



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

### May 2013 Issue

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

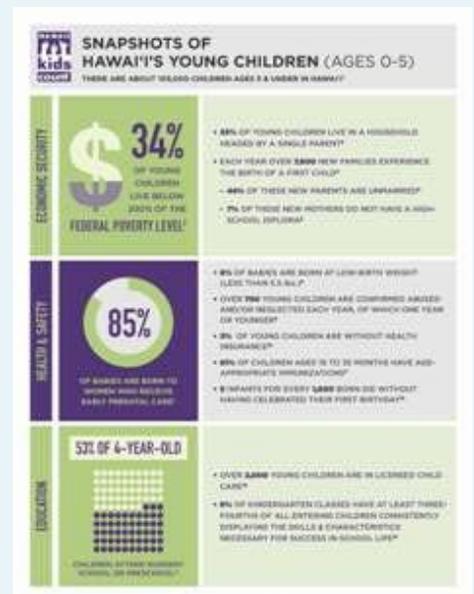
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### SNAPSHOTS OF HAWAI'I'S YOUNG CHILDREN, YOUTH AND TEENS

Hawai'i KIDS COUNT has developed an updated series of data snapshots on Hawai'i's young children (ages 0-5), youth (ages 6-11) and teens (ages 12-17). The *Snapshots* present point-in-time data focusing on three important areas of child well-being: economic security, health and safety, and education. Data were collected from various sources including: U.S. Census Bureau, Hawai'i Department of Health, Hawai'i Department of Human Services, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Hawai'i Department of Education. Here is a sample of the data that are included in the series:

- 8% of babies are born at low-birth weight (less than 5.5 lbs.)
- 53% of 4-year-old children attend nursery school or preschool
- 28% of public school fourth graders do not meet DOE standards in reading
- 7% of sixth graders reported skipping school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe
- 52% of public elementary school students receive free and reduced-cost lunches
- 11% of teens ages 16-19 are not in school and not working
- 62% of high school seniors reported that they definitely will plan to complete a post-high school program

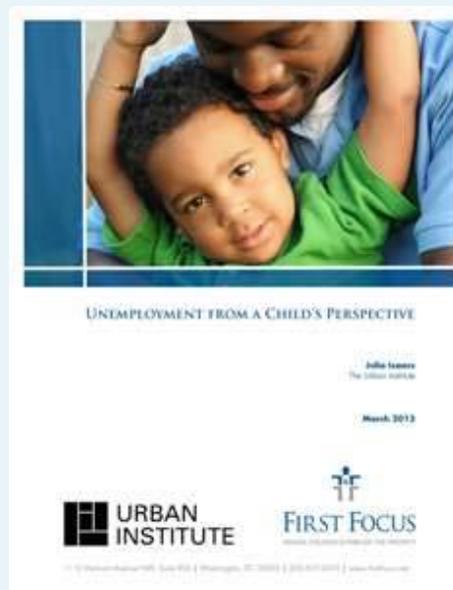


The series is available for download on the Center on the Family website at:

[http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/13101001\\_COFSnapshot\\_Publication-v9.pdf](http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/13101001_COFSnapshot_Publication-v9.pdf)

## UNEMPLOYMENT FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Urban Institute released a brief that examines the impact of parental unemployment on children. The brief measures the increase in children with unemployed and underemployed parents during and following the recession and provides demographic data on these children. The brief also describes the reach of three federal initiatives designed to help the families of the unemployed: unemployment insurance (UI), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Findings indicate that federal benefits are failing to reach children affected by unemployment. Nationally, just 36 percent of children with unemployed parents are in families receiving UI, while 29 percent live in families who receive SNAP and/or TANF instead. The remaining 35 percent of children impacted by parental unemployment do not receive any of these three benefits designed to support unemployed or low-income families.



Families experiencing long-term unemployment and the exhaustion of available federal unemployment benefits are particularly vulnerable to economic stress. Economic stress can have significant consequences for children. Job loss can have a negative impact on family dynamics through increased parental irritability, depression, and higher levels of family conflict. Family unemployment has a marked impact on children, including documented lower math scores, poorer school attendance, higher risk of grade retention, and suspension/expulsion. Hawai'i-specific data from the report include:

- The percentage of children living with unemployed parents increased from 3% in 2007 to 7% in 2012.
- In Hawai'i, 41% of children with unemployed parents have long-term unemployed parents (i.e., six months or longer), slightly lower than 45% in the U.S.
- In Honolulu, one of the 100 metro areas examined in the analysis, the percentage of children with unemployed parents increased from 2% in 2007 to 6% in 2012.

To download the complete report, go to the Urban Institute website:

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001671-Unemployment-from-a-Childs-Perspective.pdf>

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## 2013 RANKING OF STATE CHILD CARE CENTER REGULATIONS AND OVERSIGHT



Child Care Aware of America (formerly the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) released an updated report, which ranks and scores state laws governing child care centers on state licensing policies. *We Can Do Better: 2013 Update* reviews the program requirements and oversight benchmarks to better understand the settings that states have approved for the care of children. Program requirements were reviewed in the following areas:

background checks; director and lead teacher educational requirements; provider education; initial training and annual training; learning activities; basic health and safety; parental involvement; staff to child ratio; and group size. Oversight benchmarks include: inspections by licensing, health, and fire personnel; programs to licensing staff ratio; licensing staff educational requirements; and

availability of inspection and complaint reports on the internet. Overall, the updated report found that states showed modest improvement since 2011. States were scored based on fifteen benchmarks that represent eleven program requirements and four oversight benchmarks. Out of a possible 150 points, the average score in 2013 was 92 (compared to 87 in 2011 and 83 in 2009). Some highlights from the update are as follows:

- Hawai'i ranked 40th among the 50 states, with a final score of 83 out of 150. The 2011 report ranked Hawai'i 25th among the 50 states with a total score of 91 out of 150.
- Hawai'i is one of 13 states that conducts a comprehensive background check for providers working in a child care center.
- Hawai'i is one of two states (in addition to California) that do not require child care providers to have annual training in topics including: child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR, and first aid.

View the full report on the Child Care Aware of America website:

[http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default\\_site\\_pages/2013/wcdb\\_2013\\_final\\_april\\_11\\_0.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2013/wcdb_2013_final_april_11_0.pdf)

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