



NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Nevada's Children At a Glance*

State Population¹.....2,600,167
 Population, Children
 Under 18².....668,023
 State Poverty Rate³.....10.8%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 18⁴.....16.5%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Ages 5–17⁵.....14.5%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 5⁶.....17.4%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Nevada had 22,492 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 16,342 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 5,417 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Nevada, a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.3% increase from 2006. Of these children, 3,582 were neglected, 506 were physically abused, and 200 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 21 children in Nevada died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 5,067 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,047 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,415 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 489 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Nevada children in out-of-home care in 2007, 44.6% were white, 23.8% black, 22.8% Hispanic, 0.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,639 children exiting out-of-home care in Nevada in 2007, 63.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 449 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 1.1% increase from 444 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 5,067 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,933 or 38.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 22,555 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,067 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 30.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care in 2007, 38.8% were white, 11.5% were black, 24.5% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.9% 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 18,066 in March 2008 to 20,586 in March 2009, an increase of 13.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 8,136, a 13.6% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- 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 2007, Nevada spent \$68,501,092 in TANF funds, including 49.4% on basic assistance, 2.1% on child care, 9.5% on transportation, and 39% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Nevada spent \$25,759,369 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 60,973 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Nevada collected and distributed \$150,346,789 in child support funds, an increase of 10.7% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Nevada was \$986 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$18.96 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Nevada had a monthly average of 6,100 children served by subsidized child care; 6,000 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 4,600 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than \$41,640, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Nevada had 3,035 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 2006, 150,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada—58.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 9,613 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 9,613 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 2,579 received Targeted Case Management services, and 2,183 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Nevada had 26,832 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.3% decrease from 2007, when 19,899 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Nevada had 129,000 uninsured children, representing 19.1% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 3,335 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Nevada a rank of 25 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 257 infants under age 1 died in Nevada, giving it a rank of 22 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Nevada was 28 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 111. This reflects a total rate of 56 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 6,095 adults and adolescents, as well as 29 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 19,000 children ages 12–17, and 123,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nevada.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 207 children aged out of out-of-home care in Nevada.³⁸
- In 2008, 13,000 Nevada teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 15,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 43,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, 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 2007, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 29 Nevada children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.04 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 16 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, a 45.5% increase from 11 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 24,656 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 13.1% increase from 21,795 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 939 were for violent crimes and 444 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% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 4% was from Medicaid, 7% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 6% was from TANF, and 13% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 5,067 children in out-of-home care in Nevada in 2007, only 1,965, or 38.8%, 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 that child and family.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
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Nevada was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Nevada was \$59,283.⁵⁴

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