct a business other than the provision of care to children; and 2. As an auxiliary service provided for the customers of the primary business.* (NAC 432A.012)

Child-care center: *any facility in which the licensee regularly provides day or night care for more than 12 children.* (NAC 432A.050)

Child-care institution: *a facility in which the licensee provides care during the day and night and provides developmental guidance to 16 or more children who do not routinely return to the homes of their parents or guardians.* (NAC 432A.070)

Family home: *any facility in which the licensee regularly provides care without the presence of parents, for at least five and not more than six children.* (NAC 432A.100)

Group home: *any facility in which the licensee regularly provides care for no less than seven and no more than twelve children.* (NAC 432A.110)

Nursery for infants and toddlers: *a child care facility in which the licensee provides care for five or more children who are under 2 years of age.* (NAC 432A.145)

Preschool: *a facility in which the licensee has established specific goals to enhance each child’s cognitive, social, emotional, physical and creative development.* (NAC 432A.160)

Special-needs facility: *a child care facility providing care to children with special needs in which those children comprise 40 percent or more of the total number of children for whom the facility is licensed to provide care.* (NAC 432A.165)

On-site child-care facility: *an establishment that . . . (2) provides care to the children of employees of a business at the place of employment; (3) provides care on a temporary or permanent basis, during the day or overnight, to five or more children who are under the age of 18 years and who are not related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to an owner or manager of the business; and (4) is owned, operated, subsidized, managed, contracted for or staffed by the business.* (NRS 432A.0275)

Education

TerraNova Examination

As stipulated in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 395.015), students in grades four, eight, and ten attending Nevada public schools must be assessed using a norm-referenced examination. Students must be assessed for achievement in reading, language, mathematics, and science. The TerraNova examination (CTB/McGraw-Hill) is currently used in the state of Nevada to meet this need and is administered to students during the fall of the academic year.

A norm-referenced examination allows a comparison of student performance against a nationally representative sample of students (a norm group). Student performance can be scored or characterized in a variety of ways. Within this summary, a description of performance as measured by national percentile scores will be provided. National percentile scores are fairly easy to interpret. For example, a national percentile score of 50 is equivalent to performance at the national average. In other words, a student with a score of 50 in reading has scored higher than 50 percent of the students making up the national norm group sample.⁴

Notes Continued

High School Proficiency Examination

The key features of the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) are: *In addition to meeting the minimum credit requirements for graduation from high school, Nevada students must also pass each portion of the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE). Although most recently based on the 1994 Nevada Course of Study, students in the graduating class of 2003 are the first to be tested on examinations aligned with the 1998 Nevada State Content Standards. The HSPE currently covers the subject areas of reading, mathematics, and writing. Beginning with the graduating class of 2005, students will also be required to pass an examination in science in order to receive a standard high school diploma. Students are provided a minimum of five opportunities to pass the examination before their anticipated graduation from high school.*⁵

*Passing scores for the examination are set by the State Board of Education. Assembly Bill 523 of the 1997 Legislative Session directed the State Board of Education to set a “moderate” passing score for the first class to take the new examination (Class of 1999) and to increase the score to a higher level for students to whom the examination is administered during subsequent years.*⁶

College Entrance Exams

Two college-entrance exams are administered to seniors in the Nevada public schools: the American College (ACT) exam and the Scholastic Assessment (SAT) exam. The ACT is a standardized test which covers English, math, science reasoning, and reading. A composite ACT score is the average score on the four areas. The SAT consists of three math sections, three verbal sections, and one experimental section (not scored). An average SAT score is reported for the verbal and the math sections.

Child Abuse and Neglect

*The 2000 data is based on a combination of the older Legacy computer system and the new UNITY system. There are limitations to the data. During the transition, some counties in Rural Nevada entered reports into both systems. Others ceased using the Legacy system once the UNITY system came online. Because of this, the data collected for the year 2000 cannot be recorded as “unduplicated”. Other limitations include the collection of the number of reports/incidents instead of the actual number of children.*⁷

Nevada Graduation Requirements: 2001

		Credits
Number of credits (units) required for standard diploma		22.5
Core courses required for standard diploma		
	American Government	1
	American History	1
	Arts and Humanities	1
	English	4
	Health	0.5
	Math	3
	PE	2
	Computers	0.5
	Science	2
HSPE subjects	Reading	
	Mathematics	
	Writing	
	Science*	
HSPE based on content contained in	1998 Nevada State Content Standards	
First opportunity to take HSPE	11th grade (10th grade beginning spring 2002)	
Promotions to grades	Units of credit to 10th grade	5
	Units of credit to 11th grade	11
	Units of credit to 12th grade	17
Electives		7.5

*Only applicable to graduation class of 2005.
Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2001.