WHAT’S NEW WITH KIDS?

November 2012

Children Not Attending Preschool

As I stated in an earlier Newsletter, I plan to write about each of the 16 indicators that comprise the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s (AECF) new index that ranks states on child well-being.1 In this Newsletter, I discuss percent of children not attending preschool, one of the four indicators of Education.

During 2008-2010, 71 percent of Nevada children ages 3 and 4 did not attend preschool.2 Among the states, Nevada ranked 50th on this indicator. New Jersey ranked best (36 percent). The average rate for the nation was 53 percent, much better than Nevada’s.

Between 2005-2007 and 2008-2010, the percent of Nevada children not attending preschool gradually decreased from 75 to 71, a 4 percentage point or a 5 percent decrease (Figure 1). The change represents a decrease of 2,000 children—from 56,000 to 54,000. Similarly, the average rate for the United States gradually decreased from 56 percent in 2005-2007 to 53 percent in 2008-2010—a 5 percent decrease (Figure 1).

Four of Nevada’s neighboring states also show percentage decreases since 2005-2007 (Figure 2). Idaho and Oregon led with a 9 percent decrease, followed by California and Utah with 5 percent, Arizona’s remained unchanged.

1In the June Newsletter, I introduced you to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s (AECF) new index that ranks states on child well-being. 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. Each of the four domains is comprised of four individual indicators for a total of 16.

2“The share of children ages 3 to 4 not enrolled in nursery school or preschool school during the previous two months.”


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