

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

AECF Releases Its 25th KIDS COUNT® Data Book

July 2014

On July 22, 2014, the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) released its annual *KIDS COUNT® Data Book*—its 25th edition. Congratulations AECF.

The *Data Book* identifies national trends in child well-being since 1990, the first year the book was published, and compares national- and state-level data from 2005 to 2012 on 16 child well-being indicators.

“With advances in neuroscience, as well as solid research on what works, we now know more than ever before about how to give children a good start and help them meet major developmental milestones throughout childhood,” said Patrick McCarthy, the Foundation’s president and CEO. “On several fronts, we’ve seen the difference that smart policies, effective programs and high quality practice can make in improving child well-being and long term outcomes. We should all be encouraged by the improvements in many well-being indicators in the health, education and safety areas.”¹

Nevada Trends between 2005 and 2012

The AECF ranks Nevada near the bottom (48th) among the states in overall child well-being. On the four domains of child well-being, each comprised of four individual indicators, Nevada ranks 44th in Family and Community, 47th in Health, 47th in Economic Well-Being, and 50th in Education.

Although the domain rankings are dismal, Nevada improved on 11 of the 16 indicators over the past few years. All of the Education and Health indicators improved, as did two Family and Community indicators and one Economic Well-Being indicator. Three of the Economic Well-Being and two of the Family and Community indicators worsened. These include: (1) the percentage of children who live in poverty, (2) the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, (3) the percentage of children living in households with a high housing cost burden, (4) the percentage of children in single-parent families, and (5) the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas. Most striking is that the percentage of children who live in poverty increased by 60 percent from 2005 to 2012.

The following presents findings on 8 of the 16 indicators of child well-being for Nevada.

Economic Well-Being

- Twenty-four percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in poverty in 2012. Nevada ranks 32nd among the states on this indicator. The child poverty rate increased from 15 percent to 24 percent between 2005 and 2012 (a 60 percent increase).

¹AECF, electronic communication, 7/7/14.

- Ten percent of Nevada teens were not in school and not working in 2012. Nevada ranks 39th on this indicator. The percentage of teens not in school and not working decreased from 11 percent in 2008 to 10 percent in 2012 (a 9 percent decrease).

Education

- Seventy percent of Nevada children ages 3 to 4 did not attend preschool in 2010-2012. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of children not attending preschool decreased from 75 percent in 2005-2007 to 70 percent in 2010-2012 (a 7 percent decrease).
- Forty percent of Nevada high school students did not graduate on time in 2011-2012. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of students not graduating on time decreased from 44 percent in 2005/2006 to 40 percent in 2011/2012 (a 9 percent decrease).

Health

- Seventeen percent of Nevada children under age 18 were not covered by any health insurance during 2012. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of children without health insurance decreased from 20 percent to 17 percent between 2008 and 2012 (a 15 percent decrease).
- Seven percent of Nevada youth ages 12 to 17 abused alcohol or drugs in 2011-2012. Nevada ranks 27th on this indicator. The percentage of youth who abused alcohol or drugs decreased from 9 percent in 2005-2006 to 7 percent in 2011-2012 (a 22 percent decrease).

Family and Community Indicators

- The teen birth rate in 2012 was 33 live births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Nevada ranks 32nd on this indicator. The birth rate fell from 50 births to 33 births per 1,000 females from 2005 to 2012 (a 34 percent decrease).
- Thirty-nine percent of Nevada children lived in single-parent families in 2012. Nevada ranks 41st on this indicator. The percentage of children living in single-parent families increased from 32 percent to 39 percent between 2005 and 2012 (a 22 percent increase).

The data show how children are faring mid-decade prior to the Great Recession compared to how they are doing after it. Nevada children are still struggling in the area of Economic Well-Being.

Nevada Trends in Child Well-Being Since 1990

Nevada children have experienced improvement and deterioration in the four areas of child well-being since 1990.

Economic Well-Being

Three Economic Well-Being indicators worsened and one improved. The percentage of Nevada children in poverty increased by 85 percent, the percentage of children living in households with a housing cost burden increased by 55 percent, and the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment increased by 19 percent. Teens not in school and not working improved slightly, by 8 percent.

Education

Preschool attendance among three- and four-year olds increased by 3 percent. Students not graduating on time increased dramatically, by 74 percent.

Health

Two Health indicators improved and two worsened. The child and teen death rate improved by 50 percent, and the percentage of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs improved by 30 percent. The percentage of low-birth weight babies increased by 14 percent, and the percentage of children without health insurance increased by 19 percent.

Family and Community

The teen birth rate decreased significantly from 73 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 to 33 births, a 55 percent decline. Two indicators worsened—children in single-parent families, an increase of 50 percent; and children living in high-poverty areas, an increase of 175 percent, from 4 to 11 percent. The percentage of parents without a high school diploma remained at 20 percent.

The *Data Book* is available at <http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-2014-kids-count-data-book/>.

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