



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

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

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### U.S. TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, BIRTHS, AND ABORTIONS, 2010: NATIONAL AND STATE TRENDS BY AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY

According to a new report by the Guttmacher Institute, released in May 2014, teen pregnancy rates are at historic lows, with declines in every state and among all racial and ethnic groups. The report highlights data from 1990 to 2010, the most recent year for which data are available, at the national and state levels. The teen birth rate (rate per 1,000 women who gave birth) declined by 44% from its peak in 1991. The teen abortion rate (rate per 1,000 pregnancies ending in abortion) declined by 66% between its 1988 peak and 2010. The majority of the data for the report came from the National Center for Health Statistics and the U.S. Census. The report confirms other research findings that fewer teens are becoming pregnant in the first place and suggests that education and contraceptive services aimed at preventing unwanted pregnancies are making an impact. Report authors also point out that teenage pregnancy, birth and abortion trends are affected by various behavioral, social and economic factors and that further research is needed to understand how these factors impact trends. Data for Hawai'i include the following:



- In Hawai'i, the teen pregnancy rate decreased from 134 to 65 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 between 1988 and 2010. Hawai'i's teen pregnancy rate is tied with South Carolina's as the 10th highest in the country.
- Hawai'i had the fourth highest teen abortion rate for women aged 15-19 (23 per 1,000 pregnancies ending in abortion) in 2010; however, this rate has decreased steadily from its peak in 1988 (68 per 1,000).
- In 2010, the teen birthrate was higher among older teens, ages 18-19, (63 per 1,000) than among their younger counterparts (13 per 1,000 for women ages 15-17).

To see more from this report, go to: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends10.pdf>

## HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION

A report from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) finds that for the first time in a decade, the number of low-income children eating summer meals increased by almost 6%. Studies show that proper nutrition is beneficial to behavior, school performance, and overall cognitive development. During the summer recess, millions of low-income children lose access to nutritious school meals that they rely on during the school year. The federal Summer Nutrition Programs replace the regular school year breakfast and lunch programs and are provided at participating summer programs at schools, parks, and other public agencies and non-profits. The nutrition programs will be up for reauthorization by Congress in 2015. Continuation and expansion of these programs is critical to serving more low-income children so that they return to school in the fall well-nourished and ready to learn. Expansion can also allow sites to offer three meals a day instead of just two and provide grants for transportation of meals to sites. Some of the key findings for Hawai'i include:



- Hawai'i experienced the second highest increase in its Summer Nutrition Programs participation between 2012 and 2013 (with a 33.9% increase).
- The number of Summer Food Service Program lunches served in the month of July increased by over 10% between 2012 and 2013, somewhat comparable to the 9% increase in the U.S.
- In 2013, only 9% of low-income children who participated in free and reduced price lunch during the regular school year participated in the Summer Nutrition Program, compared with 15% in the U.S.

The report can be downloaded from the FRAC website at:

[http://frac.org/pdf/2014\\_summer\\_nutrition\\_report.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/2014_summer_nutrition_report.pdf).

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## STATE OF PRESCHOOL 2013

A report recently released by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) profiles state-funded prekindergarten programs in the U.S. For the first time, the annual *State Preschool Yearbook* also profiles the early childhood education efforts in states that are yet to provide state-funded pre-K. The period between ages birth to eight is a critical time of brain and biological system development. Access to high-quality care and learning in all settings (i.e., the home, child care centers, family child care homes, preschools and elementary schools) provides effective learning opportunities that set the foundation for positive outcomes\*. Using data from the 2012-2013 school year, the NIEER report points out that Hawai'i is one of 10 states that does not meet the principles recognized in the report. However, investments in Hawai'i's children have been increasing as recent measures allow for the expansion of early learning programs in our state. The state budget now includes \$3 million for a prekindergarten program, including public preschools in some DOE elementary school campuses in the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. In November 2014, voters will be asked whether public funds should be used for private early learning programs, which will further expand access to early learning experiences for Hawai'i's children.



To view all parts of the NIEER report, go to: <http://nieer.org/publications/state-preschool-2013/>.

To learn more about the Birth Through Age Eight State Policy Framework go to:  
<http://earlysuccess.org/our-work/policy-framework>.

For information on how to get involved in supporting increased investments in Hawai'i's youngest children, visit the Good Beginnings Alliance website at <http://goodbeginnings.org/>.

\* Alliance for Early Success. Birth Through Age Eight State Policy Framework. 2013. Retrieved on June 12, 2014, from <http://earlysuccess.org/files/Alliance-State-Policy-Framework.pdf>.

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