



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

### June 2016 Issue

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

#### *KIDS COUNT Data Book Issue*

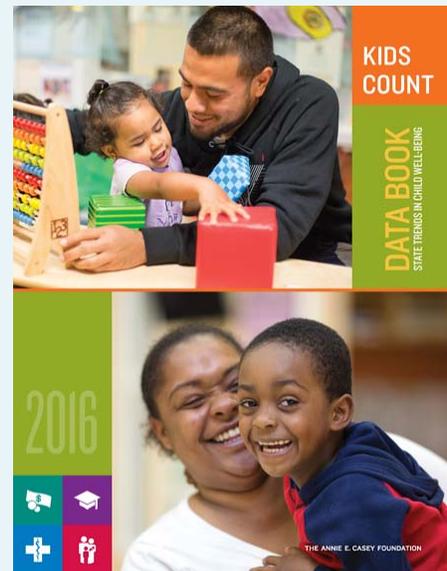
According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book*, Hawai'i ranks 23rd in the nation on overall child well-being, a slight improvement from 24th last year. The 2016 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* continues to look at child well-being in the midst of the country's economic recovery, after the recession ended in June 2009. The data book focuses on trends over the last six years (roughly 2008 – 2014). It also examines the influence of parents' education, health and other life circumstances on child well-being.

The most troubling news from this year's report is that Hawai'i continues to see increases in the share of children growing up in poverty and harsh economic conditions. One bright note is that despite economic challenges, Hawai'i teens are making progress. The teen birth rate decreased during the period examined, down 41% since 2008. The proportion of high school students graduating on time has increased slightly, up to 78% in 2012/2013 (the most current year for which data are available) from 76% in 2007/2008.

However, despite the economic recovery and rising employment, an increasing number of Hawai'i's children are growing up in economic hardship. While Hawai'i is below the national average, the percent of children in poverty increased between 2008 and 2014, with this increase being statistically significant. Hawai'i's child poverty rate now stands at 15%, which is also slightly higher than the 13% reported last year.

In addition, increases in the number of children whose parents lack secure employment and the number of children who live in high-poverty neighborhoods have persisted. And while the share of children living in households with a high housing cost burden (i.e., where more than 30% of the household income is spent on housing) has improved slightly (decreasing from 47% in 2008 to 41% in 2014), Hawai'i has among the worst housing cost burden rates in the nation, ranking 45th out of 50 states on this indicator.

These data understate the proportion of children growing up in economic hardship. Research shows that families need income at least twice the poverty level, probably more in Hawai'i given the high cost of living, just to cover basic living expenses like food, housing, transportation and childcare. According to Census data, about one-third of Hawai'i's children are now growing up in those low-income families that are facing the



challenges of just getting by, up from a little over a quarter in 2008.

Decades of research show how growing up in financial hardship can have profound effects on children, especially when the hardship occurs early in life, impacting their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. If these issues go unaddressed or a child continues to experience economic hardship, chances increase for difficulties later in life, such as dropping out of school, teenage pregnancy and poor employment outcomes.

The encouraging news is that the *Data Book* outlines policy recommendations that are consistent with efforts gaining momentum in Hawai'i to increase opportunity and reduce poverty and inequality. For example, in recent years, the state created 19 Pre-K classrooms located in DOE schools throughout the islands. The State Legislature also recently increased funding for the Preschool Open Doors Program so that more low-income children can attend early learning programs. However, with nearly half of Hawai'i's three- and four-year-olds still not participating in early learning programs, we must continue to do more so that all of Hawai'i's children have a fair chance to develop their potential as they grow.

The report also provides a recommendation to ensure family economic security in the face of a health crisis or when a major family event occurs, like the birth of a child. Paid family leave is recommended as a way to help low-income families and low-wage earners balance their obligations at home and in the workplace. Legislation was proposed this past session for a paid family leave program in Hawai'i. While the measure did not pass, progress was made with the passage of a Senate resolution that establishes a task force to examine the benefits and costs of such a program in Hawai'i. While all employees in Hawai'i will be positively impacted by a paid family leave program, such a policy is especially critical for low-income families that have few resources and support when a family member is ill or a baby is born.

The *Data Book* ranks each state on overall child well-being. Hawai'i sits in the middle range for national child well-being, ranking 23rd out of 50 states. Findings in the four domains measured include the following:

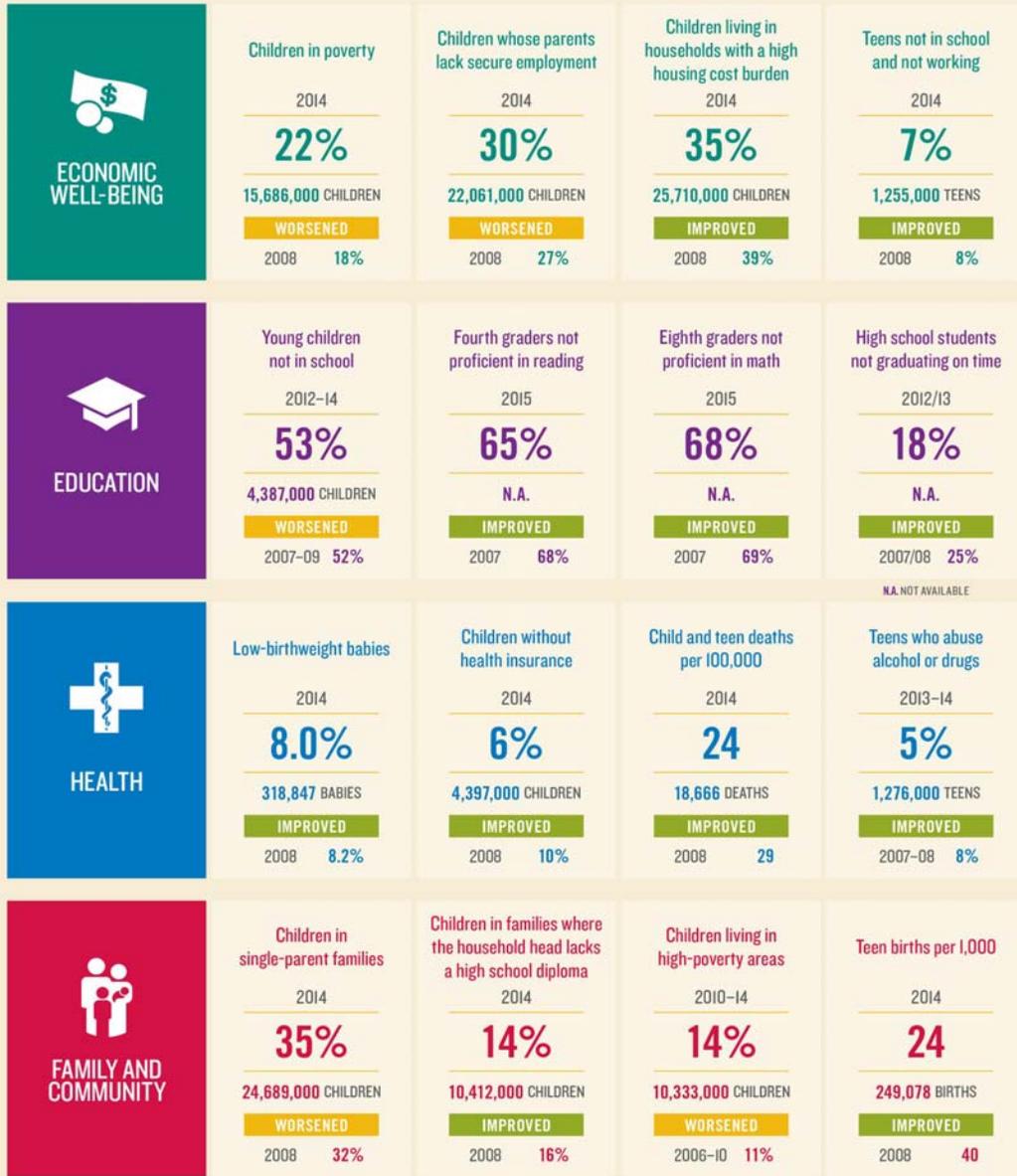
- Two of the four economic conditions – children in poverty and children whose parents lack secure employment – worsened over the six year period, with the increases being statistically significant. The percent of teens (16- to 19-years-old) not in school or working has remained somewhat stable, increasing only slightly. The percent of children in households with a high housing cost burden has decreased, but Hawai'i remains well above the national average (with 41% of children living in such households in Hawai'i, compared to 35% across the country). Hawai'i ranks 32nd out of 50 states in the economic well-being domain.
- Gains in the education domain have been made over the period examined. Reading and math proficiency scores improved and, though the increase has been slight, so has percentage of high school students graduating on time. However, there has been a small but statistically significant increase in the proportion of preschool-aged children not in school and Hawai'i continues to rank near the bottom in the education domain (33rd out of 50 states).
- The health conditions measured – percent of low-birthweight babies, children without health insurance, the child and teen death rate and the percent of teens who abuse substances – have remained relatively stable or improved slightly. Hawai'i ranks 8th out of 50 states in the health domain.
- Hawai'i is also doing well in the area of family and community well-being, ranking 12th out of 50 states. Two indicators – children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma and the teen birth rate – have improved. The proportion of children in single-parent families has remained somewhat stable, increasing only slightly. The share of children living in high-poverty neighborhoods (i.e., where 30% or more of the residents are poor) has also increased.

 <p><b>ECONOMIC WELL-BEING</b></p> <p>DOMAIN RANK</p> <p>32</p>	<p>Children in poverty</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>15%</b></p> <p>44,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2008 10%</p>	<p>Children whose parents lack secure employment</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>29%</b></p> <p>90,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2008 26%</p>	<p>Children living in households with a high housing cost burden</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>41%</b></p> <p>126,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2008 47%</p>	<p>Teens not in school and not working</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>10%</b></p> <p>6,000 TEENS</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2008 9%</p>		
	 <p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>DOMAIN RANK</p> <p>33</p>	<p>Young children not in school</p> <p>2012-14</p> <p><b>49%</b></p> <p>18,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2007-09 45%</p>	<p>Fourth graders not proficient in reading</p> <p>2015</p> <p><b>71%</b></p> <p>N.A.</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2007 74%</p>	<p>Eighth graders not proficient in math</p> <p>2015</p> <p><b>70%</b></p> <p>N.A.</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2007 79%</p>	<p>High school students not graduating on time</p> <p>2012/13</p> <p><b>22%</b></p> <p>N.A.</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2007/08 24%</p>	
		 <p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p>DOMAIN RANK</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Low-birthweight babies</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>7.9%</b></p> <p>1,462 BABIES</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2008 8.1%</p>	<p>Children without health insurance</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>3%</b></p> <p>10,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2008 4%</p>	<p>Child and teen deaths per 100,000</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p>57 DEATHS</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2008 22</p>	<p>Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs</p> <p>2013-14</p> <p><b>5%</b></p> <p>5,000 TEENS</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2007-08 9%</p>
			 <p><b>FAMILY AND COMMUNITY</b></p> <p>DOMAIN RANK</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Children in single-parent families</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>32%</b></p> <p>91,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2008 30%</p>	<p>Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma</p> <p>2014</p> <p><b>7%</b></p> <p>21,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>IMPROVED</b></p> <p>2008 9%</p>	<p>Children living in high-poverty areas</p> <p>2010-14</p> <p><b>6%</b></p> <p>17,000 CHILDREN</p> <p><b>WORSENERD</b></p> <p>2006-10 4%</p>

N.A. NOT AVAILABLE

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

## UNITED STATES | 2016 KIDS COUNT PROFILE



The Annie E. Casey Foundation | [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

Learn more at [datacenter.kidscount.org/USA](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/USA)

The 2016 *Data Book* is available for download at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices at <http://mobile.kidscount.org>.

---

---

***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)

Twitter Page URL: [www.twitter.com/hikidscount](http://www.twitter.com/hikidscount)

