

NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2005

Nevada's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	2,241,154
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	581,397
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	11.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	15.2%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	13.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	18.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 22,491 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Nevada, a rate of 39.7 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, three children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Nevada.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 3,291 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,789 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 37.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 15.5% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 55.7% white children, 19.6% black children, 12.0% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 12.5% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Nevada.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,078 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 68.6% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 253 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 4.1% increase from 243 in 2001.¹²
- Of the 3,291 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 545 or 16.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 20,724 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 3,291 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 2.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 60.0% were white, 13.3% were black, 13.3% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 13.3% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* 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 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Nevada was 43% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, Nevada spent \$84,835,396 in TANF funds, including 56.4% on cash assistance, 2.9% on child care, 0.6% on transportation and support activities, 4.3% on a range of other services, and 35.8% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2002, Nevada collected and distributed \$91,416,297 in child support funds, an increase of 8.8% from 2001.²⁰
- 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.²¹

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

- In 2001, Nevada served an estimated monthly average of 7,000 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 5,700 children were served, and in 1999, when 5,900 children were served.²²
- 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.²³
- In 2001, Nevada had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 2,754 Nevada children were served by Head Start, the same as in 2002.²⁵

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 75,462 Nevada children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 56.7% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2003, Nevada had 47,183 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 24.6% increase from 2002, when 37,878 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2002, 73 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Nevada. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 3,663, reflecting a rate of 53.9 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 4,944 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Nevada.²⁹
- In 2001, 13 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.15 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2002, an estimated 18,000 children ages 12–17, and 160,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 10% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 5% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2002, 17% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³

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 under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, compared with 8 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2003, children under age 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 100% decrease from 12,489 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, were for violent crimes and were for possession of weapons.³⁵
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 901 children in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.³⁶

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 2002, Nevada spent \$78,232,653 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 55% was from federal funds and 45% was from state funds.³⁸
- In 2002, of the \$78,232,653 spent for child welfare, 25% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 13% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 4% was TANF, and 4% was from other federal sources.³⁹

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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- Out of 3,291 children in out-of-home care in Nevada on September 30, 2002, only 6 received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

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.⁴¹
- 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.⁴²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴³
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Nevada was \$29,518 ; the median income for a family of four in Nevada was \$59,588.⁴⁴

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