

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

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## Two-Generation Approach to Reducing Poverty

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) released a KIDS COUNT® policy report titled “Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach.” The report introduces the two-generation approach for lifting families out of poverty. The approach “aims to create opportunities for families by simultaneously equipping parents and kids with the tools they need to thrive while removing the obstacles in their way.” It focusses on families—not just the parents or the children. An example of a two-generation approach is offering programs that connect low-income families with quality early childhood education and job training. The two-generation approach is a new way of framing the lifting-families-out-of-poverty issue.

Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation said that, “For too long, our approach to poverty has focused separately on children and adults, instead of their interrelated needs. We’ve learned a lot about what works in separate areas, but we’re not combining these lessons to break the cycle of poverty.”

According to the U.S. Census 2012 American Community Survey, nearly 10 million U.S. families with children age eight and under were low income in 2012. The figure for Nevada was slightly more than 100,000. Forty-nine percent of Nevada families with young children were low income, which was higher than the 45 percent for the nation. These families had an income below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold (below \$46,566 for a family of four).

Some data on Nevada low-income families and children follow:

- Forty-seven percent of Nevada low-income families with children age eight and under had no parent with full-time year-round employment. The corresponding figure for the nation was 50 percent.
- Eighty-five percent of Nevada low-income families with children age eight and under had no parent with an associate’s degree or higher. The corresponding figure for the nation was 79 percent.
- Forty-one percent of Nevada low-income families with children age eight and under were headed by a single parent. The corresponding figure for the nation was 45 percent.
- Twenty-eight percent of Nevada children age five and under in low-income families had parents who were concerned about their development. The corresponding figure for the nation was 31 percent.
- Thirteen percent of Nevada children age five and under in low-income families had parents who reported that child care issues impacted their employment. The corresponding figure for the nation was 17 percent.
- Low-income parents were more likely to have reported that child care issues impacted their employment than middle/upper-income families.
  - Low-income parents were more likely to have had concerns about their child’s development than middle/upper-income families.

## Nevada Families' Child Development Concern and Employment Issue by Family Income Level

Concern/Issue	Family Income Level		
	Low Income (Percent of Children)	Middle/Upper Income (Percent of Children)	Total Percent
Parents have concerns about child's development*			
Nevada	28	25	27
United States	31	22	26
Parents report child care issues impacted employment**			
Nevada	13	10	12
United States	17	11	14

Note: Percentages have been rounded.

\*Children at risk for developmental delay: Parents of children ages 4 months and older were asked about specific concerns about their children. If parents answered that they had "a lot" or "a little" concern regarding any developmental areas that are considered predictive of delay at a given age, then the child was classified as being risk for delay. Predictive concerns include how the child:

- talks and makes speech sounds (ages 4 mos. - 5 yrs.)
- gets along with others (ages 4 - 17 mos.)
- understands what the parent says (ages 18 mos. - 5 yrs.)
- uses his or her arms and legs (ages 3 - 5 yrs.)
- uses his or her hands and fingers to do things (ages 5 yrs. only)
- is learning pre-school or school skills (age 5 yrs. only)

\*\* Child care affected parent's employment: Children were classified as having parents who had child care issues that affected employment if the parent answered yes to the following question: "During the past 12 months, did you or anyone in the family have to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change your job because of problems with child care for the child?" Source: 2011/12 National Survey of Children's Health.

Source: Child Trend's analysis of 2011/2012 National Survey of Children's Health and US Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey.

Three strong recommendations are presented in the report:

1. "Create policies that equip parents and children with the income, tools and skills they need to succeed—as a family and as individuals."

For example, the Child Tax Credit could be increased for low-income parents of very young children.

2. "Put common sense into common practice by structuring public systems to respond to the realities facing today's families."

For example, Head Start could pilot programs that connect parents with education and job training.

3. "Use existing child, adult and neighborhood programs and platforms to build evidence for practical pathways out of poverty for entire families."

For example, schools could partner with organizations that provide tools, such as financial coaching.

The report is available at <http://www.aecf.org/>. The data will be on the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Follow the AECF on Twitter @aECKIDSCOUNT and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>. Follow Nevada KIDS COUNT on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nevada-KIDS-COUNT/300024110179608>.

Rennae Daneshvary, PhD  
Director of Nevada KIDS COUNT

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