

UNDER EMBARGO until Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 12:01 a.m. EDT

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Executive Committee

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## Nevada Ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in Latest National Rankings for Child Well-Being

*Nevada sees improvement in economic well-being, but struggles with child health and ranks behind most states on overall child well-being*

**LAS VEGAS, June 13, 2017** — Nevada has experienced improvements in economic well-being in recent years according to the *2017 KIDS COUNT® Data Book* released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation but, without further policy and investment, is struggling to achieve key progress for kids. Despite gains, at 47<sup>th</sup> nationally, Nevada ranks near the bottom among all U.S. states in overall child well-being. Nevada's overall health ranking notably fell five spots from 40<sup>th</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup> since last year.

"Nevada kids experienced significant improvement in health care coverage," said Nevada KIDS COUNT Executive Director Steve Miller. "But, the potential actions of the new Congress and new administration may prove counterproductive to that gain in well-being."

"The gains in economic well-being reflect an improving Nevada economy," said Nevada KIDS COUNT Director Rennae Daneshvary. "The percentage of children living in poverty has decreased to 21 percent, which is equal to the national average, but more work needs to be done to ensure no child lives in poverty."

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 — that represent what children need most to thrive.



### Nevada Ranks and Trends

- **40<sup>th</sup> in economic well-being.** From 2010-2015, the economic well-being of children improved, creating better living conditions for children. Children living in poverty decreased by 5 percent. Fewer children are living in households with a high housing cost burden.
- **45<sup>th</sup> in family and community.** Nevada's teen birth rate continues to improve. Since 2010, the teen birth rate has decreased 28 percent, with 2015 having the lowest teen birth rate. The percentage of children living in single-parent families, however, was higher in 2015 than in 2010, rising to 39 percent. Children living in high-poverty areas also increased to 13 percent.
- **45<sup>th</sup> in health.** Nevada saw improvements in health insurance coverage for children. Eight percent of Nevada children lacked health insurance in 2015, the lowest since 2010. Despite this improvement, there are still 50,000 children who are uninsured.

Teens are also struggling in Nevada. The child and teen death rate increased 11 percent since 2010. Policies need to be enacted to ensure that our children can live long healthy lives without putting financial stress on them.

- **49<sup>th</sup> in education.** The percentage of Nevada high school students who did not graduate on time in 2014-2015 decreased by 24 percent compared to 2010-2011. However, Nevada children continue to face education obstacles. Sixty-six percent of our 3- and 4-year-olds are not attending school, and 74 percent of our eighth graders are not proficient in math.

The national *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* also showed improvements in child well-being at the national level — strong gains were made in health insurance coverage for children, students completing high school on time and teen births.

“Eight years after the most devastating recession of our lifetime, we are pleased to see some positive trends in many areas of child well-being,” Foundation President and CEO Patrick McCarthy said. “As policymakers search for ideas to expand the economy and bring economic opportunity to families, I urge them not to abandon targeted public investments that are helping more people lift themselves out of poverty and gain access to health care.”

#### **Release Information**

The *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* will be available June 13 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://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](http://datacenter.kidscount.org).

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#### **About the Center for Business and Economic Research**

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas was established in 1975. CBER conducts applied research vital to business and government. CBER cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of UNLV’s research community throughout the state of Nevada and the country.

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#### **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](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.