

NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2008

Nevada's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	2,495,529
Population, Children Under 18 ²	621,180
State Poverty Rate ³	9.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	12.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	15.2

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Nevada had 20,711 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 14,291 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 2,951 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Nevada, a rate of 8 per 1,000 children, and representing an 8.8% increase from 2004. Of these children, 82.8% were neglected, 17.8% were physically abused, and 4.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 17 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Nevada.⁹
- In 2005, 4,696 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,050 children in 2004. In 2005, 47.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 49.6% were white, 22% black, 20.4% Hispanic, 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.6% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,158 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 70.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 412 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 32.5% increase from 278 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 4,696 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 1,222, or 26%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 19,880 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 4,696 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 33.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care in 2005, 48.6% were white, 20.6% were black, 23.9% were Hispanic, 0.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada increased from 12,075 in March 2006 to 17,542 in March 2007, an increase of 28.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 7,043, a 7.9% increase from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Nevada was at 33% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Nevada spent \$66,955,455 in TANF funds, including 49.3% on basic assistance, 2.3% on child care, 9.4% on transportation, and 39% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2006, Nevada collected and distributed \$126,945,166 in child support funds, an increase of 9.9% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Nevada was \$881 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.95 per hour working a 40-hour week.²²

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

- 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 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada a family of three could make no more than \$38,124, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no Nevada children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 2,754 Nevada children, the same as in 2005.²⁶

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

- In 2004, 141,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada, representing 55.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 1,989 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Nevada spent \$14,911,118 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,497 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Nevada reported spending \$441,093 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Nevada reported spending \$4,044,120 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Nevada had 39,317 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), compared with 39,316 children in 2005.³²
- In 2004, 2,809 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Nevada a rank of 22 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 225 infants younger than age 1 died in Nevada, giving it a rank of 23 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 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 15–19.³⁵

- Cumulative through 2005, 6,110 adults and adolescents, as well as 16 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17, and 115,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nevada.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 108 children aged out of out-of-home care in Nevada.³⁸
- In 2005, 13,000 Nevada teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 19% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 8,000 children ages 12–17 in Nevada needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 12,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 22 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.41 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 18 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Nevada, a 260% increase from 5 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 20,725 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 31.6% decrease from 15,749 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 590 were for violent crimes and 499 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 921 children in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.⁴⁶

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. Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, and 44% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- 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.⁴⁸
- Out of 4,696 children in out-of-home care in Nevada in 2005, only 1,651 children, or 35.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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 case-loads of 12–15 children.⁵²

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