

April 2012 Issue

Center on the Family • University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

WHAT'S NEW

1. Report on High School Graduation Rates
2. 2012 State of Family Child Care Homes
3. *Stop Bullying* Website

1. Report on High School Graduation Rates

According to a joint report by Civic Enterprises, the Everyone Graduates Center, America's Promise Alliance, and the Alliance for Excellent Education, states have made progress in increasing high school graduation rates. The 2012 *Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic* finds that the national graduation rate increased from 72.6 percent in 2001 to 75.5 percent in 2009. Improving high school and college graduation rates helps individuals and the economy as a whole. According to the report, if each state had a graduation rate of 90 percent, an additional 580,000 students would have graduated in the class of 2011, increasing the national gross domestic product by \$6.6 billion and generating \$1.8 billion in additional state tax revenue as a result of increased economic activity. Twelve states (NY, TN, FL, GA, NC, TX, SC, MO, AL, MA, WI, and KY) were responsible for the majority of the progress in graduation rates during the past decade. Findings for Hawai‘i include:

- Hawai‘i's graduation rates showed moderate progress, increasing 3.2 percentage points from 72.1% in 2002 to 75.3% in 2009.
- Hawai‘i was one of 13 states that experienced an increase, although slight, in the number of high schools with low graduation rates, increasing from 6 high schools in 2002 to 13 in 2009. Other states experienced either a decrease in the number of high schools with low graduation rates or no change.
- A total of 5,732 students in Hawai‘i attended “dropout factories,” i.e., schools where 60% or fewer students graduate on time.

The report also includes updates on progress on the Civic Marshall Plan, which aims to ensure that the Class of 2020 (today's 4th graders) reaches a high school graduation rate of 90 percent. The plan's benchmarks include: grade-level reading, reducing chronic absenteeism, establishing early warning indicator and identification systems to predict potential dropouts, and raising state compulsory school age requirements to age 18. Case studies of states and school districts that are making significant gains are also highlighted, serving as a challenge that others can do the same.

To see the complete report, go to: <http://www.americaspromise.org/our-work/grad-nation/~media/Files/Our%20Work/Grad%20Nation/Building%20a%20Grad%20Nation/BUILDINGAGradNation2012.ashx>

2. 2012 State of Family Child Care Homes

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) released an updated report which ranks and scores states based on family child care home standards and oversight. *Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes: 2012 Update* revealed failing grades for most states. Out of the possible 150 points, sixteen states received a score of zero. Only four states received 70 percent or higher. Standards were reviewed in the following areas: basic health and safety; inspections prior to licensing; types of background checks for child care providers and people in the household of licensed providers; provider education; initial training and annual training; toys and materials; learning activities; group size limitations; and parent-provider communication. Results for the over 500* family child care homes in Hawai'i include the following:

- Hawai'i was ranked 16th nationwide, with a final score of 64 out of 150 points.
- Hawai'i was one of five states that are encouraged to strengthen initial training for providers. At the time of data collection, CPR and first aid were the only two of the eight initial training areas that were required in Hawai'i.
- For oversight standards, Hawai'i fully or substantially meets two of the four standards (licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field and programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1). Hawai'i did not meet the standard which requires that complaint and inspection reports be available to parents on the internet.
- Hawai'i is one of only nine states that require a comprehensive background check for child care providers, which includes a fingerprint check against state and federal records, a check of the child abuse registry, and a check of the sex offender registry.

*National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. (2011, July). *Child Care in America: 2011 State Fact Sheets*.

To view the complete report on the NACCRRA website, go to: http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/lcc_report_full_april2012.pdf

3. *Stop Bullying Website*

In 2009, over one quarter (28%) of 12- to 18-year-old students in the U.S. reported having been bullied at school and 6 percent reported having been cyber-bullied. Over fifty percent (58.0%) of Hawai‘i’s middle school students reported being verbally harassed at school in 2009, while over one third (39.6%) reported being physically harassed at school*. Almost one third (31.8%) of high school students were cyber-bullied in 2009, while less than one fifth (18.4%) of middle school students reported being cyber-bullied**. Students that are bullied are more likely to struggle in school and skip class, abuse drugs and alcohol, be depressed, and are at a higher risk of suicide. In 2011, the White House Conference on Bullying Prevention and the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit provided more clarity on the issue and confirmed that awareness alone will not prevent bullying from occurring. In response to those meetings, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have revitalized the *Stop Bullying* website. The website now provides concrete steps that students, parents, educators, and community members can take to prevent and stop bullying. Here are some of the features available on the website:

- Risk factors of children at risk of being bullied and their bullies;
- Map with detailed information on state laws and policies;
- Prevention-focused interactive webisodes and videos for young people;
- Practical strategies for schools and communities to ensure safe environments; and
- Suggestions on how parents can talk about bullying with their children.

*Hawai‘i Department of Health. (2010). *Harassment at school by school type, state, gender, grade level, DOH race-ethnicity, for the year(s) – 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009*. Honolulu, HI.

**Hawai‘i Department of Health (2010). *Experienced cyber-bullying in the past 12 months by school type, state, gender, grade level, DOH race-ethnicity, for the year(s) – 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009*. Honolulu, HI.

To explore the website, visit www.stopbullying.gov

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