

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

August 2014

What Does It Take to Improve Nevada's Performance on Child Well-Being Indicators?

The *2014 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which is published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, reveals that Nevada ranks 48th among the 50 states on 16 indicators that measure child and family well-being. Among the 16 indicators, Nevada children ranked highest on child and teen deaths. They ranked the worst on high school students not graduating on time, children not attending preschool, and children without health insurance.

The following tables show Nevada's current ranking on 12 child well-being indicators and what amount of reduction in occurrences it would take for Nevada to become the top-ranking state in the nation and to see a 10 percent improvement in the indicators based on its current percent or rate.¹

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING DOMAIN

Children in Poverty

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued each year by the U.S. Census Bureau. In calendar year 2012, a family of two adults and two children fell in the "poverty" category if their annual income fell below \$23,283. Poverty status is not determined for people living in group quarters, such as military barracks, prisons and other institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children). The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey.

<p>Nevada's status Nevada ranked 32nd in the nation in 2012 on the percent of children and youth living in poverty. Twenty-four percent or 157,000 of Nevada children and youth lived in poverty.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 23</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? To become number one in the nation Nevada would have to attain a 13 percent child poverty rate, which means reducing the number of poor children by 72,000.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 13 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population age 17 and under of 72,605,000 in the U.S., 653,000 in Nevada; the number of poor children would have to decrease by 13,000 for Nevada to go from a 24 to a 22 percent child poverty rate.</p>
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Note: Percents and rates have been rounded.

¹Three indicators, fourth graders not proficient in reading, eighth graders not proficient in math, and teens who abuse alcohol or drugs, are not shown due to lack of actual events.

Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment

is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means that neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent are also listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 33rd in the nation by having 34 percent of children and youth living in families without secure employment. That represents 226,000 children and youth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 31</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment by 100,000 to achieve 19 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 19 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population age 17 and under of 73,710,000 in the U.S., 664,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment would have to be reduced by 20,000 in Nevada to go from 34 percent to 31 percent.</p>
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Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in households where more than 30 percent of monthly household pretax income is spent on housing-related expenses, including rent, mortgage payments, taxes, and insurance.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 45th in the nation by having 45 percent of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden. That represents 296,000 children and youth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 38</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden by 190,000 to achieve 16 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 16 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population age 17 and under of 73,710,000 in the U.S., 664,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden would have to be reduced by 24,000 in Nevada to go from 45 percent to 41 percent.</p>
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Teens Not Attending School and Not Working

is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full or part time) and not employed (full or part time). This measure is sometimes referred to as "idle teens" or "disconnected youth."

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 39th in the nation on the percent of idle teens. Ten percent or 14,000 teens were considered idle.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 8</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of idle teens by 9,000 to achieve 4 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: South Dakota and Vermont at 4 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population ages 16 to 19 of 17,407,000 in the U.S., 139,000 in Nevada, the number of idle teens would need to decrease by 2,000 for Nevada to reduce its percent from 10 to 9.</p>
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EDUCATION DOMAIN

Children Not Attending Preschool

is the percentage of children ages 3 and 4 who were not enrolled in nursery school or preschool during the previous two months. Children enrolled in kindergarten are excluded from this analysis.

<p>Nevada's status In 2010-2012, Nevada ranked 50th in the nation by having 70 percent of or 53,000 children not attending preschool.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 54</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of children not in preschool by 25,000 to achieve 37 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Connecticut at 37 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population of children ages 3 and 4 in the U.S., 8,011,000; 76,000 in Nevada; the number of children not attending preschool would have to be reduced by 5,000 in Nevada to go from 70 percent to 63 percent.</p>
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HEALTH DOMAIN

Low-Birthweight Babies

is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data reflect the mother's place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 24th in the nation with 8.0 percent of babies low-birthweight, or 2,781 babies.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 8.0</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of low-birthweight babies by 791 to achieve 5.7 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Alaska at 5.7 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population of 3,948,833 live births in the U.S.; 34,903 in Nevada; the number of low-birthweight babies would have to be reduced by 268 in Nevada to go from 8.0 percent to 7.2 percent.</p>
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Children without Health Insurance

is the percentage of children under age 18 not covered by any health insurance. The data are based on health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the calendar year.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 50th in the nation by having 17 percent of children, or 110,000 children, without health insurance.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 7</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of children without health insurance by 104,000 to achieve 1 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts at 1 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 73,578,000 in the U.S.; 663,000 in Nevada; the number of children would have to decrease by 11,000 to lower the percent from 17 to 15 percent.</p>
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Child and Teen Deaths

is the number of deaths, from all causes, to children between ages 1 and 19 per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

<p>Nevada's status In 2010, Nevada ranked 23rd in the nation with a child death rate of 27 per 100,000 children. One hundred eighty-nine children died.</p> <p>U.S. rate: 26</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of child deaths by 70 to achieve a rate of 17 per 100,000.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island at 17 deaths per 100,000</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 79,323,403 in the U.S.; 699,823 in Nevada; the number of child deaths in Nevada would have to be reduced by 21 to lower the child death rate from 27 to 24.</p>
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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Children in Single-Parent Families

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own unmarried parent, either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include cohabiting couples. Children living with married stepparents are not considered to be in a single-parent family.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 41th in the nation with 39 percent of its children and youth (246,000) living in single-parent families.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 35</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in single-parent families by 120,000 children to become the best in the nation with a rate of 20.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Utah at 20 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 70,153,000 in the U.S.; 634,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in single-parent families would have to decline by 25,000 to lower the percent from 39 to 35.</p>
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Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma

is the percentage of children under age 18 living in households where the household head does not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

<p>Nevada's status In 2012, Nevada ranked 48th in the nation with 20 percent of its children and youth (134,000) living in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 15</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by 101,000 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 5 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 5 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child/youth population of 73,710,000 in the U.S.; 664,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in single-parent families would have to decline by 14,000 to lower the percent from 20 to 18.</p>
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Children Living in High-Poverty Areas

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts where the poverty rate of the total population is 30 percent or more. In calendar year 2012, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$23,283. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey. The census tract level data used in this analysis are only available in the five-year American Community Survey.

<p>Nevada’s status In 2008-2012, Nevada ranked 27th in the nation with 11 percent of its children and youth (76,000) living in high-poverty areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 13</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in high poverty areas by 69,000 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Alaska and New Hampshire at 1 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 73,980,000 in the U.S.; 664,000 in Nevada; the number of children/youth living in high poverty areas would have to decline by 10,000 to lower the percent from 11 to 10.</p>
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Teen Births

is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother’s place of residence, rather than the place of the birth.

<p>Nevada’s status In 2012, Nevada ranked 32nd in the nation with a teen birth rate of 33 per 1,000 births. Teen births totaled 2,863.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 29</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of teen births by 1,665 to have a birth rate of 14 per 1,000 females.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts and New Hampshire at 14 births per 1,000</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a female teen population of 10,397,841 in the U.S.; 85,608 in Nevada; the number of teen births in Nevada would have to decrease by 295 to reduce the teen birth rate from 33 to 30 per 1,000 females.</p>
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NOTES:

Indicator definitions are from the *2014 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).

Event-reduction analyses were conducted by the Population Reference Bureau at the request of the AECF. Data forwarded by Flo Gutierrez, AECF, 6/12/14.

Population numbers for the United States and Nevada may differ among the indicators depending upon the source used and the target population.

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS:

Economic Well-Being Indicators

Children in Poverty: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Teens Not in School and Not Working: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Education Indicators

Children Not Attending Preschool: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Health Indicators

Low-Birthweight Babies: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.

Children without Health Insurance: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Child and Teen Deaths: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.

Population statistics: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.

Family and Community Indicators

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Teen Births: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population statistics: U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates.

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