

May 2009 Issue

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

WHAT'S NEW

1. National Foster Care Month
2. "Raising Resilient Children During Tough Economic Times"
3. "Raising a School-Ready Child: A Family Guide"
4. New Education and Demographic Data from KIDS COUNT

1. National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month, and Foster Care: Change a Lifetime states that nationwide there are 12 million foster care alumni and 496,000 youth and children currently in out-of-home care. The State of Hawai'i's Department of Human Service, Social Services Division's "FY 2009 Annual Progress and Services Report" offers the following data:

- Between State FY 2004 and 2007, the number of 12- to 18-year-olds has grown by 6.0% (from 30.0% to 36.0%). However, the bulk of children are still 0 to 5 years old at 38.0% of the overall State FY 2007 foster care population.
- The percent of exits to permanency for children in foster care for 2 years and longer continues to decline. For children in care for 24 months or longer, the percent discharged to a permanent home (reunification, adoption, guardianship, etc.) was 30.8% in Federal FY 2007 (down from 35.4% in Federal FY 2006).
- Proportionally more (45.1% in Federal FY 2007 from 38.6% in Federal FY 2006) youth aging out of foster care have grown up in foster care (that is, have been in foster care for 3 or more years). There were 157 foster youth in Federal FY 2007 who aged out of the foster care system.
- Hawaiian/part-Hawaiian children comprise 31.3% of the general child population, 0-17 years, and 34.9% of the foster care population in State FY 2008, compared to 49.7% in 2004. Program improvement initiatives already underway have made significant progress in addressing the issue of Hawaiian/part-Hawaiian disproportionality in foster care.

For Foster Care: Change a Lifetime, see

<http://www.fostercaremonth.org/AboutFosterCare/StatisticsAndData/Pages/default.aspx>

For the "FY 209 Annual Progress and Services Report," see

http://hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/FY_2009_APSR_Oct08.pdf

2. "Raising Resilient Children During Tough Economic Times"

Escaping the daily barrage of bad economic news is impossible. In turn, many families feel helpless and defeated, feelings that potentially spill over into family relationships and parents' interactions with their children. However, the economic downturn doesn't have to impact children negatively.

This brochure, titled "Raising Resilient Children During Tough Economic Times," outlines the three things children need most to overcome and be strengthened by adversity. The brochure also provides examples of many ways that parents in economic distress can build resiliency in their children of different ages.

"Raising Resilient Children During Tough Economic Times" will be available in early June from the Center on the Family at (808) 956-4132 or cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu.

3. "Raising a School-Ready Child: A Family Guide"

This guide discusses how parents can help children to develop the characteristics, positive behaviors, and skills needed to succeed at home, school, work, and in life. These traits are associated with the DOE's General Learner Outcomes (GLOs), which are the basis for evaluating students' performance at all grade levels and in all academic disciplines in Hawai'i's public schools.

This guide also describes the home-to-school learning continuum and provides examples of everyday activities parents can do to support their children's early learning and promote school-readiness. The guide also provides parents with information on the importance of registering children early and preparing them for kindergarten or junior kindergarten, ways to help children get ready for each school day, and how to build a strong family-school partnership.

"Raising a School Ready Child" will be available in June from the Center on the Family at (808) 956-4132 or cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu.

4. New Education and Demographic Data Available from KIDS COUNT

As of April 17, 2009, the KIDS COUNT education and demographic sections in Data Across States has included 2007 American Community Survey data. The new data show that while the national average is 15%, a comparatively low 8% of children in Hawai'i are in households where the head is a high school dropout. Also within the national range of 27-62%, 40% of young adults in Hawai'i enrolled in or completed college. The data also show that while the national average is 5%, 3% of grandchildren are in the care of grandparents.

To review the full data, see

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Default.aspx>

SUBSCRIBING:

You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending an email to anjoli@hawaii.edu with the phrase "Subscribe to Hawai`i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin" in the subject field.

UNSUBSCRIBING:

If we have reached you in error, or if you would prefer not to hear from us in the future, send an email to anjoli@hawaii.edu with the phrase "Unsubscribe Hawai`i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin" in the subject field.

ARCHIVE OF E-BULLETIN:

PDF versions of this e-bulletin are available at http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/hawaii_kids_count/archive.asp.

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