Snapshot of Hawaii’s Children (ages 0 – 5)

There are about 100,000 children ages 5 and under in Hawaii. ¹

Economic Security

✓ 38% live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level ²
✓ 30% live in a household headed by a single parent¹
✓ Over 7,000 new families a year are formed by the birth of a first child:
  • 41% of the new parents are unmarried
  • 11% of the new mothers do not have a high-school diploma³

Health and Safety

✓ 13% are without health insurance¹
✓ 83% of children ages 19 to 35 months have age-appropriate immunizations⁴
✓ Over 1,500 a year are confirmed abused and/or neglected; a considerable proportion of these are less than one year old⁵
✓ 7 infants for every 1,000 born die without having celebrated their first birthday⁶
✓ 80% of babies are born to women who receive early prenatal care⁶
✓ 9% of babies are born at low birth-weight (less than 5.5 lbs.)⁷

Education

✓ 73% of children ages 3 to 5 are enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten²
✓ 4,646 receive subsidized care in licensed child-care centers⁸
✓ 6% of kindergarten classes have at least three-fourths of all entering students ready to learn⁹

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Data Ferrett, CPS, 2004
² U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
³ Hawaii Department of Health, Vital Statistics special request, 2001
⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 2003
⁵ Hawaii Department of Human Services, Child Abuse and Neglect in Hawaii, 2003
⁶ Hawaii Department of Health, Vital Statistics Reports, 2002
⁸ Center on the Family, special study for Good Beginnings Alliance, 2000
⁹ Good Beginnings Alliance, special request, 2004