NEW DATA FROM THE 2011-2012 NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN’S HEALTH

The results from the latest National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) were recently released. This survey is sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the NSCH is to provide a broad range of data on children’s health and well-being in a manner that allows comparisons across states and nationally. Indicators relating to the physical, emotional, and behavioral health of the child in combination with information on the child’s family context and neighborhood environment are included in the NSCH. In 2011, indicators were added relating to: premature birth, birth weight, prevalence and severity of intellectual disability and cerebral palsy, therapy services for children with autism/ASD or developmental delay, age of diagnosis of current chronic conditions, positive health items, adverse family experiences, and participation in home visitation programs for young children. Findings for Hawai’i from the latest survey include the following:

- 85% of children ages 6-17 participate in activities outside of school, slightly higher than the U.S. average of 81%.
- 81% of children eat meals together with their families four or more days per week, compared to 78% nationally.
- One-fifth (20%) of children have had two or more adverse childhood experiences (socioeconomic hardship, divorce/separation of parent, death of parent, parent served time in jail, witness to domestic violence, victim of neighborhood violence, lived with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal, lived with someone with alcohol/drug problem, treated or judged unfairly due to race/ethnicity), slightly lower than the U.S. average (23%).

To view the 2011-2012 Hawai’i profile, go to the Data Resource Center website:
STATE CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

A new report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities finds that public universities and colleges in nearly every state saw their state funding decline sharply by an average of 28% between 2008 and 2013. As a result, colleges and universities have raised tuition and/or made changes that undermine educational quality. Thirty-six states have cut funding by more than 20%, with eleven states cutting funding by more than one-third, after adjusting for inflation. The tuition increases have far outpaced students’ and their families' financial resources. Between 1991 and 2011, median household income grew by about 3%, while the cost of a four-year public college education grew by 159%. The rise threatens access to higher education and burdens students with increasing levels of debt. The report recommends that policymakers reinvest in public higher education to improve the long-term economic success of their state and its residents. The findings related to Hawai‘i are as follows:

- Between 2008 and 2013, Hawai‘i spent 25% less per student in higher education, slightly lower than the national average of 28%.
- With a tuition increase of 57%, Hawai‘i is among the seven states where the average tuition at public four-year colleges has increased by more than 50%. In Arizona and California, tuition has risen by more than 70%.

The complete report can be downloaded at: http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927

FOOD HARDSHIP IN AMERICA 2012

According to new, up-to-date food hardship data from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), millions of Americans continue to struggle to afford enough food for themselves and their families. In 2012, more than one in six Americans (18.2%) said that there had been times over the past 12 months when they didn’t have enough money to buy food. Data by state, region, congressional district, and 100 of the country’s largest metropolitan areas are presented in the annual report. Some of the key findings from Hawai‘i include:

- Hawai‘i ranks 32nd out of the 50 states with 16.5% of households reporting food hardship. Mississippi ranked the highest with 24.6% of households reporting food hardship, and North Dakota ranked the lowest with 10.9%.
- In Honolulu, 12.2% of households experienced food hardship, ranking 95th out of 100 large metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S.
- Out of the 436 congressional districts in the U.S., 9.1% of households in Hawai‘i’s 1st Congressional District and 14.2% in the 2nd Congressional District reported food hardship. The districts ranked 421st and 296th, respectively.

The annual report can be downloaded at: http://frac.org/pdf/food_hardship_2012.pdf

SUBSCRIBING:
You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to kadmin@hawaii.edu with the phrase “Subscribe to Hawai‘i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin” in the subject field.

UNSUBSCRIBING:
If we have reached you in error or if you would prefer not to hear from us in the future, send an email to kcadmin@hawaii.edu with the phrase "Unsubscribe Hawai‘i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin" in the subject field.

**ARCHIVE OF E-BULLETINS:**
PDF versions of our monthly e-bulletins are available at: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/projects/kidscount/ebulletin.aspx

Hawai‘i KIDS COUNT is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support, and we acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in the E-Bulletin are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.