

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

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## Parental Educational and Its Effect on Children

In the *2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Nevada ranked 50th (worst) among the states on the education domain. The four indicators that comprise the domain are children not attending preschool, 4th graders not proficient in reading, 8th graders not proficient in math, and high school students not graduating on time.

Many factors may contribute to Nevada's poor ranking on the education domain. This *Newsletter* examines one possible factor—the educational attainment of the parent. Educational attainment may be a contributing factor because the educational attainment of a parent can be a predictor of a child's educational success. Highly educated parents most likely have the financial means to purchase tools that aid in their children's learning, such as puzzles, books, games, and home computers. Child Trends' analysis of the July 2011 Current Population Survey data revealed that 97 percent and 69 percent, respectively, of children ages 3-17 whose parents have a bachelor's degree or more had access to a home computer and home Internet use.<sup>1</sup> The corresponding figures for children whose parents had less than a high school diploma were 58 percent and 36 percent.

In 2011, 21 percent of Nevada children lived in households headed by an adult with a bachelor's or graduate degree, which is below the national figure of 29 percent. (See table on page 2). Among Nevada's bordering states, Utah had the highest percentage (34 percent) of children who lived in households headed by an adult with a bachelor's or graduate degree.

Nevada saw an increase in the percentage of children who lived in households headed by an adult with a bachelor's or graduate degree from 2007 to 2011, from 18 percent to 21 percent. (See figure on page 2). This appears to be the trend for all of Nevada's bordering states except for Utah, whose rate was unchanged from 2007 to 2011.

In 2011, 23 percent of Nevada children lived in households headed by an adult without a high school diploma or equivalent. Among the states, only California, at 25 percent, had a higher percentage than Nevada. Households without a high school diploma may struggle to provide learning tools for their children because they lack the financial resources to do so.

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<sup>1</sup>Child Trends, *Home Computer Access and Internet Use*, <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=home-computer-access>, as of 11/18/13. The Current Population Survey is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

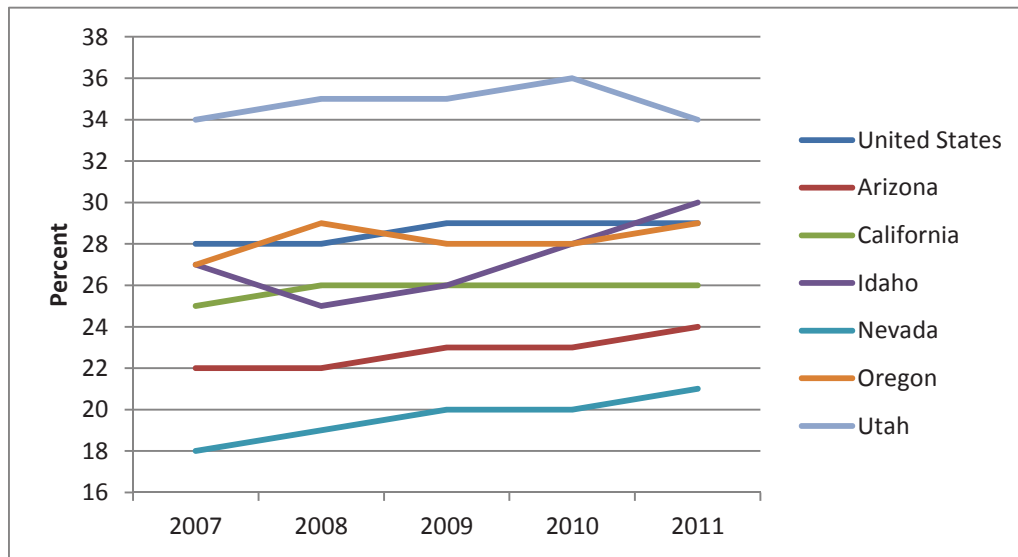
## Percent of Children under Age 18 by Household Head’s Educational Attainment: 2011

<i>Location</i>	<i>Not a high school graduate (Percent)</i>	<i>High school diploma or GED*</i> (Percent)	<i>Associate’s degree (Percent)</i>	<i>Bachelor’s degree (Percent)</i>	<i>Graduate degree (Percent)</i>
United States	15	47	9	18	11
Arizona	18	49	9	15	9
California	25	42	7	16	10
Idaho	11	49	10	21	9
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
Oregon	15	47	9	17	12
Utah	9	46	10	22	12

\*GED = General Education Development certification.

Source: AECF, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/1/0>, as of 11/8/13.

## Percent of Children under Age 18 Living in Households Where the Household Head Has a College Degree: 2007-2011



Source: AECF, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/1/0>, as of 11/8/13.

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