



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

E-Bulletin

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

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EVERY KID NEEDS A FAMILY

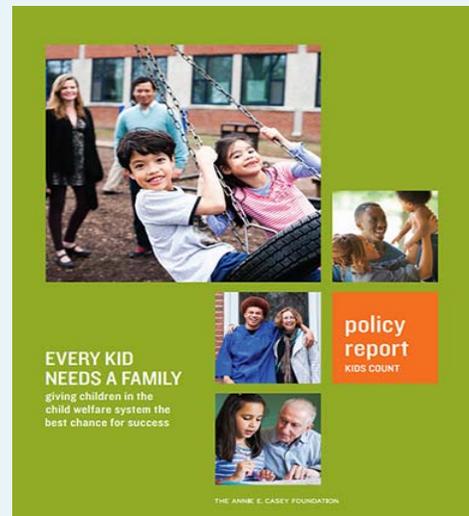
A KIDS COUNT policy report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights the importance of family placements for young people in the child welfare system. The report, which emphasizes that group placements are the least favorable setting for children in foster care, also highlights the promising ways that state and local government leaders, policymakers, judges and private providers can work together as they strive to help the 56,000 children who are living in such settings throughout the country.

In the U.S., 40% of young people who live in group facilities while in the child welfare system have no documented behavioral or clinical need to be in such restrictive settings. Such placements have been shown to be harmful to a child's opportunities to develop strong and nurturing attachments.

Percentages of young people in group placements within states range from as low as 4% in Oregon to as high as 35% in Colorado. The good news is that Hawai'i is doing well with 92% of children in foster care living in family settings and only 7% in group placements. Nationally, 84% of young people in the child welfare system are in family settings and 14% are in group placements.

Helping more children live in families means starting with the families they already have, even those in crisis. Keeping kids connected to family – their kin if not their parents – helps them stay safe and strong. When birth parents cannot care for a child, relatives can offer an existing relationship and connection to the child's identity and culture, making an eventual return home easier. When kin care is not possible, foster parents play a critical role in nurturing and protecting children until they reside in a permanent family. When properly supported, foster families are capable of caring for the same children who otherwise end up in group placements.

Every Kid Needs a Family is available for download at:
<http://www.aecf.org/resources/every-kid-needs-a-family/>.



LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The 2015 session of the Hawai'i State Legislature came to a close on May 7, and while a number of measures on children and youth stalled, a handful of bills passed. Act number indicates bills signed by the Governor at the time of this update:

SB64

Provides 6 million dollars for the preschool open doors program in 2016.

HB820

Establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Prekindergarten Program in the Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

SB913-Act 016

Requires the Department of Public Safety to collect data relating to incoming offenders on the number of children they have and other information to facilitate services to them or their children.

SB822-Act 021

Clarifies the implementation schedule and calculation method for minimum number of days and student hours required for Department of Education schools in each school year.

HB253-Act 036

Authorizes pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons between 14 and 17 years of age who have a valid prescription from the patient's medical home.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The *County Health Rankings* report is produced collaboratively by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to help counties understand the longevity of its residents and measure their current health status. Reports are available for all states with rankings for each county based on health outcomes and health factors. Health outcomes are comprised of measures such as premature death, low birthweight, and poor or fair health. Measures in the health factors category are broken down by: (1) behaviors (teen births, adult obesity, access to exercise), (2) clinical care (uninsured, primary care physicians, and preventable hospital stays), (3) social and economic factors (high school graduation, income inequality, children in single-parent households), and (4) the physical environment (air pollution, severe housing problems, drinking water violations). In addition, comparisons to the U.S. and state comparisons are provided. Examples of Hawai'i-level health-related data include:

- Hawai'i has a higher number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases (455 per 100,000) compared to 291 in the U.S.
- The ratio of population to primary care physicians is 1192 to 1 in Hawai'i, lower than the U.S. ratio of 2015 to 1.
- The rate of preventable hospital stays (for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions*) in Hawai'i is 28 per 1,000 Medicare enrollees, compared to the U.S. at 65 per 1,000.



* Conditions such as asthma, pneumonia, chronic pulmonary obstructive disease and congestive heart failure - refer to those for which hospitalization is often preventable when access to primary care is adequate.

The 2015 *County Health Rankings* report, data tables, and ranking maps for Hawai'i can be downloaded from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/rankings/data/HI>.

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