

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

July 2015

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

The *2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which is published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, reveals that Nevada ranks 47<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states on 16 indicators that measure child and family well-being. Among the 16 indicators, Nevada children ranked best on alcohol and drug abuse. 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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 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.

<b>Nevada's status</b> Nevada ranked 31 <sup>st</sup> in the nation in 2013 on the percent of children and youth living in poverty. Twenty-three percent or 147,696 of Nevada children and youth lived in poverty.  U.S. percent: 22	<b>What will it take to be the best?</b> To become number one in the nation Nevada would have to attain a 10 percent child poverty rate, which means reducing the number of poor children by 82,522.  Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 10 percent	<b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population age 17 and under of 72,382,173 in the U.S., 651,791 in Nevada; the number of poor children would have to decrease by 10,820 for Nevada to go from a 23 to a 21 percent child poverty rate.
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Note: Percents and rates have been rounded.

<sup>1</sup>Four indicators, fourth graders not proficient in reading, eighth graders not proficient in math, high school students not graduating on time, and teens who abuse alcohol or drugs, are not shown because the event reduction cannot be calculated because the number of events and/or the base population is unknown.

## 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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation by having 34 percent of children and youth living in families without secure employment. That represents 224,010 children and youth.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 31</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment by 91,612 to achieve 20 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 20 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population age 17 and under of 73,696,385 in the U.S., 662,030 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment would have to be reduced by 18,781 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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation by having 39 percent of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden. That represents 260,965 children and youth.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 36</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden by 135,181 to achieve 19 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 19 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population age 17 and under of 73,696,385 in the U.S., 662,030 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden would have to be reduced by 29,255 in Nevada to go from 39 percent to 35 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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the percent of idle teens. Eleven percent or 16,073 teens were considered idle.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 8</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of idle teens by 11,735 to achieve 3 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Nebraska at 3 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population ages 16 to 19 of 17,205,476 in the U.S., 144,821 in Nevada, the number of idle teens would need to decrease by 1,591 for Nevada to reduce its percent from 11 to 10.</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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2011-2013, Nevada ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation by having 69 percent of or 52,609 children not attending preschool.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 54</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to decrease the number of children not in preschool by 24,573 to achieve 37 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Connecticut at 37 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population of children ages 3 and 4 in the U.S., 8,152,933; 75,765 in Nevada; the number of children not attending preschool would have to be reduced by 5,635 in Nevada to go from 69 percent to 62 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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation with 8.0 percent of babies low-birthweight, or 2,810 babies.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 8.0</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to decrease the number of low-birthweight babies by 778 to achieve 5.8 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Alaska at 5.8 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a population of 3,927,732 live births in the U.S.; 35,028 in Nevada; the number of low-birthweight babies would have to be reduced by 288 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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation by having 15 percent of children, or 98,509 children, without health insurance.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 7</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to decrease the number of children without health insurance by 85,145 to achieve 2 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts at 2 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a child and youth population of 73,446,062 in the U.S.; 661,097 in Nevada; the number of children would have to decrease by 5,955 to lower the percent from 15 to 14 percent.</p>
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## 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.

<p><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a child and teen death rate of 24 per 100,000 children and youth. One hundred sixty-four children and youth died.</p> <p>U.S. rate: 24</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 53 to achieve a rate of 16 per 100,000.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts at 16 deaths per 100,000 children and youth</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a child and youth population of 78,306,304 in the U.S.; 692,325 in Nevada; the number of child and teen deaths in Nevada would have to be reduced by 12 to lower the child and teen death rate from 24 to 22.</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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 37 percent of its children and youth (234,575) living in single-parent families.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 35</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in single-parent families by 114,961 children to become the best in the nation with a rate of 19.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Utah at 19 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a child and youth population of 69,920,713 in the U.S.; 629,710 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in single-parent families would have to decline by 26,771 to lower the percent from 37 to 33.</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><b>Nevada's status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 20 percent of its children and youth (129,615) living in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 14</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by 103,137 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 4 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 4 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a child/youth population of 73,696,385 in the U.S.; 662,030 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in single-parent families would have to decline by 10,450 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 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.

<p><b>Nevada’s status</b> In 2009-2013, Nevada ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation with 14 percent of its children and youth (91,228) living in high-poverty areas.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 14</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in high poverty areas by 84,607 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 1.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Vermont at 1 percent</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a child and youth population of 73,877,478 in the U.S.; 662,070 in Nevada; the number of children/youth living in high poverty areas would have to decline by 5,159 to lower the percent from 14 to 13.</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><b>Nevada’s status</b> In 2013, Nevada ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation with a teen birth rate of 30 per 1,000 females. Teen births totaled 2,604.</p> <p>U.S. rate: 26</p>	<p><b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Nevada would need to reduce the number of teen births by 1,574 to have a birth rate of 12 per 1,000 females.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts at 12 births per 1,000 females</p>	<p><b>What will it take to improve by 10 percent?</b> Given a female teen population of 10,312,774 in the U.S.; 85,807 in Nevada; the number of teen births in Nevada would have to decrease by 287 to reduce the teen birth rate from 30 to 27 per 1,000 females.</p>
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## NOTES:

1. Indicator definitions are from the *2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).
2. Event-reduction analyses were conducted by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) at the request of the AECF. Data forwarded by Flo Gutierrez, AECF, 6/12/14.
3. The PRB bases the “required reduction in number” on the desired rate rounded to the nearest **whole number**. In Nevada’s case, for example, a 10 percent reduction in the observed rate of 15 percent is 13.5 percent, which rounds to 14 percent. Multiplying the base population (661,097) by 0.14 produces a “desired number” of 92,594. Subtracting from the observed number (98,509) yields the “required reduction” of 5.955 (or 6,000 when rounded to the nearest thousand.) Kevin Pollard, PRB, 6/15/15.
4. 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.

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.*

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