

# Overview of KIDS COUNT

## WHAT is KIDS COUNT?

KIDS COUNT is a well-known, well-respected project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). Its purpose is to track the well-being of children at both the national and the state levels. All 50 states have a KIDS COUNT project, allowing for state-by-state comparisons of child well-being indicators.

In Nevada, the primary activities of the KIDS COUNT project are to:

- ❖ collect, analyze, and distribute the best available data measuring the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children and youth in Nevada;
- ❖ educate and inform decision-makers, citizens, service providers, providers of funding, and community partners regarding data, policy, and resource analysis;
- ❖ provide linkages with community efforts to reach decision-makers with information concerning relevant issues for children and youth.

## WHAT is the *Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book 2011*?

This report represents the ongoing effort of the Nevada KIDS COUNT project to provide a profile of the children and youth in our state.

## WHAT is the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER)?

The Center for Business and Economic Research, established in 1975, aids businesses and agencies in achieving the fullest expression of economic potential by providing academic expertise in data collection, business-conditions analysis, and research projects that assist the development and diversification of the Nevada economy. CBER serves Nevadans by making presentations for conferences, task forces, symposiums, and meetings of Nevada organizations. The work of CBER is rather evenly split between data collection and analysis, market analysis, business-conditions analysis,

financial feasibility studies, and econometric modeling. CBER's staff publishes many reports and conducts both basic and applied research. CBER's relationship with KIDS COUNT began in 1996, when it began providing data for the *Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*. Since 2000, CBER has been publishing the *Data Book*.

## WHAT is the layout of the *Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book 2011*?

This year's *Data Book* is similar to past years' books. We provide indicators reflecting critical elements of child and youth well-being. The indicators are organized as follows:

- ❖ **Definition:** Description of what the indicator is and what it measures
- ❖ **Map:** Rates or percentages presented for each county
- ❖ **Nevada:** Most recent state data for each indicator
- ❖ **Counties:** Most recent county data where applicable

## HOW were the data indicators selected?

Nevada KIDS COUNT presents seven of the ten indicators identified and used by the AECF in its state-by-state assessment. The Foundation believes: “. . . (1) They reflect a wide range of factors affecting the well-being of children, such as health, adequacy of income, and educational attainment. (2) They reflect experiences across a range of developmental stages—from birth through early adulthood. (3) They permit legitimate comparisons because they are consistent across states and over time.” (See *2011 KIDS COUNT Data Book* by the AECF, p. 32.)

The 10 indicators are:

- ❖ percent low-birthweight babies
- ❖ infant mortality rate
- ❖ child death rate

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- ❖ teen death rate
- ❖ teen birth rate
- ❖ percent of teens who are not in school and not high school graduates
- ❖ percent of teens not attending school and not working
- ❖ percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment
- ❖ percent of children in poverty
- ❖ percent of children in single-parent families

In recent years, Nevada KIDS COUNT added additional indicators based on recommendations by *Data Book* users. Practical considerations guided the selection process of the additional indicators, including whether the individual indicators were:

- ❖ relevant
- ❖ substantially researched
- ❖ regularly measured
- ❖ representative of selected segments of children and youth
- ❖ available at the county level
- ❖ verifiable with reliable data sources

## WHAT are the limitations of the data?

The atypical population distribution in Nevada counties with very small populations may create a serious “rare event” problem. Multiple-year averages stabilize and improve the usefulness of these data. Still, even when averaged, caution should be used when drawing conclusions from rates or percentages based on small numbers.

Because rates based on small denominators are likely to be statistically unreliable, rates were not calculated for counties with small denominators.

The designation, NM = Not Meaningful, is noted in the maps; and, raw data are provided as applicable in the County Data section. Also, the sum of the county data may not equal the state total due to rounding and/or missing county-reference data.

Many of our data providers need time to compile and disseminate accurate information. Therefore, current-year data were sometimes not available when this report was produced.

This year’s *Data Book* and previous years’ *Data Books* are available online at: <http://kidscount.unlv.edu>.

## WHAT is new with the *Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book 2011*?

The Juvenile Justice section of the *Data Book* was revamped to provide useful data to the juvenile justice practitioners throughout the state. We thank former Deputy Administrator of Juvenile Justice Services Fernando Serrano and Juvenile Justice Specialist Pauline Salla of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for their significant input.

New data, such as dating violence and children in the care of grandparents, have been added. The former was added at the request of a respondent to the *Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book* user survey.

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## WHERE did Nevada improve or deteriorate?

Comparing the current data on seven of the child well-being indicators with previous years' data, we find that five improved, one deteriorated, and one remained unchanged. Only the indicator percent of children in poverty worsened.

### Comparison of Child Well-Being Indicators in Nevada

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Past Years' Data</i>	<i>Current Data</i>	<i>Comparison</i>		
	<i>Rate or Percent</i>	<i>Rate or Percent</i>	<i>Improved</i>	<i>Worsened</i>	<i>No Change</i>
Percent low-birthweight babies	8.1% (2007-2009)	8.1% (2008-2010)			X
Teen birth rate	45.6 (2007-2009)	42.5 (2008-2010)	X		
Infant mortality rate	5.8 (2007-2009)	5.6 (2008-2010)	X		
Child death rate	18.4 (2007-2009)	17.0 (2008-2010)	X		
Teen death rate	58.5 (2007-2009)	54.3 (2008-2010)	X		
Percent of children in poverty	17.6% (2009)	21.3% (2010)		X	
High school dropout rate	4.4% (2008-2009)	4.2% (2009-2010)	X		

*Note:* Birth and death data for 2010 are based on a preliminary report, as such, the data are not final and are subject to changes.

*Source:* Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

## Nevada Demographic Profile: 2010

<i>Population</i>	<i>Number / Percent</i>
State population*	2,724,636
Clark County population*	1,968,831
Clark County population as a percent of state population	72.3%
Washoe County population*	417,379
Washoe County population as a percent of state population	15.3%
Rest of state population*	338,426
Rest of state population as a percent of state population	12.4%
Adult (20 and older)*	1,981,107
Adult (20 and older) as a percent of state population	72.7%
Adult (18 and older)*	2,055,400
Adult (18 and older) as a percent of state population	75.4%
Child (19 and under)**	743,720
Child (19 and under) as a percent of state population	27.3%
Child (17 and under)**	669,642
Child (17 and under) as a percent of state population	24.6%

*Note:* These estimates are based on the 2010 certified estimates and do not contain census information.

\*Resident-population estimates including group quarters in Carson City, Lincoln County, Pershing County, and White Pine County. See the Notes section for a definition of group quarters.

\*\*Resident-population estimates excluding group quarters.

*Source:* Nevada State Demographer, resident-population estimates, as of 7/1/10.