



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

E-Bulletin

November 2013 Issue

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

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THE FIRST EIGHT YEARS: GIVING KIDS A FOUNDATION FOR LIFETIME SUCCESS

The KIDS COUNT report, *The First Eight Years: Giving Kids a Foundation for Lifetime Success* presents a strong case for investing in the early years of a child's life. Decades of brain and child development research show that kids who enter kindergarten with below-average language and cognitive skills can catch up — but only if they are physically healthy and have strong social and emotional skills. The picture is especially troubling for low-income children, who are less likely to be on track on all four key developmental areas than their higher-income peers. To prepare all children for success, the report recommends that states: 1) support parents as they care for their children, 2) improve access to quality care and education, health care, and other services, and 3) ensure that care is comprehensive and coordinated for all children from birth through age eight. In conjunction with the report, the KIDS COUNT Data Center has been updated with new early childhood indicators. Data and trends for Hawai'i include the following:

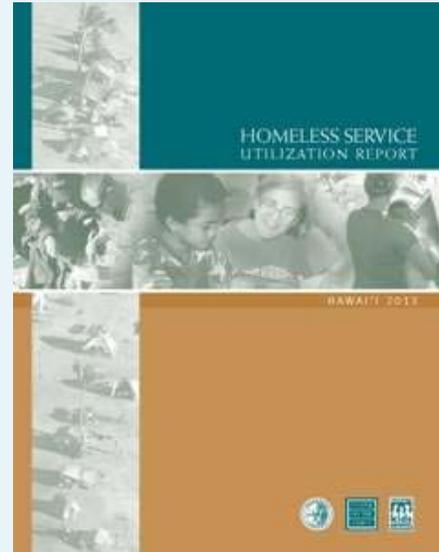
- Over one-third (38%) of children under age nine in Hawai'i live in low-income families, compared to 48% in the U.S.
- In Hawai'i, 30% of children under age six have parents with concerns about their development, compared to 26% nationally.
- Hawai'i had a higher proportion of children under age six who received a developmental screening (39%), compared to the U.S. (30%).



The report is available for download on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website at: <http://bit.ly/HtHDxQ>.

HOMELESS SERVICE UTILIZATION REPORT: HAWAI'I 2013

The Center on the Family at UH-Manoa and the Homeless Programs Office of the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services have released the *Homeless Service Utilization Report: Hawai'i 2013*. The report provides the most current data on individuals and households who accessed homeless services and the state's overall service utilization in the 2013 fiscal year, based on agency-entered data in the Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS). The report includes information for both the Shelter Stipend Program (i.e., emergency and transitional shelter services) and the Outreach Program (i.e., services to those living outside, in a car or park, or on a beach). The 2013 report provides a demographic profile based on an unduplicated count of Shelter and Outreach program clients, a seven-year trend of homeless service utilization, and an analysis of outcomes of the Shelter program. Highlights of the report pertaining to children and families accessing homeless services include:



- Children under 18 years of age comprised a quarter of the client population, with young adults between 18 and 24 years accounting for another 8%.
- Among the 8,974 households served, 16% were single parent (7%) or two-parent (9%) households with children.
- Children under the age of 18 comprised over a third (34%) of the Shelter program client population, and 12% of the Outreach program population.
- Rates of permanent housing exits improved since 2012. Nearly a third (31%) of families exited emergency shelters to permanent housing, compared to 23% in 2012; and 70% of families exited transitional shelters to permanent housing in 2013, compared to 64% in the previous year.

The report is available on the Center on the Family website at: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/402d5_HomelessServiceUtilization2013.pdf.

PIVOT POINT: STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES 2013



This annual report by the National Women's Law Center monitors trends in child care assistance policies since 2001. Families who are struggling to meet their basic expenses rely on child care assistance so that they may participate in the workforce. The report finds that families in 26 states plus the District of Columbia are better off under one or more key child care policies in 2013 than in 2012, with families in 24 states worse off now than a year ago. This report focuses on five policy areas which help to determine the affordability, accessibility, and quality of child care assistance that low-income families receive: 1) income eligibility limits; 2) waiting lists for assistance; 3) parent copayment levels; 4) reimbursement rates for providers; and 5) eligibility policies for parents searching for work. This year's findings are more positive than in the previous two years, with improvements for families seen in slightly more states. According to the report:

- Hawai'i is one of 19 states in which the income eligibility limit remained unchanged between 2012 and 2013; 25 states increased the limit to adjust for inflation and seven states lowered the limit.
- Hawai'i is one of the 24 states that did not have a waiting list for all years reported; other states had waiting lists or froze intake (turning away eligible families without adding their names to a waiting list).
- Hawai'i is one of the 15 states that allows parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

The full report is available for download at: http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/final_nwlc_2013statechildcareassistancereport.pdf.

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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.

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