

## July 2009 Issue

*Center on the Family • University of Hawai`i at Mānoa*

This month's KIDS COUNT E-bulletin celebrates the *2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which we are happy to announce is being released today. The data book includes a broad array of data that illuminate the status of U.S. children and assess trends regarding their well-being. KIDS COUNT provides ongoing benchmarks that show how states advance or regress over time. Included here are interesting facts regarding our state.

1. Hawai'i's 2009 Overall National Rank
2. Hawai'i's Change in Key Indicators, 2000 to 2006/2007

### **1. Hawai'i's 2009 Overall National Rank**

A state's overall rank, which is the composite index of child well-being, depends upon the sum of the state's standing on each of 10 measures of the condition of children. Arranged in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (50), the 2009 overall ranking placed Hawai'i at number 18 nationwide with a score of 44.

Hawai'i improved on the following six indicators from 2000 to the latest available data at the time of publication (2006 or 2007):

- infant mortality rate,
- teen birth rate,
- percent of teens who are high school dropouts,
- percent of teens not attending school and not working,
- percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, and
- percent of children in poverty.

In this same period, Hawai'i also experienced negative changes, including an increase in the following:

- percent of low-birthweight babies,
  - child death rates,
  - teen death rates, and
  - percent of children in single-parent families.
- Below, details regarding these changes in key indicators show how the state scored, for the most part, so well nationwide.

## 2. Hawai'i's Change in Key Indicators, 2000 to 2006/2007

The change in the ten key indicators that KIDS COUNT monitored was as follows (a star marks those indicators where Hawai'i's change substantially differs from the rest of the nation):

### Percent of low-weight babies

- Nation: increased by 0.7%, from 7.6% to 8.3%
- HI: increased by 0.6%, from 7.5% to 8.1%, ranking the state at number 21 nationwide

### Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)\*

- Nation: decreased by 0.2, from 6.9 to 6.7
- HI: decreased by 2.5, from 8.1 to 5.6, ranking the state at number 10 nationwide

### Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)\*

- Nation: decreased by 3.0, from 22 to 19
- HI: increased by 6.0, from 15 to 21, ranking the state at number 26 nationwide

### Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)\*

- Nation: decreased by 3.0, from 67 to 64
- HI: increased by 16, from 41 to 57, ranking the state at number 13 nationwide

### Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)

- Nation: decreased by 6, from 48 to 42
- HI: decreased by 5, from 46 to 41, ranking the state at number 27 nationwide

### Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)\*

- Nation: decreased by 4%, from 11% to 7%
- HI: decreased by 1%, from 5% to 4%, ranking the state at number 3 nationwide

### Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)

- Nation: decreased by 1%, from 9% to 8%
- HI: decreased by 1%, from 10% to 9%, ranking the state at number 31 nationwide

### Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment\*

- Nation: increased by 1%, from 32% to 33%
- HI: decreased by 9%, from 41% to 32%, ranking the state at number 20 nationwide

### Percent of children living in poverty (income below \$21,027 for a family of two adults and two children in 2007)\*

- Nation: increased by 1%, from 17% to 18%
- HI: decreased by 3%, from 13% to 10%, ranking the state at number 2 nationwide

### Percent of children in single-parent families\*

- Nation: increased by 1%, from 31% to 32%
- HI: increased by 4%, from 24% to 28%, ranking the state at number 10 nationwide

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book's* state-by-state rankings, supplemental data, and essay can be found at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

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**CENTER ON THE FAMILY:**

2515 Campus Road Miller Hall 103  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: (808) 956-4132  
Fax: (808) 956-4147  
Email: [cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu](mailto:cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu)