

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 NEVADA 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.

Nevada



A State Child Health Policy Agenda for 2025 –2026

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

Advocacy Agenda

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. Nevada AAP chapter member priorities are:

- allow for continuous Medicaid enrollment for children from birth through their sixth birthday,
- grant Medicaid benefits for all youth through age 26,
- enact a shield law to protect Nevada physicians from legal prosecution from other states for care delivered legally in Nevada, and
- ban non competes for doctors.

Mental Health

Mental health is an essential component of overall health. Mental health challenges—from individual symptoms to diagnosed conditions—impact all children, adolescents, and families. Nevada AAP chapter member priorities are:

- bolster the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PCMHA) program in Nevada, called the PAL Line, to empower pediatric medical homes to provide coordinated mental healthcare with qualified in-state practitioners,
- create a Nevada Office of Children's Mental and Behavioral Health,
- implement waiting periods for purchasing guns to reduce the number of suicides, and
- require local governments to establish special courts to meet the needs of neurodiverse persons.

Injury Prevention

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for children and teens. Nevada AAP chapter member priorities are:

- ban the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
- enact a state law to require a license to buy a gun (no loopholes),
- mandate that all children aged 16 and younger wear a helmet when riding a bike, and
- support efforts to implement speed cameras to improve child pedestrian safety.

School Health

Schools are a critical setting for health promotion and disease prevention efforts because the vast majority of children attend school. Nevada AAP chapter member priorities are:

- prohibit schools from taking away recess,
- provide universal free breakfast and lunch for all pupils,
- require school districts to allow ABA therapists in the classroom, and
- mandate that schools provide free, safe, and appealing water sources to all students.

Other NVAAP member priority issues:

- limit climate change to preserve a livable future for Nevada's children through policies that promote clean energy and reduce carbon pollution,
- pass policies that reward hospitals and clinics for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and plastic waste,
- pass comprehensive state laws should ban smoking and vaping in all workplaces,
- provide for up to eight weeks of paid leave to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new child,
- strengthen Safe-Harbor laws to prevent minors from being prosecuted for prostitution,
- use community-based alternatives to incarceration to keep young people in their communities and out of secure confinement,
- institute a minimum age of at least 12 years for juvenile justice system jurisdiction,
- set medically accurate mandatory sex education standards,
- set school start time after 8:30 AM for middle school and high school,
- mandate routine well exams that meet Bright Futures standards for entry into school,
- create a Nevada Office of Early Childhood, and
- increase salaries for medical residents in Nevada.

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