

# HOW NEVADA COMPARES TO ITS NEIGHBORS ON 16 CHILD WELL-BEING INDICATORS

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August 2015

The 2015 national *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation on July 21, 2015, reveals that Nevada ranked 47th overall (1st = best and 50th = worst) among the 50 states on 16 key indicators that measure child well-being. Among the 16 indicators used to rank the states, Nevada performed the best on teen alcohol and drug use (ranked 17th). Nevada performed the worst (ranked 50th) on three of the indicators: children not attending preschool, high school students not graduating on time, and children without health insurance.

This *Newsletter* compares Nevada to its bordering states, Arizona (AZ), California (CA), Idaho (ID), Oregon (OR), and Utah (UT), on the child well-being indicators.

Among its neighbors, Nevada ranked 6th (worst) on 10 of the 16 child well-being indicators. These indicators were:

## *Economic Well-Being*

- Teens not in school and not working
- Children whose parents lack secure employment

## *Education*

- High school students not graduating on time
- Children not attending preschool
- Fourth graders not proficient in reading (tied with CA)
- Eighth graders not proficient in math (tied with CA)

## *Health*

- Low-birthweight babies
- Children without health insurance
- Teens who abused alcohol or drugs (tied with AZ, CA, ID, and OR)

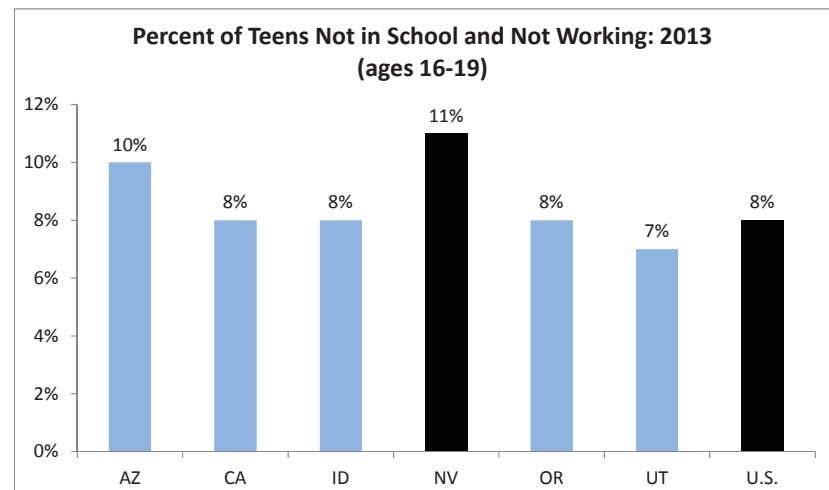
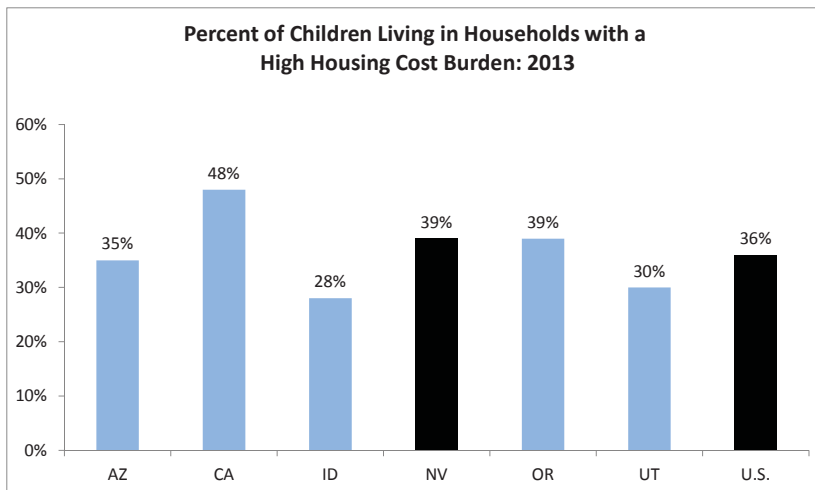
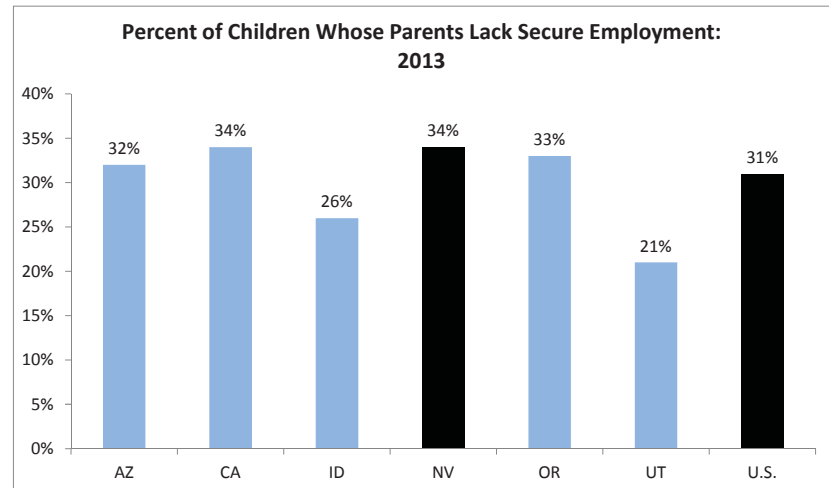
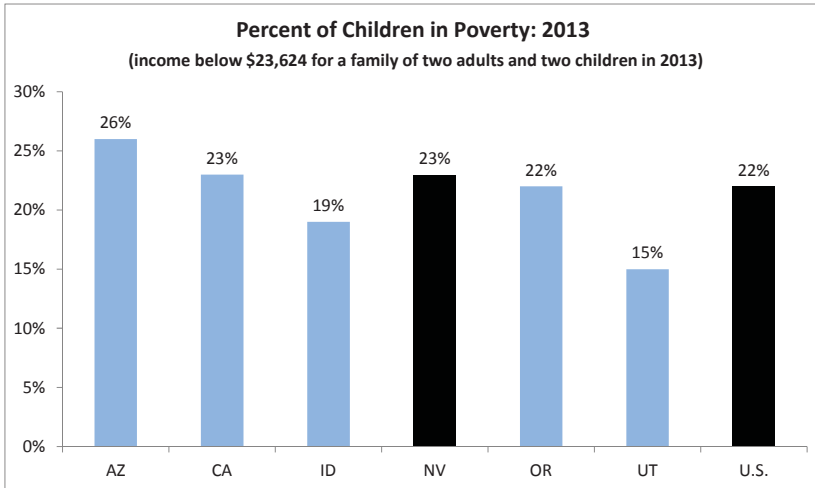
## *Family and Community*

- Children in single-parent families (tied with AZ)

Among its neighbors, Nevada did not rank 1st (best) on any of the 16 indicators.

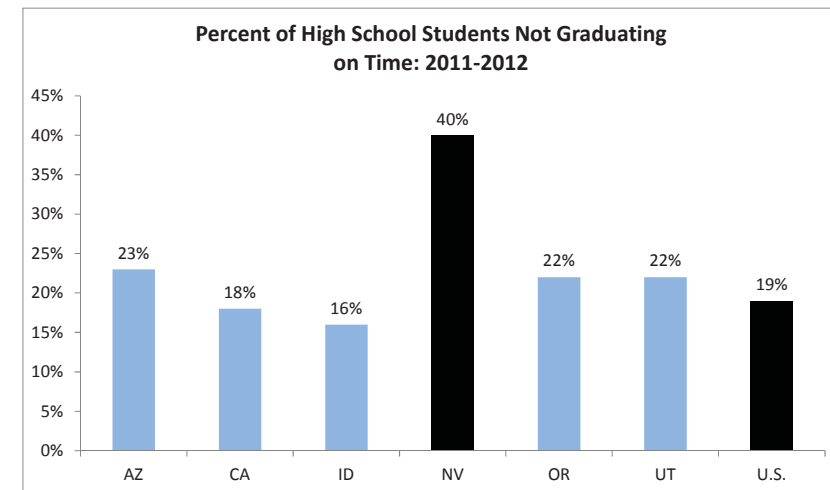
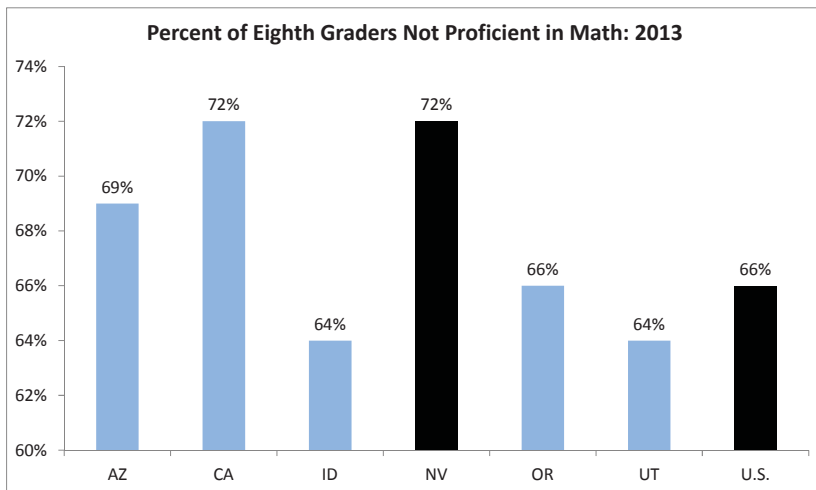
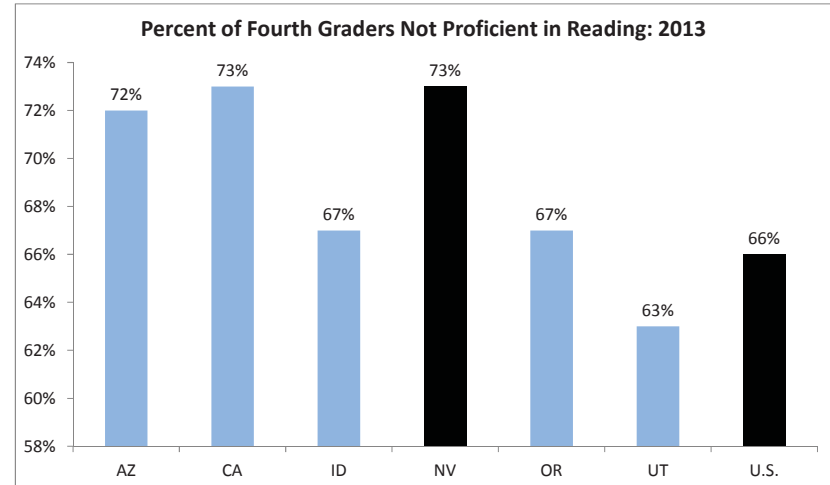
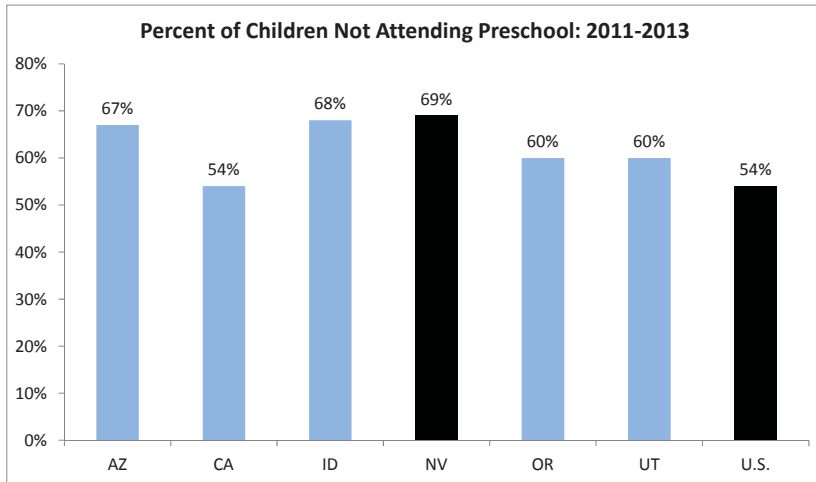
For more information, see the figures on the following pages.

# Economic Well-Being



*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.  
*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2015*.  
*Data Sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

# Education

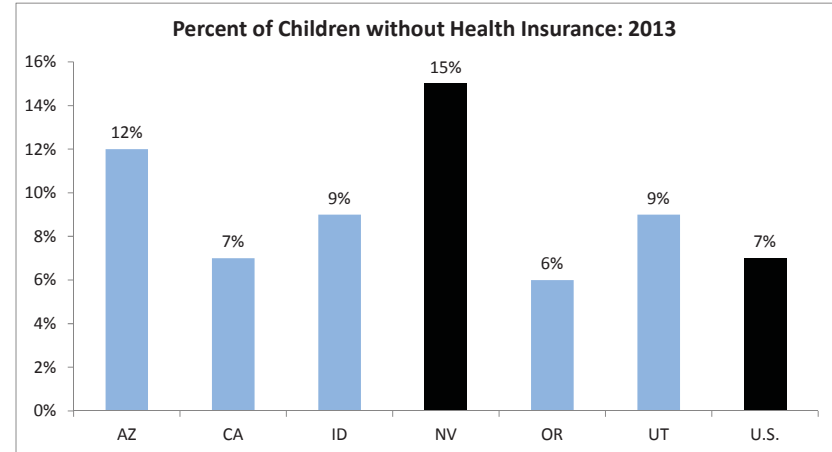
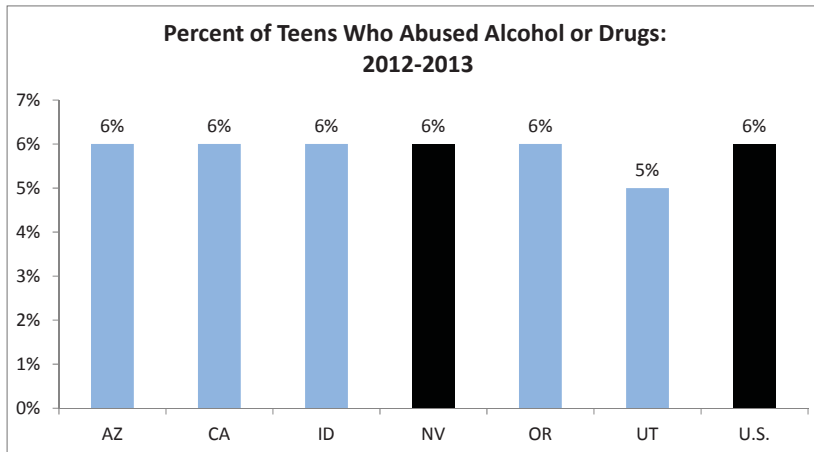
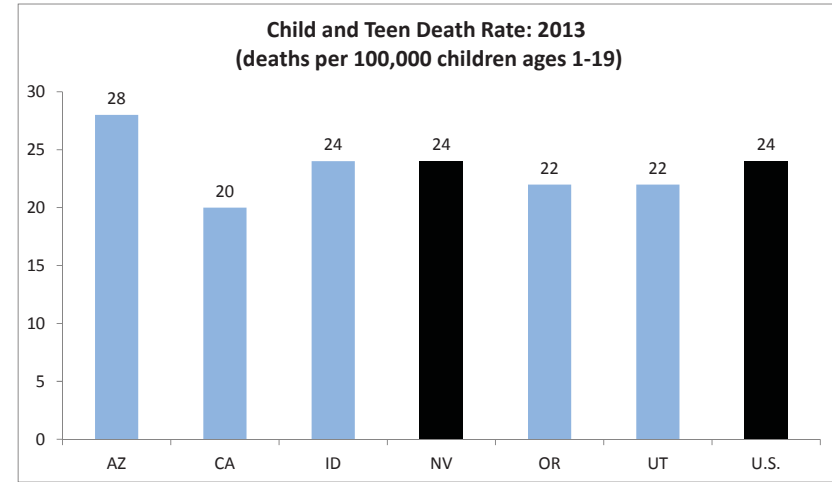
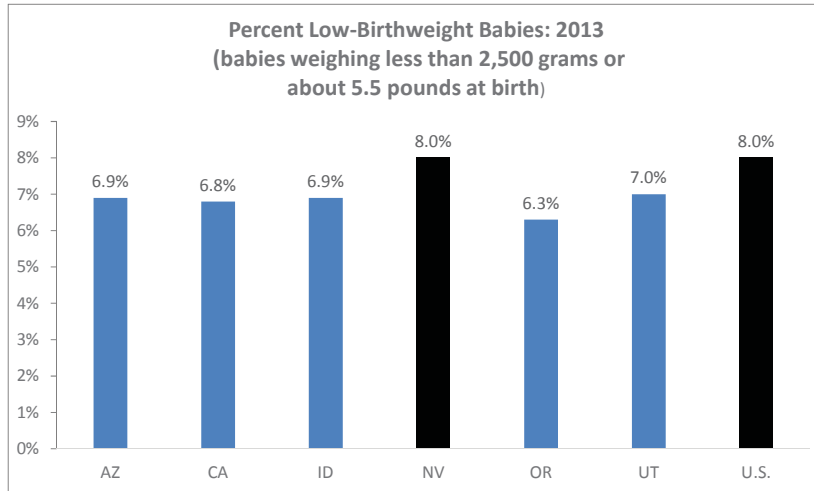


*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2015*.

*Data Sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (children not attending preschool); U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (fourth graders not proficient in reading and eighth graders not proficient in math); U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (high school students not graduating on time).

# Health

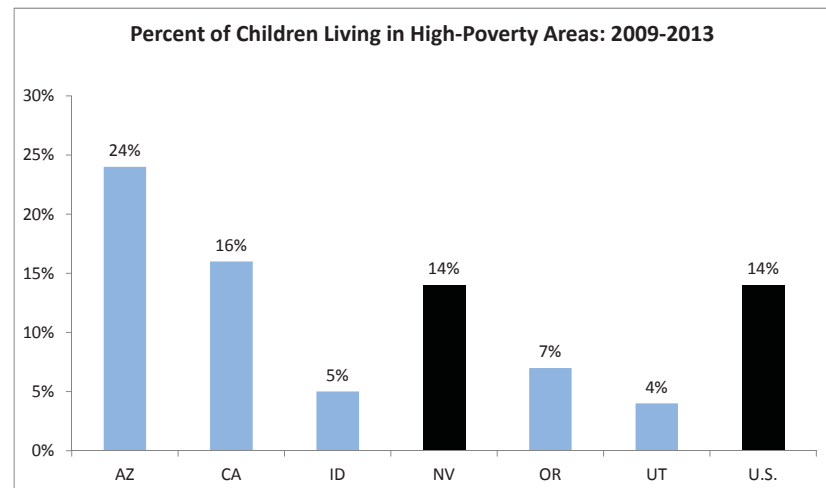
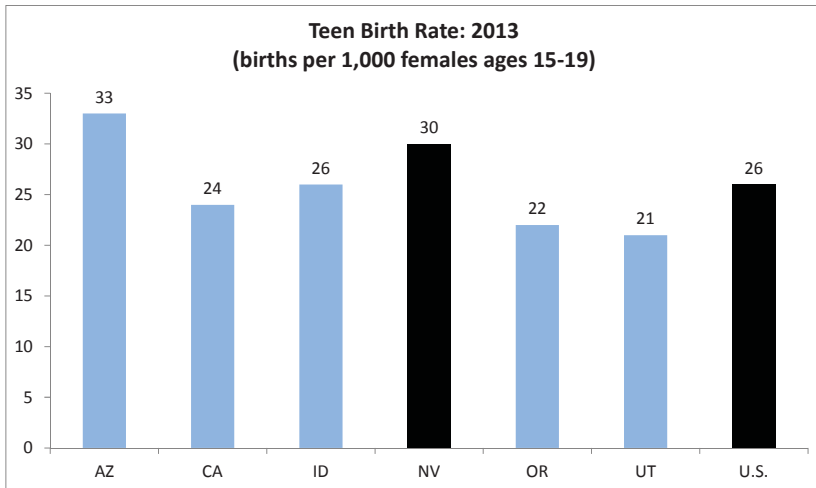
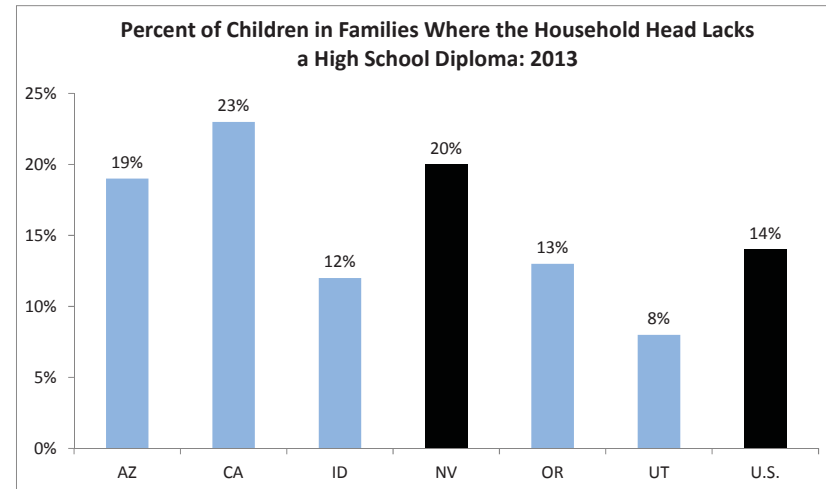
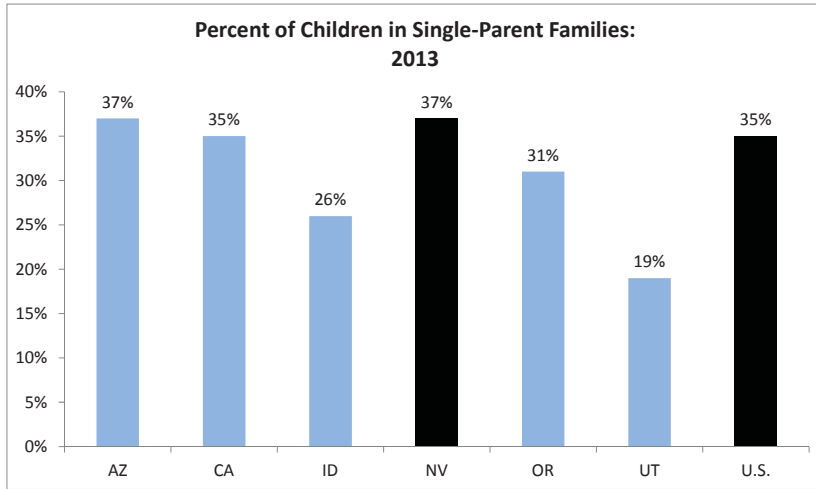


*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2015*.

*Data Sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (children without health insurance); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics (low-birthweight babies and child and teen deaths); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health (teens who abuse alcohol or drugs).

# Family and Community



*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2015*.

*Data Sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (children in single-parent families, children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma, and children living in high-poverty areas); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics (teen births).

## **DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS (from the AECF *KIDS COUNT Data Book*)**

### ***Economic Well-Being Indicators***

**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 2013, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$23,624. 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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**Teens Not in 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.” U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

### ***Education Indicators***

**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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading** is the percentage of fourth-grade public school student who did not reach the proficient level in reading as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Public schools include charter schools and exclude Bureau of Indian Education schools and Department of Defense Education Activity schools. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.

**Eighth Graders Not Proficient in Math** is the percentage of fourth-grade public school student who did not reach the proficient level in math as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Public schools include charter schools and exclude Bureau of Indian Education schools and Department of Defense Education Activity schools. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.

**High School Students Not Graduating on Time** is the estimated percentage of an entering freshman class not graduating in four years. The measure is derived from the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR), which uses aggregate student enrollment data to estimate the size of an incoming freshman class and aggregate counts of the number of regular diplomas awarded four years later. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD).

### ***Health Indicators***

**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. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.

**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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**Child and Teen Deaths** is the number of deaths, from all causes, to children and youth 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. 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** 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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**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 2013, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$23,624. 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. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

**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. National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates.