

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

April 2017

Education Profile of Young Adults in Nevada

This *Newsletter* presents an education profile of young adults in Nevada, using U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data. The data were retrieved from the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center.¹

State Data

At 35 percent, Nevada ranked 49th (50 = worst) among the states on the percentage of young adults ages 18 to 24 who were enrolled in or had completed college in 2015. Alaska, at 31 percent, ranked 50th. Massachusetts (1st), Vermont (2nd), and Rhode Island (2nd) were the top-ranked states with respective rates of 63, 62, and 62 percent.

Among Nevada's neighbors, California had the highest percentage of young adults who were enrolled in or had completed college (Table 1). The California rate of 53 percent was higher than the U.S. rate of 48 percent. Nevada's rate was the lowest.

Table 1. Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 Who Were Enrolled in or Had Completed College, United States, Nevada, and Neighboring States: 2015

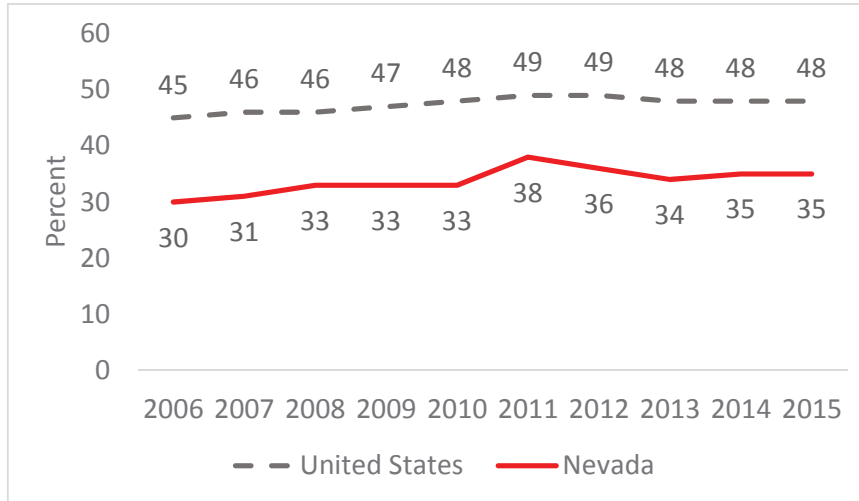
<i>Location</i>	<i>Enrolled in college or completed college</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
United States	15,192,000	48
Arizona	287,000	43
California	2,084,000	53
Idaho	64,000	41
Nevada	90,000	35
Oregon	157,000	43
Utah	149,000	44

¹The data are available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Nevada and U.S. Trend Data

Over a ten-year period, the percentage of young adults in Nevada who were enrolled in or had completed college fluctuated—starting at 30 percent in 2006, peaking at 38 percent in 2011, and plateauing at 35 percent in 2015. For the United States, the percentage never moved by more than 1 percent from one year to the next (figure below).

Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 Who Were Enrolled in or Had Completed College, United States and Nevada: 2006-2015



Racial/Ethnic Data

At the national level, Asian and Pacific Islanders had the highest college enrollment and completion rate, 75 percent (Table 2).

Of the racial/ethnic groups with sufficient population size to allow reporting of reliable data, whites were more likely to have been enrolled in or had completed college than Hispanics or Latinos at both the state and national level (Table 2).

Table 2. Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 Who Were Enrolled in or Had Completed College by Race/Ethnicity: 2015

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>Nevada</i>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
American Indian	30	S
Asian and Pacific Islander	75	S
Black or African American	39	S
Hispanic or Latino	39	28
Non-Hispanic White	52	40
Two or more races	47	S
Total	48	35

Note: “S - Estimates suppressed when the confidence interval around the percentage is greater than or equal to 10 percentage points.”

City Data

Among the 50 most populous cities and the District of Columbia, Las Vegas ranked 49th (worst) on young adults who were enrolled in or had completed college (Table 3).² San Francisco ranked 1st (best) at 80 percent (Table 4).

Table 3. Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 Who Were Enrolled in or Had Completed College, 5 Top-Ranked Populous Cities: 2015

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>
San Francisco	80
Boston	78
Seattle	76
Atlanta	74
District of Columbia	72

Table 4. Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 Who Were Enrolled in or Had Completed College, 5 Bottom-Ranked Populous Cities: 2015

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Phoenix	35
Dallas	35
Virginia Beach	34
Detroit	32
Las Vegas	31

Conclusion

The Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked Nevada 49th (50 = worst) among the states on education in its *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2016*. The ranking was based on four education indicators: young children not in school, fourth graders not proficient in reading, eighth graders not proficient in math, and high school students not graduating on time. These indicators captured educational experiences from preschool through high school. If Nevadans want to improve the outcomes presented in this *Newsletter*, they must begin by improving educational experiences for children at the earliest stage in a child's education. "With a strong and healthy beginning, children can more easily stay on track to remain in school and graduate, pursue postsecondary education and training and successfully transition to adulthood."³

²Arlington and Miami were not ranked.

³The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2016*, p. 25.

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.

This research was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support but acknowledge that the findings presented in this report are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.