

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

June 2017

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

The *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which is published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, reveals that Nevada ranks 47th 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 and young children not in school.

The following tables show Nevada's current ranking on 12 child well-being indicators and what amount of reduction in numbers 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.* 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.

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 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.

<p>Nevada's status Nevada ranked 30th in the nation in 2015 on the percent of children and youth living in poverty. Twenty-one percent or 137,000 of Nevada children and youth lived in poverty.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 21</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? To become number one in the nation, Nevada would have to attain a 11 percent child poverty rate, which means reducing the number of poor children by 65,000.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 11 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population age 17 and under of 72,455,000 in the U.S., 658,000 in Nevada; the number of poor children would have to decrease by 12,000 for Nevada to go from a 21 to a 19 percent child poverty rate.</p>
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Note: Indicator definitions are from the *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF).

*Event-reduction analyses were conducted by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) at the request of the AECF. Data forwarded by Flo Gutierrez, AECF, 5/19/2017. The PRB bases the "required reduction in number" on the desired rate rounded to the nearest **whole number** (Kevin Pollard, PRB, 6/15/15). In Nevada's case, for example, a 10 percent reduction in the observed rate of 21 percent is 18.9 percent, which rounds to 19 percent. Multiplying the base population (658,000) by 0.19 produces a "desired number" of 125,020. Subtracting from the observed number (137,000) yields the "required reduction" of 11,980 (or 12,000 when rounded to the nearest thousand).

Population numbers for the United States and Nevada may differ among the indicators depending upon the source used and the target population.

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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 39th in the nation by having 32 percent of children and youth living in families without secure employment. That represents 211,000 children and youth.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 29</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment by 78,000 to achieve 20 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota and Utah at 20 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population under age 18 of 73,630,000 in the U.S., 669,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in families without secure employment would have to be reduced by 17,000 in Nevada to go from 32 percent to 29 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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 43rd in the nation by having 35 percent of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden. That represents 231,000 children and youth.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 33</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden by 118,000 to achieve 17 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 17 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population under age 18 of 73,630,000 in the U.S., 669,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in households with a high housing cost burden would have to be reduced by 17,000 in Nevada to go from 35 percent to 32 percent.</p>
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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."

<p>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 40th in the nation on the percent of idle teens. Nine percent or 12,000 teens were considered idle.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 7</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of idle teens by 7,000 to achieve 4 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Vermont and at 4 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population age 16 to 19 of 17,180,000 in the U.S., 135,000 in Nevada, the number of idle teens would need to decrease by 2,000 for Nevada to reduce its percent from 9 to 8.</p>
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EDUCATION DOMAIN

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.

<p>Nevada's status In 2013-2015, Nevada ranked 49th in the nation by having 66 percent of young children not in school. That represents 49,000 young kids.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 53</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of young children not in school by 22,000 to achieve 36 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Connecticut at 36 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population of children ages 3 and 4 in the U.S., 8,191,000; 74,000 in Nevada; the number of children not attending school would have to be reduced by 5,000 in Nevada to go from 66 percent to 59 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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 32rd in the nation with 8.5 percent of babies low-birthweight, or 3,093 babies.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 8.1</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of low-birthweight babies by 988 to achieve 5.8 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Alaska at 5.8 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a population of 3,974,876 live births in the U.S.; 36,289 in Nevada; the number of low-birthweight babies would have to be reduced by 299 in Nevada to go from 8.5 percent to 7.7 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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 44th in the nation by having 8 percent of children, or 50,000 children, without health insurance.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 5</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to decrease the number of children without health insurance by 44,000 to achieve 1 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts and Vermont at 1 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 73,492,000 in the U.S.; 668,000 in Nevada; the number of children would have to decrease by 4,000 to lower the percent from 8 to 7 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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 35th in the nation with a child and teen death rate of 30 per 100,000 children and youth. That is, 212 children and youth died.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 25</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 107 to achieve a rate of 15 deaths per 100,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Connecticut at 15 deaths per 100,000 children and youth</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 78,147,652 in the U.S.; 697,928 in Nevada; the number of child and teen deaths in Nevada would have to be reduced by 24 to lower the child and teen death rate from 30 to 27 deaths per 100,000 children and youth.</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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 41st in the nation with 39 percent of its children and youth (250,000) living in single-parent families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 35</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in single-parent families by 129,000 children to become the best in the nation with a rate of 19 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Utah at 19 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 69,944,000 in the U.S.; 634,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth living in single-parent families would have to decline by 28,000 to lower the percent from 39 to 35.</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>Nevada's status In 2015, Nevada ranked 48th in the nation with 19 percent of its children and youth (128,000) living in families where the household head lacked a high school diploma.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 14</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by 101,000 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 4 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Maine and New Hampshire at 4 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child/youth population of 73,630,000 in the U.S.; 669,000 in Nevada; the number of children and youth in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma would have to decline by 14,000 to lower the percent from 19 to 17.</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 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.

<p>Nevada’s status In 2011-2015, Nevada ranked 31st in the nation with 13 percent of its children and youth (88,000) living in high-poverty areas.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 14</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of children and youth living in high poverty areas by 81,000 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 1 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Vermont and Wyoming at 1 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a child and youth population of 73,684,000 in the U.S.; 662,000 in Nevada; the number of children/youth living in high poverty areas would have to decline by 9,000 to lower the percent from 13 to 12.</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>Nevada’s status In 2015, Nevada ranked 38th in the nation with a teen birth rate of 28 per 1,000 females. Teen births totaled 2,369.</p> <p>U.S. rate: 22</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada would need to reduce the number of teen births by 1,597 to have a birth rate of 9 births per 1,000 females.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: Massachusetts at 9 births per 1,000 females</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Given a female teen population of 10,311,036 in the U.S.; 85,894 in Nevada; the number of teen births in Nevada would have to decrease by 222 to reduce the teen birth rate from 28 to 25 per 1,000 females.</p>
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DATA SOURCES:

Economic Well-Being Indicators

Children in Poverty: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year microdata.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year microdata.

Teens Not in School and Not Working: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

Education Indicators

Young Children Not in School: U.S. Census Bureau, pooled 1-year American Community Survey, American FactFinder.

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, American FactFinder.

Child and Teen Deaths: Death Statistics: 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, American FactFinder.

Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 1-year microdata.

Children Living in High-Poverty Areas: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year ACS Summary Files.

Teen Births: 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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