

NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2009

Nevada's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	2,565,382
Population, Children Under 18 ²	660,002
State Poverty Rate ³	9.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	10.1%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Nevada had 20,321 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 14,982 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 5,345 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Nevada, a rate of 8.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.2% increase from 2005. Of these children, 4,535 were neglected, 954 were physically abused, and 198 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 14 children in Nevada died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 5,047 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,696 children in 2005. In 2006, 46.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 8.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Nevada children in out-of-home care in 2006, 46.9% were white, 22.2% black, 22.1% Hispanic, 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.1% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,468 children exiting out-of-home care in Nevada in 2006, 61% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 444 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, an 8% increase from 412 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 5,047 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,846 or 36.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 22,589 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,047 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 30.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care in 2006, 43.5% were white, 24.4% were black, 22.7% were Hispanic, 0.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.7% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada increased from 15,514 in March 2007 to 18,066 in March 2008, an increase of 16.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 7,165, an 11.5% increase from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Nevada was at 33.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Nevada spent \$66,955,455 in TANF funds, including 49.3% on basic assistance, 2.28% on child care, 9.4% on transportation, and 39.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Nevada spent \$19,414,682 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 51,749 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Nevada collected and distributed \$135,861,520 in child support funds, a 7.0% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Nevada was \$965 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$18.55 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Nevada had a monthly average of 6,000 children served by subsidized child care; 4,600 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 4,300 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than \$38,916, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Nevada had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,754 Nevada children, a 2.2% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 143,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada—55.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 7,784 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 7,784 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 2,575 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,769 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Nevada had 29,899 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.4% increase from 2006, when 27,848 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Nevada had 94,000 uninsured children, representing 14.3% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 3,080 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Nevada a rank of 19 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 215 infants under age 1 died in Nevada, giving it a rank of 17 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Nevada was 28 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 87. This reflects a total rate of 50 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 5,733 adults and adolescents, as well as 29 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 18,000 children ages 12–17, and 173,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nevada.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 204 children aged out of out-of-home care in Nevada.³⁸
- In 2007, 15,000 Nevada teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 13% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 18% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Nevada needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 36 Nevada children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.2 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 11 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, the same as in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 21,795 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 5.2% increase from 20,725 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 657 were for violent crimes and 420 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 885 children in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Nevada spent \$101,552,926 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 54% was from federal funds, 42% from state funds, and 4.2% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$54,400,041 in federal funds received for child welfare, 61% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 4% from Medicaid, 7% from the Social Services Block Grant, 6% from TANF, and 13% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 5,047 children in out-of-home care in Nevada in 2006, only 2,083, or 41.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



NEVADA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³

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