



Hawaii Kids Count E-BULLETIN

June 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. New Foster Care Data Snapshot on KIDS COUNT
2. National Children's Study Recruiting Participants
3. Helping Children Cope with Economic Distress

1. **New Foster Care Data Snapshot on KIDS COUNT**

This new KIDS COUNT data snapshot, released by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, presents data on the nearly half-million children in foster care across the nation. The snapshot highlights the progress many states have made in increasing the number of children who are living in family settings, such as relative and non-relative foster families. Family settings are preferred because it reduces trauma, provides more safety and support for those who may have experienced abuse and neglect, and allows for maintaining connections with other siblings, relatives, and friends. The data also reveal that the type of placement varies by the state of residence, as well as the age of the child. Indicators in the snapshot include children entering, in, and exiting foster care by age group, gender, and race, as well as children in foster care by placement type and those exiting foster care by exit reason. Data highlights for Hawai'i include:

- Hawai'i had the highest percentage in the nation of children that were placed in relative foster families (45%), compared to the national average of 24%.
- In 2009, 5 out of 1,000 children ages 0 to 17 were in the foster care system, a decrease from the 6 out of 1,000 children in 2008.
- The percentage of children in foster care that were placed in group homes in 2009 was 9%, compared to 8% in 2008. Hawai'i's percentage remains lower than the national average of 16% for both years.
- For those exiting out of foster care, the majority (60%) were reunited with a parent or primary caretaker and 20% were adopted. A smaller proportion were emancipated (10%), put into guardianship (9%), or transferred to another agency (2%).

To see the full data snapshot and browse by data indicators, visit:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Default.aspx?cat=38>

2. **National Children's Study Recruiting Participants**

The National Children's Study, the largest long-term study on children's health ever performed in the U.S., is actively recruiting participants in Hawai'i. A total of forty-one research centers

are involved, and locally the study is being conducted by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine. This study will examine how certain environmental factors affect children's health and development, with the hopes of finding answers to childhood problems such as asthma, autism, obesity, and diabetes. Women in Hawai'i who are pregnant or expect to be pregnant in the next few years are encouraged to get involved with the study. Participants will provide information through periodic appointments or interviews with study team members before and during their pregnancy and as their child grows up.

If you are a woman who is pregnant or might become pregnant, or if you know a woman who might be interested, please consider getting involved. Call (808) 692-1920 or email ncsuhm@hawaii.edu to find out if you, or someone you know, are eligible to participate—or simply help spread the word!

3. Helping Children Cope with Economic Distress

The Center on the Family has updated and reprinted *Raising Children During Tough Economic Times* to continue to reach out to families and children who are coping with economic distress. The negative feelings associated with the economic recession have great potential to affect family relationships, as well as parents' interactions with their children. This brochure presents an overview of what parents can do to build resilience in their children during tough economic times or other hardships. It also presents strategies that parents can use at different stages of their children's development.

To download the brochure from the Center on the Family website, please see:

http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/COF_Resilient_Child_Brochure_00.pdf;

or contact the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family at (808) 956-4132 to request multiple copies.

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CENTER ON THE FAMILY:

2515 Campus Road, Miller Hall 103

Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: [\(808\) 956-4132](tel:(808)956-4132)
Fax: [\(808\) 956-4147](tel:(808)956-4147)
Email: cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu



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