

EDUCATION 2008: F

Student Achievement: D

The Achievement grade is based upon composite SAT scores for consistency and state comparisons. Nevada's composite SAT scores **ranked 38th** among all states in 2006-2007 with an average composite score of 503 compared to the national average score of 509. This ranking places Nevada in the lower half of all states and earned a grade of D.

Money Per Pupil: F

Per Pupil Expenditure is calculated for grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grades for public elementary and secondary education. Actual expenditures per pupil for the 2005-2006 school year were \$7,177 compared to \$9,154 nationally. Nevada **ranks 45th** in this category and receives a grade of F for expenditures per pupil among the worst of all states since the 2002 report card.

Pupil to Teacher Ratio: F

The Student-Teacher ratio is for grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for public elementary and secondary education. Nevada **ranked 46th** in the nation for 2005-2006 in this category with approximately 19 students for each teacher, which has remained unchanged since 2003 and significantly above the national average of 15.7.

High School Dropout Rate: F

Nevada **ranked 50th** in the nation for high school dropouts in 2007- a decline from the previous report card with a ranking of 45th in 2004. This statistic reflects students who are of high school age who are not attending school. As of the 2006 report Nevada appeared to be improving, but not for long.

By promoting healthy families we promote a healthy community

The VALUE OF PREVENTION: The estimate of the present value of the monetary system of saving a high risk youth is between \$1.7 and 2.3 million. Vanderbilt University Law School, December 2007.

HEALTH 2008: D+

Health Insurance: F

Nevada **ranked 47th** in children without health insurance in 2007. This ranking declined from 42nd in 2004. While 14.3% of children in the state of Nevada under the age of 18 years old were without health insurance in 2007, this statistic was significantly less than the national average of 11% of children without health insurance. The national goal for 2010 is that all children should have health insurance.

Prenatal Care: F

In Nevada nearly 69% of all mothers received prenatal care in 2004. Nationally, 84% of all mothers received prenatal care. Nevada **ranked 49th** in this category with approximately 7% fewer mothers receiving prenatal care than the previous report card, a significant decline. The national goal for 2010 is 90%.

Infant/Child Mortality: A-

Historically Nevada has done well in this category and the state returned to an A- grade after a grade of B from the previous report card. Nevada **ranked 10th** in infant mortality rates for 2005, an **improvement** from the rank of 13th on the previous report card. The national statistic was 6.9 infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births in 2005. Nevada's rate was 5.8 per 1,000 infants. The goal for 2010 is to reduce the number to 4.5 per 1,000 infants.

Low Birth Weight: C

Nevada **ranked 27th** in low birth weight for 2005- its lowest ranking since 1994. In this category, Nevada increased to 8.3% of babies born with a low birth weight from 8.1% on the last report card, which again surpassed the national average of 8.2%. The national goal for 2010 is 5%.

Immunization: F

Nevada **ranked 50th** in child immunization for two-year old children in 2007. Once again, Nevada continued to lag far behind the national averages. Over 82% of all two-year olds nationally have been immunized. In Nevada the percentage was approximately 69% for 2007- a continuing decline of 2% from the previous report card. The national goal is 90% by 2010. Only a few short years ago *Nevada was the leader in the nation* in its immunization rate.

Physical Fitness: B+

Physical fitness is defined as vigorous physical activity 5 or more days per week for 60 or more minutes per occasion. This statistic is measured only for high school students in grades 9 through 12, which is predictive of later physical activity. Nearly 46% of all students in this age range participated in such activities, while only 35% of students were as physically active nationally. Nevada continued to remain steady in this category with a grade of B+, which has remained relatively **consistent** over the past eight years.

SAFETY & SECURITY 2008: C-

Child Maltreatment: C-

This grade is based upon the *seven critical child welfare performance indicators* as recommended by the Administration for Children and Families in Washington, DC. Nevada performed well in the *Abuse in Care* (.30% versus the standard .57%) and *Recurrence* (5.5% versus the standard 6.1%) categories, receiving an A and a B- respectively. Other grades included an F for *Reentry*, a D for *Stability*, a C for

Reunification, an F for *Adoption Percent*, and a C for *Adoption Median Months*. The overall grade in this area was a C- based upon the average of these seven indicators. Again, caseloads appear to be excessive in the state of Nevada for Foster Care, 23:1, while the standard set by the Child Welfare League is 12 cases for every case worker.

High School Violence: B-

High school violence reflects the percentage of high school students in grades 9 through 12 who were involved in a fight or carried a weapon to school. Nevada **ranked in the 46th percentile** with respect to reported fights at school and in the **76th percentile** for students who brought weapons to school. Approximately 32% of Nevada high school students reported involvement in actual fighting, while 4.7% claimed to have carried a weapon with them to school. This latter category represented a **significant improvement** for Nevada by falling significantly below the national average of 5.9% in 2007 for the first time ever and showing a substantial decline from all previous report cards for a grade of B+. When combined with the fighting grade of C- the average grade for high school violence was a B-, which was the **first above average grade in this category** since data has been collected from 1993.

Dating Violence: C+

This category describes high school students who have been hit, slapped or physically injured by their boyfriend or girlfriend on a date. In Nevada, approximately 9.4% of students reported such violence, which was the first decline below 10% ever in this category and the first departure below the national average of 9.9% for 2007. **Improvements** in this area meant that Nevada ranked **in the 55th percentile** and received a grade of C+, which was the first ever passing grade for Nevada in dating violence and another sign of reduced violence among high school students since the previous report card.

Fear of Violence: D

This category represents the percentage of high school students who felt unsafe attending school over the past year and missed at least one day of school as a consequence. Nearly **7% of Nevada's children felt unsafe** at school compared to the national average of 5.5%- a difference above the national average, but significantly lower than previous report cards. Due to **improvements** in this area Nevada received a grade of D, which represented a step up from the previous grades of F that have been consistent since 2001. Once again, it appears that **violence among high school students has been declining** since the last report card.

Child Deaths: D

Child deaths measure the number of deaths occurring to children between the ages of 1 to 14 from all causes per 100,000 children. Nevada **ranked 34th** in this category based upon 2005 data and showed approximately 24 child deaths per 100,000 children- an increase in child deaths from 19 in 2003 and a statistic worse than the national average of 20 child deaths. Due to increases in child deaths and a low state ranking Nevada received a D in this category compared to a B+ on the previous report card.

TEEN YEARS 2008: C-

Teen Birth Rate: F

Nevada **ranks 41st** in teen births- a decline from the previous report card from 40th, which rates a grade of F. This statistic reflects the number of births in teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 per 1000 females in this age group. The Nevada rate of teen births is 28 per 1000; the national average is 21 per 1000 females. The national goal for 2010 is 25 per 1000 females. In Nevada **7.6% of high school students reported being forced into sex** according to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which fell below the national average of 7.8% for the first time in the report card's history.

Teen Suicides: F

This category depicts the suicide rate for teenagers and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24. The Nevada rate for teen suicide was **nearly double the national average** with 18 teen suicides per 100,000 children in 2005 compared to 10 nationally. **Approximately 9% of Nevada high school students attempted to kill themselves in 2007** and 14% of high school students reported that they have seriously considered suicide within the past year!

Alcohol, Tobacco: B+

Nevada is **in the 71st percentile** with respect to alcohol usage among teenagers in high school and at the 88th percentile for tobacco usage among high school students- both significant improvements from the previous report card and meriting a step up to a grade of B+ from a C. These improvements represented the first grades over the 70th percentile in both categories since data was collected in 1993. While 71% of Nevada high school students have consumed alcohol this statistic fell substantially below the national average of 74% as did the 45% of Nevada high school students who have smoked compared to the national average of 50%. Such **significant departures below the national averages** were the first substantial reductions in alcohol and tobacco usage in report card history compared to other states- a **positive trend for Nevada**.

Drugs: D+

Nevada made **significant improvements for drug usage in cocaine and marijuana**, but continues to **ranks near the bottom in methamphetamine usage**. Nearly 6.3% of all Nevada high school students reported using methamphetamines- a number exceeding the national average of approximately 4.4% and approximately 8% of Nevada teens have used cocaine compared to the national average of 7%. Cocaine usage dropped from 11% in 2005 to 8% in 2007, which led to a C- grade and the **first departure from a grade of F** in this category since data was collected in 1993. Similarly marijuana usage dropped from 39% of high school students in 2005 to 35% in 2007, which surpassed the national average of 36% and led to a grade of C+. While Nevada's drug problems among teenagers continue to remain a serious and ongoing problem improvements in the areas of cocaine and marijuana use appear to be substantial and the trend has been toward reduced use over the last several years.