



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

June 2017 Issue

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

KIDS COUNT Data Book Issue

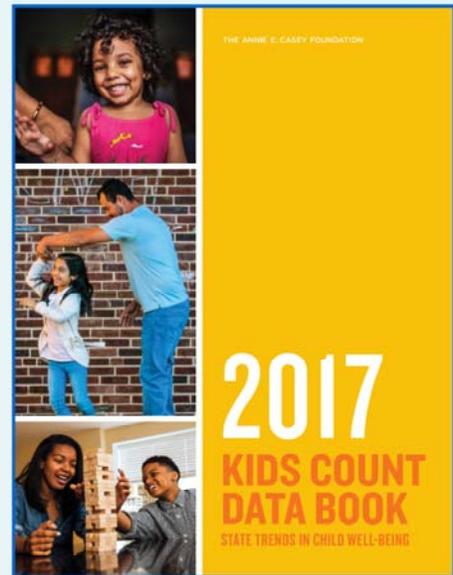
Economic conditions may finally be improving and families continue to offer a strong foundation for Hawai'i's children, according to the *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* released on June 13th by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The *Data Book*, which examines trends in child well-being during the post-recession years, found that Hawai'i now ranks 23rd in child economic well-being, and 17th for child well-being overall.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of children living in families where the parents lack secure employment. As parental employment improves, other indicators of economic well-being improve as well.

The rate of children living in households with a high housing cost burden — defined as households spending more than 30 percent or more of their income on housing — is one indicator that has steadily improved, decreasing from 46 percent in 2010 to 38 percent in 2015. However, Hawai'i still has among the worst housing cost burden rates in the nation, ranking 46th for this indicator. When families spend a large proportion of their income on housing, they have fewer resources to meet other basic needs.

Despite some improvements on individual indicators, Hawai'i is lagging in the education domain, ranking 36th. Although there have been some improvements in reading and math proficiency, Hawai'i's children are still below national proficiency rates and more than half of 3- and 4-year-olds are not enrolled in preschool programs.

“Access to high-quality, affordable child care and preschool must remain a priority in our state,” said Dr. Barbara DeBaryshe, interim director of the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family. “Strong programs support school readiness and give an extra boost to children facing the difficult odds of poverty or family hardship. Sadly, we simply do not have enough child care seats in our state, especially for infants and toddlers. We need policy incentives that allow providers to serve more children, give families more assistance paying for care and help more programs reach quality benchmarks. Investments in our keiki now will have large payoffs in the future.”



The annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* uses 16 indicators to rank each state across four domains that represent what children need most to thrive. Findings for Hawai'i include the following:

- Three of four economic indicators — the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment, children in households with a high housing cost burden, and teens not in school and not working — have improved since the release of the *2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book*. The percentage of children living in poverty has failed to improve past 2010 levels and returned to 14 percent in 2015.
- There were improvements in three of the four indicators in the education domain compared to 2010 data — reading and math proficiency and the percentage of high schoolers graduating on time — however, the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds not in preschool increased by 18 percent from 2010 to 2015.
- With only 2 percent of our children lacking health insurance coverage, Hawai'i continues to lead the nation in health, ranking eighth in this domain. This represents a 50 percent decrease in the percentage of kids without insurance compared to 2010.
- Hawai'i is also doing well in the family and community context, ranking 10th in this domain. The teen birth rate has continued an impressive decline of 36 percent since 2010, and we have fewer children living in high poverty neighborhoods in 2015 than in 2010.

Besides emphasizing investments in early childhood education programs, with the *Data Book*, the Annie E. Casey Foundation demonstrates the need for protecting health insurance coverage for children. Hawai'i has done well in making sure that the children in our state have health insurance coverage. However, health care reforms that limit federal funds coming to our state for Medicaid or that allow insurers to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions will threaten the well-being of our most vulnerable children and youth. We must continue to work hard at all levels to make sure that coverage is not jeopardized.

The *Data Book* also addresses the need to expand programs that create economic stability for families at the state and federal levels. The Hawai'i State Legislature took a significant step in this direction with its approval of a state earned income tax credit (EITC). The federal EITC has long been recognized as one of the nation's most effective anti-poverty measures, and a growing body of research documents important links between the credit (both at the federal and state-levels) and family and child well-being. Unlike the federal EITC, Hawai'i's EITC will be non-refundable, which will limit tax refunds available to families when the amount of their credit is larger than what they owe in state income tax. Nevertheless, this is a great start and represents breakthrough legislation that supports low-income families and children in our state.

The 2017 *Data Book* is available for download [here](#). Additional information is available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices at <http://mobile.kidscount.org>.

The Hawaii profile is below and can also be downloaded [here](#).

HAWAII

OVERALL RANK **17**

DOMAIN RANK
23

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING



DOMAIN RANK
36

EDUCATION



		HAWAII		UNITED STATES	
CHILDREN IN POVERTY		14% 2010	14% 2015	22% 2010	21% 2015
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 43,000	US 15,000,000	SAME		BETTER	
CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK SECURE EMPLOYMENT		30% 2010	26% 2015	33% 2010	29% 2015
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 82,000	US 21,363,000	BETTER		BETTER	
CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN		46% 2010	38% 2015	41% 2010	33% 2015
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 119,000	US 24,646,000	BETTER		BETTER	
TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL AND NOT WORKING		12% 2010	6% 2015	9% 2010	7% 2015
NUMBER OF TEENS HI 4,000	US 1,191,000	BETTER		BETTER	
YOUNG CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL		44% 2009-11	52% 2013-15	52% 2009-11	53% 2013-15
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 19,000	US 4,344,000	WORSE		WORSE	
FOURTH GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN READING		74% 2009	71% 2015	68% 2009	65% 2015
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI N.A.	US N.A.	BETTER		BETTER	
EIGHTH GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH		75% 2009	70% 2015	67% 2009	68% 2015
NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI N.A.	US N.A.	BETTER		WORSE	
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT GRADUATING ON TIME		20% 2010/11	18% 2014/15	21% 2010/11	17% 2014/15
NUMBER OF TEENS HI N.A.	US N.A.	BETTER		BETTER	

HAWAII

OVERALL RANK **17**

		HAWAII		UNITED STATES	
DOMAIN RANK 8 HEALTH	LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES	8.3% 2010	8.3% 2015	8.1% 2010	8.1% 2015
	NUMBER OF BABIES HI 1,531	SAME		SAME	
	US 320,869				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	4% 2010	2% 2015	8% 2010	5% 2015
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 5,000	BETTER		BETTER	
	US 3,534,000				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS PER 100,000	21 2010	21 2015	26 2010	25 2015
	NUMBER OF DEATHS HI 67	SAME		BETTER	
	US 19,562				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	TEENS WHO ABUSE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS	8% 2009-10	5% 2013-14	7% 2009-10	5% 2013-14
	NUMBER OF TEENS HI 5,000	BETTER		BETTER	
	US 1,276,000				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	CHILDREN IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES	30% 2010	31% 2015	34% 2010	35% 2015
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 90,000	WORSE		WORSE	
	US 24,444,000				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WHERE THE HOUSEHOLD HEAD LACKS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	8% 2010	8% 2015	15% 2010	14% 2015
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 24,000	SAME		BETTER	
	US 10,137,000				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY AREAS	6% 2008-12	4% 2011-15	13% 2008-12	14% 2011-15
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN HI 12,000	BETTER		WORSE	
	US 10,032,000				
DOMAIN RANK 10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	TEEN BIRTHS PER 1,000	33 2010	21 2015	34 2010	22 2015
	NUMBER OF BIRTHS HI 789	BETTER		BETTER	
	US 229,715				

SUBSCRIBING:

You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to kadmin@hawaii.edu with the phrase "Subscribe to Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin" in the subject field.

UNSUBSCRIBING:

If we have reached you in error or if you would prefer not to hear from us in the future, send an email to kadmin@hawaii.edu with the phrase "Unsubscribe Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin" in the subject field.

ARCHIVE OF E-BULLETINS:

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

Hawai'i KIDS COUNT is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support, and we acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in the E-Bulletin are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

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

