



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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KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER INDICATOR UPDATES

Research shows that children in the child welfare system who are placed with families have a better chance for successful outcomes. The KIDS COUNT Data Center has been updated with new data on out-of-home placements. In addition, the Data Center has been updated to include data on substance abuse. Updated state-level data include:

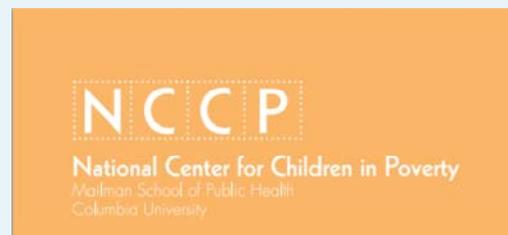
- In Hawai'i, young children (ages 1 – 5) comprised 36% of the population in foster care. Nationally, 33% of children and youth in the child welfare system were in this age group.
- For the past five years, Hawai'i has led the nation in the percentage of children in foster care who live with relatives (48% vs. 28% nationally).
- In 2013, recent marijuana use for youth ages 12-17 was higher in Hawai'i (10%) compared to the U.S. (7%).
- Similar shares of youth ages 12-17 in Hawai'i and across the U.S. engaged in binge drinking, (6% and 7%, respectively).



Check out more data and trends for the nation and Hawai'i at: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

IMPROVING THE ODDS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Improving the Odds for Young Children, a project of the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), provides information on state policies that support the well-being and school readiness of young children and allows for state-by-state comparisons through two tools. The Early Childhood State Policy Profiles report on each state's policy choices in the areas of health, early care and education, and parenting



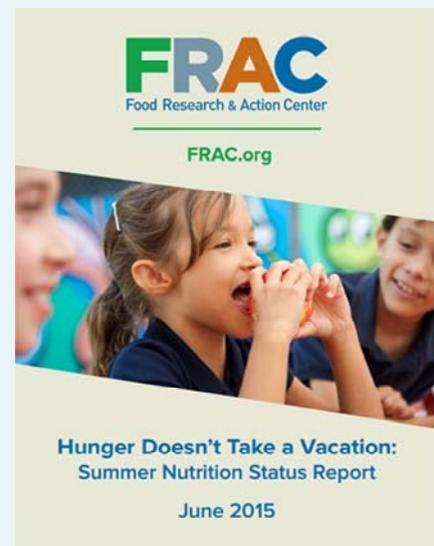
and family economic supports. These Profiles can be used to assess trends and consider ways to strengthen current policy choices that can affect young children's health, development and school readiness. Examples of policies highlighted in the recent Hawai'i Early Childhood State Profile that promote quality early care and education and support family economic security and effective parenting include:

- Early learning standards/developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers.
- A refundable state dependent care tax credit and exemptions/extensions of the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefit time limit for women who are pregnant or caring for a child under age 6.
- A TANF work requirement of 20 hours or less for single parents with children under age 6.

In addition to the Early Childhood State Policy Profile, the Young Child Risk Calculator provides state-specific information about the number of young children at-risk for poor outcomes. The *Improving the Odds for Young Children* resources can be found on the NCCP website at: <http://nccp.org/projects/improvingtheodds.html>.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION

According to a report from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Summer Nutrition Programs served nearly 3.2 million children nationally during July 2014, an increase of 215,000 (7.3%) from 2013. 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 programs provide children the nutritious meals they need to keep hunger at bay and remain healthy throughout the summer. These nutrition programs will be up for reauthorization by Congress in the fall of 2015. In addition to expanding access to the Summer Nutrition Programs, the reauthorization should take steps to provide low-income households resources to purchase food through a Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, offering an opportunity to provide nutritional support to low-income families in rural or other areas underserved by the Summer Nutrition Programs. Some of the key findings for Hawai'i include:



- In 2014, 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 16% in the U.S.
- During 2013 and 2014, there was a slight increase of 1% in the number of sites in Hawai'i that served meals, compared to a 10% increase in the U.S.
- In Hawai'i, the number of Summer Food Service Program lunches served in the month of July increased by about 4% between 2013 and 2014, compared to an 8% increase in the U.S.

The report can be downloaded from the FRAC website at:
http://frac.org/pdf/2015_summer_nutrition_report.pdf.

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