



UNDER EMBARGO until June 27, 2018, 12:01 a.m. EDT

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Expected 2020 Census Undercount Would Put Nevada Children and Families at Risk
68,000 children at risk and a decade of damage could be ahead for families and state programs

LAS VEGAS — With 38 percent of Nevada’s children under age 5 at risk of being undercounted in the upcoming 2020 census, federally funded support that has driven success for the state’s children is in jeopardy, according to the *2018 KIDS COUNT® Data Book* released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In Nevada, an estimated 68,000 children are at risk of being missed. Nevada receives more than \$1 billion (\$1,126,302,808) in federal funding for these programs, which include Medicaid, SNAP and Head Start. And the data released today show that Nevada cannot afford to lose this funding: While Nevada has seen improvements, our state has continually ranked near the bottom for overall child well-being — ranking at 47th nationally among all U.S. states in the 2018 *Data Book*. For overall economic well-being, Nevada fell three spots from 40th to 43rd. Nevada’s education ranking remained at 49th for the third year in a row.

“Although we have seen improvements in Nevada on several well-being indicators for children, the data show that we have much more work to do,” said Denise Tanta, executive director of the Children’s Advocacy Alliance. “As a state, we must make a commitment to making children a priority. That means ensuring that we receive our appropriate share of federal funding through an accurate Census count in 2020 and making state investments that address the needs of our children and families.”

The annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* uses 16 indicators to rank each state across four domains — economic well-being, education, family and community and health — as an assessment of child well-being. Nevada ranks:

- **43rd in economic well-being.** While Nevada’s economic ranking has fallen compared to other states, children are faring better than in 2010. The percentage of children living in poverty has decreased by 14 percent. Along with this, the percentage of children living in households with a high housing cost burden, the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, and the percentage of teens not in school and not working have all decreased.
- **42nd in family and community.** Nevada’s teen birth rate continues to improve. Since 2010, the teen birth rate has decreased by 38 percent to its lowest level, to a teen birth

rate of 24 per 1,000. Children in families where the head of household lacks a high school diploma decreased by 18 percent. The percentage of children living in single-parent families, however, was higher in 2016 than in 2010, rising to 38 percent. Children living in high-poverty areas also increased to 12 percent.

- **43rd in health.** Nevada continues to see improvements in health insurance coverage for children. Seven percent of Nevada children lacked health insurance in 2016, the lowest since 2010. Policies need to be enacted to ensure that our children receive quality and affordable health care. More investment in state programs are needed to reach the 46,000 children statewide who remain uninsured.
- **49th in education.** Nevada children continue to face education obstacles as 64 percent of its three- and four-year-olds do not attend school, and 73 percent of its eighth-graders lack proficiency in math. However, Nevada has improved in high school graduation rates with the percentage of Nevada high school students who did not graduate on time in 2015-2016 decreasing by 32 percent from 2010-2011.

“We must make accurately counting young children a priority between now and 2020. As a country, we know how important it is to give children a great start in life. That can only happen if we have the right data to tell us where they are, what they need and how to ensure they have the bright futures they deserve,” said Patrick McCarthy, CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Release Information

The *2018 KIDS COUNT® Data Book* will be available June 27 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at www.aecf.org/databook, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.kidscount.org.

About the Children’s Advocacy Alliance

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes that benefit Nevada’s children and families by researching and utilizing current data and promoting evidence-based policies to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive. CAA engages the community by bringing people together to address challenges and opportunities around children’s issues to leverage collective strength toward improving the systems that support the well-being of Nevada’s children. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s children 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.

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