



# Hawaii Kids Count E-BULLETIN

## April 2005 Issue

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

### [What's New This Month](#)

1. *New State-by-State Analysis of Declining Teen Birth Rates*
2. *State Data on Children with Special Health Care Needs*
3. *Geographic Adjustments in Poverty Thresholds*
4. *Hawaii Kids Count E-Bulletin* subscription information
5. Pdf version and archive of past e-bulletins

### [1\) New State-by-State Analysis of Declining Teen Birth Rates](#)

According to a new report released this week by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, declining teen birth rates have significantly improved overall child well-being in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. More specifically, declining teen birth rates have contributed to improvements in child poverty rates.

Some key findings of this report for Hawaii include:

- Between 1991 and 2002, the teen birth rate for girls aged 15-19 declined 35 percent
- If the teen birth rate had *not* improved during this time period, nearly 5,800 additional children would have been born to teen mothers between 1991 and 2002

The declining teen birth rate in Hawaii from 1991 to 2002 is estimated to have resulted in a:

- 6 percent improvement in the state's poverty rate for children under age six in 2002
- 6 percent improvement in the proportion of children under age six living with a single mother

This report can be accessed at:

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/whatif.asp>

### [2\) State Data on Children with Special Health Care Needs](#)

Data from the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) can now be analyzed online through an interactive tool that allows users to view and compare state, regional, and nationwide findings. This online tool provides state profiles and data highlights, and allows users to create their own profiles.

State profiles reveal the percentage of children and youth ages 0 to 17 with special health care needs at both the child and household level, as well as by age, sex, poverty level, and race/ethnicity. Each state profile includes 15 key performance indicators of child health, health insurance coverage, access to care, family-centered care, and effect on the family.

Please visit: <http://www.cshcndata.org>

### [3\) Geographic Adjustments in Poverty Thresholds](#)

Currently, official measures of poverty thresholds in the U.S. do not account for differences in cost of living by geographic area. A recent paper by a Census Bureau employee provides state-level poverty rates for total population based on differences in cost of living.

Highlights for Hawaii include:

- According to the national definition, the percentage of people living in poverty in Hawaii (using a 3 year average of 1999-2001 data) is 10.4.
- However, according to the alternative calculation (which accounts for cost of living), the percentage of people living in poverty in Hawaii is 16.9.
- Based on the alternative calculation, Hawaii has the fourth highest state poverty rate behind California (18.4), New York (18.0), and New Mexico (17.1).

This paper can be accessed at:

[http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cnstat/Geographic\\_Adjustments.pdf](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cnstat/Geographic_Adjustments.pdf)

### [4\) Hawaii Kids Count E-Bulletin Subscription Information](#)

Below are instructions on subscribing and unsubscribing to future issues.

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### [5\) Printable and Archived Versions of E-bulletins](#)

A printable version of this e-bulletin is attached as a pdf file.

Archived versions of past e-bulletins can be found at:

[http://cofserv/hawaii\\_kids\\_count/archive.asp](http://cofserv/hawaii_kids_count/archive.asp)