Our Community: How are the Children?

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Women, Wealth and Wisdom Event

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PART ONE

The Lincy Institute: Our Role in the Community
The Lincy Institute at UNLV conducts and supports research that focuses on improving Nevada’s health, education, and social services. This research is used to build capacity for service providers and enhance efforts to draw state and federal money to the greater Las Vegas area.
About The Lincy Institute (cont.)

The Lincy Institute highlights key issues that affect public policy and quality-of-life decisions on behalf of children, seniors, and families in Nevada.
Four main goals:

(1) conduct and support research that seeks to improve health, education, and social services;

(2) use data and research to inform and improve public policy and practice;

(3) build and enhance the capacity of public and private community partners; and

(4) secure external financial resources.
PART TWO

Community Well-being
The high school dropout rate has decreased from 4.4% in 2009 to 4.2% in 2010.
Education in Clark County: The Good News

- Average daily attendance rates for students enrolled in Clark County School District increased from the 2007-2008 academic year to the 2009-2010 academic year

Sources: Kids Count Data Book 2011, 2011 Nevada Education Data Book
Education in Clark County: Our Challenge

- Nevada has the highest rate of teenagers neither attending school or employed of any other state at 15% (based on the 2010 U.S. Census)

- Approximately 44% of high school students are not graduating within four years (as of 2008-2009 school year)

Sources: Kids Count Data Book 2011, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families
Nevada is ranked 50\textsuperscript{th} in the nation for its quality of education (based on measures of children not attending preschool, lack of proficiency in reading and math, and number of high school students not graduating on time).

Sources: Kids Count Data Book 2011, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families
Health in Clark County: The Good News

- Infant mortality rates have dropped from 5.8 (per 1,000 live births) in 2008 to 5.4 in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Infant Mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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- Number of low birth weight babies decreased by 2% since 2005

Source: Kids Count Data Book 2011
Health in Clark County: Our Challenge

- As of 2010, 17% of Nevada’s children did not have health insurance coverage

- Approximately 12.9% of Clark County high school students are overweight and 12.3% are considered obese

- It is estimated that 15.4% of Clark County high school students are tobacco smokers

Source: Kids Count Data Book 2011, Center for Disease Control-Communities Putting Prevention to Work
Social Services in Clark County: The Good News

- The total number of adoptions increased from 525 in 2009 to 642 in 2010
- Juvenile justice referrals decreased last year in Clark County

Social Services in Clark County: Our Challenge

- Teen birth rates increased by 6% since 2005 despite national declines
- There were an estimated 5,122 suspected victims of minor sex trafficking from 1994-2007
- Number of homeless children in Clark County increased by 22% in one year
The percentage of children living in poverty increased from 17.6% in 2009 to 22.2% in 2010.
As of 2009-2010, approximately 26.9% of Clark County children were food insecure, with 43% of these children ineligible for federal nutrition programs.
Social Services in Clark County: Our Challenge

- There was an approximate 18.4% increase in substantiated CPS investigations from 2009-2011

- Number of homeless children in Clark County increased by 22% in one year

Sources: Kids Count Data Book 2011, Clark County Department of Family Services, Shared Hope International National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, Feeding America: Map the Gap Study
PART THREE

Engaging the Community
The Lincy Institute has 4 assessments, 14 projects/initiatives, and is working to help strengthen the capacity of our local nonprofits in the areas of education, health, and social services.
Determined, Responsible, Empowered Adolescents Mentoring Relationships (DREAMR)- The purpose of this federally-funded project is to reduce pregnancy among foster youth. The project partners include: Clark County Department of Family Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, SAFY, Olive Crest, S.P.I.R.I.T. and the Southern Nevada Health District.
Growth and improvements in many community well-being indicators are modest **BUT** highly changeable.

The Lincy Institute positions non-profits for growth and capacity building by:

- Cross-sector advocacy (education problems are economic matters, economic matters are health matters)
- Reframing the question (“what will work” instead of “what is the problem”)
- Sharing data and resources
- Establishing partnerships