

To gather additional data on the health status of children entering the school system and to better track student health status, the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP), in partnership with all Nevada School Districts, Nevada school district superintendents, and the Nevada State Health Division, conducted a health survey of children entering kindergarten in Nevada. In the fall of 2010, NICRP distributed questionnaires to all public elementary schools in the state, with the exception of the Clark County School District that requested only a sample of their schools be included in the survey.

The survey had an overall response rate of 43.6 percent, with a total of 10,487 surveys received from parents in 17 school districts statewide. This response rate is approximately 8 percent higher compared to the year 1 (36%). Survey respondents from Clark County comprised 65.1 percent of the sample, while 14.1 percent of respondents were from Washoe County and 20.8 percent were from the remaining rural counties. Some of the key findings from this survey include:

**Household Income:** 35 percent of respondents had an annual household income of less than \$25,000, while 57 percent of respondents had an annual household income of less than \$45,000. More families are earning less compared to the previous two years of the survey.

**Insurance Status:** 16.6 percent of kindergarteners were not covered by health insurance and over half (55.3 percent) of these uninsured children lived in households with an annual household income of less than \$25,000. However the percent of children without insurance has decreased by 2.5 percentages points since 2008—2009. In addition, the percent of children enrolled in public insurance ( 28.6) has increased by almost 10 percentage points since 2008-2009.

**Access to Health Care:** 80.2 percent of respondents indicated that they had not experienced barriers when accessing health care. Similar to previous years, of those who did experience barriers, most barriers were related to either a lack of health insurance or a lack of funds necessary for health care services. Just 4.1 percent of respondents have tried to access mental health services for their kindergartener, but of those that had, 34.7 percent reported having trouble accessing services. In addition, individuals in rural areas reported more difficulty compared to those in Clark or Washoe County.

**Routine Care:** 84.2 percent of kindergarteners had received a routine medical check-up in the twelve months prior to the survey, and 81.1 percent of kindergarteners had a primary care provider. Of the kindergarteners that did not have a primary care provider, 49.2 percent had also not had a routine check-up in the last year. 28.9 percent of kindergarteners have not seen a dentist in the past twelve months which is a slight decrease from 2008-2009 results (32.5%).

**Health Status:** 22.7 percent of kindergarteners have a medical condition requiring special treatment. Approximately 42 percent of respondents provided information on their kindergartener's weight, height, age, and gender; of these kindergarteners, 47.8 percent were of a healthy weight, while 21.1 percent were considered obese.

*For the full report, please visit the NICRP website at <http://nic.unlv.edu>.*

*Data for specific counties (and/or schools for Washoe and Clark Counties) may also be available upon request. Please contact NICRP at (702) 895-1040 for additional information.*