

What Does It Take to Improve Nevada's Performance on Child Well-Being Indicators?

The *2008 National KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that Nevada ranks 36th among the 50 states on 10 indicators which measure child and family well-being. Among the 10 indicators, Nevada performed the best on their infant mortality rate and the worst on the percent of teens who are high school dropouts. The following tables show Nevada's current ranking on child well-being indicators and what amount of reduction in occurrences it would take for Nevada to become the top-ranking state in the nation and to see a 10 percent improvement in the indicators based on their current percent or rate.

Percent of Low-Birthweight (LBW) Babies

is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth.

<p>Nevada's status With 3,080 LBW babies in 2005, Nevada ranked 27th in the nation at 8.3 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 8.2</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? To achieve the highest ranking in the U.S. Nevada will have to lower the number of LBW babies by 807 to achieve a rate of 6.1 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Alaska, Oregon, and Washington at 6.1 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? To decrease the percent from 8.3 to 7.5 Nevada would have to reduce the number of LBW babies by 285.</p>
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Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

<p>Nevada's status In 2005, Nevada ranked 10th in the nation with an infant mortality rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births. Two hundred fifteen infants died before age one.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 6.9</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of infant deaths by 47 to have an infant mortality rate of 4.5 per 1,000 live births.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Utah at 4.5</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? Nevada will have to reduce the number of infant deaths by 21 to achieve a desired infant mortality rate of 5.2 per 1,000 live births.</p>
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Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

is the number of deaths to children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

<p>Nevada's status In 2005, Nevada ranked 34th in the nation with a child death rate of 24 per 100,000 children. One hundred seventeen children died.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 20</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of child deaths by 78 to achieve a rate of 8 per 100,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 8 per 100,000</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of child deaths will have to be reduced by 10 to lower the child death rate from 24 to 22 deaths per 100,000.</p>
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Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

is the number of deaths from all causes to teens between ages 15 and 19, per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data are reported by place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

<p>Nevada's status In 2005, Nevada ranked 32th in the nation with a teen death rate of 75 per 1,000 teens. One hundred twenty-one teens died.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 65</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of teen deaths by 61 to achieve a desired rate of 37 per 100,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Hawaii at 37 per 100,000</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of teen deaths will have to be reduced by 11 to lower the teen death rate from 75 to 68 deaths per 100,000.</p>
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Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)

is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence, rather than the place of the birth.

<p>Nevada's status In 2005, Nevada ranked 40th in the nation with a teen birth rate of 50 per 1,000 births. A total of 3,921 teen mothers gave birth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. rate: 40</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of teen births by 2,513 to have a desired birth rate of 18 per 1,000 births.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 18 per 1,000</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of teen births in Nevada will have to decrease by 402 for a desired birth rate of 45 per 1,000 births.</p>
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Percent of Teens Who Are High School Dropouts (ages 16-19)

is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure. The measure used here is defined as a "status dropout" rate.

<p>Nevada's status In 2006, Nevada ranked 47th in the nation with a dropout rate of 10 percent. A total of 12,943 teens dropped out of school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 7</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of dropouts by 9,065 to attain a desired dropout rate of 3 percent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in nation: North Dakota at 3 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of dropouts will have to decrease by 1,299 for Nevada to reduce its dropout rate from 10 to 9 percent.</p>
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Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16-19)

is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not employed (full- or part-time). This measure is sometimes referred to as “Idle Teens” or “Disconnected Youth.”

<p>Nevada’s status In 2006, Nevada ranked 46th in the nation with 11 percent or 13,677 idle teens.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 8</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of idle teens by 8,502 to achieve 4 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire at 4 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of idle teens needs to decrease by 740 for Nevada to reduce its percent from 11 to 10.</p>
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Percent of Children Living In Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment

is the share of all children under age of 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means that neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent also were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable.

<p>Nevada’s status In 2006, Nevada ranked 14th in the nation by having 30 percent or 190,230 children/youth living in families without secure employment.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 33</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of children/youth living in families without secure employment by 38,134 to achieve a desired 24 percent.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: North Dakota at 24 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of children/youth living in families without secure employment will have to be reduced by 19,119 to go from 30 to a desirable 27 percent.</p>
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Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006)

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In calendar year 2006, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$20,444. Poverty status is not determined for people living in group quarters, such as military barracks, prisons, and other institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children). The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey.

<p>Nevada’s status Nevada ranked 13th in the nation in 2006 on the number of children/youth living in poverty. Fourteen percent of Nevada children or 87,111 lived in poverty.</p> <p>U.S. percent: 18</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? To become number one in the nation Nevada will have to attain a 10 percent child-poverty rate, which means reducing the number of poor children by 24,637.</p> <p>Number 1 in the nation: New Hampshire and Maryland at 10 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of poor children will have to decrease by 5,924 for Nevada to go from a 14 to a 13 percent child-poverty rate.</p>
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Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families

is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own single parent, either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include cohabiting couples and do not include children living with married stepparents.

<p>Nevada's status In 2006, Nevada ranked 36th in the nation with 34 percent or 199,863 children and youth living in single-parent families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U.S. percent: 32</p>	<p>What will it take to be the best? Nevada will need to reduce the number of children/youth in single-parent families by 93,222 to become the best in the nation with a rate of 18.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number 1 in the nation: Utah at 18 percent</p>	<p>What will it take to improve by 10 percent? The number of children/youth living in single-parent families would have decline by 16,188 to lower the rate from 34 to 31.</p>
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Note: Indicator definitions are from the *2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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