

FATHERLESSNESS IN NEVADA

Jack Brewer | April 2023

Fatherhood is foundational to strong families, and strong families are essential to a strong Nation. An absent father affects all aspects of a child's life, from socio-cognitive and socio-emotional development to academic performance and criminality—and unfortunately, the effects of fatherlessness are visible in Nevada.

FATHERLESSNESS IN THE U.S.

- Approximately **18.4 million** [children in the U.S.](#) live without a biological father, stepfather, or adoptive father present in the home.
- **23%** of children in the U.S. are raised by a single parent, which is more than three times the world average (**7%**) of [children raised by a single parent](#) and the highest rate of any country on Earth.
- Approximately **41%** of children are [born to unwed mothers](#). For women under age 30, the unwed birth rate increases to **53%**.
- Fathers are [absent in approximately 80%](#) of single-parent homes.
- Fatherless children are **more likely to suffer from** psychosocial development issues, live in poverty, drop out of school, engage in school violence, abuse substances, and enter the juvenile justice system.

FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY IN NEVADA

- **260,000** Nevada children [live in single-parent households](#), representing **39%** of all Nevada children.
- **16,420** [births to unmarried women](#) occurred in Nevada in 2020, accounting for **49%** of all births in the state that year.
- **1,506** [teen births](#) took place in Nevada in 2020.
- **4,344** [children reside in foster care](#) in Nevada.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN NEVADA

- 73% of Nevada 4th-graders [scored “below proficient”](#) in reading for their class level.
- 72% of Nevada 4th-graders [scored “below proficient”](#) in mathematics for their class level.
- 41% of Nevada [4th-graders](#) are considered “chronically absent” from school.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN NEVADA

- 453,250 children in Nevada, or 46.7% of all children in the state, [receive supplemental nutrition](#) assistance.
- 213,000 children in families [are receiving public assistance](#) in Nevada.
- Approximately 129,000 Nevada [children live in poverty](#)— 19% of all Nevada children.

