

## Nevada Institute For Children's Research & Policy

# NICRP



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NICRP Fall Newsletter

October 2012

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Fall 2012 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 Nevada.



The election season has just ended and we want to congratulate all the new and returning Local, State and Federal representatives. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that Nevada offers a healthy, safe environment for families where children can thrive. In Nevada, children and their families face challenges such as access to quality early care and education, access to after-school programs, food security, child abuse and neglect, and access to quality health care. Over the next year, our policy makers will be faced with difficult decisions and we hope that children continue to be a priority in Nevada.

We encourage the community to be involved in the legislative process and help guide our policymakers in developing priorities that will improve our community, our neighborhoods, and our homes. NICRP, in partnership with the Children's Advocacy Alliance, will be posting on our website an updated Children's Bill Tracking List as well as releasing the 2013 Legislative Briefing Book with information and statistics about issues affecting Nevada's children. We will also be working with community partners to organize a Children's Week at the Legislature where we will focus on bringing awareness to children's issues and providing information to policymakers.

As we move into the legislative session, we are always looking for community members and parents/guardians to share their experiences and participate in education and awareness events. If you are interested in working with us on these exciting upcoming projects please let us know!



**NICRP Newsletter**

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**NICRP is the  
Provisional Nevada  
Chapter of Prevent  
Child Abuse America**

**JOIN TODAY!**



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Sincerely,

Tara Phebus, MA  
Interim Executive Director, NICRP

## Release of the 2011 Annual Report of Child Deaths in Clark County

The 2011 Annual Report of Child Deaths in Clark County was released on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. 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 meetings and create an annual report of child deaths in an effort to track statistics and identify trends in Clark County. 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 on cause and manner for all 2011 child deaths in Clark County, Nevada as well as comparisons to data from previous years.

This year there was a 23.8% decrease in the total number of child deaths in Clark County compared to 2008 totals. However, we saw an alarming increase in the number of youth suicides in our community. In 2011 there were 16 youth suicides, which is more than 2008, 2009, and 2010 combined. This increase provides support for expanding suicide prevention programs and even targeting those programs toward a younger audience. In addition, access to lethal means is another important factor to consider in prevention strategies, as 11 of these 16 decedents used a firearm to complete the suicide.

In addition, this year we saw a decrease in the number of accidental deaths, including a decline in the number of accidental suffocation and drowning incidents. Full results can be found in the 2011 Report Summary and the Full Annual Report linked below.

[Full Report](#) [Summary](#)

This report can also be found on our website at <http://nic.unlv.edu/reports>.

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

## Project Updates

### **Year 5 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 2012-2013 school year. At this time, approximately 8,500 surveys have been collected and data entry is in progress. All previous reports (2008-2011) are available on our [website](#) and NICRP anticipates that the 2012 Kindergarten Health Survey Report will be complete by May 2013.

### **"Choose Your Partner Carefully" - Child Abuse Prevention**

## Campaign in Southern Nevada

Over the past two years, in 13 out of 21 (62%) substantiated child death allegations of abuse or neglect in Clark County, the perpetrator was a parent's paramour, relative, or other caretaker trusted by the child's parent (6 of 9 cases in 2011 and 7 of 12 cases in 2012).

Fortunately, not all of these incidents end in a fatality, but in order to help prevent the abuse and/or neglect of children, in 2011 we implemented a campaign in Clark County to help educate parents about the importance of choosing a partner carefully. We were fortunate enough to receive additional funding to continue this campaign through 2013.

The "Choose Your Partner Carefully" campaign is made possible through the collaboration of [Prevent Child Abuse Nevada](#), Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, Clark County Department of Family Services, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Abuse and Neglect Detail, Clark County District Attorney's Office, and Southern Nevada Children's Assessment Center.

## 5th Annual Step Up for Kids Success Story

On Monday, September 24, 2012, Every Child Matters in Nevada, an advocacy initiative at the UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, hosted an evening event at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum. This year, Step Up for Kids was held on Nevada's 2nd Annual Children's Day. This year's event was a huge success; over 700 people attended the event.

Click here for a [Summary Report](#) of the event.

## Congratulations to the organizations that won the Referral Contest by referring the most people to the event!

**1st Place Winner:** Acelero Head Start - \$250 Gift Card to Walmart

**2nd Place Winner:** Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association- \$150 Gift Card to Walmart

**3rd Place Winner:** St Viator Catholic School- \$100 Gift Card to Walmart

We would also like to thank our sponsors and community supporters who made this event possible:

**Sponsors:** Children's Advocacy Alliance, Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative, Freed's Bakery, UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, TEACH, Vegas PBS.

### Community Co-Supporters:

Acelero Learning, Baby's Bounty, Children's Cabinet, City of North Las Vegas, Clark County Black Caucus, Clark County Department Services/Foster and Adoptive Program, Clark County Foster and Adoptive

Parent Association, Courts Catalyzing Change, East Valley Family Services, Every Child Matters in Nevada, Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Las Vegas Urban League, League of Women Voters Nevada, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, Nevada Children's Day Committee, Nevada Early Intervention Services, Nevada Newborn Screening, Nevada PTA, Olive Crest, Project Real, St. Rose Hospital's Family to Family, Southern Nevada Health District, Sunrise Children's Foundation, The Monkey Gym Inc., United Way of Southern Nevada

**List of Vendors:** 10-Minute Parenting, Baby's Bounty, CASA, Children's Choice Learning Center, Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Courts Catalyzing Change, Department of Family Services, the District Attorney for Family Support, the Division of Child and Family Services, Empowering to Excel, Fostering Southern Nevada, KinderCare, Life Enhancement, Las Vegas Sportz Foundation, the Monkey Gym Inc., Nevada AEYC, Nevada WEBIZ, and UMC Family Resource Center.

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