



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

February 2017 Issue

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

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DATA MATTERS SYMPOSIUM

The Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is sponsoring the symposium, *Data Matters: New Insights on our Children and Youth*. The symposium will feature Bill O'Hare, Ph.D., President of O'Hare Data and Demographic Services, LLC and former Senior Consultant at The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Dr. O'Hare's talk will address the implications of undercounting young children in the U.S. Census. A panel of Hawai'i experts will also discuss local data sets on topics from early childhood through emerging adulthood.

The symposium will take place on March 31, 2017 from 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM at the Waiālae Country Club. For more information and to register, go to <http://eepurl.com/cBT8UL>. Registration closes on March 15, 2017.

Data Matters
new insights on our children and youth

A symposium featuring national and local experts. Join us to learn about and discuss:

- The scope and implications of undercounting young children in the U.S. Census.
- Studies using local data sets from early childhood through emerging adulthood.

Friday, March 31, 2017
8:00am – 11:45am
(8:00-8:30 registration/continental breakfast)

Waiālae Country Club
4997 Pahala Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816

Free Registration • Free Parking

Closing date for registration: March 15

REGISTER NOW

ASSESSMENT OF HAWAII'S CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

In partnership with the Hawai'i Children's Action Network and the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Center on the Family has completed an assessment of Hawai'i's childcare and early learning programs. The assessment aims to provide current data on needs and resources for early childhood programs statewide, and also serves as a baseline for measuring progress. These data are essential for making the case for a strategic expansion of programs in our most underserved communities. In addition, the data aim to identify priorities for workforce development, quality supports, and the availability of physical facilities to allow for such expansion.

The partnership recently released three fact sheets summarizing findings on center-based childcare, family childcare and family-child interaction learning programs. The fact sheets also provide policy recommendations for consideration.

CENTER-BASED CHILDCARE IN HAWAII'
Fact Sheet 2017

Every child deserves access to enriching early care and learning experiences that meet his or her family's needs and values. High-quality childcare affects all aspects of a keiki's development and helps ensure that our young children have a foundation for success in kindergarten and later in life. Reliable, affordable childcare is a necessity for working parents.

Types of Center-Based Care
The State Department of Human Services licenses two kinds of group childcare programs: infant-toddler centers serve children age six years through two years, and group childcare centers serve children age two through five. OCE public preschool and social education preschool classrooms, charter school preschools, and military childcare centers are not licensed by the state.

Availability
Hawai'i does not have enough childcare seats to serve our young child population. There is a critical shortage of infant-toddler care. In fact, Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai islands have no licensed infant-toddler centers.

- 64% of young children need care because their parents work
- 25% At full capacity, our licensed childcare centers can serve less than one quarter of our keiki
- 37 children under age 5 per every 1 infant-toddler center seat

Cost
Childcare is a major family expense. On average, full-time center care costs \$9,533 per year, but tuition can exceed \$1,000 per year for infant care. The federal government defines "affordable" childcare as 7% of family income; by this criterion, current market rates are not affordable for the majority of parents.

The average cost of center care for one child equals:

- 13% of the state median family income
- 32% of the median income of single mothers
- 50% of the annual full-time minimum wage
- 92% of UH Mānoa annual undergrad tuition

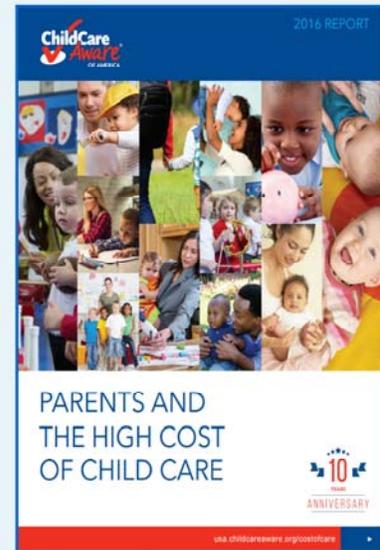
Center-Based Childcare in Hawai'i fact sheet can be downloaded at: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/f943a_CenterFactSheet2-15-2017.pdf

Family Childcare in Hawai'i fact sheet can be downloaded at: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/a56bb_FCCFactsheet%202-15-17.pdf

Family-Child Interaction Learning Programs in Hawai'i fact sheet can be downloaded at: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/3f055_fcil_fact_sheet.pdf

PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE: 2016

In its 10th annual report, *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2016*, Child Care Aware of America highlights the financial burden that child care presents to so many families throughout the nation. The life-long benefits of quality child care (e.g., improved health outcomes, higher economic and academic achievement, and reduced involvement in the criminal justice system) are well-documented in the research. Ensuring high quality, accessible and affordable child care is not only critical for overall child well-being, but it also makes parental labor force attachment possible and supports the economy. According to the report, however, child care has become less and less affordable for families in many states across the nation and presents a particular hardship to single parents. According to the report, in 2015, Hawaii was the least-affordable state for infant and 4-year-old care. The average annual cost of center-based infant care was \$13,584, representing 16% of the median income for married-couple families and 45% for single-parent. The average cost of center-based 4-year-old care was \$11,232, representing 13% and 37% of the median income for married-couple and single-parent families, respectively.



Child Care Aware of America recommends that Congress invest in child care, limit the cost burden for families, streamline eligibility standards and procedures, support parents pursuing higher education, and prioritize professional development for child care workforce. At the state level, citizens, parents, and early care and education professionals can help by urging policymakers to take action. More specifically, the report calls for policymakers to address affordability and accessibility of quality child care for families by:

- Providing resources for planning and developing child care capacity to increase the availability of high-quality child care options for working families;
- Reducing barriers in the subsidy administration process that prevent families from receiving assistance;
- Requiring states to have more effective sliding-fee assistance phase-out plans to ensure that parents who receive a modest raise do not lose all child care assistance;
- Providing child care assistance to families who do not qualify for fee assistance but who cannot afford the market cost of child care in their community;
- Authorizing funds for pilots in high-poverty rural communities to explore strategies that braid multiple funding sources to better meet the child care needs of working parents (meeting the criteria of the strongest funding stream to ensure safe, quality care for children).

To access the full report, please visit: http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CCA_High_Cost_Report.pdf

The Hawai'i fact sheet is available at: http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/State-Fact-Sheets_Hawaii.pdf

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PDF versions of our monthly e-bulletins are available at: <http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/projects/kidscount/ebulletin.aspx>

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CENTER ON THE FAMILY

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