

October 2011 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

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1. Food Hardship in America 2010

Published in August 2011 by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), this report focuses on rates of food hardship*. Households with and without children were the focus of this report, which is the fifth in a series analyzing data from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Rates by state, Metropolitan Statistical Area, and Congressional District are presented. Nationally, 14.9% of households without children reported experiencing food hardship, while 23.4% of families with children reported so. Some of the key findings for Hawai‘i are as follows:

- In Hawai‘i, 12.9% of households without children and 22.7% of households with children experienced food hardship, just below the national average in both categories.
- Hawai‘i ranks 34th out of the 50 states based on food hardship among households with children.
- Out of the 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas that were analyzed, Honolulu was ranked the lowest in food hardship for households with children, with 15.9% experiencing food hardship; Winston-Salem, NC was ranked the highest, with 34.8% of such households reporting food hardship.
- In Honolulu, 10.9% of households without children experienced food hardship.

*Food hardship is determined by whether households answered “yes” to the question, “Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?”

The full report can be accessed at:

http://frac.org/pdf/aug2011_food_hardship_report_children.pdf

2. Bureau of Justice Statistics-Arrest Data Analysis Tool

This dynamic data analysis tool was developed by the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), to expand the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) *Crime in the United States* series. National and agency-level arrest estimates include arrest data on juveniles by gender, age, and race. Data going back to 1980 can be viewed by law enforcement agencies within each state. Aggregated state-level data is not available; however, county level information is available for Hawai'i. Data can be downloaded in a PDF or Excel format. Examples of juvenile-related data for Hawai'i highlight that:

- The only offense category in which female juveniles (age 0 - 17) in all four counties had a greater number of arrests than their male counterparts is *runaways*.
- Between 1999 and 2009, the leading cause of arrest in Honolulu County for youth under the age of 15 was runaways, while nationally, the property crime index (which includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) was the leading cause of arrest for the same age group.
- Between 2008 and 2009, there was a drop in total arrests for juveniles under 18 in all four counties (Honolulu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i).

To search the BJS Arrest Data Analysis Tool, go to

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm>

3. America's Children Special Feature: Adoption

The latest report from the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics contains a special feature on adoption. The *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2011* report presents key data from the American Community Survey, the National Survey of Children's Health, and the National Survey of Adoptive Parents. State-level data describe the number of adopted children, the geographic distribution, and the frequency of transracial adoptions (i.e., adopted children who are a different race from their adoptive parents). Other indicators of child well-being for this population are addressed at the national level. In 2008, approximately 1.6 million children (2%) between the ages of 0 and 17 were adopted in the U.S. Key findings on adopted children in Hawai'i include:

- In 2008, approximately 6,000 (3%) of Hawai'i's children ages 0-17 were adopted.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of adoptions were transracial, higher than the national average of 22%. Hawai'i is among the top three leading states in transracial adoptions, along with Alaska (43%) and New Hampshire (40%).
- Hawai'i belongs to the West region, which of the four regions, had the third highest percentage of children who were adopted. The Midwest had the highest percentage of adopted children.

To access the *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2011* report's special feature on adoption, go to:

<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/special1.asp>

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