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BACKGROUND

The Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund (HCTF) of the Hawai'i Community Foundation promotes public-private partnerships and makes grants to private non-profit organizations, public agencies, or qualified individuals in order to provide community-based services and education designed to strengthen families and to prevent child abuse and neglect. In July 2001, a request was issued by HCTF for a needs assessment that would examine services available in seven Hawai'i communities: Molokai in Maui County, Waimea in Kauai County, Waianae in the City & County of Honolulu, and Hamakua, Hilo, Puna, and Kau in Hawai'i County. These focus communities were identified as being at high health and socio-economic risk by the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH). They were not necessarily identified as having the highest child abuse rates in the state.

In November 2001, the Center on the Family was awarded a grant by HCTF to perform the Community Needs Assessment of Family Strengthening and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Resources. Originally, the needs assessment was for only the seven aforementioned communities. However, it was agreed that additional information on children, families, and communities, as well as the agencies that serve to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect, would be helpful to the DOH and the HCTF.

The focus communities were initially identified as Administrative Districts as used by the Primary Care Needs Assessment of the DOH. However, there was consensus that using a definition of community that relied upon the public high school geographic boundaries enabled the reporting of more specific data and the identification of more commonly accepted "communities". The transformation from 7 Administrative Districts to 11 school complex areas, the focus communities for this report, was as follows:

MAUI COUNTY	Molokai →	Molokai
KAUAI COUNTY	Waimea →	Waimea
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU	Waianae →	Waianae Nanakuli
HAWAII COUNTY	Hamakua →	Honokaa
	Hilo →	Laupahoehoe Hilo Central Hilo
	Puna →	Keaau Pahoa
	Kau →	Kau

The present project consisted of three major phases of work: (1) gather baseline information; (2) analyze data and information; and (3) develop recommendations. The first phase consisted of two major data collection activities: (a) creation and administration of the Service Provider Survey and (b) identification and collection of Risk and Protective Factor indicator data. The agencies surveyed were selected from lists provided by the HCTF and consisted of: (a) those receiving HCTF or Hawaii Community Foundation funding, (b) those with Purchase-of-Service contracts with the DOH or Department of Human Services, (c) the Department of Education’s GRADS program, (d) those listed with the Violence Prevention Consortium, and (e) those listed with Aloha United Way. These lists were reviewed and all agencies providing family strengthening or child abuse prevention programs were selected jointly by the Center on the Family and HCTF/DOH representatives. A total of 165 Service Provider Surveys were distributed to agencies/programs that were jointly identified. Of that number, 132 surveys were returned for an 80% return rate. The number of Service Provider Surveys used in the analysis of data for each focus community is presented below.

Focus Community	Number of Surveys Used in Analysis
Molokai	14
Waimea	18
Waianae	31
Nanakuli	28
Hilo	22
Laupahoehoe	16
Central Hilo	21
Pahoa	21
Keaau	20
Kau	15
Honokaa	21

The surveys used in the analysis were those completed by agencies/programs that provide direct services in the areas of child abuse and neglect prevention and/or family strengthening. If an agency/program reported serving clients from a community, it was included in the analysis for that community. For this reason, some agencies are counted in more than one community.

The list of Risk and Protective Factors was determined and the administrative or survey data to measure each was obtained. The indicators and data sources are presented below.

Indicator Name	Data Source	Year
Early prenatal care	State of Hawaii Primary care needs assessment databook, 2001	1995-2000
Medical risk birth		1995-2000
Low birth weight		1995-2000
Births to teens		1995-2000
Well-nourished children	Unpublished report of the Children's Budget Analysis Project	2000
Subsidized child care		2001
Receiving early intervention services		2000-2001
Per child expenditure for focus communities		2000
Family connectedness	Ka leo o nā keiki: The 2000 Hawaii adolescent prevention and treatment needs assessment student survey results. State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Alcohol, and Drug Abuse Division	2000
Parental supervision		2000
Single parent families		2000
Family conflict		2000
Substance abuse in home		2000
Youth neighborhood attachment		2000
Community disorganization		2000
3 rd grade reading	Department of Education	2000
8 th grade math		2000
Students in special education services		2001
Residential stability		2001
Per capita income	Claritas	2000
Adults with high school diploma		2000
Adults with college degree		2000
Civilian Unemployment rate	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	2000
Reported child abuse	Department of Human Services	2000
Elderly abuse		1999
Receiving food stamps		1999
Receiving welfare TANF		1999

This report is divided into four sections. The first section contains detailed information on the focus communities, such as data on the service providers, risk and protective factors, and per-child expenditures for each of the 11 focus communities. The second section is organized by county. It contains school complex-based information on the service providers, as well as risk and protective factors for children, families, and communities. For the City & County of Honolulu and Hawaii County, the communities are grouped geographically to accommodate community members' interests. This section ends with an analysis of the magnitude of risk for child abuse/neglect for each community compared to the number of clients as a percent of the population.

The third section contains analyses based on the services provided by the agencies/programs that responded to the Service Provider Survey. This section includes: (a) a comparison of reported child abuse rates and the number of service providers in each community that provide child abuse/neglect prevention services, and (b) a comparison of the proportion of births to teens and the number of service providers in each community that reported serving pregnant teens. Finally, there is an analysis of both the clients served by and the staff working for family strengthening and child abuse/neglect prevention services. The fourth section consists of general recommendations as well as recommendations relating to the focus communities. The data and information in this report, much of which has not been previously available, can be used to shape policy and program decisions, particularly at the community level.