

Child Abuse and Neglect

Nevada

From 2001 to 2002, Nevada saw a 0.4 percent increase in the number of substantiated child-abuse and neglect reports. See table in next column.

Of the 13,195 total reports of suspected child abuse and neglect received in 2002, 2,875 or 21.8 percent were substantiated. (See page 78.) The percentage of substantiated child-abuse reports received ranged from 0 in Eureka County to 25.4 in Washoe County. Almost 13 percent of the total reports received in the rural counties were substantiated.

The number of child-abuse and neglect reports decreased by 1.0 percent in Nevada from 2001 to 2002. Ten counties saw increases in the number of reports, and the remaining seven counties saw a decrease. Esmeralda County experienced the largest increase (66.7 percent) in the number of total reports over the one-year period. Refer to page 79.

Physical neglect, physical abuse, and lack of supervision were the three most common types of child maltreatment (see page 79).

Significant Factors

In 2001, about 903,000 children in the U.S. were victims of child maltreatment, which translates into a victimization rate of 12.4 per 1,000 children in the population.¹ Younger children were at the greatest risk of maltreatment. Over one-half (51.8 percent) of the victims were seven years of age or younger. The majority of the victims, 57.0 percent, suffered from neglect.²

Definition

“Abuse or neglect’ of a child means: physical or mental injury of a non-accidental nature; sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or negligent treatment or maltreatment caused or allowed by a person responsible for his welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm. Child abuse is investigated by child protective service (CPS) agencies.”³

Types of Child-Abuse and Neglect Reports

Substantiated: “The reported abusive or neglectful situation/incident is confirmed through the investigation/assessment or court process.”

Unsubstantiated: “The abusive or neglectful situation was not confirmed through the investigation.”

Unknown: “The receiving/investigating agency was unable to locate the alleged perpetrator and/or interview the child, there was insufficient information or evidence, or the information was too old to pursue. In some instances, these reports are false and malicious. Clark County does not use the term ‘unknown’ as a disposition.”⁴

Nevada Child-Abuse and Neglect Report Trends: 2001 and 2002

Type of Report	2001	2002	Change Percent
Unknown	448	283	-36.8
Unsubstantiated	10,012	10,037	+0.3
Substantiated	2,865	2,875	+0.4
TOTAL	13,325*	13,195	-1.0

*Total reflects revised Washoe County data.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*.

Child Abuse and Neglect Continued

Number of Child-Abuse and Neglect Reports in Nevada by County/Region: 2002
(Ages 17 and under)

County	Total Reports	Unknown	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated	Substantiated Child Abuse Reports as a Percent of Total Reports*
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Carson City	486	3	408	75	15.4
Churchill	330	11	274	45	13.6
Clark	8,174	198	6,064	1,912	23.4
Douglas	199	3	155	41	20.6
Elko	356	1	317	38	10.7
Esmeralda	10	0	8	2	20.0
Eureka	8	0	8	0	0.0
Humboldt	81	3	74	4	4.9
Lander	75	1	68	6	8.0
Lincoln	30	0	23	7	23.3
Lyon	312	7	282	23	7.4
Mineral	42	0	36	6	14.3
Nye	329	9	281	39	11.9
Pershing	51	0	46	5	9.8
Storey	24	1	22	1	4.2
Washoe	2,566	46	1,869	651	25.4
White Pine	122	0	102	20	16.4
Rural NV**	2,455	39	2,104	312	12.7
NEVADA	13,195	283	10,037	2,875	21.8

Note: Reported by county of occurrence.

*Percentages based on small numbers should be used with caution.

**All counties excluding Clark and Washoe.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*.

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Increases/Decreases in Child-Abuse and Neglect Reports in Nevada by County: 2001 and 2002

County	2001	2002	Difference	Percent (+/-)
Carson City	525	486	-39	-7.4
Churchill	301	330	29	+9.6
Clark	8,316	8,174	-142	-1.7
Douglas	207	199	-8	-3.9
Elko	298	356	58	+19.5
Esmeralda	6	10	4	+66.7
Eureka	9	8	-1	-11.1
Humboldt	106	81	-25	-23.6
Lander	64	75	11	+17.2
Lincoln	27	30	3	+11.1
Lyon	291	312	21	+7.2
Mineral	45	42	-3	-6.7
Nye	211	329	118	+55.9
Pershing	38	51	13	+34.2
Storey	20	24	4	+20.0
Washoe*	2,740	2,566	-174	-6.4
White Pine	121	122	1	+0.8
Rural NV**	2,269	2,455	186	+8.2
NEVADA	13,325*	13,195	-130	-1.0

*Numbers reflect revised Washoe County data.

**All counties excluding Clark and Washoe.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*.

Nevada Child-Abuse and Neglect Substantiated Cases: 2002 (Percentage and type of child maltreatment)

Type of Maltreatment	Nevada Number of Incidents	Clark County Number of Incidents	Washoe County Number of Incidents	Rural Nevada Number of Incidents
Physical neglect	1,620	322	1,038	260
Physical abuse	880	595	220	65
Lack of supervision	714	539	120	55
Sex abuse/Exploitation	244	162	63	19
Educational neglect	178	164	10	4
Abandonment	122	81	27	14
Emotional abuse/Neglect	123	96	5	22
Medical neglect	102	44	37	21
Fatal	3	1	1	1
Other*	2,442	2,437	1	4
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	6,428	4,441	1,522	465

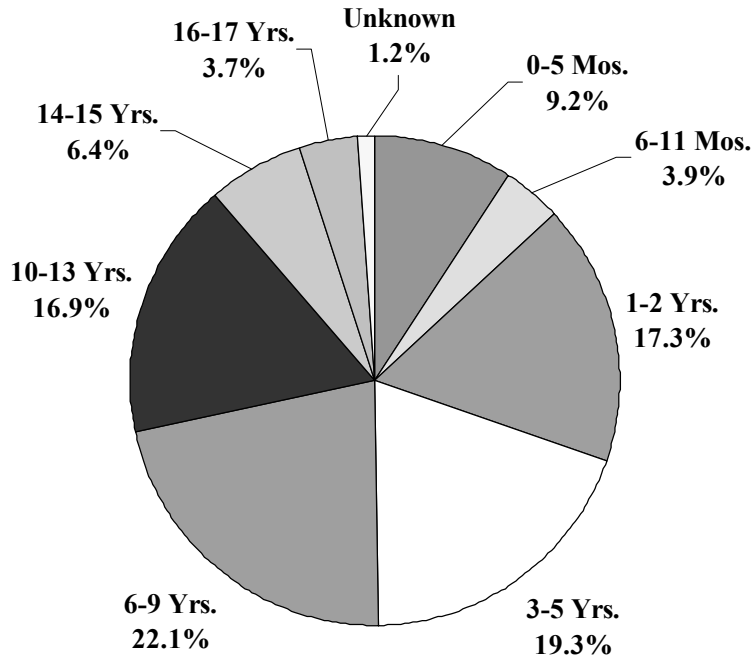
*“Clark County uses ‘other’ as a category to include domestic violence and substance abuse.”

Note: Reports frequently include multiple types of maltreatment and more than a single incident.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*, pp. 24-25.

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Child-Abuse and Neglect Victims in Nevada by Age (Substantiated cases): 2002



Age in Years	Number
0-5 Mos.	461
6-11 Mos.	197
1-2 Yrs.	867
3-5 Yrs.	966
6-9 Yrs.	1,109
10-13 Yrs.	844
14-15 Yrs.	320
16-17 Yrs.	184
Unknown	60
TOTAL	5,008

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*.

Family Stress Factors, Nevada: 2002

Factor	Number of Factors	Percent Total Factors	Percent Total Reports*
Alcohol/Drug dependency	2,298	10.0	17.4
Parents cannot cope	2,042	8.9	15.5
Insufficient income	1,584	6.9	12.0
Transience	1,473	6.4	11.2
Marital problems	1,361	5.9	10.3
Domestic violence	989	4.3	7.5
New baby/Pregnancy	979	4.3	7.4
Job-related problem	774	3.4	5.9
Inadequate housing	760	3.3	5.8
Health problem child	702	3.1	5.3
Health problem caretaker	660	2.9	5.0
Mismanaged income	448	2.0	3.4
Social isolation	385	1.7	2.9
Family violence	267	1.2	2.0
Mentally retarded caretaker	175	0.8	1.3
Mentally retarded child	160	0.7	1.2
Limited intellectual	117	0.5	0.9
None/Unknown	2,384	10.4	18.1
Other stress factors	5,384	23.5	40.8
TOTAL	22,942		

*“More than one factor may be reported in a case finding and, as a result, the number of factors does not reflect the total number of open reports, nor the number of children.”

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*, p. 27.

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Nevada Reporters of Child Abuse/Neglect: 2002

<i>Source</i>	<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Annual Percent*</i>
School personnel	316	2,229	17	2,562	19.0
Law-enforcement personnel	746	1,526	42	2,314	17.2
Friend/Neighbor	155	1,304	62	1,521	11.3
Social-service personnel	228	767	30	1,025	7.6
Medical personnel	364	626	27	1,017	7.6
Other relative	162	798	32	992	7.4
Parent/Caretaker	91	873	19	983	7.3
Anonymous	37	427	12	476	3.5
Mental-health personnel	48	306	3	357	2.7
Child-care provider	25	195	3	223	1.7
Juvenile probation	24	84	3	111	0.8
Victim	6	27	2	35	0.3
Clergy	2	8	0	10	0.1
Substitute-care provider	3	5	1	9	0.1
Other	668	1,137	30	1,835	13.6
TOTAL	2,875	10,312	283	13,470	

*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services, *Nevada Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics 2002*.