



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 Fall 2019 issue, we share the Annie E. Casey Foundation's latest data on children living in concentrated poverty.

CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY, LOW-OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS



KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot: **Children Living in High-Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods**


Today, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released “Children Living in High-Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods,” a KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot that uses data from the U.S. Census to examine children in concentrated poverty in America. Growing up in concentrated poverty—that is, a neighborhood where 30 percent or more of the population is living in poverty—is one of the greatest threats to healthy child development. Children in high-poverty neighborhoods tend to lack access to healthy food and quality medical care and they often face greater exposure to environmental hazards, such as poor air quality, and toxins such as lead. Children growing up in concentrated poverty face financial hardships and fear of violence, which can lead to chronic stress linked to diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Nationwide, more than 8.5 million (or nearly 12 percent of all children) live in these neighborhoods.

According to the snapshot, 13,000 children in Hawai‘i live in concentrated poverty. The negative effects of growing up in financial hardship build over time and are long lasting, with consequences early in life impeding progress at later life stages. Children in high-poverty neighborhoods are more likely to have lower incomes than children who relocated away from communities of concentrated poverty. The snapshot underscores the relations between adequately resourced communities and children's long-term success.

All children deserve to live in communities where they can learn, play, and grow. Children thrive when they grow up in neighborhoods with high-quality schools, abundant job opportunities, reliable transportation, and safe places for recreation. The Annie E. Casey Foundation outlines policy solutions to address concentrated poverty and challenges leaders at all levels to confront issues such as the far-reaching effects of racial inequities and inequality. Policies that can have significant impact on children in struggling families include:

- Preserving affordable housing, including supporting development and property-ownership models such as community land trusts and limited-equity cooperatives;
- Assisting low-income residents in paying higher property taxes that often come with new development or moves to more affluent areas; Expanding workforce training for people of color and people in low-income communities; and
- Ending housing discrimination based on previous convictions or federal housing vouchers.

The KIDS COUNT® Data Snapshot, “Children Living in High-Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods,” is available at <https://www.aecf.org/resources/children-living-in-high-poverty-low-opportunity-neighborhoods/>.



CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY, LOW-OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS

All children and youth deserve to live in communities where they can learn, play and grow. When neighborhoods have quality schools, accessible job opportunities, reliable transportation and safe places for recreation, children are better positioned for success in adulthood. Yet millions of children live in high-poverty neighborhoods that lack these critical assets.

Though the number of children living in areas of concentrated poverty (census tracts with overall poverty rates of 30% or more) fell as the nation recovered from the Great Recession, the total remains far too high: more than 8.5 million, or 12%, of all kids. Moreover, children of color are much more likely than white children to live in high-poverty communities.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2012 "Data Snapshot on High-Poverty Communities" underscored that living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty undermines child well-being. Moreover, a 2015 study showed that children under age 13 who moved from low-income neighborhoods to more affluent communities had higher incomes as adults compared to peers who remained in impoverished areas.¹

High-poverty neighborhoods generally don't provide access to healthy food and quality public schools or medical care, and they often subject residents to greater exposure to environmental hazards, such as poor air quality or lead. Financial hardships and fear of violence also can cause chronic stress in children, which has been linked with diabetes, heart disease and stroke later in life.²

¹Research indicates that as poverty rates increase, undesirable outcomes rise. The effects of concentrated poverty, high to upper middle-class poverty rates rise from 20% and continue to grow as the concentration of poverty increases to 40%. Because 50% has become the starting point and leading all points for negative neighborhood effects, this figure is referred to as the "concentrated poverty."

²The 2017 federal poverty level was \$24,850 for a family of two adults and two children.

data snapshot


KIDS COUNT®

Concentrated Poverty and Race

African-American and American Indian children are seven times more likely to live in high-poverty neighborhoods than white kids. Latino children are nearly five times more likely.

These disparities are the legacies of racial and ethnic oppression, as well as the result of present-day laws and practices. Federal and local policies, such as mass incarceration, or discriminatory real estate practices, such as redlining and limited access to financial institutions, locked millions of African-American families in communities that lacked resources to help children thrive.³ Native Americans have suffered displacement since before the nation's founding, as well as broken promises from federal and local officials that stripped them of wealth. Latinos have faced discrimination in workplaces and from home lenders that have limited their economic opportunities.

CHILDREN IN HIGH-POVERTY, LOW-OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS



www.aecf.org

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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