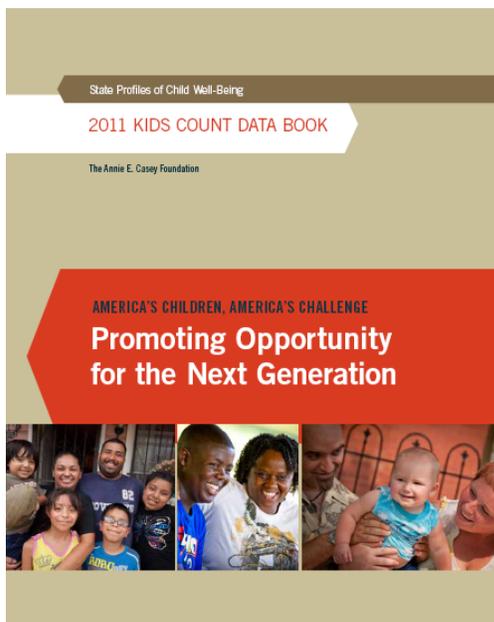




August 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW



This issue of the Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin is dedicated to the 22nd annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released on August 17, 2011, by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Each year, the *Data Book* provides the most current data on 10 key measures of child well-being that KIDS COUNT has tracked over the past 20 years at the national and state levels. Data presented in the 2011 *Data Book* show that, nationally, five of the 10 key indicators have improved since 2000: the infant mortality rate, the child death rate, the teen death rate, the teen birth rate, and the percentage of teens not in school and not high school graduates. Three of the 10 indicators have worsened since 2000: the percentage of low-birthweight babies, the percent of children in poverty, and the percent of children in single-parent families. Two areas are not comparable based on the most recent year of data available.

The *Data Book* ranks states based on their performance across the 10 indicators of child well-being. According to the composite index, Hawai'i's overall rank continues to slip,

going from 11 in the mid-2000s, to 26 based on the most recent data available. The 2011 *Data Book* highlights that children in Hawai‘i have experienced:

- Improvements in the infant mortality rate, the teen death rate, and the teen birth rate since 2000.
- A worsening in the percentage of low-birthweight babies, the child death rate, the percentage of teens not in school and not high school graduates, the percentage of children in poverty, and the percentage of children in single-parent families since 2000.
- Comparable data going back to 2000 were not available for the percentage of teens not attending school and not working, and the percentage of children living in families in which no parent has full-time, year-round employment. However, both indicators worsened between 2008 and 2009.



Overall, improvements in child well-being that began in the late 1990s have stalled as family economic well-being declined in the wake of the recent recession. The 2011 *Data Book* essay examines trends in the economic well-being of children and families and their implications for the nation’s economic future. Two new indicators—children impacted by foreclosure and households with at least one unemployed parent—were added to this year’s data set in an effort to track the impact of the recession. The new data show that Hawai‘i trends are somewhat similar to the rest of the nation:

- In Hawai‘i, 14,000 or 3% of the state’s children were impacted by foreclosure since 2007. Nationally, 4% of children were impacted by foreclosure during the same period.
- In 2010, an estimated 25,000 or 10% of children in our state lived in households where there was at least one parent who was unemployed. Nationally, 11% lived in households with at least one parent who was unemployed.

The *Data Book* also addresses the Casey Foundation’s “two-generation” strategies for helping parents put their families on a path to economic success and enhancing children’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. These include:

- Strengthening and modernizing unemployment insurance and promoting foreclosure prevention and remediation efforts;
- Preserving and strengthening existing programs that supplement poverty-level wages, offset the high cost of child care, and provide health insurance coverage for parents and children;
- Promoting savings and asset protection and helping families gain financial knowledge skills;
- Promoting responsible parenthood and ensuring that mothers-to-be receive prenatal care;
- Ensuring that children are developmentally ready to succeed in school; and
- Promoting reading proficiency by the end of the third grade.

To download the full 2011 *Data Book* and the Hawai‘i profile go to the KIDS COUNT Data Center website: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2011/Default.aspx>. The *Data Book* is complimented by the KIDS COUNT Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>). The online Data Center provides easy, online access to the latest child well-being data on hundreds of indicators by state, county, and city. For child well-being data on the go, visit the new mobile site being launched in conjunction with this year’s *Data Book* from any smartphone, by going to <http://mobile.kidscount.org>.

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