

NEVADA'S CHILDREN

Nevada's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,723,322	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	22.1%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	663,103	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	20.9%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	15.9%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	23.2%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Nevada had 24,941 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 13,667 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 5,355 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Nevada, a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.6% increase from 2010. Of these children, 74.1% were neglected, 37.0% were physically abused, and 6.6% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 1.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Nevada responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 1,602 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 19 children in Nevada died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 4,636 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,806 children in 2010. In 2011, 2,082 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 342 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 8.6% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Nevada children in out-of-home care in 2011, 40.8% were white, 22.9% black, 25.0% Hispanic, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.2% Asian or Pacific Islander and 8.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,887 children exiting out-of-home care in Nevada in 2011, 56.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 821 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nevada, a 27.5% increase from 644 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 4,636 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,917 or 41.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 25,293 Nevada grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 4,636 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,479 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Nevada children in kinship care in 2010, 12.1% were white, 7.5% black, 9.2% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.3% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 7.5% of more than one race or ethnicity.²¹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada increased from 26,487 in 2010 to 27,662 in 2011, an increase of 4.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 10,771, a 4.9% increase from 2010.²²
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Nevada families living in poverty, only 19 received TANF benefits.²³

- In 2011, \$118,877,591 was spent in Nevada on TANF assistance, including 38% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 2% on transportation, and 60% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 35,127,133 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nevada, serving 73,977 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Nevada distributed \$165,757,160 in child support funds, a 4.1% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Nevada, 104,122 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 33% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Nevada had a monthly average of 5,100 children served by subsidized child care; 5,200 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 6,300 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than \$44,880, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Nevada had 770 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 3,100 Nevada children, a 12.6% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 186,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nevada—64% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Nevada had 29,760 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.7% decrease from 2010, when 31,554 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Nevada had 139,000 uninsured children, representing 21% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 2,965 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nevada.³⁵
- In 2010, 195 infants under age 1 died in Nevada.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Nevada was 19 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 7,170 adults and adolescents, as well as 29 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Nevada.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17 and 195,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nevada.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 234 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Nevada.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 18,000 Nevada teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 48,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Nevada needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 11,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁴
- In 2010, 13 Nevada children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.77 per 100,000 children.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 21 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nevada, a 19% decrease from 26 in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 16,588 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada, a 18.0% decrease from 20,239 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 655 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 717 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada.⁴⁸

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁹

- 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 caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵²

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 4,636 children in out-of-home care in Nevada in 2011, only 1,878, or 41%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Nevada spent \$183,959,974 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$63,993,270 was from federal funds, \$74,445,006 from state funds, and \$45,521,698 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$63,993,270 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$50,103,307 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$4,167,862 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$356,031 was from Medicaid, \$5,105,753 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$3,205,790 was from TANF, and \$1,054,527 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Nevada received \$36,568,924 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$11,617,519 for maintenance payments, \$16,859,937 for administration and child placement, \$2,629,014 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$2,802,314 for training.⁵⁶
- Nevada received \$15,725,484 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$13,201,606 for assistance payments, \$2,416,130 for administration and child placement, and \$107,748 for staff and provider training.⁵⁷

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Dean Heller (R)	361-A Russell	224-6244	228-2193	Heller.senate.gov	2018
Harry Reid (D) <i>Majority Leader</i>	522 Hart	224-3542	224-7327	Reid.senate.gov	2016
House:					
Dina Titus (D-1 st)	401 Cannon	225-5965	225-3119	Titus.house.gov	2014
Mark Amodei (R-2 nd) <i>Judiciary</i>	222 Cannon	225-6155	225-5679	Amodei.house.gov	2014
Joe Heck (R-3 rd) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	132 Cannon	225-3252	225-2185	Heck.house.gov	2014
Steven Horsford (D-4 th)	1330 Longworth	225-9894	225-9783	Horsford.house.gov	2014

Key Committee Jurisdictions

Senate **H.E.L.P.:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF

House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF

House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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⁵ Ibid.

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⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹⁶ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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²⁰ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²¹ Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁹ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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⁵⁶ Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.