

Children in Poverty

Nevada

The Census Bureau estimated that 13.6 percent of Nevada children under age 18 were in poverty in 2000.¹ Nevada ranked 39th among the states and the District of Columbia in 2000 on the percent of children under age five in poverty.²

Counties

The percent of children in poverty ranged from a low of 7.0 in Storey County to 25.1 in Mineral County.

Significant Factors

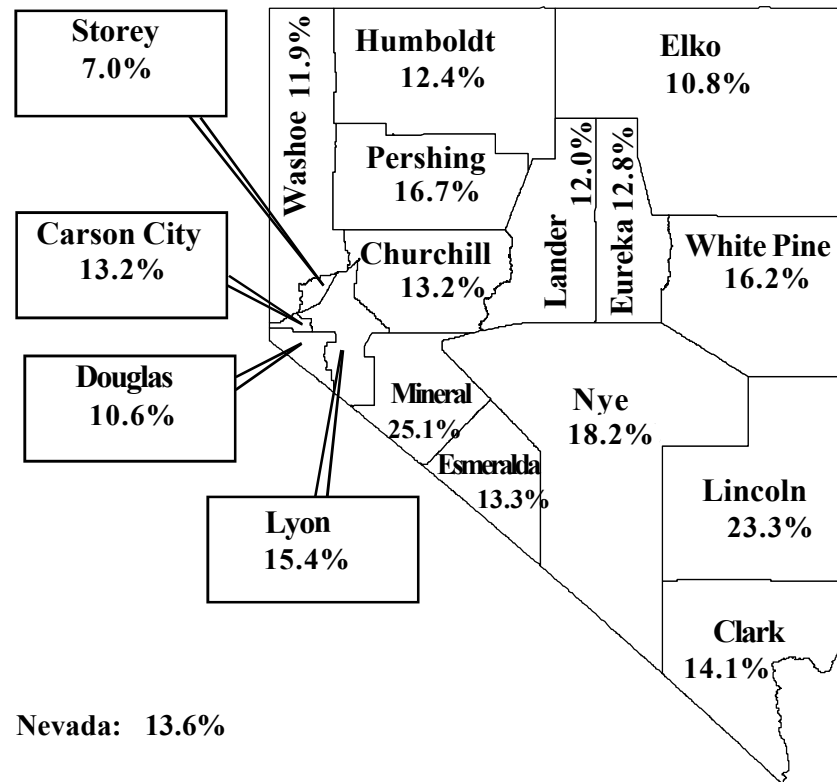
Recent poverty statistics are disturbing. Estimates from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show that the U.S. poverty rate increased from 11.7 percent in 2001 to 12.1 percent in 2002.³ The poverty rate for children under age 18 was basically unchanged, from 16.3 to 16.7 percent. The number of children in poverty, however, increased from 11.7 million to 12.1 million.⁴

Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99, reveal that hardship for a family "does not drop off until family incomes reach twice the poverty line—\$36,800 for a family of four in 2003."⁵ To illustrate, the figure on page 39 shows that 23 percent of families with incomes between 0 to 100 percent of the federal poverty line had insufficient food in the previous year. The percentage drops to 10 for families who earn between 100 to 200 percent of the federal poverty line.

Definition

The Percent of Children in Poverty is the percentage of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. In 2000, the U.S. poverty threshold for a family of 4, 2 adults and 2 children, was \$17,463.⁶

Estimated* Percent of Children under Age 18 in Poverty by Nevada County: 2000



*Estimates model 2000 income reported in the Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2001.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch, October 28, 2003, TableD00-32. Estimated Number and Percent People under Age 18 in Poverty by County: Nevada 2000, available online at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saie/stcty/d00_32.htm> as of 10/30/03.

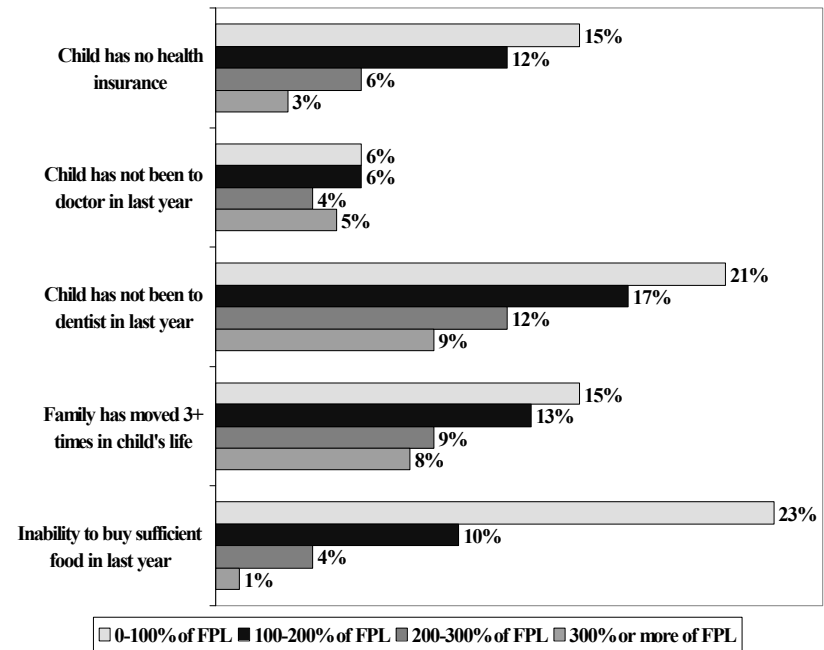
Children in Poverty Continued

U.S. Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Related Children under 18 Years: 2000

Size of Family Unit	Weighted Average Thresholds	Related Children under 18 Years		
		None	One	Two
One person	\$8,794			
Householder under 65 years	8,959	\$8,959		
Householder 65 years and older	8,259	8,259		
Two persons	11,239			
Householder under 65 years	11,590	11,531	\$11,869	
Householder 65 years and over	10,419	10,409	11,824	
Three persons	13,738	13,470	13,861	13,874
Four persons	17,603	17,761	18,052	17,463

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty 2000," available online at: <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh00.html>> as of 11/3/03.

Experiences of Hardship within Income Groups in the U.S.: 1998

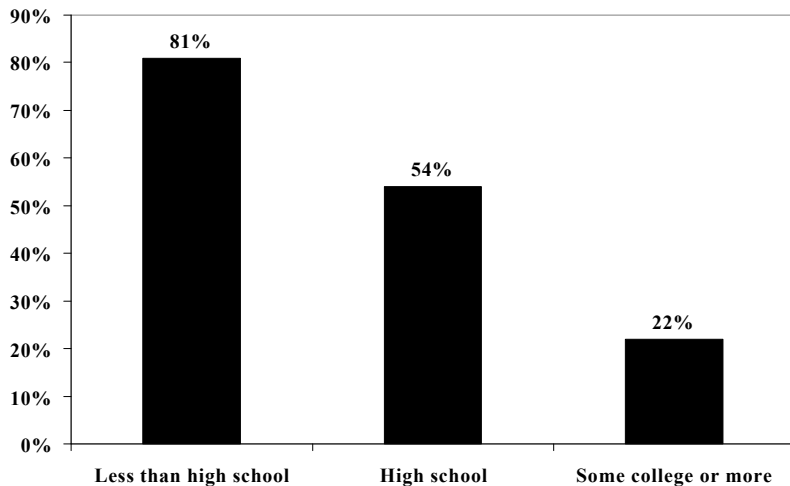


Note: FPL = Federal Poverty Line.
 Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, September 2003, "Low Income and Hardship Among America's Kindergartners," by Elizabeth Gershoff, *Living at the Edge Research Brief 3*, available online at: <<http://www.nccp.org/media/lat03c-text.pdf>> as of 11/3/03.

Children in Poverty Continued

The effect of higher education on family security is substantial. Twenty-six percent of low-income children’s parents do not have a high school degree.⁷ Without a higher degree, families are less likely to have high earnings. The following graph illustrates a significant difference in the percentage of children who live in poverty based on parents’ attainment of higher education.

Percentage of Children in the U.S. Who Live in Low-Income* Families by Level of Parental Education**



*“Low-income is defined as twice the federal poverty level, or \$36,800 for a family of four (2003).”

**“Parental education is defined as the education level of the most highly educated parent who lives with the child.”

Note: Estimates were prepared by Heather Koball and Ayana Douglas-Hall of National Center for Children in Poverty, based on the Current Population Survey, March supplement, 2002.

Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, September 2003, “The Effects of Parental Education on Income,” available online at: <<http://www.nccp.org/media/pei03-text.pdf>> as of 11/15/03.

Shore for the Annie E. Casey Foundation identifies five strategies to help reduce the child-poverty rate:

- Build Political Will to Reduce Child Poverty
- Make Wages Work
- Strengthen the Safety Net
- Help Low-Income Families Keep More of What They Earn
- Help Low-Income Families Amass Savings and Assets.”⁸

Affordable Housing for Low-Income Families

An affordable housing unit is one that costs no more than 30 percent of a household’s income. The tables from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (see page 41) provide data on housing affordability and fair market rents. In Nevada, a very low-income household earning 30 percent of the area median income (\$56,168) can only afford a monthly housing cost of no more than \$421.⁹ This is significantly lower than the fair market rent of \$836 for a two-bedroom unit. As a result, a family with one full-time worker earning minimum wage, that is \$5.15 per hour, would be able to afford no more than \$268 per month, based on cost at 30 percent of income. For families living in poverty, affordable housing may be out of reach.

Fair market rents for a two-bedroom unit in Nevada as shown on the following page range from \$663 in Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, and White Pine counties to a high of \$856 in Clark County.

Children in Poverty Continued

Affordable Monthly Housing Cost in Nevada by Family Income and County: 2003

County	2003 Estimated Median Family Income (HUD)*	Maximum Affordable Monthly Housing Cost by Percent of Family AMI**	
	Annual	30%	50%
Carson City	\$55,600	\$417	\$695
Churchill	\$50,500	\$379	\$631
Clark	\$54,700	\$410	\$684
Douglas	\$63,900	\$479	\$799
Elko	\$59,600	\$447	\$745
Esmeralda	\$42,300	\$317	\$529
Eureka	\$55,700	\$418	\$696
Humboldt	\$57,000	\$428	\$713
Lander	\$59,400	\$446	\$743
Lincoln	\$50,900	\$382	\$636
Lyon	\$50,400	\$378	\$630
Mineral	\$48,600	\$365	\$608
Nye	\$54,700	\$410	\$684
Pershing	\$50,800	\$381	\$635
Storey	\$64,300	\$482	\$804
Washoe	\$62,100	\$466	\$776
White Pine	\$44,800	\$336	\$560
NEVADA	\$56,168	\$421	\$702

*Developed by Housing and Urban Development (HUD), based on 1990 Census family-income estimates.

**AMI = Area Median Income.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, "Out of Reach 2003: America's Housing Wage Climbs: Nevada," available online at: <http://www.nlihc.org/oor2003/da...ounty%5B%SD=_all&state%5B%5D=NV> as of 9/29/03.

Nevada KIDS COUNT
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Nevada Las Vegas
<http://kidscount.unlv.edu>

Fair Market Rents* in Nevada by County and by Number of Bedrooms: 2004

County	Zero Bedroom	One Bedroom	Two Bedrooms
Carson City	\$380	\$520	\$696
Churchill	\$489	\$498	\$664
Clark	\$606	\$719	\$856
Douglas	\$439	\$640	\$804
Elko	\$444	\$509	\$677
Esmeralda	\$472	\$589	\$663
Eureka	\$361	\$589	\$663
Humboldt	\$530	\$557	\$671
Lander	\$365	\$564	\$663
Lincoln	\$362	\$544	\$663
Lyon	\$431	\$516	\$663
Mineral	\$367	\$501	\$666
Nye	\$606	\$719	\$856
Pershing	\$502	\$509	\$677
Storey	\$509	\$515	\$677
Washoe	\$556	\$644	\$828
White Pine	\$362	\$499	\$663
NEVADA	\$580	\$688	\$836

*Fair market rent estimates include shelter rent paid to the landlord and the cost of utilities, but not telephone. Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development, May 28, 2003, "Fair Market Rents for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Moderate Single Room Occupancy Program—Fiscal Year 2004; Notice," *Federal Register*, available online at: <http://www.huduser.org/Datasets/FMR/FMR2004P/NV_FY2004F_FMR.pdf> as of 9/29/03.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, "Out of Reach 2003: America's Housing Wage Climbs: Nevada," available online at: <http://www.nlihc.org/oor2003/da...ounty%5B%SD=_all&state%5B%5D=NV> as of 9/29/03.