**NEVADA’S CHILDREN 2019**

State Population: 2,998,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 685,463

**ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**

- Of the 3,145 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Nevada, 64% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 740 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Nevada in 2017, a decrease of 7% from 796 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 4,408 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,672 or 37.9% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 25,497 grandparents in Nevada had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,597 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

- In 2017, Nevada had 36,204 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 15,373 reports were referred for investigation.⁸

- In 2017, there were 4,859 victims of abuse or neglect in Nevada, a rate of 7.1 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 1.9% from 2016. Of these children, 82.7% were neglected, 21.9% were physically abused, and 5.2% were sexually abused.⁹

- The number of child victims has decreased 1.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Nevada had a monthly average of 6,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 5,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 4,100 were recipients in 2014.  
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than $26,544 at application, which is equivalent to 46% of the state’s median income. 
- As of early 2018, Nevada had no waiting list for child care assistance. 
- In 2017, Head Start served 4,549 children in Nevada, an increase of 45.4% from 2015. 
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Nevada made 5,353 home visits to 1,049 participants in 510 households. 

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- In 2017, there were 21 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Nevada.  

The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 5.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada decreased from 24,980 in 2016 to 24,438 in 2018, a 2.2% change. There was a 9,562 monthly average of families receiving TANF in 2018, a decrease of 2.6% from 2016. 
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 22 received TANF cash assistance. 
- $102,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Nevada, including 38% on basic assistance.
$26,054,261 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nevada, serving 62,546 participants.  

In 2017, Nevada distributed $187,677,416 in child support funds, a 6.8% change from 2014.  

233,000 children in Nevada lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.  

In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Nevada was 5.1.  

21% of households in Nevada were food insecure in 2016, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.  

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  

425,497 children in Nevada were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 20.7% from 2015.  

In 2017, Nevada had 80,342 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 29.8% from 2015, when 61,908 children were enrolled.  

In 2016, Nevada had 46,000 uninsured children.  

3,065 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nevada in 2016.  

207 infants under age 1 died in Nevada in 2016.  

In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Nevada was 10 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 50 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 24 births for girls ages 15 to 19.  

Cumulative through 2016, there were 8,114 adults and adolescents and 29 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.  

In 2015, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 81,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Nevada.
In 2014, approximately 7,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\textsuperscript{40}

In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\textsuperscript{41}

In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Nevada reached $238,241,309.

\textbf{YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE}

186 children in Nevada aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.\textsuperscript{42}

74\% of high school students in Nevada graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.\textsuperscript{43}

14,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Nevada were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.\textsuperscript{44}

43,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.\textsuperscript{45}

29.5\% of young adults in Nevada ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.\textsuperscript{46}

In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Nevada aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 32 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

\textbf{JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION}

45 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nevada in 2017, compared to 30 in 2015.\textsuperscript{48}

8,441 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,047 of the arrests in 2016.\textsuperscript{49}

627 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada in 2015.\textsuperscript{50}
CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

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.52

• According to a 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.53

• Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.54 Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.55

Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.56

• According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between $30,000 and $49,999.57

• The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master’s degree.58

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

• In 2016, Nevada’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $13,567,036. The most utilized service in Nevada was Foster Care for Children totaling $4,289,573.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEVADA’S CHILDREN

• In 2016, Nevada spent $215,181,493 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $87,386,556 was from federal funds and $127,794,937 was from state and local funds.61
In 2016, of the $87,386,556 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.62

Nevada received $16,262,743 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including $5,638,383 for maintenance payments and $10,624,360 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. 63
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

30 Ibid.

Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


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33 Ibid.


Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.