



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

### July 2014 Issue

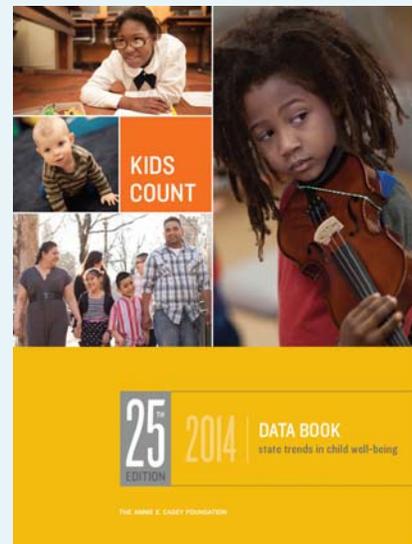
Center on the Family | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa-CTAHR

#### *KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK ISSUE*

The 2014 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released this month by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, marks 25 years of bringing attention to national and state-level data on the well-being of children. According to the data presented in the annual report, Hawai'i ranks 25th out of 50 states on overall child well-being.

The report presents data on 16 indicators categorized within four areas essential to child well-being: economic well-being, education, health, and the family and community context. Recent trend data (many from 2005 – 2012) presented in the *Data Book* compares how children fared mid-decade prior to the economic recession to how they are faring in the aftermath. Certain conditions for Hawai'i's children have improved during the period examined, while others have worsened.

- Three of the four economic conditions – percent of children living in poverty, whose parents lack secure employment, and living in households with a high housing cost burden – worsened since the pre-recession period. However, two conditions (children in poverty and children in households with a high housing cost burden) have remained stable since the 2013 *Data Book*, and two conditions (children in families where parents lack secure employment and teens not in school and not working) improved slightly from the previous year. Hawai'i has among the highest rates of children in households with a high housing cost burden, and continues to hover near the bottom third in the economic domain.
- Gains in the education domain have continued, with improvements in all four indicators. However, despite steady improvements in reading and math proficiency and the on-time high school graduation rate over the past several years, Hawai'i continues to rank near the bottom third on these three indicators and in the education domain as a whole.
- Hawai'i is doing relatively well in the area of children's health, ranking 22nd in the nation. The health conditions measured – child and teen death rate, percent of low-birth weight babies, percent of children without health insurance, and percent of teens who abuse substances – remained somewhat stable, showing little to no change over the period examined. Hawai'i has among the smallest share of children without health insurance and among the lowest death rates, ranking 2nd and 7th, respectively, in the nation on these indicators.
- Hawai'i is also doing well in the area of family and community well-being, ranking 13th out of 50 states. Despite this ranking, there has been a worsening on two indicators, with an upward trend in the percent of children living in single-parent families and children living in high-poverty areas.



## Key Indicators for Hawai'i

25

DOMAIN RANKS: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 33 | EDUCATION 31 | HEALTH 22 | FAMILY &amp; COMMUNITY 13



IMPROVED

4 out of 4 indicators in Education  
 2 out of 4 indicators in Health  
 2 out of 4 indicators in Family & Community



WORSENER

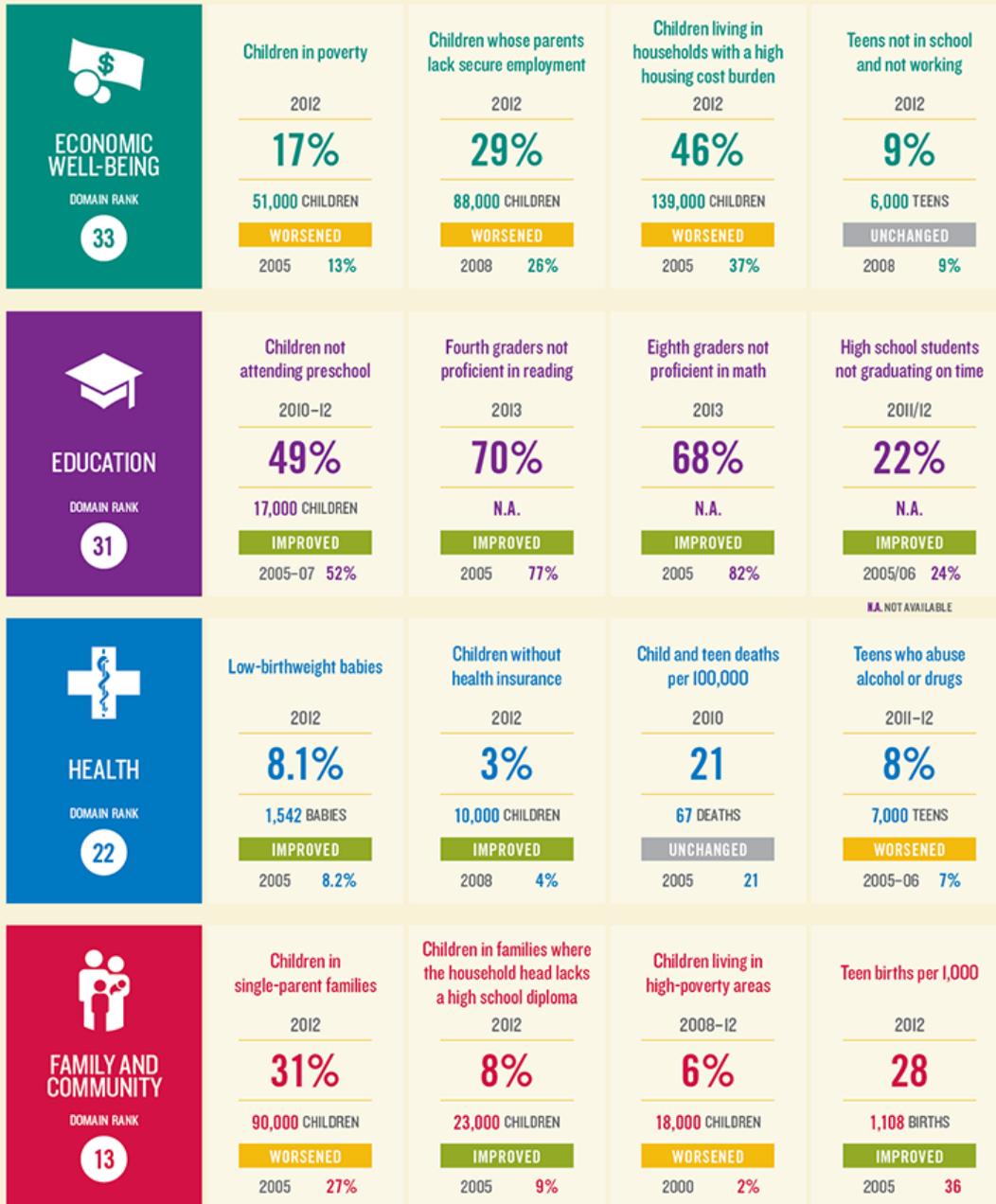
3 out of 4 indicators in Economic Well-Being  
 1 out of 4 indicators in Health  
 2 out of 4 indicators in Family & Community

NO  
CHANGE

1 out of 4 indicators in Economic Well-Being  
 1 out of 4 indicators in Health



The well-being of children is an important indicator of the state's long-term and future economic success. Data presented in this year's *Data Book* shows that Hawai'i is no longer slipping in rank in terms of the overall well-being of children, as was the case in recent years. Hawai'i is now somewhere in the middle, doing well in the areas of health and in the family and community context, but ranked much lower where it comes to the economic well-being of children and education. Nevertheless, there are encouraging signs in the data. Two of the four economic conditions improved slightly since the previous year – perhaps speaking to economic recovery – and gains in the education domain have continued. These gains must continue in the years ahead in order for child outcomes to improve and for Hawai'i to stay strong, stable and globally competitive.



N.A. NOT AVAILABLE

Over the past two decades, the nation has gained significant knowledge on how to provide children a good start and help them meet major milestones throughout childhood. The report addresses this knowledge and policies that set children up for success throughout life. For example, research indicates that a focus on the early years is critical in order to promote healthy child development and to give children a strong foundation for success. Children who have access to high quality early care and learning experiences tend to have better outcomes across domains.

KIDS COUNT began tracking the well-being of our nation's children in the early 1990s. The Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has served as Hawai'i's KIDS COUNT affiliate since 1994. The full 2014 KIDS COUNT *Data Book* and the Hawai'i profile can be found at the KIDS COUNT Data Center website: <http://www.aecf.org/resources/the-2014-kids-count-data-book/>.

**SUBSCRIBING:**

You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to [kcadmin@hawaii.edu](mailto:kcadmin@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 [kcadmin@hawaii.edu](mailto:kcadmin@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](mailto:cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu)

Facebook Page URL: [www.facebook.com/HawaiiKidsCount](http://www.facebook.com/HawaiiKidsCount)

