



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

E-Bulletin

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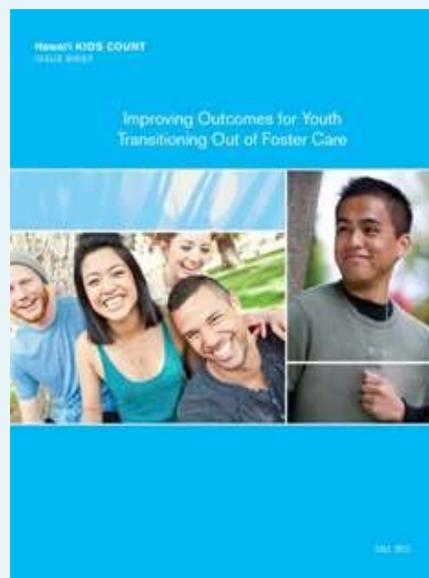
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IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

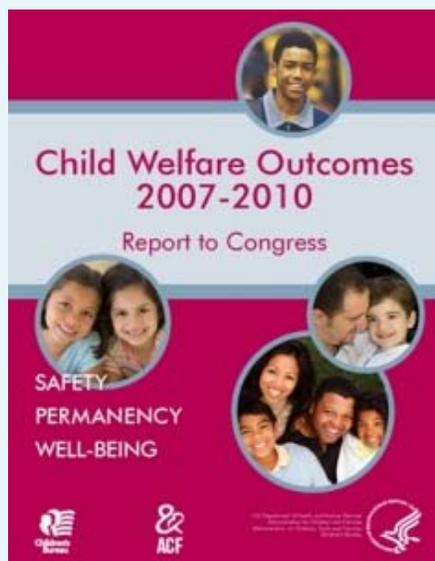
The latest Hawai'i KIDS COUNT issue brief aims to increase awareness of the challenges faced by youth who exit foster care without a permanent placement. The brief presents Hawai'i and U.S. trend data on youth who are currently in and aging out of foster care, a review of the literature on outcomes for this population, and research-based program and policy-level recommendations for improving these outcomes. Hawai'i is now considering the option of allowing foster care through age 21. Hawai'i KIDS COUNT aims to provide information on the pressing needs of this population with this issue brief. The following are key data points from the report:

- Nationally, the number of children and youth in foster care decreased by 26% between 2000 and 2010, and by 49% in Hawai'i.
- While the number of children in foster care has decreased, the share of youth who age out of care has increased. Nationally, 11% of those exiting out of care in 2010 aged out, up from 7% in 2000. The trend in Hawai'i is similar, with 10% of those exiting out of care aging out, up from 7% in 2000.
- In Hawai'i, a higher proportion (88%) of children and youth in care are in foster family settings (which is preferable and important for healthy development), compared with the U.S. (74%).
- Hawai'i has a smaller share (9%) of foster children and youth in group or residential care settings (which puts youth at risk for less favorable outcomes), compared with the U.S. (15%).



The full report is available for download from the UH Center on the Family website: http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/12101011_COF_Foster_Youth_Report-v7.pdf

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT TO CONGRESS



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released *Child Welfare Outcomes 2007–2010: Report to Congress*, the eleventh in a series of reports designed to inform Congress, the States, and the public about State performance on delivering child welfare services. The report provides information about State performance on seven national child welfare outcomes related to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children involved in the child welfare system. Data comes from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), and the report includes some data analyses across States. The national child maltreatment victimization rate decreased from 10.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in FY 2007 to 10.0 in FY 2010, continuing the long-term, downward trend that began in the early 1990s. Child maltreatment data for Hawai'i shows:

- In 2010, 1,795 children were confirmed to be victims of maltreatment with a rate of 6.2 per 1,000 children, lower than the national child victim rate of 10.0.
- In Hawai'i, of all of the children who were victims of maltreatment during the first 6 months of the year, 2.4% had another report within a 6-month period. Nationally, the percent of children who experienced recurring maltreatment ranged from 1.2% to 12.3%, with a national median of 4.8%.
- In Hawai'i, children under age 1 have the highest rate of victimization, comprising 13.3% of child victims.

The full report, including state-by-state data tables, is available on the Children's Bureau website: <http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cwo07-10/cwo07-10.pdf>

2012 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUMMIT PRIORITY AREAS

On October 1, 2012, over 200 youth and child advocates headed to the Hawai'i State Capitol to focus on issues important to the well-being of children and youth in Hawai'i at the 19th Annual Children and Youth Summit. The Summit is sponsored by the Keiki Caucus, a bipartisan and bicameral group of state legislators, child advocates, and service providers focused on children and youth legislative priorities. Attendees were treated to presentations by a panel of experts on subjects relating to the economy, jobs, early learning, homelessness, health, education, civil rights, and sustainability. Small group discussions identified legislative priority areas, including the following top five as addressed by the youth and adults in



attendance.

Youth group:

- Supporting gay rights/marriage rights
- Developing a safe house for youth to seek help with domestic violence, suicide prevention programs, teen pregnancy, trauma, problem-solving, drinking and smoking problems, help for high school dropouts, and programs for teen girls
- Supporting college educational attainment and improving access to and funding for financial aid
- Reducing gas prices and promoting the use of alternative fuel
- Supporting equal pay for women

Adult group:

- Advocating safe and comprehensive teen health
- Restoring funding to youth services and needy families
- Developing a safe house for youth (see above for description)
- Creating a coordinating body for youth and families to include creating a youth service inventory and an effective tracking system
- Allocating funding for encouraging sustainability at the home level (i.e. aquaponics)

The Keiki Caucus will use this list of priority areas for legislative consideration in the upcoming session that begins in January 2013.

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