



To Our Loyal E-Bulletin Reader,

We need your feedback to ensure that the E-Bulletin continues to meet your needs. If you have completed the E-Bulletin online survey, thank you. For those that have not, we kindly ask that you take a few minutes to help us improve the Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin. The survey contains eleven questions, which should take only three to five minutes to complete. If you have questions about the survey, feel free to email kcadmin@hawaii.edu or call us at 808-956-3760.

Click here to take the survey: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/hawaii_kids_count/ebulletin.asp

Don't forget to read the latest December issue, provided for you below.

Mahalo for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivette Rodriguez Stern".

Ivette Rodriguez Stern
Hawai'i KIDS COUNT Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lana Nakamura".

Lana Nakamura
Hawai'i KIDS COUNT Project Coordinator

December 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. Homeless Service Utilization Report: Hawai'i 2011
2. Child Population Changes from the 2010 Census
3. Decrease in TANF Cash Assistance Benefits in Most States

1. Homeless Service Utilization Report: Hawai'i 2011

The *2011 Homeless Service Utilization Report* is sixth in a series of reports developed by the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family and the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office. This report presents the most current data on homeless individuals receiving services in Hawai'i, and aims to inform decision making and actions that reduce homelessness. The report provides state- and county-level data about the demographic characteristics of individuals and households who accessed homeless support services during the 2011 fiscal year, based on agency-entered data in the Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS). The data from the Shelter Program includes those individuals who received homeless services at an emergency or transitional shelter,

while the Outreach Program includes individuals who experienced literal homelessness (e.g., living in a car or park or on the beach) and received outreach services.

The following are data relating to children and families from the report:

- Of the households receiving Shelter Program services, over one third (39%) were either single-parent (22%) or two-parent (17%) households with children. Nearly a fifth (18%) of households receiving Outreach Program services were either single-parent (12%) or two-parent (6%) households with children.
- About a quarter (23%) of the clients served by both the Shelter and Outreach Programs were children under the age of 18. Children under five years of age represented 13% of the client population and youth between the ages of 6 and 17 represented 10% of those served. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years represented another 10% of clients served.
- Children under 18 years of age comprised over a third (34%) of the Shelter Program population statewide, with the largest proportion of them under the age of six (19%) and 15% between 6 and 17 years of age.
- Of those receiving Outreach Program services, 11% were children under the age of 18.

The full report is available for download at:

<http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/HomelessServiceUtilization2011.pdf>

2. Child Population Changes from the 2010 Census

The *Child Population Changes from the 2010 Census* report, developed by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, provides an overview of changes in the U.S. child population based on the 2010 Census. The report indicates that there was a small increase (1.9 million) in the number of children from 2000 to 2010, compared to the increases seen in the previous decade. Over the last 100 years, the move toward smaller families and increases in life expectancy may explain the decrease in the child population from 40% in 1900 to 24% in 2010. Key findings for Hawai‘i are as follows:

- Between 2000 and 2010, Hawai‘i experienced a 3% increase in the population of children under the age of 18; this placed Hawai‘i 19th in a national ranking of states by percent change in the child population.
- Ethnic breakdown analysis for Hawai‘i shows that about one third of children are of two or more races (32%), which is much higher than the U.S. average of 4%.
- Hawai‘i leads the nation in the “minority majority” child population, with 87% of the child population being in racial categories other than “non-Hispanic White”. Other states with high minority percentages are New Mexico (74%), and California (73%).

The full report can be accessed at:

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/T/TheChangingChildPopulationoftheUnitedStates/AECFChangingChildPopulationv8web.pdf>

3. Decrease in TANF Cash Assistance Benefits in Most States

A recent report released in November by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities examines trends in TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) benefits throughout the country. While most states froze benefit levels in 2011, six states actually cut benefits, resulting in a reduction of assistance to over a third of low-income families that receive assistance nationwide. According to the report, TANF benefits are now considerably lower in real terms in most states and are continuing to decline in value each year, making it increasingly difficult for the poorest families with children to meet the most basic needs. Findings for Hawai'i include the following:

- Since the TANF Program was established in 1996, Hawai'i's TANF benefits for a single-parent family of three decreased by 39.8%, the second greatest percent decrease in the nation, after being adjusted for inflation.
- The share of Fair Market Rent (FMR) that TANF benefits cover has decreased. In 2000, Hawai'i's benefits covered over two thirds of the FMR, but only covered a little over a third in 2011.
- Hawai'i has a two-tiered benefit system depending on work status. In FY 2010, the benefit level for a family of three was \$610 for working families and \$763 for work-exempt families.

The full report is available on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities website:

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/11-21-11pov.pdf>

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