

January 2011 Issue

Center on the Family • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

WHAT'S NEW

1. State of Homelessness in America 2011
2. Hawai'i chosen for National Study on Children
3. Indicators of School Crime and Safety in Public Schools 2009

1. State of Homelessness in America 2011

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has issued a new in-depth report on homelessness in America with important data on changes at the state and national levels from 2008 to 2009. The report's major findings include data on annual changes in homelessness, the effects of the recent economic recession, increased risk of homelessness in specific populations, and multiple-risk factors in severely at-risk states.

The following are key findings for the state of Hawai'i:

- State-wide roughly 45 people out of every 10,000 were homeless in 2009.
- Family homelessness increased by 3.9%, totaling 2,841 homeless persons in families; the national average is 3.0%.
- Young adults who age out of the foster care system are at a higher risk of homelessness. There were 138 youth who "aged out" of foster care in 2009.

The complete report can be accessed at:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3668>

2. Hawai'i chosen for National Study on Children

In October 2010, the National Children's Study announced that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Study Center at the John A. Burns School of Medicine will be one of 37 study centers around the country to conduct research on children's health and development. The study is a multi-year research project that will examine the effects of environment—air, water, food—on children, as well as how adult disorders might be influenced by early life exposures and events.

The following are some features of the study as it relates to Hawai'i:

- Twelve O'ahu neighborhoods have been randomly selected to participate:

Moanalua, Salt Lake, Pearl Harbor, 'Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Mililani, Schofield Barracks, Wai'anae, Hale'iwa, Hau'ula, Kailua and the Honolulu International Airport area

- Researchers will look into various childhood problems from asthma and autism to obesity and diabetes
- On October 18, recruitment began for women who were or might have become recently pregnant

To find out more about Hawai'i Study Center, please visit:

<http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/studylocations/pages/honolulu.aspx>

3. Indicators of School Crime and Safety in Public Schools 2009

This report, produced annually by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, draws upon a variety of sources in public education to cover a wide range of topics related to school crime and safety, including student and teacher victimization, threats and bullying, fighting and weapon-carrying, and the availability of drugs and alcohol at school. Nationally, the rate of crime at school, for kids age 12-18, has changed little from 2003-2007 (the most recent data reported), with 1.5 million nonfatal crimes at school reported. During the 2007-2008 school year, 85% of public schools recorded at least one violent crime, theft, or other crime.

Some data highlights for Hawai'i are as follows:

- The percentage of students, grades 9-12, who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in 2007 was 6.4%, below the national rate of 7.8%.
- The percentage of public school teachers who were attacked at school in 2007-2008 was roughly 4%, or about 500 teachers, compared to the U.S. average of 4.3%.
- For students, grades 9-12, more than a third (36.2%) reported that drugs were made available to them on school property in 2007, higher than 22.3% nationally.
- The percentage of students, grades 9-12, who experienced a fight during 2007 was 28.6%, while the percentage who experienced the fight while on school property was 7.0%, while the national rates were 35.5% and 12.4% respectively.

The full report, with national and state-specific data, can be accessed at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010012.pdf>

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