

It's not too late to complete the E-Bulletin online survey! If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to tell us how we are doing. The last day to complete the survey is **Tuesday, February 7**. We need your feedback to ensure that the E-Bulletin continues to meet your needs. If you have questions about the survey, feel free to email kcadmin@hawaii.edu or call us at 808-956-3760. Click here to take the survey:

http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/hawaii_kids_count/ebulletin.asp

January 2012 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. The Recession's Ongoing Impact on America's Children
2. Updated Vital Statistics Indicators on the KIDS COUNT Data Center
3. Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2010

1. The Recession's Ongoing Impact on America's Children

A new report from First Focus entitled, "The Recession's Ongoing Impact on America's Children: Indicators of Children's Economic Well-Being Through 2011" compares three key economic indicators of children's well-being: the number of children living with an unemployed parent, the number who rely upon the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) for food, and the number who live in poverty. The findings tell us that the recession continues to hit America's children hard. Smart investments in children's health and well-being can mitigate the harm. The report provides state-by-state breakdowns of the three key economic indicators of child well-being. Findings for Hawai'i include the following:

- In the first nine months of 2011, Hawai'i's unemployment rate averaged 6.3%. In Hawai'i, an estimated 8% of children had unemployed parents (U.S. average, 9%) and 4% had parents who were unemployed 6 months or more (U.S. average, 4%).
- Between 2007 and 2011, the number of SNAP recipients in Hawai'i grew by 79%*, or 71,000 people, which is higher than the average U.S. growth of 70%.
- Child poverty rates in Hawai'i averaged 13% before the recession. In 2010, Hawai'i experienced an increase to 13.9%. Rates are predicted to increase to 15% for the year 2011, while remaining lower than the predicted U.S. rate at 22%.

*This indicator should be considered in the context of efforts in the State of Hawai‘i to increase the utilization by eligible citizens of available government assistance programs, including SNAP. See the Hawai‘i Community Stabilization Indicator Report http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/COF_CommunityStabilizationReport_FIN_AL.pdf for more information.

To view the full report, go to:

<http://www.firstfocus.net/sites/default/files/Recessions%20Ongoing%20Impact%20on%20Americas%20Children.pdf>

2. Updated Vital Statistics Indicators on the KIDS COUNT Data Center

The KIDS COUNT Data Center was recently updated to include the most recent vital statistics data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Data at the state level is provided, as well as rankings, maps, and trend graphs on the interactive Data Center website. The KIDS COUNT Data Center serves as a comprehensive source of information for policymakers, advocates, members of the media, students, and others concerned with addressing the needs of children, families, and communities. The vital statistics indicator updates for Hawai‘i include:

- Between 2007 and 2008, Hawai‘i's infant (under age 1) mortality rate decreased from 6.5 to 5.5 per 1,000 live births. In 2000, the rate was 8.1 per 1,000 live births.
- In 2008, child deaths between the ages of 1 and 14 from all causes in Hawai‘i was 16 per 100,000 children, which is lower than the national rate of 18.
- Hawai‘i's deaths to teens between the ages of 15 and 19 from all causes (rate per 100,000) was 45 in 2008, which was 8th lowest in the nation, and lower than the national rate of 58.
- In 2008, Hawai‘i was ranked 8th lowest in the nation for deaths to teens (between the ages of 15 and 19) from accidents, homicides, and suicides, with 31 deaths per 100,000 teens.

More data can be found on the KIDS COUNT Data Center website:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

3. Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2010

The annual *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report—a joint effort of the National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics—presents the most recent data available on crime and student safety in public schools. School safety is conducive to the learning process. Crime or violent activity disrupts the school's learning environment and interferes with the success of its students. Data for the report were gathered from a variety of sources, including national surveys of students, teachers, and principals covering a wide range of topics such as victimization, teacher injury, bullying, school conditions, fights, weapons, availability and student use of drugs and alcohol, and student perceptions of personal safety at school. In 2009, 31.5% of students in grades 9 - 12 reported they had been in a physical fight at least one time anywhere, and 11.1% said they had been in a fight on school property. Some data highlights for Hawai‘i are as follows:

- Nearly a third (29.5%) of high school students reported experiencing a physical fight in 2009, and 10.2% reported experiencing a fight while on school property.
- Hawai‘i was similar in the percentage of high school students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property at least once in 2009 (7.7% for both Hawai‘i and the US).
- More than a third (36.1%) of high school grade students reported that drugs were made available to them on school property in 2009, higher than 22.7% nationally.
- Nearly half of Hawai‘i’s teachers agreed or strongly agreed that student misbehavior (46.7%) and student tardiness and class cutting (49.0%) interfered with their teaching, higher than the national averages of 36.1% and 33.5% respectively.

The full report can be accessed at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011002.pdf>

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