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Nevada Ranks 46th in 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book as Education, Housing, and Health Challenges Persist for Children and Families

New national data shows mixed progress for Nevada children, with worsening outcomes in education and child health indicators despite improvements in some economic and community measures.

Las Vegas, NV — Nevada ranks 46th overall in the 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book, a 50-state report published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation examining child well-being across the country. The annual report measures how children and families are performing across four key domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family & community factors.

For the first time, the 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book includes a comprehensive state score in addition to state rankings. The new scoring system tracks 16 indicators across the four domains of child well-being over a five-year period from 2019 to 2024 and is designed to measure whether policies and investments are improving outcomes for children over time, not just how states compare to one another. Nevada received a score of 398, compared to the national score of 547. Nevada performed strongest in the Family and Community domain and weakest in the Education domain.

According to this year's report, Nevada ranked:

- 44th in Economic Well-Being,
- 46th in Education,
- 43rd in Health, and
- 41st in Family and Community.

While several indicators showed improvement, the data also highlights continued and worsening challenges facing children and families across the state. The report found that children living in households with a high housing cost burden increased from 33% in 2019 to 37% in 2024, while young children ages 3 and 4 not enrolled in school increased from 62% in 2015–19 to 67% in 2020–24. Educational outcomes also worsened, with eighth graders not proficient in math increasing from 74% in 2019 to 80% in 2024. In health outcomes, child and teen deaths per 100,000 increased from 24 in 2019 to 32 in 2024, and low birth-weight babies increased from 8.8% to 9.7% over the same time period.

At the same time, Nevada saw progress in several areas. Between 2019 and 2024, children living in poverty decreased from 17% to 15%, children whose parents lack secure employment decreased from 26% to 24%, and the teen birth rate declined from 19 births to 12 births per 1,000 teen girls ages 15 to 19, while the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas decreased from 8% in 2015–19 to 5% in 2020–24.

While many of the challenges identified in Nevada reflect trends seen across the country, several indicators remain more severe in the state than national averages. In 2024, 37% of Nevada children lived in households with a high housing cost burden, compared to 31% nationally. Sixty-seven percent of Nevada children ages 3 and 4 were not enrolled in school, compared to 54% nationally, and 80% of Nevada eighth graders were not proficient in math, compared to 73% nationally. Nevada also reported a

higher child and teen death rate (32 per 100,000 compared to 27 nationally) and a higher percentage of low-birthweight babies (9.7% compared to 8.5% nationally). These findings highlight areas where Nevada continues to face challenges beyond national trends.

“These rankings are not just numbers, they reflect the real experiences of children and families across Nevada,” said Alexis Marin, Health Policy Manager at the Children’s Advocacy Alliance. “This year’s data shows that while progress is possible, too many children are still facing barriers tied to educational outcomes, housing affordability, health access, and long-term economic stability. I know for a fact Nevada has communities, leaders, educators, and advocates working every day to improve these outcomes, I see it every day I am out in the community. But the data makes clear that sustained investment and collaboration are still urgently needed.”

The KIDS COUNT Data Book highlights how factors such as stable housing, strong schools, access to health care, nutrition, and economic security all play a critical role in child well-being. Research consistently shows that investments in children and families strengthen long-term outcomes for communities, workforce development, and state economies.

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) encourages Nevada lawmakers, community leaders, educators, and advocates to use this data to guide meaningful action and collaboration across sectors. By highlighting both areas of progress and ongoing challenges, the Data Book serves as a roadmap for informed decision-making and long-term investments that help children, young people, and families thrive across Nevada.

This year, CAA will also release the 2026 Nevada Child and Family Data Book during its annual breakfast event in Reno this August. Additional details will be announced soon. Community members and partners are encouraged to sign up for CAA’s newsletter to stay informed about the event, upcoming releases, and ongoing work supporting children and families across Nevada.

The annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, now in its 37th year, provides policymakers and communities with reliable data to better understand where progress is being made and where additional attention and investment are still needed.

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Release Information

The 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book will be 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 Children’s Advocacy Alliance of Nevada

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance is an independent voice for Nevada children, advancing systemic change in the areas of early childhood education, children’s health, and child welfare. We achieve public policy wins through collaboration and collective impact within the community to ensure every child in Nevada thrives.

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.