



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

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

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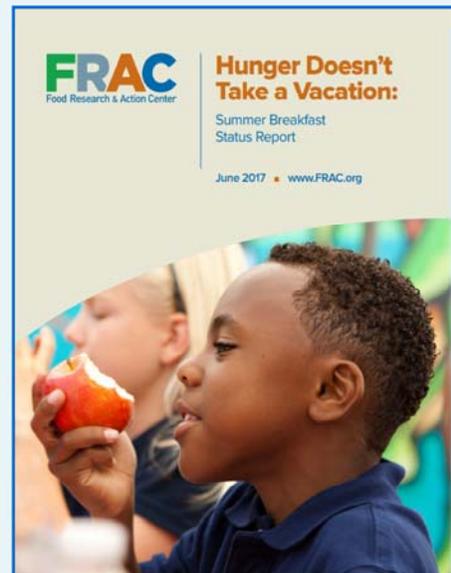
HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION: SUMMER NUTRITION STATUS REPORT

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) recently released the report, *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report*, which examines the reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs nationally and in each state. The report also reviews the impact of trends and policies on program participation. The Summer Nutrition Programs aim to close the summer nutrition gap that occurs when millions of low-income children lose access to nutritious meals after the school year ends, and provide funding to serve meals and snacks to children in eligible sites providing summer and/or child care programs. All children can eat for free at sites that are deemed eligible.

Although 3.04 million children were served lunch on an average day in July 2016, national findings indicate that participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs decreased—the first drop in participation since 2011. From July 2015 to July 2016, the total number of children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs decreased by 4.8%. The drop in Summer Nutrition Programs participation combined with the increase in the number of children who qualified and received free or reduced-price lunch during the 2015-2016 school year resulted in the Summer Nutrition Programs reaching even less of the summer nutritional need. The summer programs served only 15 children for every 100 low-income children who participated in the free or reduced-price lunch program during the regular school year. The limited number of summer programs for low-income children, limited transportation to programs in rural areas, and logistics of creating quality summer programs during short summer breaks may be some reasons for the low participation in Summer Nutrition Programs.

Findings in Hawai'i are more promising with a 25 percent increase in Summer Nutrition Programs participation from the previous year. This makes Hawai'i one of only eight states that saw increases. Throughout the 84 sites in Hawai'i, 62,669 children participated in the Summer Nutrition Programs on an average day in July 2016. From June to July 2016, a total of 76,402 lunches were served to children.

To read the full report, please visit: <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-summer-breakfast-report.pdf>



2016 HEAD START NATIONAL AND HAWAI'I FACT SHEETS

The National Head Start Association released fact sheets that provide an *at-a-glance* look at the program, nationally and by state. Head Start is a federally-funded preschool program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to vulnerable children and their families.

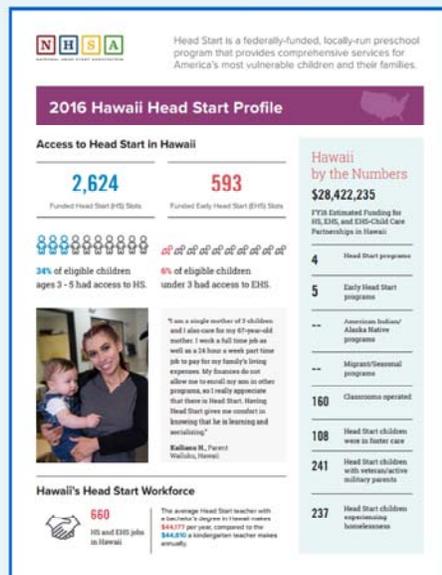
During 2015-2016 school year, there were 771,479 Head Start and 149,986 Early Head Start slots available throughout the nation. Thirty-one percent of eligible three- to five-year-olds had access to Head Start, while 6% of eligible children under age three had access to Early Head Start.

In Hawai'i, 2,624 and 593 slots were available for Head Start and Early Head Start, respectively. About a third (34%) of eligible children three to five years had access to Head Start and 6% of eligible children under three had access to Early Head Start, similar to national percentages. Other information about Hawai'i include:

- 237 Head Start children were experiencing homelessness;
- 3,807 children had continuously accessible health care;
- 382 children were identified with special needs; and
- 265 families received job training.

According to the National Head Start Association, children who participate in Head Start programs receive benefits that may appear immediately, last a lifetime, and affect other generations. They reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38% during the program year, are 31% less likely to be held back a grade, and 19% less likely to smoke as adults.

The national and state Head Start Fact Sheets may be accessed at: <http://www.nhsa.org/facts>



24TH ANNUAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUMMIT

The Hawai'i State Legislature's Keiki Caucus is hosting the *24th Annual Children and Youth Summit* on

Hawaii State 24th Annual Children & Youth Summit
 Hawaii State Legislature's Keiki Caucus - Children & Youth Summit Planning Committee
 Friday, October 13, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM (HST)
 Honolulu, HI



Friday, October 13, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the State Capitol Auditorium. Students, advocates, professionals, parents, policy makers and others interested in improving the well-being of Hawai'i's children and youth are invited to participate in the event. Participants will identify and prioritize critical issues that affect the lives of children, youth, their families, and the broader community, and develop viable policy recommendations to be presented during the 2018 Legislative session.

This year's theme is "Our Visions, Our Voices, Our Future." The event will hold rich and diverse panel discussions on topics such as mental health, substance abuse, social and emotional learning, and ending violence and abuse. There will also be breakout sessions for youth and adults, followed by lunch and closing presentations.

The summit is free of charge and includes breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Registration ends on September 30, 2017.

To register for the event, please click on this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hawaii-state-24th-annual-children-youth-summit-tickets-35641840705>

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CENTER ON THE FAMILY

2515 Campus Road, Miller Hall 103, Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: (808) 956-4132 | Fax: (808) 956-4147 | Email: cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu

Facebook Page URL: www.facebook.com/HawaiiKidsCount

Twitter Page URL: www.twitter.com/hikidscount

