

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

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Newsletter

How Nevada Ranks on Child Well-Being

This *Newsletter* summarizes Nevada data from the 2015 *KIDS COUNT® Data Book*, a publication of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Nevada Trends

The AECF ranks Nevada near the bottom (47th) among the states in overall child well-being. On the four domains of child well-being, each comprised of four individual indicators, Nevada ranks 43rd in Family and Community, 46th in Health, 46th in Economic Well-Being, and 50th in Education.

Although the domain rankings are grim, Nevada improved on 10 of the 16 indicators over the past few years. All of the Education indicators improved, as did three Health indicators, two Family and Community indicators, and one Economic Well-Being indicator. Two of the Economic Well-Being and two of the Family and Community indicators worsened. These include: (1) the percentage of children who live in poverty, (2) the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, (3) the percentage of children in single-parent families, and (4) the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas.

The following presents findings on the 16 indicators of child well-being for Nevada:

Economic Well-Being

- Twenty-three percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in poverty in 2013. Nevada ranks 31st among the states on this indicator. The child poverty rate increased from 15 percent to 23 percent between 2008 and 2013 (a 53 percent increase).
- Eleven percent of Nevada teens were not in school and not working in 2013. Nevada ranks 48th on this indicator. The percentage of teens not in school and not working was unchanged from 2008 to 2013.
- Thirty-four percent of children lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment in 2013. Nevada ranks 38th on this indicator. The percent of children in families without secure parental employment increased by 31 percent from 2008 to 2013, from 26 percent to 34 percent.
- Thirty-nine percent of children lived in households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing in 2013. Nevada ranks 43rd on this indicator. The percent of children living in households with a high housing cost burden decreased by 20 percent from 2008 to 2013, from 49 percent to 39 percent.

Education

- Sixty-nine percent of Nevada children ages 3 to 4 did not attend preschool in 2011-2013. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of children not attending preschool decreased from 72 percent in 2007-2009 to 69 percent in 2011-2013 (a 4 percent decrease).
- Forty percent of Nevada high school students did not graduate on time in 2011-2012. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of students not graduating on time decreased from 44 percent in 2007-2008 to 40 percent in 2011/2012 (a 9 percent decrease).
- Seventy-three percent of fourth graders were reading below the proficient level in 2013. Nevada ranks 44th on this indicator. The percent of fourth graders who were not proficient in reading decreased from 76 percent in 2007 to 73 percent in 2013 (a 4 percent decrease).
- Seventy-two percent of eighth graders were not proficient in math in 2013. Nevada ranks 41st on this indicator. The percentage of eighth graders who were not proficient in math decreased from 77 percent in 2007 to 72 percent in 2013 (a 6 percent decrease).

Health

- Fifteen percent of Nevada children under age 18 were not covered by any health insurance during 2013. Nevada ranks 50th on this indicator. The percentage of children without health insurance decreased from 20 percent to 15 percent between 2008 and 2013 (a 25 percent decrease).
- Six percent of Nevada youth ages 12 to 17 abused alcohol or drugs in 2012-2013. Nevada ranks 17th on this indicator. The percentage of youth who abused alcohol or drugs decreased from 9 percent in 2007-2008 to 6 percent in 2012-2013 (a 33 percent decrease).
- Eight percent of live births were low birthweight in 2013. Nevada ranks 23rd on this indicator. The percent of low-birthweight babies remained unchanged from 2008 to 2013.
- The child and teen death rate was 24 deaths per 100,000 children and youth in 2013. Nevada ranks 18th on this indicator. The child and teen death rate decreased from 29 deaths per 100,000 in 2008 to 24 deaths per 100,000 children and youth in 2013 (a 17 percent decrease).

Family and Community Indicators

- The teen birth rate in 2013 was 30 live births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Nevada ranks 32nd on this indicator. The birth rate fell from 49 births to 30 births per 1,000 females from 2008 to 2013 (a 39 percent decrease).
- Thirty-seven percent of Nevada children lived in single-parent families in 2013. Nevada ranks 35th on this indicator. The percentage of children living in single-parent families increased from 33 percent to 37 percent between 2008 and 2013 (a 12 percent increase).
- Twenty percent of children lived in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma in 2013. Nevada ranks 48th on this indicator. The percent of children who lived in households not headed by a high school graduate decreased from 24 percent in 2008 to 20 percent in 2013 (a 17 percent decrease).
- Fourteen percent of children lived in high-poverty areas (census tracts with poverty rates equal or greater than 30 percent) in 2009-2013. Nevada ranks 31st on this indicator. The percent of children who lived in concentrated poverty increased from 6 percent in 2006-2010 increased to 14 percent in 2009-2013 (a 133 percent increase).

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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.