

Embargoed for release until: Tuesday, July 21, 2015, 12:01 a.m. EDT

Contact: Louise Helton (702) 592-5330

Nevada KIDS COUNT  
Executive Committee

Nevada KIDS COUNT  
Executive Director  
Stephen Miller, PhD

Nevada KIDS COUNT  
Director  
Renna Daneshvary, PhD

Nancy Brune, PhD, Executive  
Director, Kenny Guinn Center  
for Policy Priorities

Louise Helton, Junior League  
Las Vegas

Brian Kunzi, Deputy  
Bar Counsel, State Bar  
of Nevada

Cathy McAdoo,  
Executive Director,  
PACE Coalition

Norma Moyle, Social  
Worker, Bureau of  
Indian Affairs

Michael J. Pomi,  
Executive Director, The  
Children's Cabinet

Fernando Serrano,  
Community Advocate  
Candace Young-Richey,  
MPA, CY-R &  
Associates, Human  
Services Consultant



## ***Nevada Ranks No. 47 in Overall Child Well-Being According to 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book***

*State Improves in 10 of the 16 Indicators of Child Well-Being*

(Las Vegas, Nevada) Today, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released its annual *KIDS COUNT® Data Book*—its 26<sup>th</sup> edition. How children are faring in the post-recession years is the focus of this year's report.

One finding is that 1.7 million more children live in low-income working families today than in the midst of the Great Recession.

“With almost half of the nation’s children living in low-income households, all sectors in our nation must work to ensure that the economic recovery reaches all families, especially those who are losing ground in our recent prosperity,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation.

### **State Rankings for 2015 Data Book**

Nevada is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> among the states in overall child well-being, an improvement over last year’s ranking of 48<sup>th</sup>. On the four domains of child well-being, each comprised of four individual indicators, Nevada ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in Family and Community, 46<sup>th</sup> in Health, 46<sup>th</sup> in Economic Well-Being, and 50<sup>th</sup> in Education. The top three ranked states on overall child well-being are Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Louisiana, New Mexico, and Mississippi are the three lowest-ranked states.

### **Nevada Trends**

Although the domain rankings are grim, Nevada improved on 10 of the 16 indicators over the past few years. All of the Education indicators improved, as did three Health indicators, two Family and Community indicators, and one Economic Well-Being indicator. Two of the Economic Well-Being and two of the Family and Community indicators worsened. These include: (1) the percentage of children who live in poverty, (2) the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, (3) the percentage of children in single-parent families, and (4) the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas. Among the 16 indicators, Nevada ranked best on teen alcohol and drug abuse (ranked 17<sup>th</sup>) and ranked worst on high school students not graduating on time, children not attending preschool, and children without health insurance.

The following presents selected child well-being indicator trends for Nevada:

- Twenty-three percent of Nevada children under age 18 lived in poverty in 2013. Nevada ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among the states on this indicator. The child poverty rate increased from 15 percent to 23 percent between 2008 and 2013 (a 50 percent increase).
- Sixty-nine percent of Nevada children ages 3 to 4 did not attend preschool in 2011-2013. Nevada ranks 50<sup>th</sup> on this indicator. The percentage of children not attending preschool decreased from 72 percent in 2007-2009 to 69 percent in 2011-2013 (a 7 percent decrease).
- Fifteen percent of Nevada children under age 18 were not covered by any health insurance during 2013. Nevada ranks 50<sup>th</sup> on this indicator. The percentage of children without health insurance decreased from 20 percent to 15 percent between 2008 and 2013 (a 27 percent decrease).
- The teen birth rate in 2013 was 30 live births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19. Nevada ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> on this indicator. The birth rate fell from 49 births to 30 births per 1,000 females from 2008 to 2013 (a 39 percent decrease).
- Fourteen percent of children lived in high-poverty areas (census tracts with poverty rates equal or greater than 30 percent) in 2009-2013. Nevada ranks 31<sup>st</sup> on this indicator. The percentage of children who lived in concentrated poverty increased from 6 percent in 2006-2010 to 14 percent in 2009-2013 (a 133 percent increase).

Dr. Rennae Daneshvary, director of Nevada KIDS COUNT, said, “Although Nevada’s overall child well-being ranking improved from last year, too many children in Nevada are still struggling. Almost one in four children lived in poverty in 2013. Nevada’s economy, however, continues to recover from the Great Recession. As such, continued improvement is expected within the Economic Well-Being domain in the coming years.”

The *KIDS COUNT® Data Book 2015* includes the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia, and the nation. This information will be available July 21, 2015, at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation on Twitter @aekidscount and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>.

Rennae Daneshvary, PhD  
Nevada KIDS COUNT director

###

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas was established in 1975. CBER conducts applied research vital to business and government. CBER cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of UNLV’s research community throughout the state of Nevada and the country. Nevada KIDS COUNT

The Center for Business and Economic Research  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway ❖ Box 456002 ❖ Las Vegas, NV 89154-6002  
Web: <http://kidscount.unlv.edu>

