How Nevada Compares to Its Neighbors on Ten Child Well-Being Indicators

The 2011 national KIDS COUNT Data Book, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation on August 17, 2011, reveals that Nevada ranks 40th overall (1st = best and 50th = worst) among the 50 states on 10 key indicators that measure child health and well-being. Among the 10 indicators, Nevada performed the best on the infant mortality rate (ranked 16th) and the percent of low-birthweight babies (ranked 21st). Nevada performed the worst on the percent of teens who are not in school and not high school graduates (ranked 50th) and the percent of teens not attending school and not working (ranked 49th). This Newsletter looks at how Nevada compares to its neighboring states, Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah on the same 10 child well-being indicators.

Of the 10 indicators, Nevada ranked 6th (worst) among its neighbors on 5 indicators. These indicators are:

- Percent low-birthweight babies
- Child death rate (tied with Idaho)
- Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates
- Percent of teens not attending school and not working
- Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment (tied with Arizona, California, and Oregon)

Although Nevada did not rank 1st (best) on any of the 10 indicators, it ranked 2nd, along with Idaho, on the percent of children in poverty. For more detailed ranking of Nevada on each indicator and among its five neighboring states, see the figures on the following pages.
Nevada’s and Bordering States’ Performance on Ten Child Well-being Indicators*

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies for Nevada and Bordering States: 2008
(Babies weighing less than 2,500 grams or about 5.5 pounds at birth)

- AZ: 7.1%
- CA: 6.8%
- ID: 6.5%
- NV: 8.0%
- OR: 6.1%
- UT: 6.8%
- U.S.: 8.2%

Infant Mortality Rate for Nevada and Bordering States: 2007
(deaths per 1,000 live births)

- AZ: 6.9
- CA: 5.2
- ID: 6.8
- NV: 6.4
- OR: 5.8
- UT: 5.1
- U.S.: 6.8

Child Death Rate for Nevada and Bordering States: 2007
(deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

- AZ: 21
- CA: 16
- ID: 22
- NV: 22
- OR: 17
- UT: 20
- U.S.: 19

Teen Death Rate for Nevada and Bordering States: 2007
(deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

- AZ: 80
- CA: 52
- ID: 77
- NV: 71
- OR: 48
- UT: 59
- U.S.: 62

*The bordering states are: Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2011 KIDS COUNT Data Book.
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