

# NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2007

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## Nevada's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	2,414,807
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	621,180
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	10.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	14.9
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	13.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	17.3

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Nevada had 19,960 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 13,062 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 4,377 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Nevada, a rate of 7.3 per 1,000 children, and representing a 4.4% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 82.2% were neglected, 18.0% were physically abused, and 3.9% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Nevada.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 4,050 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,599 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 46.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 52.9% were white, 22.3% were black, 17.2% were Hispanic, 0.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.1% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,575 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 85.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 278 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 6.5% decrease from 296 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 4,050 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,158 or 28.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 21,498 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 4,050 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 19.8% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 47.3% were white, 27.3% were black, 18.9% were Hispanic, 0.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.1% were of other races.<sup>17</sup>

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# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada decreased from 15,531 in March 2005 to 11,818 in March 2006, a decrease of 31.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 5,269, a 28.9% decrease from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Nevada was at 40.1% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, Nevada spent \$68,446,573 in TANF funds, including 47.3% on basic assistance, 2.0% on child care, 2.3% on transportation, and 43.6% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, Nevada collected and distributed \$115,523,605 in child support funds, an increase of 7.2% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Nevada was \$852 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.38 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Nevada had an estimated monthly average of 4,600 children served by subsidized child care; 4,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 6,100 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than \$37,536, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Nevada had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,754 Nevada children, the same as in 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 106,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada, representing 49.7% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 4,834 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada, representing 5.7% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, Nevada spent \$35,875,203 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,421 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- Nevada reported spending \$1,488,617.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- Nevada reported spending \$14,767,911.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, Nevada had 39,316 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.1% increase from 2004, when 38,519 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 2,716 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Nevada a ranking of 17 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, 192 infants younger than 1 year died in Nevada, giving the state a ranking of 16 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Nevada was 27.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 88.4. This reflects a total rate of 51.1 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 5,162 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 18,000 children age 12–17, and 112,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nevada.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 103 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Nevada.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 12,000 Nevada teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, 11% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 9,000 children age 12–17 in Nevada needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 13,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2003, 25 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.9 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, five children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, compared with nine in 2002.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2005, 15,749 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 11.1% decrease from 17,722 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 498 were for violent crimes and 192 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 921 children in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Nevada spent \$79,271,463 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>47</sup> Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, and 44% was from state funds.<sup>48</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$44,013,245 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 19% was from Medicaid, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 7% was from TANF, and 10% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 4,050 children in out-of-home care in Nevada on September 30, 2004, only 1,504, or 37.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## 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.<sup>51</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>52</sup>
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>53</sup>

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