



UNDER EMBARGO Until June 10, 2024 at 12:01 a.m. ET

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2024 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK SHOWS LACK OF ACCESS TO PRENATAL TO THREE HEALTH CARE AND INSURANCE DROPS NEVADA TO 47th IN THE NATION

Annie E. Casey Foundation finds that as Medicaid unwinds, more Nevada children and families are at risk in critical prenatal and early stages of life.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA — A combination of factors in the last year caused Nevada to drop drastically in several rankings according to the **2024 KIDS COUNT® Data Book**, a 50-state report of recent data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how kids are faring in post-pandemic America. The data points to the clear paths **Nevada** leaders must take to increase the health and prosperity of our state's most vulnerable citizens - our children.

The report shows fewer young children with health insurance than at any time since the pandemic. This factor, combined with the receding funding from the American Rescue Act, an already fragile safety net is now even flimsier. With more babies born with low birth weight in 2022, Nevada's KIDS COUNT ranking for that indicator has dropped from 36th to 39th in the country.

"The challenges the state faces to improve these indicators are complex," Dr. Tara Raines, Deputy Director of Children's Advocacy Alliance, Nevada's member of the KIDS COUNT network. "Nevada boasts one of the fastest-growing populations in the country but struggles to keep a sustainable ratio of providers for care. These conditions are even more drastic in the rural areas, where there are less incentives to attract practitioners."

Adding to the problem are social determinants such as food deserts in urban areas, where those without transportation lack access to proper nutrition. Without a comprehensive children's hospital in the state, access to critical care for those medically fragile children sometimes demands out-of-state travel.

"We supported legislation helping Nevada children and families in 2023 and will continue to do so in the future," said Carissa Pearce, Health Policy Manager for CAA. "55,000 children did not have health insurance in 2022. Thanks to efforts by many community partners, through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for Nevada, many of those children remain eligible for re-enrollment. We are committed to helping children and families understand whether they are eligible for existing programs and will continue to lead in closing the health insurance gap in our state."

In its 35th year of publication, the *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* presents national and state data from 16 indicators in four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community factors — and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall.

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About Children’s Advocacy Alliance

The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based non-profit functioning as the independent voice achieving public policy wins in the areas of early childhood education, health, and child welfare through collaboration and collective impact within the community to ensure every child thrives in Nevada. CAA mobilizes people, resources, and reason to build consensus around priorities and to leverage our collective strength toward real changes in policy and practice. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2024 *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* will be available at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at www.aecf.org/databook. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.aecf.org.

ABOUT THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s young people by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.