



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

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

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015

Using Medicaid to Help Young Children and Parents Access Mental Health Services

Paid Family Leave for Hawai'i's Families

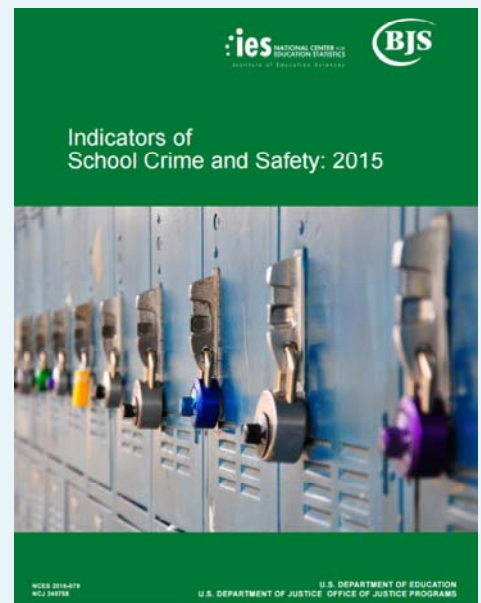
Using Data to Make a Difference with the KIDS COUNT Data Center

#### INDICATORS OF SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY: 2015

Schools are sanctuaries for teaching and learning. However, each year, schools across the country face numerous instances of crime and violence that affect students, their families and the communities they live in, and disrupt the learning process. In an effort to ensure the safety of our students, it is important for practitioners and policymakers to closely monitor school crime and safety. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) publish the annual *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* to assist toward that end.

The report compiles data from a variety of sources such as surveys of principals, students, parents, and postsecondary institutions. Data are categorized and describe different aspects of school violence and crime, including: violent deaths; nonfatal student and teacher victimization; school environment; fights, weapons, and illegal substances; fear and avoidance; discipline, safety, and security measures; and postsecondary campus safety and security.

In its 18th edition, the *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015* report presents national data in addition to state-specific statistics. Nationally, the total victimization rate at school declined dramatically (by 82%) over the past two decades. The share of high school students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon at school has also decreased, though slightly, over the past decade. The percentage of students who reported



being bullied was lowest in 2013 (the most current year for which data are available), at 22%, than in every prior survey.

Hawai'i specific data presented in the report include the following:

- Hawai'i was one of two states with no firearm incidents during the 2013-2014 school year.
- 10% of students in Hawai'i reported carrying a weapon (anywhere, including school property), compared to the U.S. average of 18%.
- 18.7% of high school students in Hawai'i reported being bullied on school property, compared to 15.6% who reported being cyber-bullied.
- Hawai'i had the smallest share (1.4%) of students who were suspended from school, compared to 6.4% nationally.

The full report can be accessed at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016079.pdf>.

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## USING MEDICAID TO HELP YOUNG CHILDREN AND PARENTS ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: RESULTS OF A 50-STATE SURVEY

The mental health of young children is central to their early learning, independence, school readiness, and future health outcomes. More and more states are, therefore, working to expand mental health services both to young children and to their parents.

The National Center for Children in Poverty recently released its brief, *Using Medicaid to Help Young Children and Parents Access Mental Health Services: Results of a 50-State Survey*.

Data were gathered from state administrators on the use of Medicaid for the following key early childhood mental health (ECMH) services: (1) child screening for social-emotional problems; (2) maternal depression screening in pediatric and family medicine settings; (3) mental health services in a pediatric or family medicine setting; (4) mental health services in child care and early education settings; (5) mental health services in the home setting; (6) dyadic (parent-child) treatment; (7) parenting programs to address child mental health needs; and (8) case management/care coordination. Findings reveal that while the majority of U.S. states cover basic mental health services for children through Medicaid, gaps in coverage of key services persist. Fewer states reported coverage under the child's Medicaid for maternal depression screening and for parenting programs, both of which are important for addressing child mental health needs. Like the majority of states, Medicaid in Hawai'i can be used to cover all ECMH services, except parent-related services.



The brief encourages early childhood education advocates, policymakers, Medicaid administrators and other stakeholders to examine options for improving mental health services to young children, birth to age 6. The brief can be read in its entirety at: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_1164.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_1164.pdf).

## PAID FAMILY LEAVE FOR HAWAII'S FAMILIES

Today's working parents must balance work, family and life's challenges. Nearly all employees need time away from work at some point to care for a new child or to deal with a serious personal or family illness. However, employees in Hawaii do not have any legal right to paid family leave. Current policies, such as the federal Family Medical Leave Act and Hawaii's Family Leave Law, only provide job protection during *unpaid* leave and, even then, too many in the workforce are excluded from this protection.

*Paid Family Leave for Hawaii's Families*, provides some basic facts and an overview of what such a program can look like in Hawaii. In the months ahead, Hawaii KIDS COUNT, in partnership with the Hawaii Children's Action Network and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, will provide research-to-advocacy tools aimed at raising awareness and strengthening support for a paid leave program. Visit the Hawaii KIDS COUNT project at <http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu> to learn more. For information on how you can support paid leave policy, visit the Hawaii Children's Action Network at [http://www.hawaii-can.org/paid\\_family\\_leave](http://www.hawaii-can.org/paid_family_leave).

To download the *Paid Family Leave for Hawaii's Families* fact sheet, please visit: [http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/1b350\\_BasicsFactsheetOct17.pdf](http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/1b350_BasicsFactsheetOct17.pdf).

**Paid Family Leave for Hawaii's Families**

FACT SHEET #1

Hawaii's workforce is stronger when employees can balance work, family, and life's challenges. Nearly all workers need to take time away from the job at some point to care for a new child or to deal with a serious personal or family illness. Employees in Hawaii do not have any legal right to paid family leave, and most cannot take unpaid leave and still maintain financial stability given the high cost of living in our state. A paid family leave program that is available to everyone, regardless of where they work, can provide families with job protection and the flexibility to meet their needs without losing pay.

**Current Policies Are Failing Many of Hawaii's Families**

For those working in a business with 50 or more employees, the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides unpaid leave and job protection for up to 12 weeks to care for a new child or family member, or to attend to a personal medical condition. The Hawaii Family Leave Law (HFL) expands on the federal law to some extent, for example, allowing employees unpaid leave to care for a parent-in-law or grandparent. However, HFL only provides unpaid leave and job protection for up to 4 weeks for workers in businesses with 100 or more employees. As a result, about 37% of the workforce is excluded from the law's protection. Both laws allow for accrued paid leave, such as sick leave, to be used in some cases so that employees can at least receive pay for part of their protected leave. However, estimates indicate that more than 4 in 10 private sector employees in Hawaii do not have access to paid sick days.

**Paid Family Leave Supports Overall Family Wellbeing**

- Paid family leave allows workers to support their families and make ends meet when they need to take time to care for a new child, a family member with a serious illness, or to address their own serious illness. Research shows that parents who have access to paid leave following the birth of a child are less likely to rely on public assistance and are more likely to return to and remain in the workforce.
- Child health is also improved when parents can take the time needed for bonding with and caring for a new child without worrying about reduced income. Increased access to paid family leave is linked to improved birthweight, longer periods of breastfeeding, and reduced infant mortality. Research further shows that when parents have adequate time to care for a seriously ill child, recovery is improved and hospital stays are shortened. Paid family leave is also associated with increased involvement of fathers in children's lives.
- A growing number of workers must also balance work and caring for other family members, including older adults, such as parents. About 15% of Hawaii's population is 65 years and older and with increasing longevity, the share of older adults in our state will continue to grow. Many of these older adults live in multigenerational households with their children and grandchildren. Therefore, it is not uncommon for Generation X families to face the combined pressure of caring for their children and aging parents and relatives. Paid family leave is critical given this growing need to provide care across the lifecycle.

*Paid family leave allows workers to support their families and make ends meet when they need to take time to care for a new child, a family member with a serious illness, or to address their own serious illness.*

## USING DATA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THE KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

In the work that we do, it is imperative that we use data to inform our decisions and help children and their families access the resources they need. But with so many different tools and resources, it can be hard to find trusted information. That's where the Data Center comes in.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center contains thousands of child well-being indicators related to



education, poverty, health and youth risk factors. By being able to filter by state, city, county and congressional district, users are able to access data that is relevant in their communities. Visit the [Hawai'i pages of the Data Center](#) today to enact change.

To access the national KIDS COUNT Data Center, please visit: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

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***ARCHIVE OF E-BULLETINS:***

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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