

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

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July 2017

The 2017 national *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation on June 13, 2017, reveals that Nevada ranks 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's highest-ranking indicator is teens abusing alcohol and drugs (5th). Nevada's lowest-ranking indicators are high school students not graduating on time (49th) and children ages 3 and 4 not attending school (49th). This *Newsletter* compares Nevada to its bordering states, Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah, on the child well-being indicators.

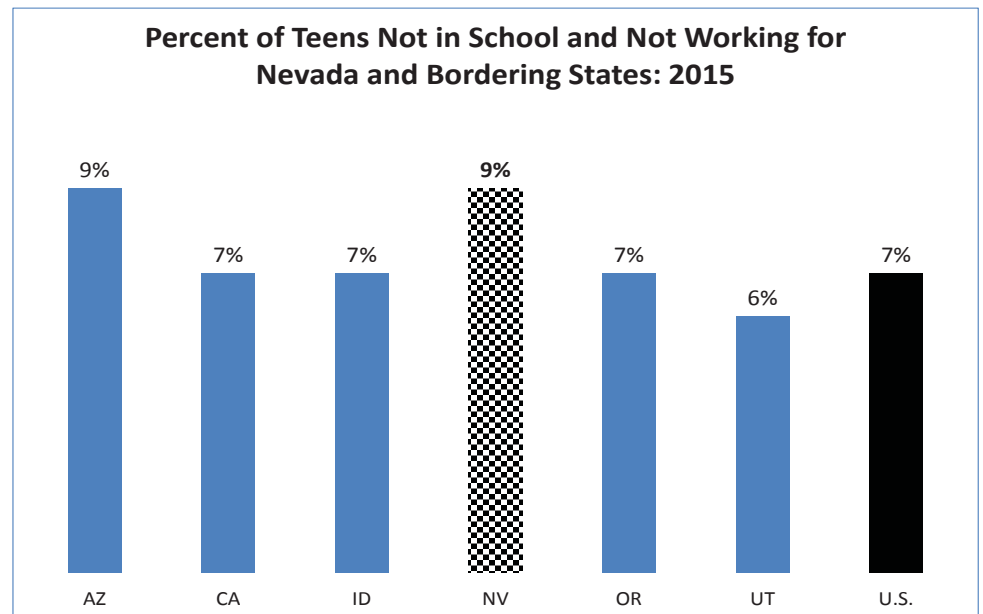
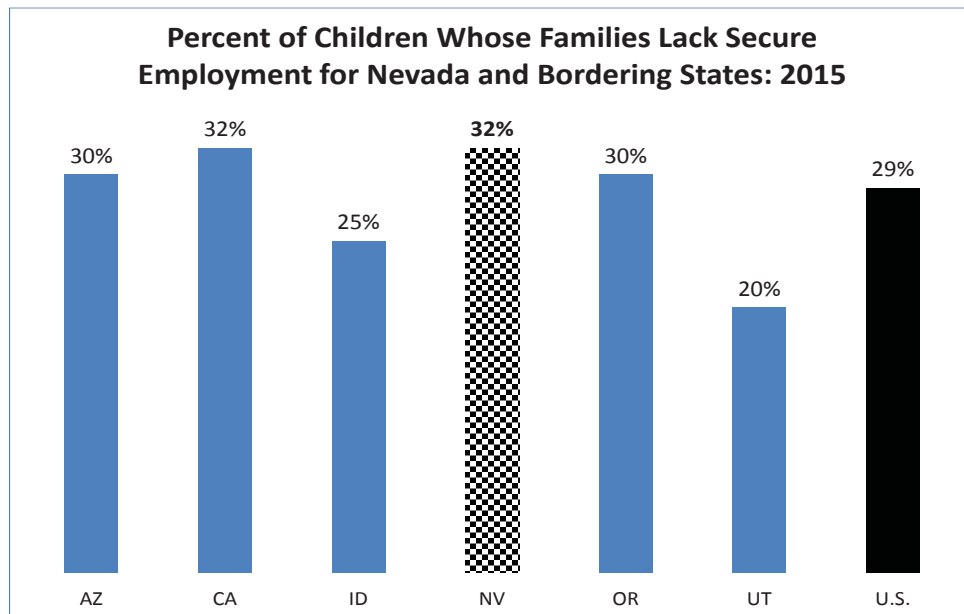
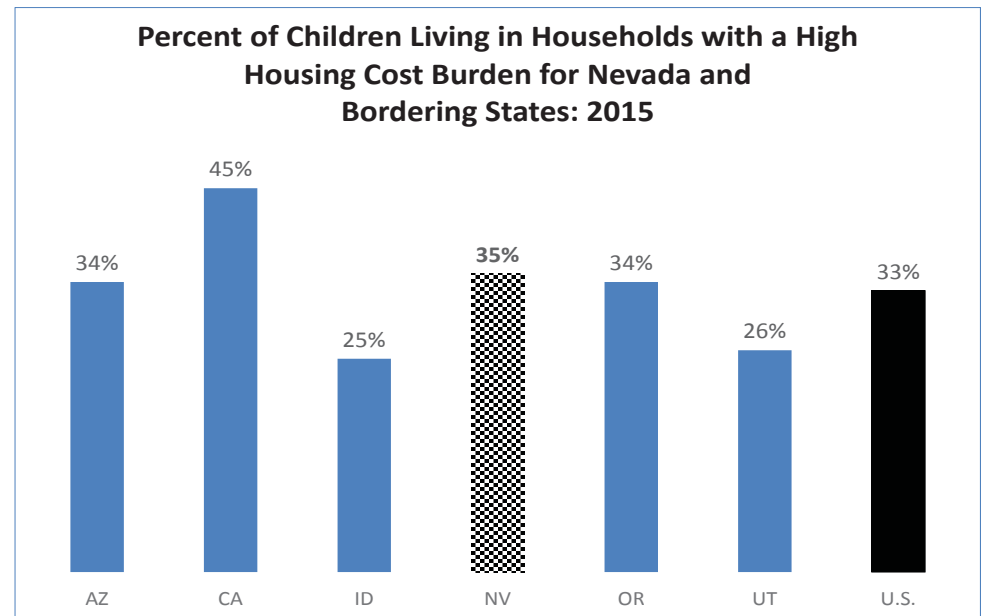
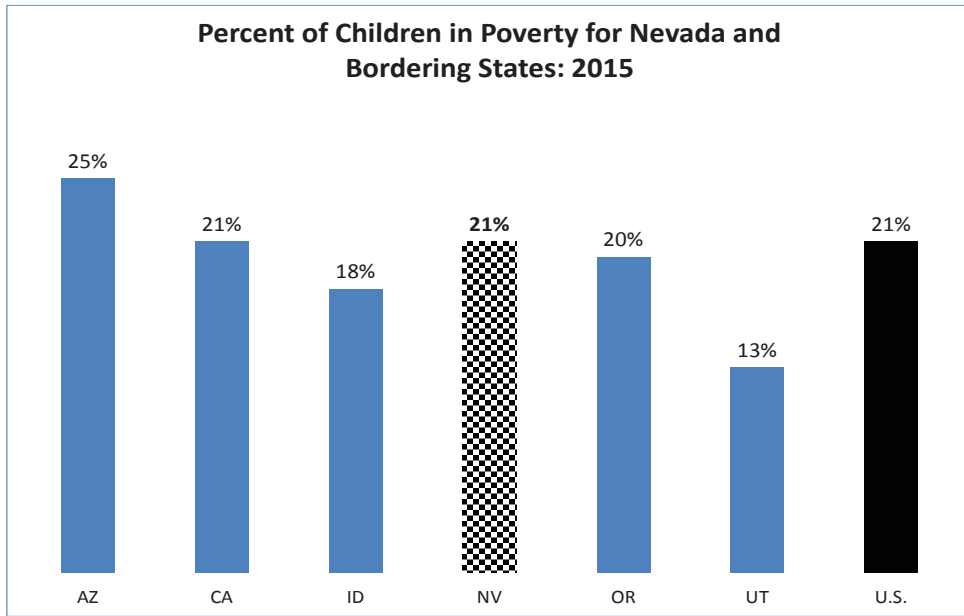
Among its neighbors, Nevada ranked 6th (worst) on nine of the indicators. These indicators are:

- Children whose parents lack secure employment (tied with California)
- Teens not in school and not working (tied with Arizona)
- Eighth graders not proficient in math
- High school students not graduating on time
- Low-birthweight babies
- Children without health insurance (tied with Arizona)
- Child and teen deaths
- Children in single-parent families
- Teen births

Among its neighbors, Nevada ranks 1st (best) on teens who abuse alcohol or drugs (tied with California and Utah).

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

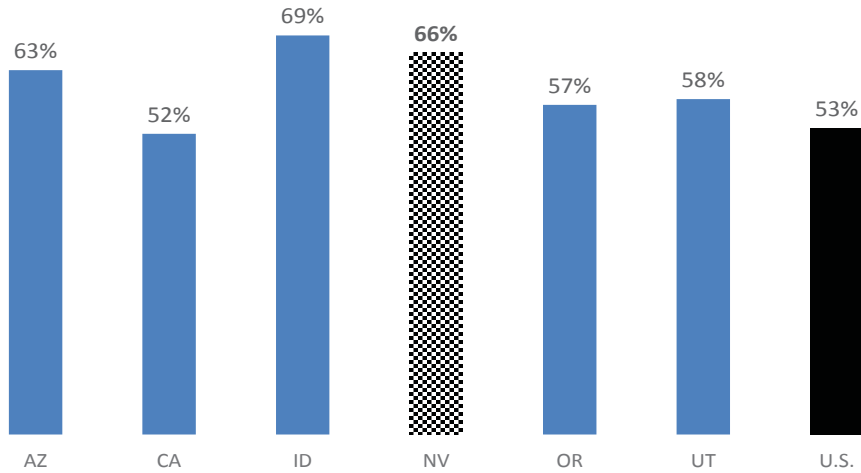
# Economic Well-Being



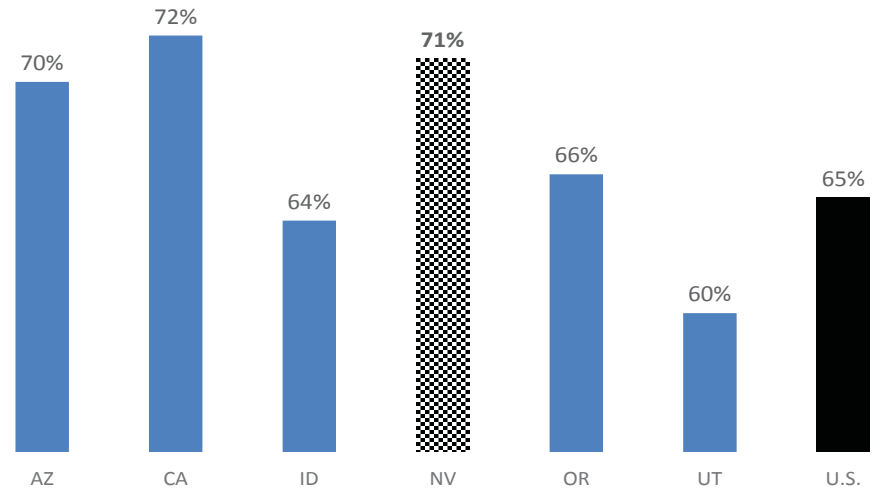
Note: The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.  
 Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2017*.

# Education

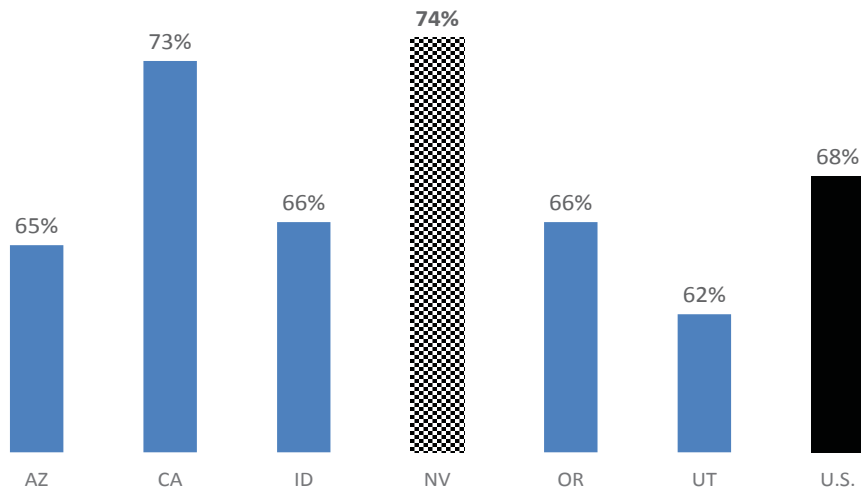
**Percent of Young Children Not in School for Nevada and Bordering States: 2013-2015**



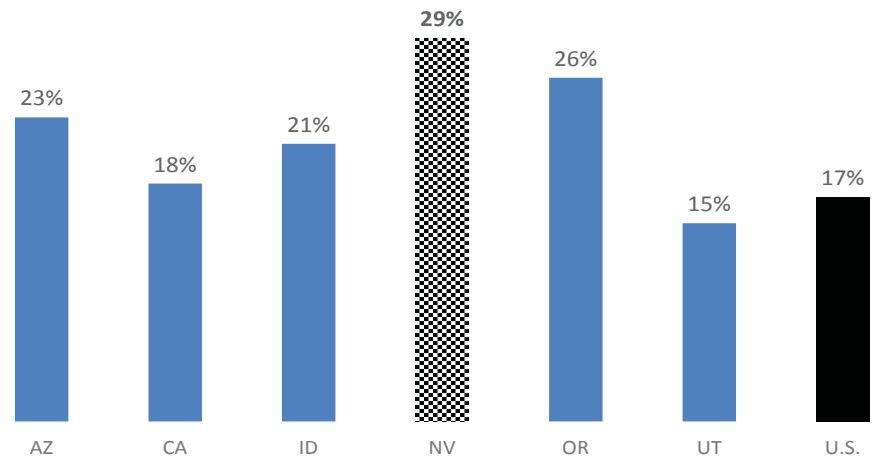
**Percent of Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading for Nevada and Bordering States: 2015**



**Percent of Eighth Graders Not Proficient in Math for Nevada and Bordering States: 2015**

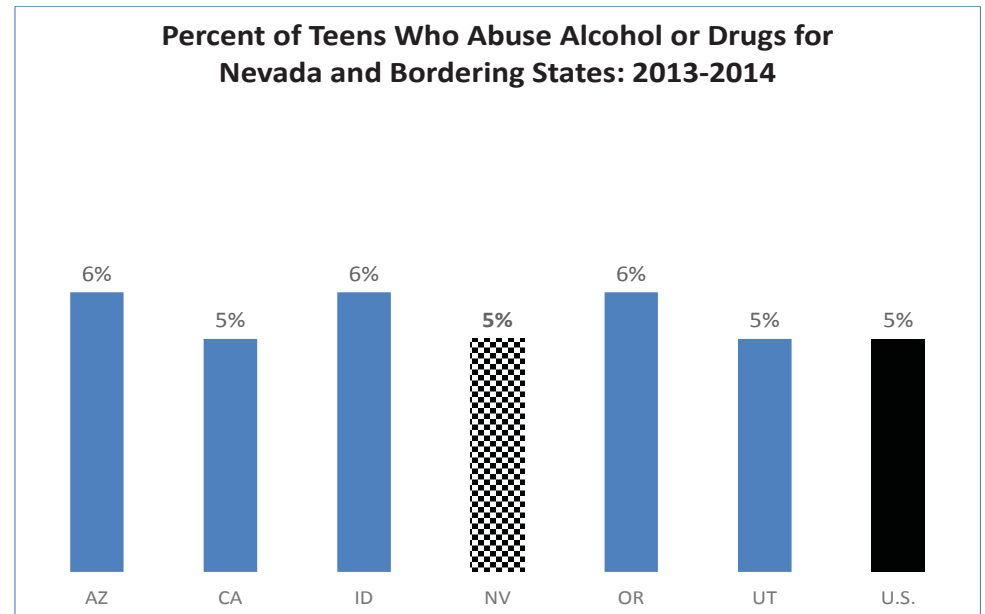
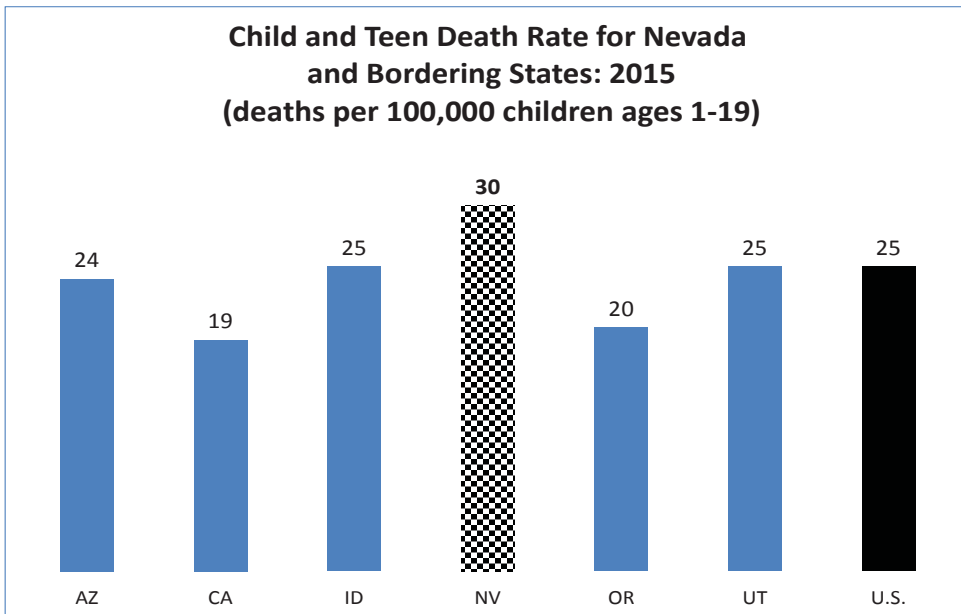
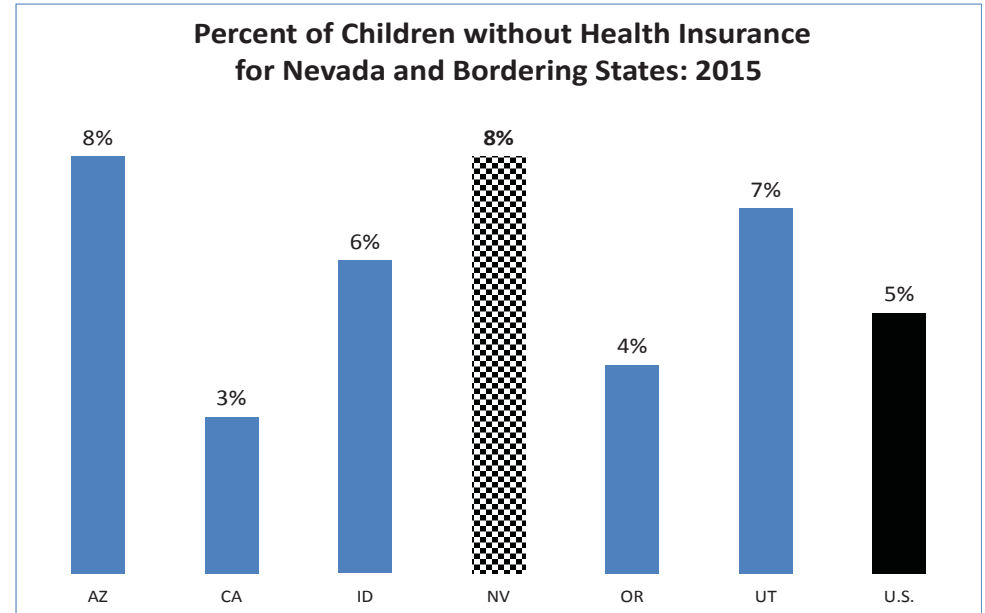
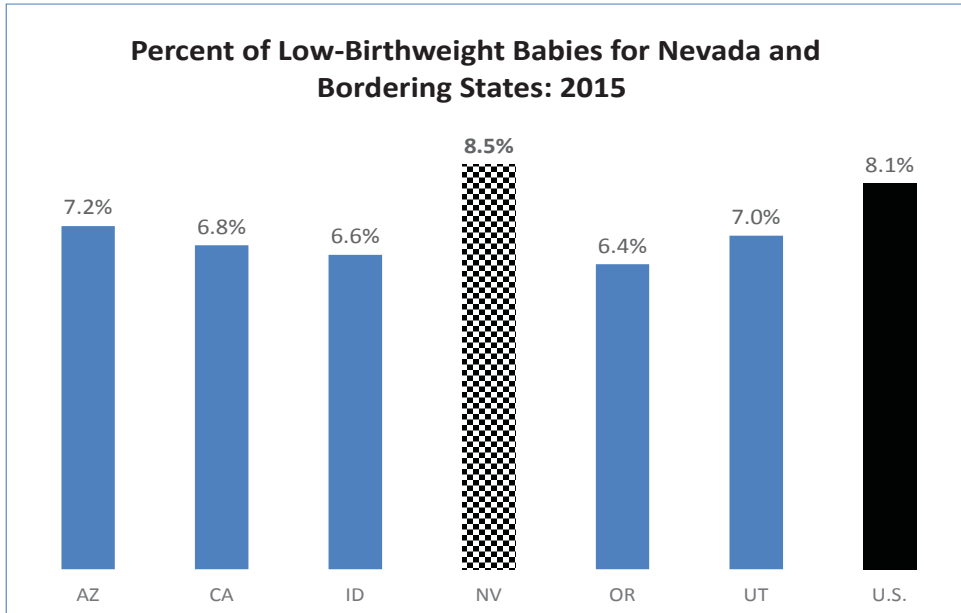


**Percent of High School Students Not Graduating on Time for Nevada and Bordering States: 2014-2015**



*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.  
*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2017*.

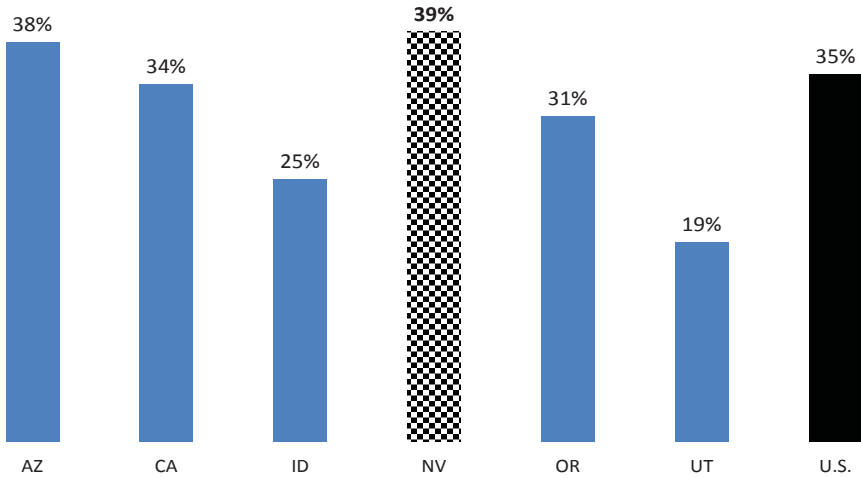
# Health



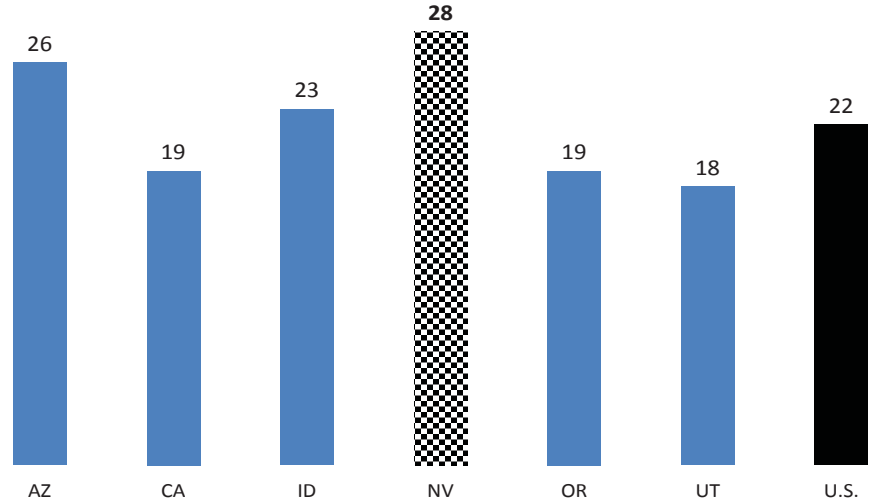
Note: The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.  
 Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2017*.

# Family and Community

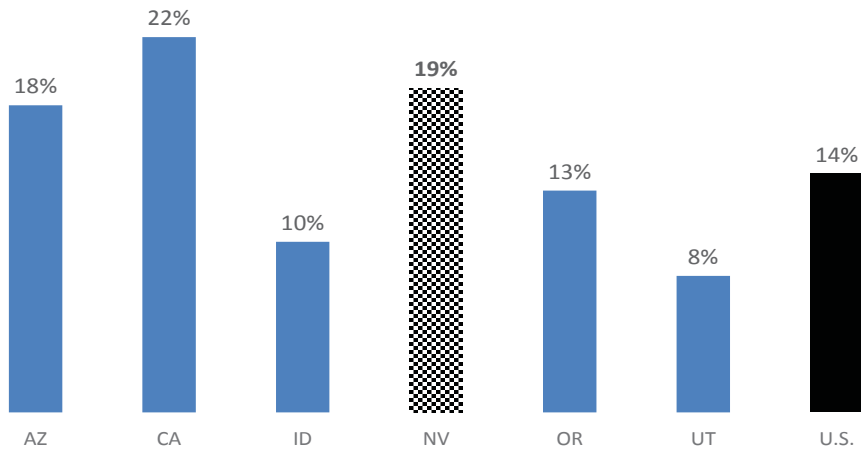
**Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families for Nevada and Bordering States: 2015**



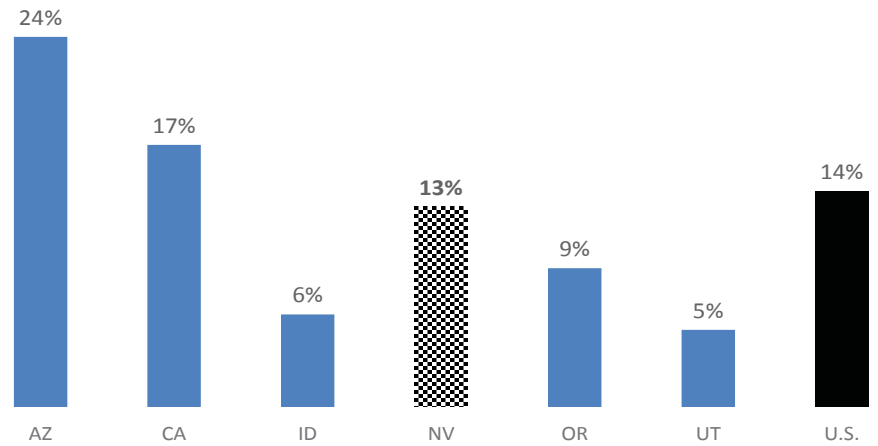
**Teen Birth Rate for Nevada and Bordering States: 2015 (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)**



**Percent of Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma for Nevada and Bordering States: 2015**



**Percent of Children Living in High-Poverty Areas for Nevada and Bordering States: 2011-2015**



*Note:* The bordering states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.  
*Source:* The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book 2017*.

## DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

### ***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 2015, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$24,036. 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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

#### **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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year microdata.

#### **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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year microdata.

#### **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 “opportunity” or “disconnected youth.”

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

### ***Education Indicators***

#### **Young Children Not in School:**

is the percentage of children ages 3 and 4 who were not in school (e.g., nursery school, preschool or kindergarten) during the previous three months. Due to small sample size, these data are based on a pooled three-year average of one-year American community Survey responses to increase the accuracy of the estimates.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, pooled 1-year American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

#### **Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading:**

is the percentage of fourth-grade public school students 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.

Data Source: 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 eighth-grade public school students 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.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.

### **High School Students Not Graduating on Time**

is the percentage of an entering freshman class not graduating in four years. The measure is derived from the adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR). The four-year ACGR is the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class. Students entering grade 9 for the first time form a cohort that is “adjusted” by adding any students who subsequently transfer into the cohort and subtracting any students who subsequently transfer out.

Data Source: 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.

Data Source: 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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

#### **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.

Data Source: Death Statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.

#### **Teens Who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs:**

is the percentage of teens ages 12 to 17 reporting dependence on or abuse of either illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. Illicit drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants or prescription drugs used nonmedically. These data are based on a two-year average of survey responses.

Data Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

### ***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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

#### **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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 1-year microdata.

**Children Living in High-Poverty Areas:**

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts where the poverty rates of the total population are 30 percent or more. In calendar year 2015, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$24,036. 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.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year ACS Summary Files.

**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.

Data Source: Birth Statistics: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. Population Statistics: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.

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Note: Indicator definitions are from the *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).

Rennae Daneshvary, PhD  
Director of Nevada KIDS COUNT

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*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.*