



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

Successful Transitions From Foster Care to Adulthood: The Role of Social Capital  
Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site  
USDA Reaching Those in Need Report

## SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FROM FOSTER CARE TO ADULTHOOD: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

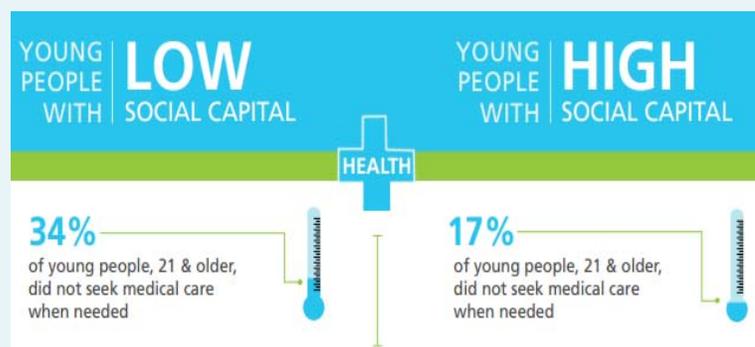
A growing body of research suggests that young people who exit foster care without stable relationships to help them navigate the transition to adulthood are at risk for a number of poor outcomes across several domains. The latest Hawai'i KIDS COUNT (HKC) datasheet highlights the importance of ensuring that young people leaving foster care have healthy and supportive

relationships. The Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative (HYOI, administered by EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.) is one of 18 co-investment sites of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.\* Using data from the Opportunity Passport™ Participant Survey (a data collection tool created by the Casey Initiative and used by all its partner sites), HKC explored whether social capital is associated with well-being in the areas of health, housing, education, work and financial capability. Young people with low versus high social capital were compared, and those with higher social capital showed advantages in terms of housing, medical care and finances. The resulting datasheet is aimed at informing those serving this population about the importance of helping young people in and exiting care develop their social networks and social capital.

HKC assists the local initiative to implement one of its core strategies, i.e., utilizing research and data for decision-making in the development of programming and policy affecting Hawai'i's youth transitioning from foster care. The datasheet can be downloaded from the Center on the Family website:

[http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/536e8\\_HYOI\\_Social\\_Capital\\_Data\\_Sheet.pdf](http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/536e8_HYOI_Social_Capital_Data_Sheet.pdf)

\*The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is a national foundation with a mission to bring together the people, systems, and resources necessary to support successful transitions for young people leaving care.



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## CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT DATA SITE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data website has been updated with recent data from 2010 through 2013. The site provides the latest statistics from the Child Welfare Outcomes Report (which includes the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System), such as data on child maltreatment, children in foster care, permanency and adoption.

The report builder function allows visitors to: (1) select state(s) and data years to view; (2) display data as a graph, table, or map; and, (3) do comparisons and analyses across states. The site also includes special reporting features, including functions for downloading data to Excel and creating printer-friendly reports, and has increased capabilities for viewing race/ethnicity data.



Below are a few examples of Hawai'i-specific trend data that can be found on the Data Site:

- The share of Hawai'i's children and youth who were reunified with their parents or caretakers increased from 81% in 2012 to 84% in 2013.\*
- In 2013, nearly one-third (31%) of children who were younger than age 12 when entering foster care exited to emancipation, while over two-thirds (69%) of youth who were older than age 12 were emancipated.
- In 2013, a higher share (39%) of children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption were discharged in less than 2 years, compared to 25% in 2012.

\*Reunification is considered to be timely if it occurs in less than 12 months from the date of entry into foster care.

The data site can be accessed on the following website:

<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/overview>.

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## USDA REACHING THOSE IN NEED REPORT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released the report, *Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates in 2012*, which provides estimates that measure the need for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by state. SNAP is a critical safety net and anti-hunger program that served over 46 million Americans in 2014. Overall, 83% of eligible people in the U.S. received SNAP benefits in 2012. Compared to the U.S., 22 states had statistically significant higher participation rates and 15 states had statistically significant lower rates. A smaller share (72%) of eligible *working poor* individuals actually participated in SNAP, with state-level participating rates for this population being as low at 49% and as high as 98%. SNAP participation rates can be used to assess the program's effectiveness in reaching its target population and to focus efforts that improve access.



Data highlights for Hawai'i include:

- Two-thirds (66%) of all eligible people received SNAP benefits in 2012, ranking 48th among 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Hawai'i had one of the lowest participation rates among the working poor, with only 51% of eligible working poor individuals receiving SNAP.
- The Western region, which includes Hawai'i, had the lowest participation rate (71%) of all seven regions. The Midwest had the highest at 91%.

The full report can be accessed here:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2012.pdf>

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