Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of the NICRP newsletter. NICRP provides community reports on issues affecting children in Nevada to help YOU determine what changes need to occur and to stay informed about efforts to improve the lives of our children and their families.

In October, child advocates, politicians, parents, and kids will join together across the country to rally for children as part of the national Step Up for Kids Event. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness among voters, policy makers, and political candidates regarding the issues children face such as early childcare, after-school programs, poverty, child abuse and neglect, and health care. This year, in Nevada, we are partnering with Courts Catalyzing Change, the American Heart Association, and over 60 other organizations to host the 4th Annual Step Up for Kids Event in Nevada.

We appreciate your continued commitment to children's issues. We need to continue to work together to make our state and our communities places where children can thrive.

We hope to see you all at our 4th Annual Step Up for Kids event where we can celebrate our children and families as we make them the number one priority.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Release of the 2010 Annual Report of Child Deaths in Clark County

The 2010 Annual Report of Child Deaths in Clark County was released this week on Thursday October sixth. The Child Death Review team in Clark County is a multidisciplinary team that reviews the deaths of children age 0 to 17 years in order to make recommendations to prevent future child deaths. Since 2006 NICRP has been contracted to help coordinate team review meetings and create an annual report of child deaths to track statistics for Clark County over time. These data are used to craft recommendations for public awareness campaigns, policy changes and progress toward the reduction of child deaths in our community. This year’s report contains information for all 2010 child deaths in Clark County, Nevada as well as comparisons to data from previous years.

This year there was a **19.3% decrease** in the number of child deaths in Clark County compared to 2008 totals. Most notably we saw a decline in the rate of motor vehicle incidents (3.87 deaths per 100,000 children ages 0-17 in 2008 compared to 1.56 deaths per 100,000 in 2010), and overdose deaths (2.32 in 2008 to 0.97 in 2010) but saw an increase in the rate of deaths due to suffocation, drowning, and weapons. Data in this report demonstrate the need for continued initiatives focused on parent education and the importance of appropriate adult supervision for all children.

This report can also be found on our website at [http://nic.unlv.edu/reports](http://nic.unlv.edu/reports).

For any questions regarding this report please contact Tara Phebus at 702-895-1040

### Project Updates

**Year 4 of the Annual Kindergarten Health Survey**

This year, NICRP is again working with the Nevada State Health Division and local school districts to administer the Kindergarten Health Survey for the 2011-2012 school year. At this time, approximately 7,500 surveys have been collected and data entry is in progress. The 2008, 2009, and 2010 reports are available on our website and NICRP anticipates that the 2011 Kindergarten Health Survey Report will be complete by May 2012.

**Evaluation of the Sunrise Children’s Foundation H.I.P.P.Y. Program**

NICRP will be working with the Sunrise Children's Foundation over the next year to evaluate their Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program. This program is a parent involvement, school readiness program that helps parents prepare their three, four, and five year old children for success in school and beyond. Sunrise Children's Foundation offers a variety of programs to assist parents and children in our community and we are excited to be working with them on this initiative.
"Choose Your Partner Carefully" - Child Abuse Prevention Campaign in Southern Nevada

Last year in 7 out of 12 (58%) substantiated child death allegations of abuse or neglect in Clark County the perpetrator was a parent's partner. Often times a parent's partner (typically the mother's boyfriend) is left to care for children that are not their own and do not have the parenting skills and patience necessary to provide care. It is in these situations where we see child abuse and neglect inflicted by the parent's partner.

Fortunately, not all of these incidents end in a fatality, but in order to help prevent the abuse and/or neglect of children, a campaign to help educate parents about the importance of choosing a partner carefully will be implemented in Clark County.

This campaign will be a collaboration between Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, the Clark County Department of Family Services, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Abuse and Neglect Detail, Clark County District Attorney's Office and the Southern Nevada Children's Assessment Center to implement the "Choose Your Partner Carefully Campaign." This is a public awareness campaign that will include bus stop signs and distribution of print materials, beginning with a launch and press release. The collaborative will distribute materials to parents in high risk areas through their agency's interaction with parents. The campaign is planned to start later this year.

NICRP Staff Update

Amanda Haboush was recently promoted to the position of Senior Research Associate for NICRP. Amanda has worked for NICRP since 2006 and during that time, she has served as the lead researcher, evaluator, and primary author for a number of NICRP's research and evaluation projects including: The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Nevada Kindergarten Health Survey. She has also served as the lead on several other projects such as Every Child Matters in Nevada and Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. Amanda also serves on the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council.