

# Children's Report Card

## Overall Grade

2014 Nevada

D



Children's Advocacy  
ALLIANCE

# 2014 Summary of Grades

## HEALTH

**D**

Access to Health Care	F
Prenatal/Infant Health	C+
Immunizations	D+
Childhood Obesity	C
Dental Health	F
Mental Health	D+
Sexual Health	C-

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

**D**

Child Maltreatment	C-
Youth Homelessness	D
Juvenile Violence	D+
Child Deaths	D+
Substance Abuse	C-

## EDUCATION

**F**

School Readiness	F
Student Achievement	F
High School Completion	F+
Funding	F

### How Grades Are Determined: By State Ranking (Where Available)

01 - 10 = A

11 - 20 = B

21 - 30 = C

31 - 40 = D

41 - 51 = F

*+/- indicates whether there was an improvement or a decline in the current ranking compared to the 2012 ranking.*

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: F

Access to Health Care grade is a new indicator for the 2014 report card and considers the number children without health insurance, children who have a medical home\* that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family centered, coordinated and compassionate, and patient provider ratios. In 2012, Nevada ranked 51st in the nation for the percentage of children without health insurance at 16.60%, although this number may change with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid in Nevada. Nevada ranks 50th in the percentage of children with a medical home and 46th in patient provider ratios. \*A home base for any child's medical and non-medical care.

## PRENATAL/INFANT HEALTH: C+

Prenatal/Infant Health is based upon the percentage of pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care, infant and child mortality, and low birth weight. Nevada improved in its infant and child mortality rates going from 5.85% to 5.72%, although it decreased in rank from 17th to 18th in the nation. The same can be said for low birth weights; there was a slight improvement in the percentage from 8.3% to 8.2% but a decrease in rank from 22nd to 27th overall. The state remained the same in the percentage of pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care at 11%.

## IMMUNIZATIONS: D+

Nevada ranked 38th in immunizations for 2012 – a jump from 49th in the previous Nevada Children's Report Card and 48th in the 2010 report card. Despite the increase in rank, the actual percentage of children receiving recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella, and PCV vaccines by age 19 to 35 months increased slightly from 85% to 88%. This rate is still under the national average of 90%.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY: C

Childhood obesity consists of the percentage of children between the ages 10 and 17 whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is at or above the 85th percentile, 9-12 grade students not physically active 5 days per week for 60+ minutes, and who did not consistently eat vegetables. Nevada ranked 36th in the nation for the percentage of children whose BMI is at or above the 85th percentile at 33.2%; this is slightly above the national average of 31.3%. Nevada ranked in the middle among states for students being physically active and eating vegetables, at 25th and 18th respectively, with 55% of students not being physically active and 6.4% not consistently eating vegetables.

## DENTAL HEALTH: F

The dental health grade is determined by the percentage of children who have had no preventive dental care visits in the past year and whose children's teeth were described as being in fair or poor condition. Nevada ranks 50th and 51st in the nation, respectively, for these two categories with 32.6% of our children receiving no preventive dental care and 12.3% having fair to poor teeth.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH: D+**

The Mental Health grade is based upon mental health treatment, attempted suicide and teen suicide rates. Nevada ranks 49th in the nation for mental health treatment in which children receive needed mental health treatment or counseling in the past 12 months. Without the needed treatment, Nevada ranks 16th out of 40 states for the number of students who attempted suicide but ranks 36th in the nation for actual suicide rates.

#### **SEXUAL HEALTH: C-**

Sexual Health is based off of five indicators: Teen Birth Rate, Sexual Activity, Condom Use, any birth control use, and STD rates. With 16% of Nevada high school students not using any type of birth control, the state ranks 29th out of 34. This directly effects the teen birth rate of 33 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 and ranks Nevada 32nd in the nation; an average of four births higher than the national average. Nevada ranks 16th out of 36 states for condom use and is about average for STD rates for Chlamydia, Syphilis, and Gonorrhea at 20th, 22nd and 38th, respectively.

## Safety And Security

2014



#### **CHILD MALTREATMENT: C-**

Nevada's child maltreatment grade is based upon total child maltreatment, but also looks at physical, sexual, and neglectful maltreatment. Nevada remained relatively stable in overall maltreatment, going from 18th to 19th in the nation. For physical, sexual, and neglectful maltreatment, Nevada ranked 45th, 12th, and 28th, respectively. This contributed to Nevada's ranking of 32nd in the nation for Foster Care Placement, in which an average of 5 children were removed from their homes and placed in foster care per 1,000 children, giving the state an overall grade of C.

#### **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: D**

In 2013, Nevada had the 5th highest incidence of child and youth homelessness in the nation, with 1,922 unaccompanied homeless children and youth reported in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. Though 5th in overall prevalence of youth homelessness, Nevada had the highest rate of unsheltered unaccompanied children and youth in the United States, with 88% of unaccompanied homeless children and youth under 25 found living on the streets—rather than in shelters—during the 2013 Point-In-Time count. These statistics point to a severe lack of adequate shelter for unaccompanied homeless youth in Nevada. Although, Nevada ranked 14th in the Nation for the total share of homeless families with only .4% of the national numbers.

### **JUVENILE VIOLENCE: D+**

The Juvenile Violence ranking is based upon foster care placement, high school violence, weapons on school property, dating violence, fear of violence, and juvenile justice. In 2012, 11.1% of Nevada's high school students felt unsafe attending school; 38th in the Nation. Nevada ranked 4th out of 34 states for students reporting to have brought a weapon to school at 3.3%, and 10th in the nation for percentage of students who have been in a fight on campus at 6.8%. Nevada ranked 29th out of 38 and 31 states, respectively, for both physical and sexual dating violence with 10.9% of individuals experiencing physical violence and 12.2% experiencing sexual violence. Nevada ranked 36th in the nation for juvenile justice with 7,804 juveniles arrested per 100,000 children, well above the national average of 4,889.

### **CHILD DEATHS AND INJURY: D+**

In 2011, Nevada ranked 35th in the nation for child deaths with just over 17 deaths per 100,000 children. This number is slightly above the national average of 14 deaths per 100,000. Nevada ranked 7th in the nation for transportation related deaths, and ranked 23rd in the nation out of 33 states reporting child drowning with just over 1 child per 100,000.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE: C-**

In 2013, Nevada and other state high school students were surveyed and reported their drug and substance abuse. For tobacco use, Nevada ranked among the top performing states ranking 4th for students who currently smoke, 3rd for smokeless tobacco use, and 2nd for any type of tobacco use. Nevada ranked 26th in alcohol use with 34% of students reporting they consume. Approximately 18% of Nevada high schoolers smoke marijuana, ranking us 15th out of 42 states. We rank among the worst for all other drug use except heroin where Nevada ranks 15th out of 29 reporting states; ranking 29th out of 29 reporting states for ecstasy use, 32nd of 34 states for prescription drug use, and 25th out of 36 for inhalant use.





## **SCHOOL READINESS: F**

The School Readiness grade is comprised of preschool enrollment, availability, and spending per capita. Nevada is currently 51st in the nation in preschool enrollment; only 31.7% of 3- and 4-year olds are currently enrolled. Of the 31.7% enrolled students, only 10.9% are enrolled in State preschool, Special Education, or Head Start –ranked 49th in the nation. Nevada currently spends the least among all states that offer a state preschool program, with a per capita investment of \$44.59 compared to the national average of \$666.25.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: F**

Student Achievement is based upon 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math and Postsecondary Participation. There has been a slight improvement in the percent of reading and math scores at or above proficiency, 34.0% and 30.3% respectively. Although Nevada remains near the bottom of both rankings, 45th for reading and 39th for math. Nevada ranks 50th overall for postsecondary participation, the number of young adults enrolled in postsecondary education or with a degree.

## **HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION: F+**

Nevada ranked 47th in the nation for high school dropouts in 2012 – a slight improvement from the last report card. This statistic is based on the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who are not in school and who have not graduated high school. 7% of Nevada teens fell into this category compared to 4% nationally. Nevada improved its ranking for high school graduation rates from 50th to 48th with a graduation rate of 62.7% for the class of 2010.

## **FUNDING: F**

Per pupil expenditures is calculated for grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for public elementary and secondary education. Actual expenditures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year were \$8,223 compared to \$10,608 nationally. Nevada ranked 45th in this category, remaining the same since the last report card. Nevada's low per pupil expenditure causes high student-teacher ratios ranked 47th in the nation with an average ratio of 20.8 compared to 16.0 nationally.

# Making a Difference in a Child's Life

Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is an independent voice dedicated to achieving public policy wins in the areas of child safety, health, and school readiness. The Alliance creates lasting change by tackling the biggest issues that kids and families face in Nevada.

Serving as a leading advocate for children in Nevada since 1997, the CAA is comprised of community leaders dedicated to improving the lives of children and families. To achieve our goals, the CAA::

- ♥ Brings people together to build consensus around priorities and to leverage our collective strength towards real reform;
- ♥ Collects, analyzes and shares research and information with people who make decisions impacting Nevada's children and families; and
- ♥ Builds public will through education, outreach and advocacy to solve expansive and chronic problems facing kids and families.

When we come together to face the biggest issues for kids and families, we can create more and longer-lasting change. By pooling our resources to put government on the side of Nevada's kids, we can make a bigger difference for kids together than we could alone.

How You Can Help: Become a Friend of CAA by supporting our work on the issues you care most about, like ensuring our kids are safe from abuse and neglect, that every child enters school ready to learn, and that all of our kids are healthy. We share your passion for change, and by joining our team, you'll see your investments go further and reach more kids with advocacy.

The CAA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization – all donations and contributions are tax deductible. Please contact your financial advisor for additional information.

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