

May 2012 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. 2012 Hawai‘i Community Stabilization Initiative Indicator Report
2. KIDS COUNT Policy Report: Stepping Up For Kids
3. Mental Health, United States, 2010

1. 2012 Hawai‘i Community Stabilization Initiative Indicator Report

This report was prepared by the University of Hawai‘i Center on the Family (with the support of Hawai‘i KIDS COUNT) for the Hawai‘i Community Foundation in response to the foundation’s interest in assessing and tracking the impact of the Great Recession on Hawai‘i’s residents. Based on an extensive review of the research literature on low-income families and working families in various income categories, the report presents a comprehensive framework for understanding and tracking the socioeconomic conditions of Hawai‘i’s residents in the context of the recent recession and current recovery phase. The indicators, and the report, are organized into four domains: 1) employment and education, 2) financial security and safety net, 3) tax credits for working families, and 4) basic needs and family expenditures. The report presents Hawai‘i trends since 2007, with county-level data where available. Key findings related to child well-being and vulnerable families include:

- In Hawai‘i, the impact of the recession on working families peaked in 2009, when 24% of working families struggled to meet basic needs (i.e., were low-income), up from 21% in 2007. Unlike the national trend, Hawai‘i’s economy seemed to have turned around for working families in 2010.
- The recession took its toll on single parents, so many of whom were already struggling to make ends meet. Compared to married-couple families, single-parent families were more than twice as likely to be low-income (45% vs. 17% in 2010) and more than five times as likely to live in poverty (23% vs. 4% in 2010).
- During the recession and recovery, job losses for younger single parents were greater than for older single parents. Before the recession, the unemployment rates for younger (aged 24 and below) versus older (aged 25 and over) single parents were very similar (39% vs. 41% in 2007). In 2010, 60% of younger single parents were unemployed, compared to 43% for their older counterparts.
- An indicator of economic well-being, the percent of students receiving free or reduced school lunch increased from 40% in 2007 to 44% in 2010, with Hawai‘i County having the largest share of students in the program throughout this period at 57% by 2010.

This report is only available online, through the Center on the Family's Website. To download the complete report, go to:

http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/COF_CommunityStabilizationReport_2012Update.pdf

2. KIDS COUNT Policy Report: Stepping Up For Kids

A new KIDS COUNT report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation focuses on the rise of *kinship care*, i.e., the full-time care of a child by blood relatives or other adults with whom the child has a family-like relationship. In the last decade, the number of children in kinship care has increased by 18%. The report, *Stepping Up For Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families*, provides background on the importance of kinship care in increasing child safety, stability, permanence, and well-being. The report identifies challenges that kinship families face in caregiving, accessing government benefits and services, and interacting with the child welfare system and other institutions, such as schools. The report provides policy recommendations, such as: increasing the financial stability of kinship families by ensuring that kinship families have access to benefits and through TANF, SNAP, the National School Lunch Program, Social Security, Medicaid, and other government-funded programs designed to meet their unique needs; strengthening kinship families involved in the child welfare system; and improving and expanding community-based supports and other government responses for kinship families. Hawai'i-specific data on children in kinship care include the following:

- Four percent (4%) of all children in Hawai'i are in kinship care, the same as the U.S. average.
- Of the children in the foster care system, 46% are in state-supervised kinship foster care. Hawai'i has the highest percentage of children in state-supervised kinship foster care in the nation (a preferred setting for those in foster care). The national average is 26%.

To view the complete report on The Annie E. Casey Foundation's website, go to:

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/S/SteppingUpforKids2012PolicyReport/SteppingUpForKidsPolicyReport2012.pdf>

3. Mental Health, United States, 2010

A recent study estimated that one out of every eight children in the U.S. has had some form of an emotional or behavioral health disorder in the past year. The most common are attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), mood disorders, and conduct disorders. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released *Mental Health, United States, 2010*, highlighting mental health statistics at the national and state levels from 35 different data sources. The report covers: (1) the mental health status of the U.S. population and prevalence of mental illness; (2) providers and settings for mental health services, types of mental health services, and rates of utilization; and (3) expenditures

and sources of funding for mental health services. State-level data, as well as a number of tables focusing specifically on the needs of and services for children, are among the new features of this biannual report. Hawai'i-related data on children and youth include the following:

- Between 2005 and 2009, the percentage of Hawai'i's youth aged 12 to 17 with a major depressive episode decreased from 8.6% to 8.1%. This is consistent with the national average which decreased from 8.4% to 8.2% in the same time period.
- In Hawai'i, a total of 97,000 youth aged 12 to 17 received mental health treatment in a specialty inpatient/outpatient (hospital, clinic, or office) and nonspecialty (medical pediatrician or other family doctor's office) setting.
- The number of child and adolescent psychiatrists in Hawai'i has doubled within the last two decades, from 12 per 100,000 youth in 1990 to 25 per 100,000 youth in 2009.

For more information and to download the entire report, go to:
<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k12/MHUS2010/MHUS-2010.pdf>

SUBSCRIBING:

You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to 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 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/hawaii_kids_count/archive.asp

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](tel:(808)956-4132)

Fax: [\(808\) 956-4147](tel:(808)956-4147)

Email: cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu



Facebook Page URL: www.facebook.com/COFHawaii