

Advocacy Agenda

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The American Academy of Pediatrics has been involved for decades in advocacy efforts to address gun violence as a public health issue and advance policies that keep children, families and communities safe.

- Ban the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
- Enact a state law to require a license to buy a gun (no exceptions or loopholes).
- Implement waiting periods for purchasing guns.
- Mandate education of parents and students enrolled in school on safe firearm storage at home.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS & COVERAGE

One of the Academy's long-standing advocacy priorities is ensuring children have access to high-quality, age-appropriate, affordable health insurance. This includes working with state policymakers to protect and strengthen Medicaid.

- Require Nevada to offer 12 months of continuous eligibility for all children enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP as well as 12 months of continuous eligibility postpartum for pregnant individuals with Medicaid/CHIP coverage.
- Grant Medicaid benefits to all youth through age 26 regardless of immigration status in Nevada.
- Prohibit payers from refusing to pay for services provided through telehealth because of the technology used.
- Add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) as a definition of developmental disability.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Fund one psychologist for every 500 students and one counselor per 250 students in Nevada schools.
- Require schools to refer students to counselors to determine if they're in a mental health crisis before meting out punishment.
- Bolster the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA) program in Nevada, called the PAL Line.

OBESITY PREVENTION & TREATMENT

- Require 30 minutes of quality physical education a day.
- Fund school universal free lunch.
- Mandate that schools provide free, safe and appealing water sources.
- Taxes should be added to sugary drinks and banned from schools.
- Require insurance providers to cover AAP's recommended treatment.

OTHER CHAPTER MEMBER PRIORITIES

- Eliminate nonmedical exemptions to school entry immunization requirements.
- Vigorously enforce laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes to minors.
- Strengthen laws to prevent minors from being prosecuted for prostitution.
- Waive the cost of state IDs and ease access to documents like birth certificates for homeless youth.
- Use alternatives to incarceration to keep young people in their communities and out of secure confinement.
- Set medically accurate mandatory sex education standards.
- Set school start time after 8:30 AM for middle and high school.

Nevada



A State Child Health Policy Agenda for 2023 –2024

Priorities and recommendations to foster child health and well-being, achieve health equity, eliminate health disparities, optimize lifespan outcomes, strengthen families, support our communities, and enhance the position of Nevada as a leading state for children.

Nevada Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Policy Goals

PROMOTE HEALTHY CHILDREN

All children, adolescents, and young adults from birth to the age of 26 years must have access to the highest-quality health care, so they can thrive throughout their lifespan. Policymakers must ensure that all children, regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, family composition or immigration status have:

- equitable, non-discriminatory access to affordable and high-quality health care coverage,
- insurance with comprehensive, pediatric-appropriate benefits,
- access to needed primary and subspecialty pediatric care and mental health services,
- access to necessary COVID-19 services, supports, and treatments, and
- comprehensive, family-centered care in a medical home.

PROMOTE SECURE FAMILIES

Together we can work to advance efforts to ensure that parents can give their children the best foundation for the future.

Policymakers must ensure that all families have:

- work that provides a stable and adequate income and family-friendly benefits, including paid family medical and sick leave,
- safe, secure, and non-discriminatory housing,
- affordable and safe high-quality childcare,
- access to adequate, healthy, nutritious foods throughout the year, and
- resources to support family placement and permanency within the child welfare system.

PROMOTE STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong communities are the building blocks for secure families and healthy children. Policymakers must ensure that communities:

- are safe from violence and environmental hazards,
- provide high-quality early education, especially in segregated urban, suburban, and rural communities,
- support public health systems that protect children from infectious diseases and support maternal and child health, and
- respond effectively when disasters and public health emergencies occur.

ENSURE OUR STATE IS A LEADER FOR CHILDREN

Child health and well-being must be elevated and maintained as a priority in our state. Policymakers must develop and implement policies that:

- acknowledge racism as a public health crisis and work towards reducing racism through interdisciplinary partnerships with organizations that have developed campaigns against racism,
- fund and support public health and health services to help children grow into healthy adults,
- address environmental health and climate change issues that affect children, and
- address factors that make some children more vulnerable than others, such as race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender identity, and disability.

American Academy of Pediatrics Nevada Chapter



The Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Nevada AAP) is a professional association for pediatricians who live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

NevadaAAP.org