



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

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KIDS COUNT DATA SNAPSHOT: MEASURING ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

The latest Data Snapshot from KIDS COUNT addresses the use of the Supplementary Poverty Measure (SPM) as a better index for measuring poverty in the U.S. Created after decades of research and recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the SPM does what the official poverty measure fails to do, that is, account for the impact of the largest anti-poverty programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing subsidies, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that low-income families receive. It also provides a more accurate assessment of poverty levels on a state and regional basis, for instance, the state-to-state variations in the cost of living and impact of federal programs. By using the SPM researchers determined that child poverty has declined since 1990, while the official poverty measure shows no change. The SPM helps to illustrate the effectiveness of government safety net programs and how without them, the child poverty rate would be nearly double what it is today (i.e., from 18% to 37% according to data presented in the report). Continued investment and dedicated funding for the SPM is encouraged in order to measure state-level progress in fighting poverty.



The Data Snapshot is available for download on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website:
<http://www.aecf.org/resources/measuring-access-to-opportunity-in-the-united-states/>.

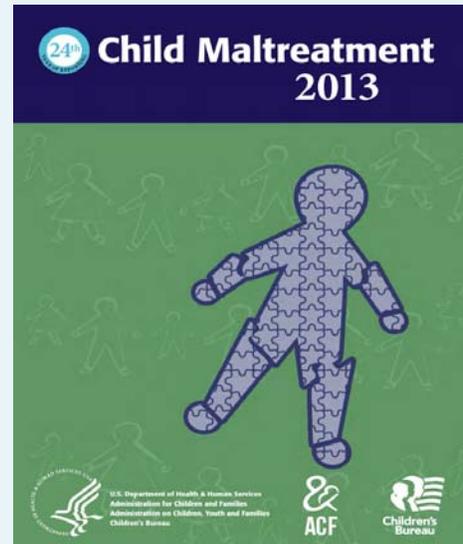
CHILD MALTREATMENT 2013

The 24th annual Child Maltreatment report was recently released by the Administration for Children and Families. The report presents national and state-level data on child abuse and neglect known to child protective services (CPS) agencies in each state and the District of Columbia. According to the report, there were approximately 679,000 victims of child abuse and neglect across the country during the 2013 federal fiscal year, a 5% decrease from five years earlier. The report also includes data on: referrals and reports of child maltreatment, characteristics of victims and non-victims, fatalities that occurred as a result of maltreatment, perpetrators of maltreatment, services to prevent maltreatment and to assist children and families, and additional research related to child maltreatment. The following are key findings for the state of Hawai'i:

- In 2013, there were 1,324 victims of child abuse and neglect, a decrease of 34% since 2009. Nationally, the number of victims decreased 4% during the same time period.
- Children younger than 1 year had the highest rate of victimization at 12.5 per 1,000, lower than the national rate of 23.1.
- Eleven percent (11%) of victims had a reported disability (behavior problem, emotional disturbance, learning or intellectual disability, other medical condition, physically disabled, or visually or hearing impaired), lower than the U.S. average of 13%.
- The average number of days to initiate services after receipt of a report was 20 days, half of the national average of 41 days.

The entire report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2013.pdf>.



KEIKI CAUCUS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Since its creation 25 years ago, the Keiki Caucus – a bipartisan group of legislators joined by child advocates, service providers and others – has developed initiatives to address a variety of issues affecting Hawai'i's children and youth. Issues related to the well-being of Hawai'i's children and youth are identified and discussed during the annual Children and Youth Summit; legislative measures are then developed and further refined by individual legislators. The 2015 Keiki Caucus legislative package focuses child safety and well-being, education, early intervention, and health. Some of the Keiki Caucus bills to follow include:

- SB979 & HB395, which requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a five-year pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth in crisis can access safety and services.
- SB865 SD1, which requires educational institutions and all youth-serving agencies to create and implement anti-bullying policies and prevention programs for youth.
- SB981, which appropriates funds to continue the administration of the home visiting program, a hospital-based early identification designed to enhance health and safety outcomes and prevent child abuse and neglect, with a focus on priority high-risk neighborhoods.
- SB977 & HB1794, which appropriates funds to raise awareness of mental health issues and to provide mental health training for public school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel.

Another very important measure we will track is SB844 SD1, which establishes a high-quality pre-kindergarten program – administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning, which may partner with the Department of Education – and appropriates funding for the program.

These are just some of the measures being introduced this year. To view more details about the Keiki Caucus package online go to:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/advreport.aspx?report=package&pkey=8&year=2015&name=Keiki+Caucusf>

Once a measure has been scheduled for public hearing and notice is given, the public is invited to submit testimony. Letters can be submitted to the chair or committee clerk expressing support of or opposition to the bill. Testimony can also be submitted through the Hawai'i State Legislature's website (<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>). The website allows users to create an account to receive hearing notices by email, create personalized measure tracking lists, and submit testimony electronically.

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