

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

March 2009

Site of the Month

Policy for Results

Douglas W. Nelson, President and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), describes the POLICY for RESULTS.org Web site as providing “. . . quick access to data, case studies, and hard evidence for states and localities that need to make good decisions.” The site, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and issue experts, and funded by the AECF, focuses on four policy priorities that link data on children and families' well-being to research-based policy strategies proven to have worked.

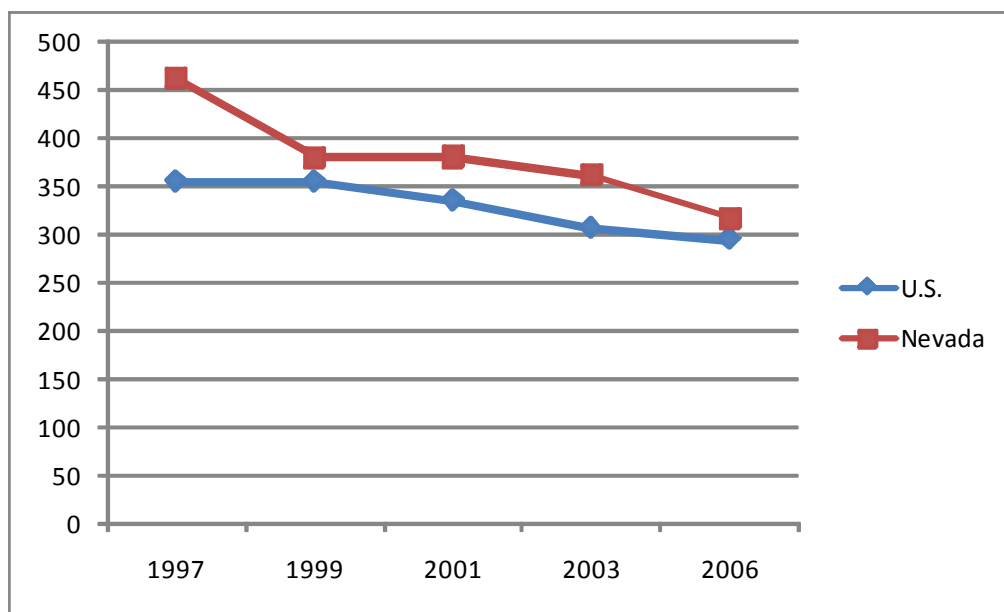
The four policy priorities with data indicators that can be used to measure progress or success are:

1. Ensuring Children Are Healthy and Prepared to Succeed in School
 - Improve early grade-level reading
2. Improving Family Economic Success
 - Improve economic opportunity and reduce child poverty
3. Building Strong and Stable Families
 - Increase exits from foster care to permanence (to permanent homes)
4. Preparing Youth for Success in Life
 - Reduce juvenile detention

The data for each of the indicators are available for the U.S. states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and the U.S. These data can be presented in table or in a figure. For example, the table and figure on the following page display juvenile detention data for the U.S. and Nevada. Both show that Nevada's rate is higher than that of the nation's, and that the rates for the U.S. and Nevada have fallen since 1997.

Juvenile Detention Rates (per 100,000 juveniles under age 21) in the U.S. and Nevada: 1997-2006

<i>Year</i>	<i>U.S.</i>	<i>Nevada</i>
1997	356	462
1999	356	380
2001	336	381
2003	307	362
2006	295	317



The rate measure is a snapshot, the count on one specific date every year of juveniles who were assigned a bed in a juvenile residential facility in the U.S.

Data are from the Kids Count Data Center.

Source: POLICY for RESULTS.org, available online at: <http://www.policyforresults.org>, as of 3/29/09.

Also included on the Web site is a strategy for reducing the unnecessary or inappropriate use of detention of juveniles. The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), an AECF juvenile justice reform initiative that was started in 1992, has been shown to have saved millions of dollars at sites where it has been replicated. Based on statistics from the AECF Web site, JDAI has been replicated in about half the states and the District of Columbia, including Nevada.

The Web site will be updated to include additional data indicators, such as high school completion; teen binge-alcohol substance abuse; voter, registration voting; and college enrollment, completion. To find out more about the Web site see <http://www.policyforresults.org>.

Rennae Daneshvary, PhD
Nevada KIDS COUNT Coordinator