



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

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IN THIS ISSUE

The Center on the Family Brown Bag Seminar: Hawai'i's Early Learning Programs for Children Birth through 5
Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care
The State of America's Children 2017

THE CENTER ON THE FAMILY BROWN BAG SEMINAR: HAWAII'S EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH 5

The University of Hawai'i Center on the Family will host a brown bag seminar series in the spring of 2018. The first seminar, *Hawai'i's Early Learning Programs for Children Birth through 5: Creating the System Our Children and Families Deserve*, will be presented by Dr. Barbara DeBaryshe on January 26th, from noon to 1 pm in Room 2 of Miller Hall at the UH Mānoa campus.

A strong early childhood system provides a foundation for children's long-term well-being, allows parents to stay in the workforce, and yields an impressive return on the public dollar. Hawai'i does well in terms of program quality and innovation. Over 40% of our state's licensed childcare seats are in centers with a national early childhood accreditation and options such as language immersion preschools, family childcare homes, and family-child interaction programs that address diverse family needs. However, Hawai'i fares less well on the issues of cost and access. At 13% of the typical family income for a single child, the cost of childcare takes a larger bite of the family budget than in any other state. We also face a severe shortage of infant-toddler care and areas of the state are childcare deserts. This presentation focuses on childcare availability, cost, and quality; providers' needs; and recommendations for policy and action. Please bring your lunch and join the discussion on finding solutions!

If you have any questions about the brown bag presentation, please contact Dr. Hua Zan at hzan@hawaii.edu or Dr. Jenjira Yahirun at jyahirun@hawaii.edu.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE

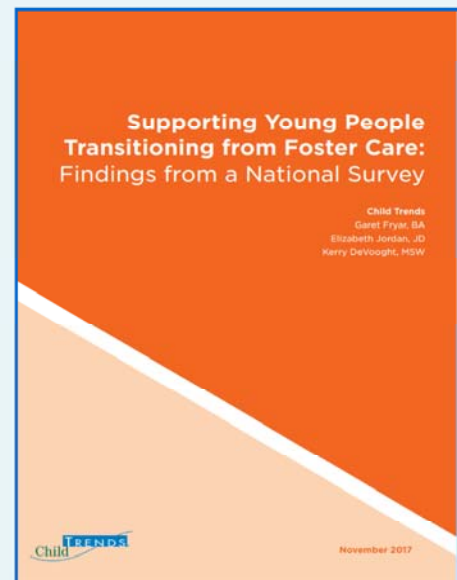
Child Trends recently released the report, *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey*. Critical brain development continues to occur during adolescence and early adulthood. Strong, stable connections with family, friends, and the community can support this positive development. Youth and young adults with foster care experience often lack these key resources needed to support them and are at heightened risk for hardship during this time of critical growth. They may struggle with locating safe and stable housing, finding steady and meaningful employment, and building strong relationships with members of their social networks. They are also more likely to experience homelessness and become involved with the justice system, while being less likely to graduate from high school or college.

The report provides findings from a national survey that describe the array and availability of services and supports for youth and young adults who have experienced foster care. It also highlights state trends and examples of innovation in service areas including post-secondary education; employment and career development; financial capability; safe, stable, and affordable housing; health and mental health care; and permanent relationships with supportive adults.

Some key findings from the report include:

- While foster care is available in some form to youth over age 18 in nearly all states, three quarters of states report that most young people leave before the maximum age permitted. Hawai'i is among 36 states with an extended foster care program to age 21, though the typical age at which Hawai'i's young people leave the care and supervision of the foster care system is 18.
- There is a steep drop off in available services and supports as soon as young people reach age 21. However, most states continue to provide at least some opportunities for this population such as post-secondary education, employment and career development, and accessing and managing health and mental health care. These services are typically also available to those under age 21.
- Partnerships with other agencies—such as juvenile justice agency, agencies that provide workforce trainings and supports, and housing and school agencies—are a key part of supporting this population. Hawai'i is one of six states that reported partnering with other agencies that serve adults with disabilities to smooth the transition to adulthood for youth with a disability and foster care experience. Hawai'i is also one of six states that has frequent coordination (e.g., transition planning, case planning, mentoring) between the child welfare agency and the juvenile justice agency.

To access the full report, please visit: <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>.



THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN 2017

The Children's Defense Fund released *The State of America's Children 2017*, which provides both national- and state-level data on child well-being.

Consistent with KIDS COUNT findings, the report finds that children remain the poorest age group in the U.S., with children of color and young children experiencing higher rates of poverty. According to the report, more than 13.2 million, or nearly 1 in 5, children are poor. Approximately 3 million children live in families trying to survive on \$2 a day per person which is comparable to child poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Further contributing to poverty are high housing costs and limited federal rental assistance. Living in poverty places children at risk of homelessness, causes millions to suffer from hunger, and can negatively affect their overall health and well-being.



Some Hawai'i-specific data from the report include:

- The monthly fair market rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom rental unit in Hawai'i (\$1,830) is the highest in the nation. Other states with high rates include California (\$1,608), Maryland (\$1,470), New York (\$1,460), Massachusetts (\$1,424), New Jersey (\$1,420), and the District of Columbia (\$1,746).
- Homeless children enrolled in Hawai'i public schools increased by 33.9% between the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.
- About a fifth of Hawai'i's children live in food-insecure households (20.1%), similar to the national average (19.3%).
- 22.8% of children in Hawai'i benefited from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), slightly lower than the 25.6% national rate.

Besides economic data, the report also provides information on early childhood, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and gun violence. To read the entire report, please visit:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/state-of-americas-children/2017-soac.pdf>.

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