

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

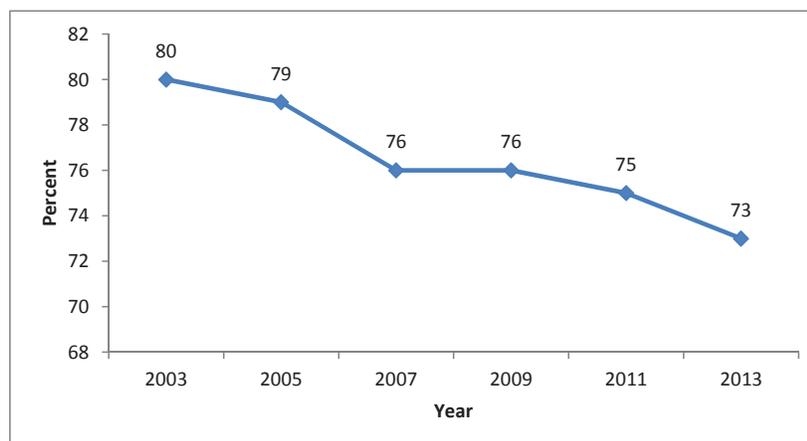
January 2014

Update on Fourth Graders' Reading Proficiency

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) released a *KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot* today titled “Early Reading Proficiency in the United States.” The *Snapshot*, which uses National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data, provides an update on fourth graders’ reading proficiency for the nation, each state, and the District of Columbia. NAEP data show that in 2013, 66 percent of all fourth graders in public schools were not proficient in reading. Startling, is that 80 percent of low-income fourth graders were not proficient compared to 49 percent of higher-income fourth-graders.* The silver lining in the NAEP data is that the percentage of fourth-graders not proficient in reading decreased 6 percent from 2003 to 2013.

In 2013, 73 percent of Nevada fourth graders were not proficient in reading. Nevada is one of the 46 states that saw a decrease in fourth graders not proficient in reading over the ten-year period—from 80 percent to 73 percent. See figure below.

**Percent of Nevada Fourth Graders Scoring Below Proficiency in Reading:
2003-2013**



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *The Nation's Report Card*, “Reading 2013 State Snapshot Report,” <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2013/pdf/2014464NV4.pdf>, as of 1/6/14.

*Low-income is determined by eligible lunch in the National School Lunch Program.

As in the nation, a disparity in reading proficiency levels exists between low-income and higher-income fourth graders in Nevada. In 2013, 83 percent of low-income students compared to 56 percent of higher-income students were not proficient in reading. Proficiency levels for low-income students and higher-income students improved from 2003-2013. However, proficiency levels increased more for the higher-income students than for the low-income students, 27 percent compared to 18 percent.

The table below shows that a high percentage of black (African American) and Hispanic/Latino fourth graders in Nevada scored below proficient reading level.

**Fourth Graders Who Scored Below Proficient Reading Level
by Race/Ethnicity, Nevada: 2013**

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asian or Pacific Islander	62
Black/African American	86
Hispanic/Latino	84
White	61
2 or more races	60
American Indian	S
Nevada	73

“Definitions: Fourth grade public school students who scored below the proficient level in reading, as measured and defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), by race and Hispanic origin.”

S - NAEP reporting standards not met.

“For a more detailed description of achievement levels see: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/Reading/achieveall.asp>. Public schools include charter schools and exclude Bureau of Indian Education schools and Department of Defense Education Activity schools. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin. Results are not shown for students whose race or Hispanic origin was not classified.”

Data Source: Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>. AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center data query, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>, 1/28/14.

The *Data Snapshot* is available on the AECF website at <http://www.aecf.org>, and the data are available in the KIDS COUNT Data Center at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>. Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation and this issue on Twitter @aekidscount and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>.

The original NAEP data are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

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