

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

July 2012

Poverty among Nevada Children Is Trending Upwards

In the June *Newsletter*, I introduced you to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's (AECF) new index that is used to rank states on child well-being. The new index incorporates four domains that capture what children need most to thrive: (1) Economic Well-Being, (2) Education, (3) Health, and (4) Family and Community. Each of the four domains is comprised of four individual indicators for a total of 16. In subsequent *Newsletters*, I plan to write about each one of the indicators. In this one, I discuss the percent of children in poverty, one of the four indicators of Economic Well-Being.

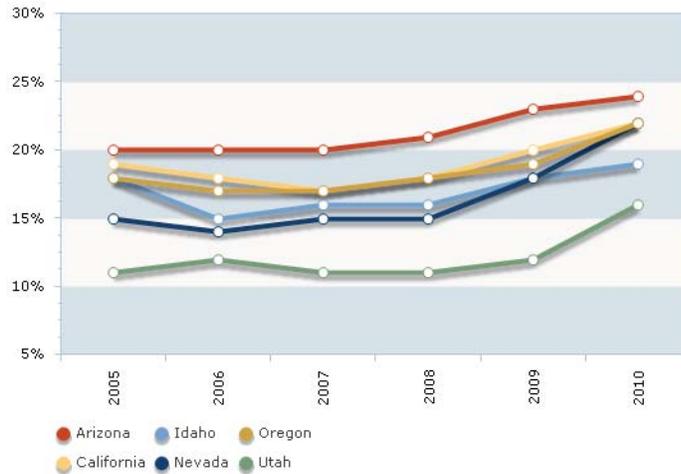
In 2010, 22 percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in poverty.¹ Among the states, Nevada ranked 30th on this indicator. New Hampshire ranked 1st/best (10 percent), and Mississippi ranked 50th/worst (33 percent). The poverty rate for the nation was 22 percent.

Between 2005 and 2010, the percent of children in poverty in Nevada increased from 15 to 22, a 7 percentage point or a 47 percent increase (Figure 1). The change represents an increase of 54,000 children—from 90,000 to 144,000. Nevada's neighboring states also show an increase in the percent of children in poverty since 2005 (Figure 1). Nevada saw the largest increase, followed by Utah. Idaho had the smallest increase. The poverty rate for the United States increased from 19 percent in 2005 to 22 percent in 2010—a 16 percent increase, representing an addition of 2.4 million children.

Figure 2 shows a longer span of time in child poverty, from 2000 to 2010. The national rate was gradually increasing between 2000 and 2008. During the same period, the rate for Nevada was more volatile, moving from 13 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2004 and back to 15 percent in 2008. Between 2008 and 2010, however, there were sharp increases in poverty rates in the nation and in Nevada. The national rate moved from 18 to 22 percent, and the Nevada rate moved from 15 to 22 percent. Such increases were a consequence of the Great Recession, which began in late 2007. Some states, such as Nevada, were hit harder by the recession than other states.

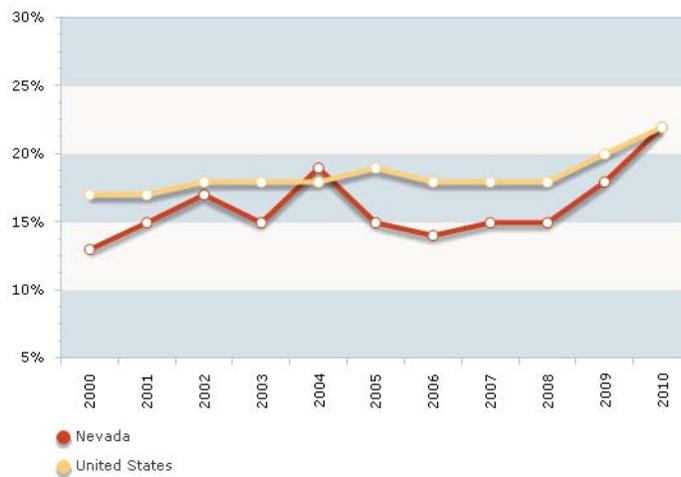
¹ In 2010, the poverty threshold was defined as income below \$22,113 for a family of two adults and two children. U.S. Census, Poverty Thresholds, online at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>, as of 7/23/12.

Figure 1. Percent of Children in Poverty, Nevada and Neighboring States: 2005 to 2010



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 through 2010 American Community Survey, AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount>, as of 7/20/12.

Figure 2. Percent of Children in Poverty, Nevada and the United States: 2000 to 2010



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2010 American Community Survey, AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount>, as of 7/20/12.

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