



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

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

Hawai'i KIDS COUNT aims to provide unbiased and high-quality data and research to policymakers, child and family advocates, and other stakeholders in an effort to inform their work and advance sound policies and initiatives that support Hawai'i's children and families. In this issue, we share the release of the Center on the Family's latest brief: *COVID-19 and Job Loss: Who are the Workers Most Affected in Hawai'i?*

Hawai'i has been hit particularly hard with record high unemployment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. While all major industries have experienced employment losses, the state's tourism and related industries have been significantly impacted by the crisis. In their latest brief, *COVID-19 and Job Loss*, the Center on the Family presents data from the American Community Survey to examine characteristics of the workforce in the most affected industries. Researchers found that:

- the majority of workers already struggled to make ends meet prior to the COVID-19 crisis, earning very-low or low wages;
- Filipinos are overrepresented among the lowest-wage industries (i.e., retail trade and leisure and hospitality);
- women make up well over half of workers in retail trade, which has the largest share of low-wage workers;
- young adults under 35 make up over four in 10 workers in the industries most impacted;
- half of the workforce in these industries have a high school diploma or less education;
- the good majority depend on employer-sponsored health insurance; and
- about four in 10 workers were renters, a group particularly vulnerable to houselessness during a financial crisis.

As Hawai'i looks to rebuild its economy, an understanding of who comprises the workforce in these vulnerable industries may inform their recovery as well as the creation of higher quality employment opportunities.

The full brief can be found at

https://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/sites/uhfamily.hawaii.edu/files/publications/COVID19HawaiiJobLoss_Brief_2020.pdf.



COVID-19 AND JOB LOSS:

Who are the Workers Most Affected in Hawai'i?



About Us

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on the Family, a unit within the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, is Hawai'i's designated KIDS COUNT grantee.

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