

May 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. Teen Birth Rate Facts at a Glance 2011
2. Center on the Family's Learning to Grow Website
3. Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report 2011

1. **Teen Birth Rate Facts at a Glance 2011**

This recently-released fact sheet from Child Trends presents the most current data available from the National Center for Health Statistics on teen birth rates nationwide as well as by state. Teen birth data are also given for 72 major cities in the U.S., drawing attention to the percentage of teen births that are repeat births (i.e., second or higher order births to teen mothers). During 2008-2009, teen births declined to 39.1 births per 1,000 young women between the ages of 15 to 19. Despite the record low national teen birth rate experienced in the last few years, state data reflect widely varied rates. In addition to data on repeat births, the analysis of state teen birth rates in the report also includes births by marital status and race. Data are presented on teen sex practices, including condom use and use of birth control pills. Some data highlights for Hawai'i are:

- In 2008, Hawai'i ranked 28 out of 50 states with an overall teen (15-19) birth rate of 42.1 out of 1,000 births; New Hampshire ranked number one with a rate of 19.8, while the lowest ranked state was Mississippi at 65.7.
- Hawai'i's teen birth rate has generally decreased over the past few decades from a rate of 61 births out of 1,000 in 1990 to a record low of 36 births out of 1,000 in 2005. In 2007 and 2008, the rate increased to 41 and 42 births respectively.
- In 2008, the birth rate for teens 15-17 years old was 17 out of 1,000 births; for teens 18-19 years old it was 77 out of 1,000 births.

To see the complete report including rates for the 72 major cities represented, visit:

http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2011_04_14_FG_2011.pdf

2. **Center on the Family's Learning to Grow Website**

The Center on the Family is very excited to announce the launch of the Learning to Grow (LTG) project's new website. Created for busy families and care providers who have young children in their care, the user-friendly website includes concise, easy-to-read sections with resources ranging from fun learning activities to information about selecting child care to

downloadable publications about early childhood development. LTG's mission is to support children's curiosity, imagination, and healthy social, emotional, and intellectual development by providing adults with resources that make learning fun for children. Some of the content currently available on the website include:

- This month's featured Home Learning Activity: *Keeping the Beat*, making a noisemaker to encourage fine motor skills and learn about rhythm.
- *Raising a School-Ready Child*, a downloadable booklet that describes the home-to-school learning continuum, with examples of everyday activities that parents can use to support their children's early learning and to promote school readiness.
- *Choosing Child Care*, a streaming video that explores child care alternatives and key points to consider in the child care decision-making process.
- *Learning to Grow Developmental Guidelines and Early Learning Activities for Preschoolers*, a guidebook that provides a variety of activities parents and care givers can do with children ages 36 to 48 months to promote early learning and skill development.

To begin exploring the website, please visit:

<http://www.learningtogrowhawaii.org>

3. Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report 2011

As part of a series of reports to highlight the problem of childhood obesity, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued the Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report. This report, which includes both national and state-level information, draws attention to how certain selected behaviors (such as the consumption of sugary drinks and television watching), as well as children's environments (e.g., child care facilities and schools) and policies can affect the likelihood of children developing healthy eating habits. A *National Action Guide*, which describes specific action steps and resources, is included to help affect positive change and achieve better outcomes for children. Some highlights for Hawai'i include:

- The percentage of high school students in Hawai'i who drank more than one soda per day in 2009 was 20.8%; the national average was 29.2%.
- In 2009, one quarter (25.0%) of youth ages 12-17 in Hawai'i did not eat family meals most days of the week, compared with 30.7% in the U.S.
- The percentage of middle and high schools in Hawai'i that offered sugary drinks as competitive foods was 24.1% in 2009, where the national percentage was 64.4%. While this finding is encouraging, the percentage of middle and high schools in Hawai'i which allow advertising of less healthy foods was 39.2%.

To access the full report, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/ChildrensFoodEnvironment.pdf>

For the National Action Guide, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/resources/reports.html>

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