
Health Status of Children Entering Kindergarten in Nevada



Results of the 2024-2025 (Year 17) Nevada Kindergarten Health Survey

This project was completed in collaboration with the following:

All Nevada County School Districts
Nevada School District Superintendents
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

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Nevada Institute For Children's Research & Policy

NICRP

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
School of Public Health

The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing children's issues in Nevada.

As a research center within the UNLV School of Public Health, NICRP is dedicated to improving the lives of children through research, advocacy, and other specialized services.

NICRP's History: NICRP started in 1998 based on a vision of First Lady Sandy Miller. She wanted an organization that could bring credible research and rigorous policy analysis to problems that confront Nevada's children, but she did not want to stop there; Miller wanted to transform our research into meaningful legislation that would make a real difference in the lives of Nevada children.

NICRP's Mission: Our mission is to conduct community-based research that will guide the development of programs and services for Nevada's children. For more information regarding NICRP research and services, please visit our website at <https://nic.unlv.edu>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To gather 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 Nevada School Districts, and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, conducted a health survey of children entering kindergarten in Nevada. The goals of this study were to:

- Longitudinally quantify the health status of children as they enter school,
- Identify specific areas for improvement to potentially increase academic success, and
- Provide local information to policymakers to guide decisions that affect children’s health.

In the fall of 2024, NICRP distributed surveys to almost all public elementary schools in the state. The survey had an overall response rate of 21.5 percent, with a total of 5,264 surveys received from parents/guardians in all 17 school districts in Nevada. The data herein are weighted ($n = 30,947$) to derive comparisons on issues that represent the following regions of the state: Clark County, Washoe County, and Rural Counties combined. Comparisons to previous years are also included. The following tables contain some of the key findings of the survey.

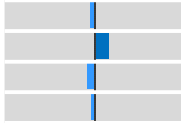
Health Status: Compared to last year, the percent of kindergartners identified as being at a healthy weight and overweight or obese increased while the percent of kindergartners identified as being underweight decreased. The percent of kindergartners that participated in 60 minutes of physical activity every day of the week decrease this year as compared to last year. The percent of kindergartners that drank non-diet soda once a day or more decreased while the percent of kindergartners that drank diet soda once a day or more increased. The percent of kindergartners that were exclusively breastfed at one, three, six, and twelve months increased.

	2023-2024	2024-2025		Percent Change
Weight Status				
Underweight	16.3%	15.5%	-4.9%	
Healthy	52.3%	52.7%		0.8%
Overweight/Obese	31.4%	31.8%		1.3%
Physical Activity				
7 Days per week of 60-minutes of physical activity	38.6%	37.8%	-2.1%	
Consumption of Non-Diet Soda				
Never drink non-diet soda	68.7%	69.7%		1.5%
Drink non-diet soda once a day or more	8.0%	6.6%	-17.5%	
Consumption of Diet Soda				
Never drink diet soda	87.1%	86.6%	-0.6%	
Drink diet soda once a day or more	3.0%	3.1%		3.3%
Infant Feeding Behaviors				
Breastfed Only - One Month	49.1%	50.3%		2.4%
Breastfed Only - Three Months	38.9%	40.4%		3.9%
Breastfed Only - Six Months	26.8%	28.8%		7.5%
Breastfed Only - Twelve Months	20.2%	21.2%		5.0%

Household Income: Compared to last year, the percent of households making less than \$55,000 per year decreased, while the percent of households making \$55,000 or more per year increased.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	
Household Income				
Less than \$25,000 per year	14.6%	13.0%	-11.0%	
\$25,000 - \$54,999 per year	29.7%	26.2%	-11.8%	
\$55,000 or more per year	55.7%	60.8%		

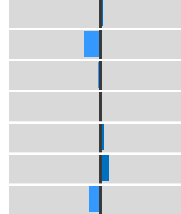
Insurance Status: Compared to last year, the percent of uninsured children and children covered by Medicaid and Nevada Check-Up decreased, while the percent of children covered by private insurance increased.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	
Insurance Status				
Uninsured	6.8%	6.5%	-4.4%	
Private Insurance	44.2%	50.8%		
Medicaid	33.9%	31.5%	-7.1%	
Nevada Check-Up	4.4%	4.3%	-2.3%	

Routine Care: Compared to last year, the percent of children receiving a routine medical check-up, having a primary care provider, and visiting the dentist increased.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	
Routine Care				
Had a routine medical check-up in last 12 months	89.3%	90.7%		
Have a primary care provider	89.6%	90.6%		
Have been to a dentist in past 12 months	78.2%	80.0%		

Access to Health Care: Compared to last year, the percent of respondents reporting lack of money/financial resources as a barrier to accessing health care increased while the percent of respondents reporting lack of transportation and lack of insurance as barriers decreased. A larger percentage of respondents tried to access mental health services this year as compared to last year and a smaller percentage had trouble obtaining them.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	
Barriers to Accessing Health Care*				
None	78.8%	79.5%		
Lack of transportation	4.0%	3.3%	-17.5%	
Lack of insurance	6.5%	6.4%	-1.5%	
Lack of quality medical providers	7.5%	7.5%		
Lack of money/financial resources	8.7%	8.9%		
Have tried to access mental health services	8.0%	8.7%		
Had trouble obtaining mental health services**	59.3%	52.5%	-11.5%	

	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent Change	
Barriers to Accessing Health Care*				
None	79.0%	78.8%	-0.3%	
Lack of transportation	3.5%	4.0%		
Lack of insurance	5.9%	6.5%		
Lack of quality medical providers	7.8%	7.5%	-3.8%	
Lack of money/financial resources	8.6%	8.7%		
Have tried to access mental health services	9.0%	8.0%	-11.1%	
Had trouble obtaining mental health services**	51.3%	59.3%		

*Since respondents could select more than one barrier, totals may exceed 100%.

**Only refers to respondents who answered that they had tried to access mental health services.

For more detailed information about our survey questions or data for specific counties or schools, please contact NICRP at (702) 895-1040.