

# NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2004

## Nevada's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	2,173,491
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	538,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	8.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	12.1%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	19.6%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 15,516 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Nevada, a rate of 23.3 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 4,939 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Nevada, a rate of 9.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 14% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 3.2 were neglected, 1.5 were physically abused, and 0.4 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, four children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Nevada.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 1,789 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,615 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 39.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.5% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 1,108 white children, 393 black children, 215 Hispanic children, 18 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 270 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 442 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 62% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 243 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 64% increase from 148 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,789 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 148 or 8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 1,789 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 19,016 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada declined from 29,012 in March 2002 to 25,832 in March 2003, a decrease of 11.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 10,996, a 4.2% increase from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Nevada was 43% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Nevada spent \$89,314,937 in TANF funds, including 53.9% on cash assistance, 2.0% on child care, 1.1% on transportation and support activities, 3.3% on a range of other services, and 39.7% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Nevada collected and distributed \$84,050,142 in child support funds, an increase of 6.0% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Nevada was \$836 per month, or 101% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

## **C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T**

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 7,000 of Nevada's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 5,700 in 2000 and 5,900 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 75% of Nevada's median income, or \$37,476, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Nevada had to eliminate TANF funds that were part of the child care budget.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 2,754 Nevada children, a 2.2% increase from 2001.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 67% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Nevada had at least a high school degree or equivalent.<sup>26</sup>

## **H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E**

- In 2000, 90,798 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada, representing 20.2% of Nevada's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, Nevada had 37,878 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 35.2% increase from 2001, when 28,026 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 63 babies in Nevada were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 3,677—a rate of 56 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 4,944 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Nevada.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 13 Nevada children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.15 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17, and 37,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

## **J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N**

- In 2001, 10 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, a 25% increase from 8 in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 12,489 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 10% decrease from 13,806 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 4,072 were for violent crimes and 112 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 789 children in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.<sup>35</sup>

## **F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R N E V A D A ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Nevada spent \$71,758,924 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 51% came from federal funds, and 49% from state funds; none came from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$36,547,346 in federal funds received for child welfare, 46% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 7% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 24% from Medicaid, 10% from the Social Services Block Grant, 7% from TANF, and 6% from other federal sources.<sup>38</sup>

## NEVADA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2000, a caseworker in Nevada responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 34 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 6 families. In-home services include parent support programs, child day care, community-based counseling, and other services to enable children to live safely in their own homes.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Nevada was \$29,518.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Nevada for a family of four was \$59,614.<sup>42</sup>

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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