

March 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. Children in the States: Hawai'i Report
2. National Child Abuse Awareness Month
3. Disaster Preparedness for Families in Hawai'i

1. Children in the States: Hawai'i Report

Children's Defense Fund (CDF), a non-profit advocacy organization, has recently released its Children in the States reports for 2011. The *Children in Hawai'i* report is compiled from the most current data available from various government sources such as the census and CDC; the report includes data on child poverty in the state, child health, child hunger, early childhood development, and more. CDF is a private advocacy group based in Washington D.C. that advocates on behalf of all children, in the hopes of providing a *strong, effective, independent voice* for those in need. In addition to the states fact sheets, the organization's website covers current campaigns, initiatives, and policy issues affecting our nation's children.

Some data highlights for Hawai'i include:

- Hawai'i ranks 20th among states in its infant mortality rate; the best state is Washington and the worst is the District of Columbia.
- Of the 290,361 children who live in Hawai'i, 13% receive food stamps.
- The number of high school students in Hawai'i who drop out of school annually is 4,775; the total number for the U.S. is over 1 million.
- Across the state, the number of children in foster care totals 1,455; and 279 of these children were adopted from foster care in 2009.

To access the fact sheet on Hawai'i, visit : <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/state-data-repository/cits/2011/children-in-the-states-2011-hawaii.pdf>

Fact sheets on other U.S. states, as well as a national report, can be found at: <http://www.childrensdefense.org>

2. National Child Abuse Awareness Month

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. Per the 2009 *Report on Child*

Maltreatment, the child abuse rate in Hawai‘i was 6.9 per 1,000 children, compared with the U.S. rate of 9.3. In the spirit of awareness, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families is highlighting information and resources related to child abuse prevention. *Strengthening Families and Communities 2011 Resource Guide* presents information on the five protective factors that serve as buffers for child maltreatment and that are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect. The five protective factors are: nurturing and attachment; knowledge of parenting and child and youth development; parental resilience; social connections, and concrete support for parents.

The guide also provides information for practitioners working with families and children utilizing strategies to engage and build community awareness, identify risk factors and warning signs, and report incidences. Additional resources from private and national partners and tip sheets for parents and caregivers on parenting concerns are also available.

The 2011 resource guide is available here:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/guide2011/>

3. Disaster Preparedness for Families in Hawai‘i

In light of the recent disaster in Japan, and subsequent tsunami warning for Hawai‘i, it is imperative families have a plan to deal with potential natural disasters. Hawai‘i State Civil Defense's website has a wealth of resources related to disaster preparedness, as well as the latest news releases concerning tsunami damage and the threat of radiation exposure. The website provides a template for mapping out an emergency plan; and information on an emergency supply kit is available to help families know what to keep on hand in case of an emergency. Also, the tsunami evacuation zone mapping tool allows you to enter your address, or search by island area, to determine whether you and your family live in an inundation zone.

Two planning guides helpful to families with children are:

- The FEMA report *Helping Children Cope With Disaster*, available here: <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/documents/FEMA478.pdf>
- *Preparing for Disaster*, a comprehensive disaster planning guide, available here: <http://scd.hawaii.gov/documents/FEMA475.pdf>

Information on, and links to, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the International Tsunami Information Center, and many more resources are on the home page and can be accessed at: <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/index.html>

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