

Report: 30% of Nev. kindergartners are obese

By Paul Takahashi, Las Vegas Sun

Nearly a third of Nevada children are considered obese by the time they enter kindergarten, according to a recent UNLV report.

Since 2008, the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy has issued an annual report listing demographic and health information for some of the state's youngest residents: incoming kindergartners. This year, more than 7,300 surveys were collected from parents with the help of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the state's 17 school districts. About 60 percent of survey respondents were from Clark County.

UNLV's report found that 30 percent of Nevada's 4- and 5-year-olds are overweight or obese, a 1.4 percent increase from last year. The Silver State's share of overweight children has hovered around 30 percent since the survey was first administered five years ago.

Nationally, childhood obesity has more than doubled in young children over the past three decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About a third of American children ages 6 to 11 are considered overweight or obese.

Read the whole story