

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

AECF's New Child Well-Being Index: How Nevada Fares

June 2012

Between 1990 and 2011, the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) ranked states on child well-being in its annual *KIDS COUNT® Data Book*, using an index consisting of 10 child well-being indicators. The AECF revised its index to make it more comprehensive. It reflects the advances in child well-being and child development research over the last two decades.

The new index incorporates four domains that capture what children need most to thrive: (1) Economic Well-Being, (2) Education, (3) Health, and (4) Family and Community.¹ Each of the four domains is comprised of four individual indicators. The indicators were collected for every state in a comparable manner.

Based on the new index, Nevada ranks near the bottom (48th) among the states on overall child well-being. On the four domains comprising the index, Nevada ranks 41st on Family and Community, 46th on Health, 49th on Economic Well-Being, and 50th on Education. Over the past few years, Nevada saw improvement in the Education and Health domains and deterioration in the Economic Well-being domain (children experienced substantial setbacks on all four Economic Well-Being indicators, especially, the percent of children in poverty). It was a mixed picture for the Family and Community domain, where Nevada improved on only two of the four indicators.

The following presents a profile of Nevada's children.

Economic Well-Being

- Twenty-two percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in poverty in 2010. Nevada ranks 30th among the states on this indicator. The child poverty rate increased from 15 to 22 percent (a 47 percent increase) between 2005 and 2010. This represents an increase of 54,000 children.
- Fifteen percent of Nevada teens ages 16 to 19 did not attend school and did not work in 2010. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percent of teens not attending school and not working increased from 11 to 15 percent (a 36 percent increase) from 2008 to 2010. This represents an increase of 7,000 teens.
- Thirty-six percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in a family without securely employed parents in 2010. Nevada ranks 38th on this indicator. The percent of children whose parents lack secure employment increased from 26 to 36 percent (a 38 percent increase) from 2008 to 2010. This represents an increase of 66,000 children.

- Forty-seven percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in households with a high housing cost burden (where more than 30 percent of monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, or related expenses) in 2010. Nevada ranks 47th on this indicator. The percent of children who lived in these households increased from 43 to 47 percent (a 9 percent increase) from 2005 to 2010. This represents an increase of 47,000 children.

Education

- Seventy-one percent of children ages 3 to 4 did not attend preschool in 2008-2010. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percent of children not attending preschool decreased from 75 to 71 percent (a 5 percent decrease) from 2005-2007 to 2008-2010. This represents a decrease of 2,000 children.
- Forty-four percent of Nevada high school students did not graduate on time in 2008-2009. Nevada ranked 50th on this indicator. The percent of high school students not graduating on time did not change from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009.
- Seventy-five percent of fourth graders were not proficient in reading in 2011. Nevada ranks 46th on this indicator. The percent not proficient in reading decreased from 79 to 75 percent (a 5 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2011.
- Seventy-one percent of Nevada eight graders were not proficient in math in 2011. Nevada ranks 39th on this indicator. The percent not proficient in math decreased from 79 to 71 percent (a 10 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2011.

Health

- Of the live births in 2009, 8.1 percent were low birthweight (about 5.5 pounds). Nevada ranks 22nd on this indicator. The percent of low-birthweight babies decreased from 8.3 to 8.1 (a 2 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2009. This represents a decrease of 34 babies.
- Seventeen percent of Nevada children under age 18 were not covered by any health insurance during 2010. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percent of children without health insurance decreased from 20 to 17 (a 15 percent decrease) from 2008 to 2010. This represents a decrease of 20,000 children.
- The child and teen death rate was 29 per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19 in 2009. Nevada ranks 26th on this indicator. The child and teen death rate declined from 37 to 29 (a 22 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2009. This represents a decrease of 34 children/teens.
- Nine percent of Nevada children ages 12 to 17 abused alcohol or drugs in 2008-2009. Nevada ranks 42nd on this indicator. The percent of teens who abused alcohol or drugs did not change from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009.

Family and Community Indicators

- Thirty-six percent of children under age 18 lived in single-parent families in 2010. Nevada ranks 34th on this indicator. The percent of children in single-parent families increased from 32 to 36 (a 13 percent increase) from 2005 to 2010. This represents an increase of 45,000 children.
- The teen birth rate in 2009 was 47 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Nevada ranks 37th on this indicator. The teen birth rate declined from 50 to 47 (a 6 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2009. This represents a decrease of 42 teens.

- Twenty-two percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in families where the household head lacked a high school diploma in 2010. Nevada ranks 48th on this indicator. The percent of children living in these households declined from 23 to 22 percent (a 4 percent decrease) from 2005 to 2010. This represents a decrease of 2,000 children.
- Six percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in high-poverty areas (in census tracts where the poverty rate of the total population was 30 percent or more) in 2006-2010. Nevada ranks 15th on this indicator. The percent of children living in these areas increased from 5 percent to 6 percent (a 20 percent increase) from 2000 to 2006-2010. This represents an increase of 15,000 children.

How Nevada compares to the nation overall on the indicators is illustrated in the infographic on the following page.

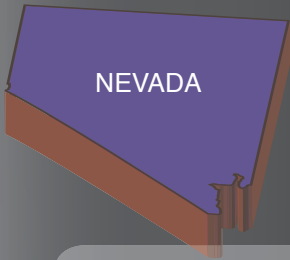
The data for the 16 indicators are available on the AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

¹ To construct the index, the numerical values for the indicators were converted into standard scores for each state. Then the standard scores were summed “across variables within each domain to create domain-specific values for each of the 50 states. An overall index value was calculated for each state by averaging the four domain-specific index values.” These standard scores were used to rank the states, using a ranking scale of 1 = highest/best and 50 = lowest/worst.

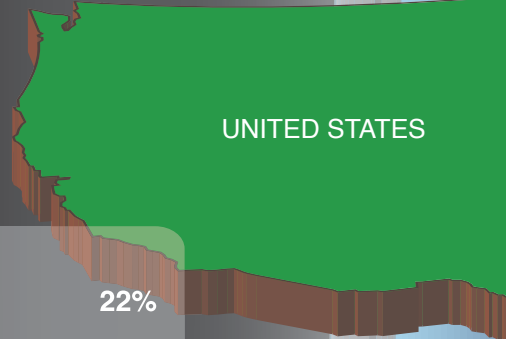
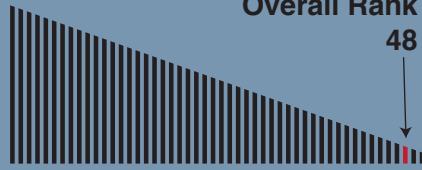
Source: Mather, Mark and Fenevieve Dupuis, *The New KIDS COUNT Index*, Population Reference Bureau, July 2012.

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Thanks to Richard Boland for designing the infographic.

Nevada Child Well-Being



NEVADA



UNITED STATES

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



22%

Children in poverty

22%

36%

Children whose parents lack secure employment

33%

47%

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

41%

15%

Teens not in school and not working

9%

EDUCATION



71%

Children not attending preschool

53%

75%

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

68%

71%

Eighth graders not proficient in math

66%

44%

High school students not graduating on time

24%

HEALTH



8.1%

Low-birthweight babies

8.2%

17%

Children without health insurance

8%

29

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

27

9%

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

7%

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



36%

Children in single-parent families

34%

22%

Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

15%

6%

Children living in high-poverty areas

11%

47

Teen births per 1,000

39