

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

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February 2006

## Site of the Month

Yesterday's (2/6/06) *Las Vegas Sun* featured an article on noncitizen immigrants in Nevada, citing Census data. The article states that 11.5 percent of Nevada's population are not citizens, making Nevada the second-leading state with the highest noncitizen percentage in the nation—California is first.\* Lacking in the article were data on immigrant children. I can, however, share with you data on foreign-born children in Nevada by introducing you to the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT State Level Data Online System (available at: <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/>). This system contains data on child well-being indicators by state. A full set of 92 indicators is available for Nevada. As of 1/3/06, an immigration profile was added.

The immigration profile includes the following indicators:

- ◆ Children living below the poverty threshold, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living in low-income families (below 200% of the poverty threshold), by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living without secure parental employment, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children with all available parents in the labor force, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children with all available parents not in the labor force, by immigrant status
- ◆ Median family income among households with children, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living with families that spend more than 30 percent of income on housing costs, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living in crowded households, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living in households that are owned, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children whose parents all have less than a high school degree, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children who have difficulty speaking English, by immigrant status
- ◆ Children living in linguistically isolated households, by immigrant status

For each of the indicators listed above the number of children or the rate/percent of children is available. Data are available in three-year averages with the most current data 2002 to 2004.

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\*The data do not distinguish between people who are in the country legally as residents and those who are in the country illegally.

Maneuvering within the Web site is fairly easy. As an example, I clicked on the indicator titled “children whose parents all have less than a high school degree, by immigrant status.” The page that followed displayed, on the right-hand side, data in tables by state showing the percent of children in immigrant families and the percent of children in U.S.-born families.

Nevada is shown as having 36 percent of its children under age 18 in immigrant families whose resident parents all have less than a high school degree. The corresponding figure for children in U.S.-born families is 8 percent. Nevada is ranked 44th on this indicator (1=best). Creating a custom report is also an option. Again for this exercise, I kept Nevada and chose geographic areas adjacent to Nevada for comparison. Among the five states, Utah ranked the best with 24 percent of its children in immigrant families whose parents all have less than a high school degree, followed by Oregon (26 percent), California (35 percent), Arizona (38 percent), and Idaho (40 percent).

Retrieving data on the 12 indicators for only Nevada is possible by clicking on the state tab at the top of the page that lists the 12 indicators. A two-page summary of data will follow. (You do have the option of adding the notes/sources for each table which will increase your printout to seven pages, but it’s worth it.)

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