

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

October 2008

Site of the Month

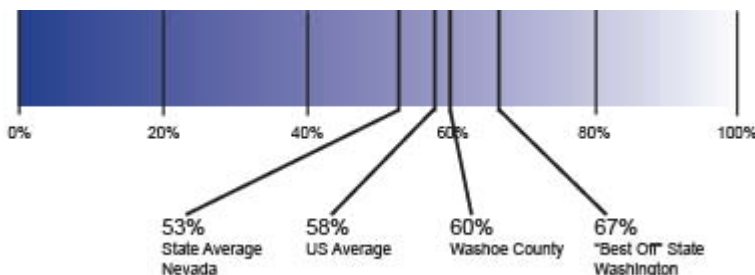
HEALTHY CHILDREN

Child advocates are aware of the importance education, income, environment, housing, and personal health choices have on children. The Robert Wood Foundation to Build a Healthier America investigates how the factors affect children's health and what could be achieved if children reached their "full health potential." The full health potential is, "the levels of health that would be achieved if all children were as healthy as children in the most favorable social and economic conditions."

The Foundation's findings are presented in its October 2008 publication titled *America's Health Starts with Healthy Children: How Do States Compare?* In the report data are presented for each state and the nation on infant mortality and children's general health status, as reported by their parents. In addition, the state-by-state data are available on-line and the data can be manipulated by using an interactive tool called the education and health calculator. The calculator can be used to look at the association between education and mortality rates. In Nevada, the data are available for Washoe and Clark counties.

For illustrative purposes, I chose Washoe County. The education slider reveals that the 60 percent of the adults in Washoe County have some college education. Percentages for Nevada, the U.S., and the best state, which is Washington, are 53, 58, and 67, respectively. See figure below. At the 60 percent rate, Washoe County would experience 808 deaths per year and a death rate of 388 per 100,000 per year. See Table 1.

Figure 1: Education Slider



Source: Commission to Build a Healthier America, modified slide based on the Education Slider, available online at: <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/Home>.

Table 1: Mortality Counter: Estimated Number of Deaths in Washoe County Based on 60 Percent of Adults with Some College Education

Deaths	808
In county per year	
Death Rate	388
Deaths each year per 100,000	
Averted Deaths	
Each year	

Source: Commission to Build a Healthier America, available online at: <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/Home>.

By moving the education slider pointer, which was set at 60 percent (Washoe County’s percent of adults with some college education), to 67 percent (Washington’s percentage) the number of deaths in Washoe County decreases by 48 each year. See Table 2.

Table 2: Mortality Counter: Estimated Number of Deaths in Washoe County Based on 67 Percent of Adults with Some College Education

	Washoe County	At Selected Education Level
Deaths	808	760
In county per year		
Death Rate	388	365
Deaths each year per 100,000		
Averted Deaths		48
Each year		

Source: Commission to Build a Healthier America, available online at: <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/Home>.

Most Nevadans know that as a state we perform poorly on some child well-being indicators. What is different about the resources that I shared with you is that we are told what it would take for our state to become a best-of-state state.

The following Web site addresses will direct you to the report and Nevada-specific data.

America’s Health Starts with Healthy Children: How Do States Compare? Unrealized Health Potential is available at: http://www.commissiononhealth.org/PDF/819a3435-8bbb-4549-94db-7758248075cf/ChildrensHealth_Chartbook.pdf.

A Snapshot of Nevada is available at: http://www.commissiononhealth.org/PDF/RWJ039_StateSnaps_Nevada.pdf.

The education slider is available at: <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/Home>.

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