



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

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Center on the Family | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa-CTAHR

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HAWAI'I'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Hawai'i residents face some of the highest housing costs in the nation, placing financial strain on families. In their July 2014 policy report, *Hawai'i's Affordable Housing Crisis: The High Cost of Our Affordable Housing Shortfall*, the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice examines the impact of Hawai'i's expensive housing market on working families and highlights the dire affordable housing shortage. According to the report, Fair Market rents have increased at a faster rate than wages. Nearly one out of every three working households in the state faces a severe housing cost burden, meaning they spend more than half of their income on housing.



Affordable housing solutions are critical to relieve the cost burden on families. The number of affordable housing units available in the state does not come close to meeting the demand for those most in need – only 29 affordable units are available for every 100 extremely-low income households across the state. The policy report lists several recommendations for increasing housing affordability and reducing homelessness. A few key recommendations include:

- Supporting the development of affordable housing through the state's Rental Housing Trust Fund, which subsidizes affordable housing development for low-income families;
- Implementing innovative, low-cost alternatives to traditional housing development, such as micro-apartments, accessory dwelling units built by homeowners, and repurposing existing facilities;
- Increasing public will and political support to address affordable housing and homelessness issues through grassroots campaigns; and
- Quickly placing individuals and families experiencing homelessness into permanent housing and providing services without preconditions.

The full report can be accessed online at: <http://www.hiappleseed.org/sites/default/files/Hi%20Appleseed%20Housing%20Crisis%20Report.pdf>

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY: 2013

Crime and violence in schools not only affects the students involved, but may also negatively impact bystanders and disrupt the learning process. The 2013 edition of the *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report, released in June, presents the most recent data on school crime and safety across the nation. Data presented in the annual report, which is a joint project by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, provides the latest data available compiled from a variety of sources including national surveys of students, teachers, principals, and postsecondary institutions.



The indicator data are categorized into sections that aim to describe distinct aspects of school crime and safety. These include: violent deaths; nonfatal student and teacher victimization; school environment; fights, weapons, and illegal substances; fear and avoidance; discipline, safety, and security measures, and campus safety and security. Data are presented at the national and state levels, and allow for comparisons across different population subgroups and across time. Some of the Hawai'i-specific data on public high school students presented in the report include the following:

- Compared to the U.S., Hawai'i had a smaller share of students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the past year (7.4% vs 6.3%). The percentage of students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property at least once in the previous year was 6.3%, lower than 7.4% nationally.
- Less than ten percent (8.2%) of students reported having been in a physical fight on school property during the past year compared to 22.3% who reported having been in a fight anywhere. Nationally, 12.0% of students reporting having been in a fight on school property and 32.8% reported having been in a fight anywhere.
- Nearly one-third of (31.7%) of students reported that illegal drugs were made available to them on school property in 2011, which was higher than the national average of 25.6%.
- Hawai'i was similar to the nation in its share of students who reported using alcohol on school property during the previous month (5.0% and 5.1% respectively). A slightly higher proportion (7.6%) of students reported having used marijuana on school property in the previous month compared to the U.S. (5.9%). Alcohol use of at least once during the previous 30 days was reportedly consumed by students less on school property (5.0%) than either on or off school property combined (29.1%), consistent with national percentages (5.1% and 38.7%).

The full report can be accessed online at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014042>.

CAMPS CONNECT MILITARY YOUTH AND BUILD RESILIENCY

A growing body of research highlights the negative impacts that military deployments, frequent moves, and injury or death of a parent can have on children and youth of U.S. military personnel.* While most children are resilient and their families have been able to adapt to the challenges, support from the community is proving to yield a host of benefits. One such source of support is Operation Military Kids (OMK) camps. These camps, funded by the Office of the Secretary of the Defense (OSD), are hosted across the U.S. and in American Samoa for military-connected youth and families.



Here in Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i 4-H Youth Development Program partnered with the YMCA Camp Erdman to administer and provide a six-day residential OMK camp program for 100 youth ages 10-14 years old. Over half (58%) of the younger campers (ages 6 – 10) were girls. About three-quarters (79%) of younger campers reported their father in the military, while 11% reported their mother and both parents in the military, respectively. Nearly all (97%) of the younger campers had experienced at least one deployment. About half (51%) of the older campers (ages 11 – 18) were boys. The good majority (86%) reported their father in the military, 9% reported their mother in the military and 6% reported both parents. Most (88%) had experienced at least one deployment.

A national study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of the camps at building resiliency in children, ages 6-18, by improving their life skills (friendship, independence, perceived competence, responsibility, teamwork and social support). Older campers perceived improvement in all life skills measured as a result of attending these camps. Almost two-thirds (62%) of campers agreed that camp decreased their stress and the majority (86%) were satisfied with their camp experience. Those who reported that the camp reduced their stress were significantly more likely to recommend the camp experience to friends and indicated their interest in returning to camp in subsequent years. More results of the survey from the OMK camps can be viewed here: <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/doc16673.ashx>.

* National Center for Children in Poverty. (2010). *Trauma Faced by Children of Military Families: What Every Policymaker Should Know*. Retrieved on June 26, 2014, from http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_938.html.

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