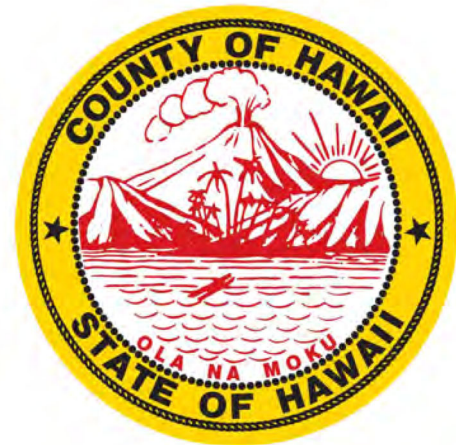


JUNE 2023

HAWAI'I COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY PROFILE




earlychildhood 
ACTION STRATEGY
TAKING ACTION FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

A strong early childhood network of support can help to strengthen families and assure that young keiki have the best start possible in life. A strong foundation for early childhood development involves the collaboration of families, providers, governments, businesses, and the community. The Hawaii County Early Childhood Community Profile was undertaken to improve our understanding of the context in which families with young children (from birth through age eight) live and work, and to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the wellbeing of young children in Hawai'i County.

This resource was developed to help to strengthen our understanding of the issues facing young children and their families in Hawai'i County, and help to identify where additional data is needed in order to better understand the community's strengths and where there is need for improvement.

The Hawai'i County community profile was commissioned by Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS), a statewide partnership designed to strengthen the systems that support young children and their families. More information on ECAS can be found at: <https://hawaiiactionstrategy.org/>.

Technical Note

This report draws from publicly available data, including the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). Most data points presented are drawn from ACS 5-Year estimates, which are considered to be the most reliable estimates of population data for counties and sub-county regions with smaller populations. Please see the ACS handbook on [Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data](#) for more information.

Other key data sources used include:

- Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Birth Data
- Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii State Department of Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
- Community Action Partnership
- Hawai'i State Data Book 2021
- Hawaii Department of Human Services 2021 Databook

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1. ENVIRONMENT / PLACE

Geography

The island of Hawai'i comprises the whole County of Hawai'i, which is the largest county by land area in the State of Hawai'i. It is also commonly referred to as the "Big Island." The island of Hawai'i has the second largest population in the state.

Hawai'i Island has a land area of 4,028 square miles. Measured from its sea floor base to its highest peak, Mauna Kea is the world's tallest mountain, over 10,000 meters from its base, making it taller than even Mount Everest. The island is built from 5 distinct shield volcanoes (Kohala, Mauna Kea, Hualālai, Mauna Loa, Kīlauea).

Tourism is the largest sector of the Hawai'i County economy, primarily located on the western coast of the island in North Kona and South Kohala districts. Diversified agriculture is a growing sector. The economic centers for Hawai'i County are located in Hilo and Kailua-Kona, which are also home to the majority of the county's residents and businesses. The seat of County government is in Hilo.

Governing Structure

Hawai'i County has operated under the Mayor-County Council form of municipal government since 1968. Executive authority is vested in the mayor, elected by the voters on a non-partisan basis to a four-year term (with a limit of two consecutive full terms). The mayor is the chief executive officer of the County and is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and for appointing the heads of various departments.

The legislative branch is the County Council, which is composed of nine members each elected from one of Hawaii County's nine council districts and serving two-year terms. As the policy making body, the council appoints the County Clerk, County Auditor, and the Office of Council Services. Members of the council are elected on a non-partisan basis to two-year terms (with a limit of five consecutive full terms).

The nine residency areas reflect the districts: *Puna, South Hilo, North Hilo, Hāmākuā, North Kohala, South Kohala, North Kona, South Kona, and Ka'ū.*

Voter turnout in Hawaii County at the 2022 general election was 41.1%.¹ This is comparable to other counties in Hawai'i. Statewide, rates of voting in Hawai'i are lower than the national rate of 66.8%.² In Hawai'i County, as well as the rest of the state, there are no subordinate or separate municipal entities. The state government administers the school system, airports, harbors, hospitals, judicial system and the state highway system. Most non-federal taxes are administered and collected by the state under Hawai'i's centralized tax system. The major sources of state revenue are the general excise tax and

corporate and personal income taxes. Direct sources of county revenue include property taxes, service and use fees for water, sewer and waste disposal, licenses, and permits, including building permits.

The County of Hawai'i provides a broad range of services including public safety (police, fire, and public prosecutor), sanitation, culture and recreation, transportation, planning and zoning, and the construction and maintenance of some streets and highways.

Environment

Air and Water Quality

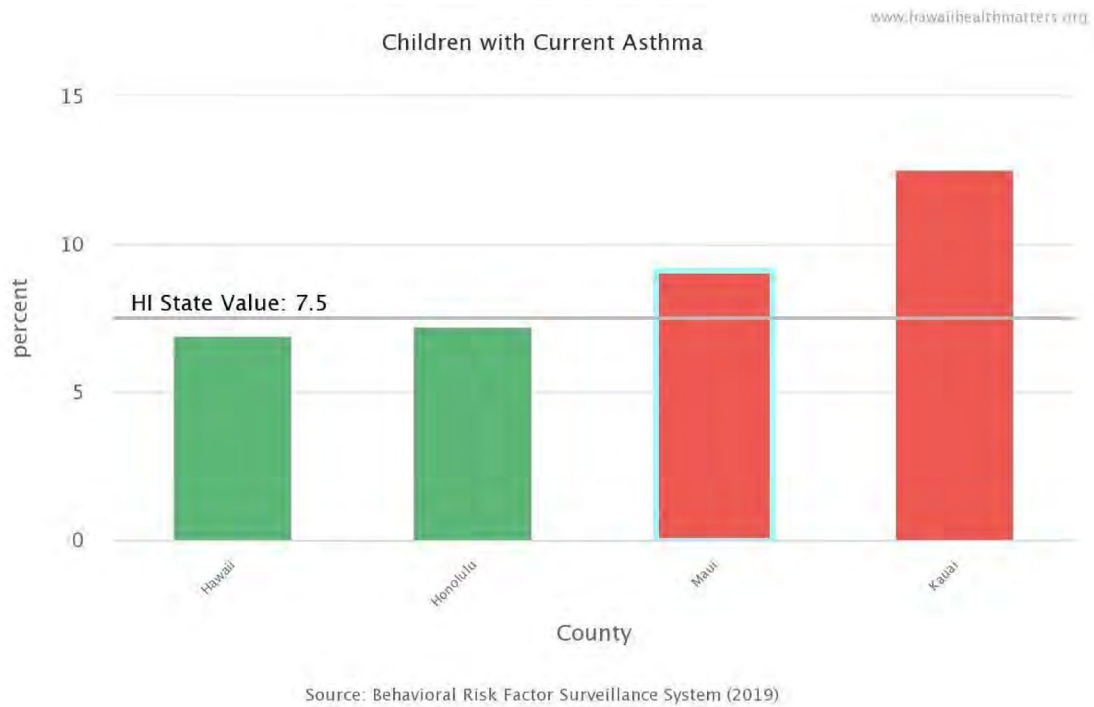
Clean air is an important factor for health. People who live in areas with poor air quality are at greater risk for conditions such as asthma. According to the American Lung Association, Hawai'i has some of the best air quality in the nation. Hawai'i Island receives lower air quality scores due to hazy air pollution caused by volcanic emissions commonly known as "vog."³

Asthma symptoms can be brought on by exposure to inhaled allergens (like dust, pollen, cigarette smoke, pollution, and animal dander) or exertion and stress. Hawai'i County has the lowest rate of children under 18 years old with asthma. In 2019, 6.9% of children under 18 in Hawai'i County were noted to have asthma. This is slightly lower than the state rate of 7.5%.⁴

In 2019, Hawai'i County had the lowest rate of childhood asthma in the state.



Figure 1:



5

Drinking Water

Access to safe drinking water is fundamental to a healthy life, particularly for young children and those with health conditions who may be more susceptible to contaminants. The Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply (DWS) serves the majority of customers in the county. Each year, DWS provides customers with an Annual Water Quality Report informing them whether their supply meets all established federal and state drinking water standards.⁶ In 2021, all water systems met the requirements.⁷ The Department alerts customers to the possibility that lead levels in individual homes may be higher due to the home's plumbing and encourages anyone with concerns to have their water tested. Residents are also advised to flush tap water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before consuming.

Ocean Water

Swimming and other water related activities are a large part of life for people in Hawai'i County. However, natural water sources can be contaminated with high levels of disease-causing microorganisms or other forms of pollution, including sewage and chemical run-off. Swimming in these conditions may result in illness, especially for children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems. Monitoring beach water quality is essential for maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Environmental Health

Access to Green Space/Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor play has a positive impact on child health and development.⁸ Many children in Hawai'i County live near beaches, surf spots, beautiful mountains, parks, and swimming pools. All beaches in Hawai'i County are public. There are 73 county parks (including swimming pools, community centers, and gymnasiums) in Hawai'i County.

Public recreational facilities are abundant across Hawai'i County.

Districts	Beach parks & Campgrounds ⁹	Pools ¹⁰	Gyms, Parks, & Centers ¹¹
Hāmākua	1	2	5
Hilo	13	2	13
Ka'ū	2	1	5
Kohala	4	1	4
Kona	8	2	3
Puna	1	1	5
Total	29	9	35

Road & Highways

Hawai'i County has approximately 1,517 miles of streets and highways, of which approximately 1,456 are paved.¹² Many people reside in rural areas or at a considerable distance from work centers. Access to reliable transportation is crucial to Hawai'i County residents. The majority of residents rely on personal vehicles to reach work, school, health care, food, and recreation, despite consistently high gasoline prices. Statewide, Hawai'i has the highest gas prices in the country.¹³

Transportation

Access to reliable, affordable transportation supports the wellbeing for young children and their families. Transportation access expands families' options for employment, childcare, groceries and healthcare.

Road Safety

Many families with young children spend a significant amount of time on the road each day traveling to and from work, childcare, and activities.

Since June 27, 2022 (Act 122) rear facing child safety seats are required for children less than two years of age, and child passenger restraints or booster seats are required up to age 10.¹⁴

Motor Vehicle Collisions

Motor vehicle-related injuries kill more children and young adults than any other single cause in the United States. According to the State Department of Health, the motor vehicle collision death rate in Hawai'i County for the period 2018-2021 was 12.9 deaths/100,000 population, which is the highest in the state.¹⁵

Hawai'i County had the highest rate in the state of motor vehicle related deaths.

Table 2: Motor Vehicle Death Rate by County, 2018-2021¹⁶

County	Death Rate
Hawai'i County	12.9
Honolulu County	6.6
Kaua'i County	9.7
Maui County	10.2

Modes of Commuting

A majority of workers in Hawai'i County commute alone to work by car. According to County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 37.1% of Hawai'i County commuters commute alone for 30 minutes or more. This figure has increased steadily since 2014.¹⁷ Only 3.7% of the commuting population used alternative forms of transportation such as walking or public transportation.

Commute Time

The average travel time to work in Hawai'i County is 26.8 minutes.¹⁸ This may have implications for the child care choices made by families.

Vehicle Ownership

33.1% of Hawai'i County households have one car, 36.5% of households have two cars, and 26.7% have three or more cars. 3.6% percent of households do not have a car.

Public and “Active” Transportation

The use of alternative forms of transportation, such as walking and public transit, has benefits for the environment, the individual, and the population. Motor vehicle emissions contribute to the degradation of our environment and to adverse respiratory and cardiovascular health effects.

3.7% of Hawai‘i County workers use public transportation, walk, or ride their bikes to work.

Bicycle: ¹⁹	0.4%
Public Transportation: ²⁰	1.0%
Walking: ²¹	2.3%

Public Transportation

Public transportation can be an important resource for families, providing a lower cost option to get to work, access services, and enjoy recreational activities. On Hawai‘i Island, the Hele-On Bus public transit service consists of 24 bus routes, all operated by Roberts Hawai‘i. Routes are operated 7 days a week, including all holidays. The routes serve major population centers in East Hawai‘i, West Hawai‘i, and North Hawai‘i.

Figure 2: Hawai'i Island Hele-On Bus Route Map

County of Hawai'i Mass Transit Agency Bus Routes



Route

- 1: Hilo to Kailua-Kona
- 2: Blue Line
- 10: Hilo to Ocean View
- 11: Red Line
- 40: Hilo to Pahoa
- 60: Hilo to Honioka'a-Waimea
- 70: North Kohala to South Kohala Resorts
- 75: North Kohala-Waimea-SKR-Kailua-Kona
- 76: Green Line
- 80: Hilo to South Kohala Resorts
- 90: Pahala to South Kohala Resorts

- 101: Kesukaha
- 102: Kaunaha
- 103: Waialea Uka
- 104: Mohouli
- 201: Kona Trolley via A11 Drive
- 202: North & Central Kailua-Kona
- 204: South Kona/Captain Cook
- 301: Waimea Circulator
- 401: Hawaiian Beaches/Nanawale/Seaview
- 402: Hawaiian Paradise Park/Orchidland/Hawaiian Acres/ Ainaha
- 403: Fern Acres/Fern Forest/ Eden Roc



2. PEOPLE/ POPULATION

Hawai'i County is home to 200,468 people, almost 14% of the state population.²³ There are 43,129 children and youth (under 18 years of age) living in Hawaii County, including 11,336 keiki under the age of 5 (5.6% of the County population). 56% of children under 5 in Hawai'i County, live within the Kona and Puna Districts.

29.7% of individuals in Hawai'i County are Native Hawaiian or Native Hawaiian in combination with another race.²⁴

Population Demographics

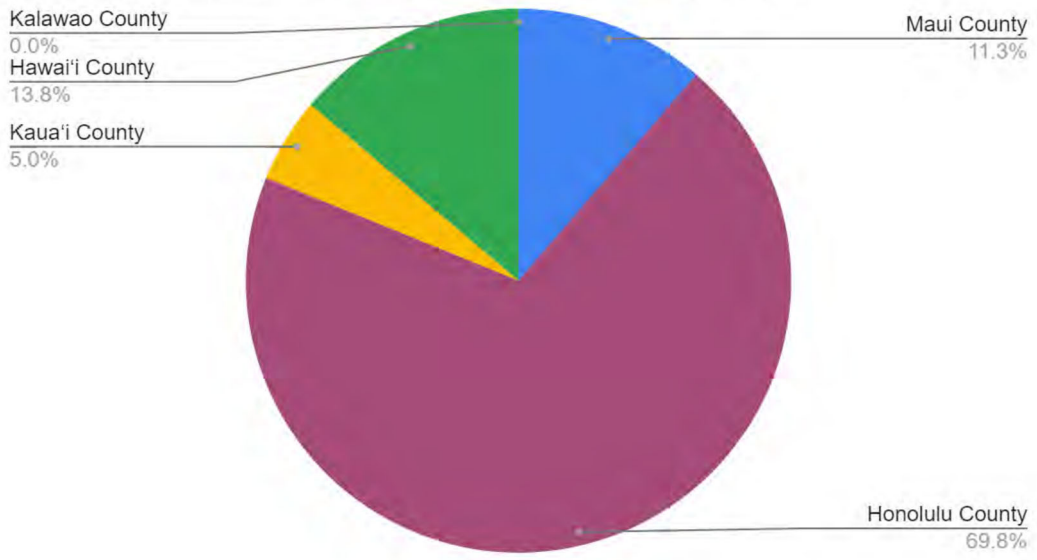
Hawai'i County is home to 200,468 people, almost 14% of the state population.

County	Total Population
Hawai'i County	200,468
Honolulu County	1,015,167
Kalawao County	48
Kaua'i County	73,247
Maui County	164,568
Hawai'i State Total	1,453,498

Honolulu County makes up almost 70% of the state's population, with the remaining 4 counties combined totaling the remaining 30%. Hawai'i County represents 13.8% of the state's population.

Figure 3:

Ratio of Hawai'i State Population by County, 2021



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Population by Age

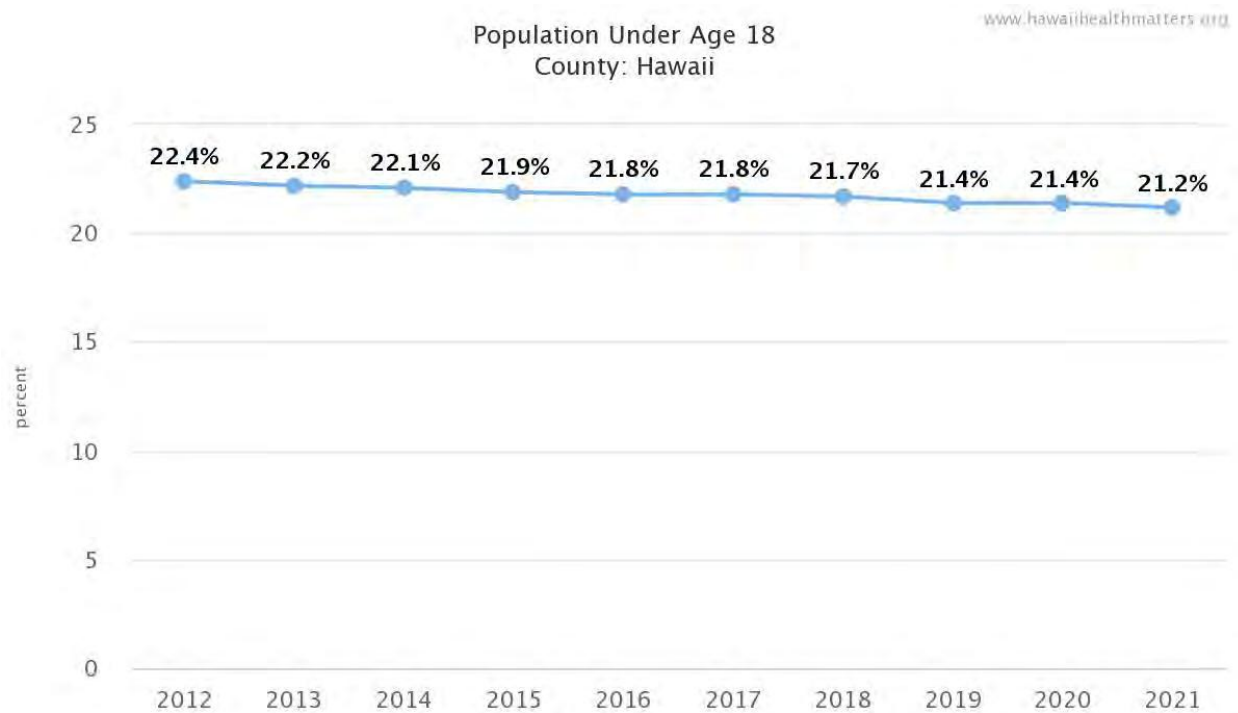
In 2021, the total population of Hawai'i County was 200,468, including 11,358 keiki under 5 years old. Young children make up the largest share of the population of Ka'ū District (at 9%), and the smallest share of the population of Hilo District (at 4.4%).

Table 5: Total Population by District & Percentage of County's Population²⁷
 Hawai'i County, 2021

	Hāmākua District		Hilo District		Ka'ū District		Kohala District		Kona District		Puna District		Hawai'i County Total
Under 5 Years Old	578	5.9%	2,252	4.4%	1,223	9.0%	918	5.1%	3,877	6.0%	2,510	5.8%	11,358
5-19 Years Old	1,672	17.0%	10,251	20.1%	1,969	14.4%	3,055	17.1%	11,117	17.1%	7,927	18.4%	35,991
20-34 Years Old	1,510	15.4%	9,604	18.8%	2,018	14.8%	2,762	15.5%	10,934	16.8%	6,228	14.5%	33,056
35-64 Years Old	3,895	39.7%	18,427	36.1%	5,394	39.6%	6,885	38.6%	25,444	39.1%	17,277	40.1%	77,322
65 Years Old & Over	2,159	22.0%	10,552	20.7%	3,026	22.2%	4,228	23.7%	13,645	21.0%	9,131	21.2%	42,741
Total	9,814		51,086		13,630		17,848		65,017		43,073		200,468

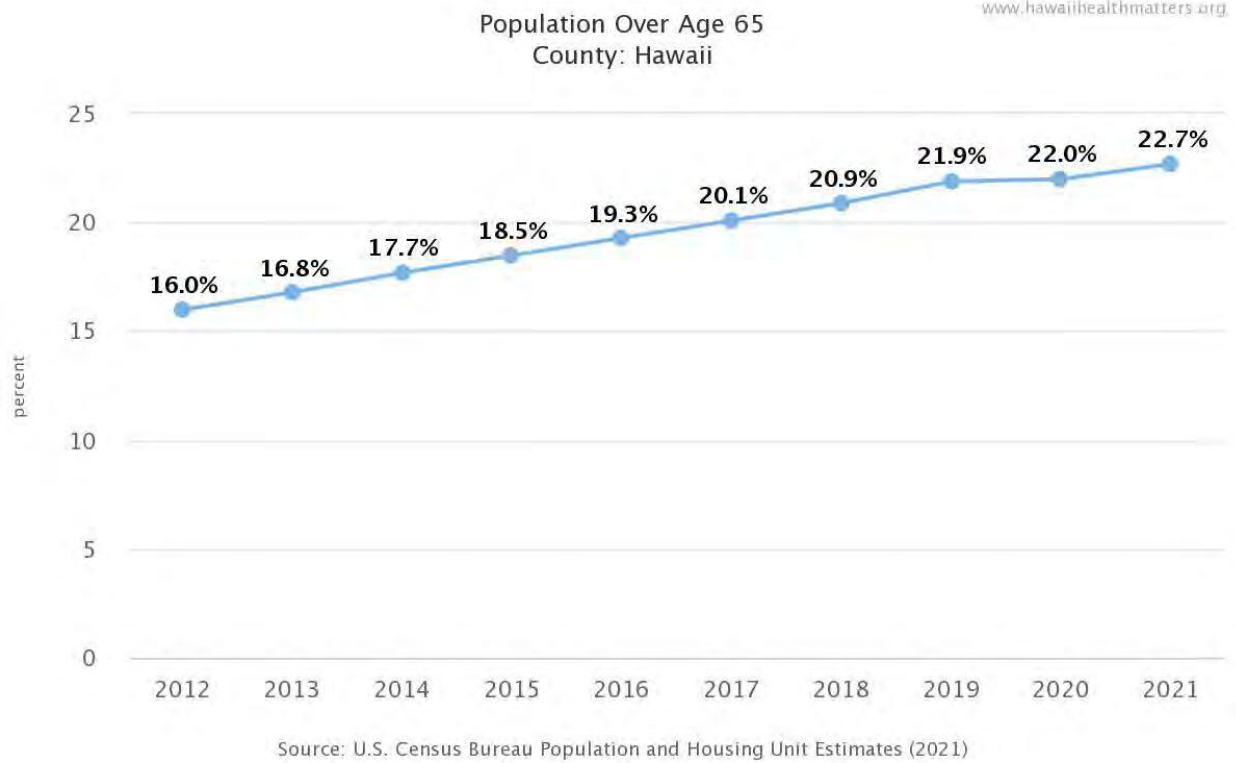
Overall, the population of Hawai'i County is aging. Over the past 10 years, Hawaii County's child population has declined slightly whereas the population of seniors (over 65) has increased by 6.7%.

Figure 4:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population and Housing Unit Estimates (2021)

Figure 5:



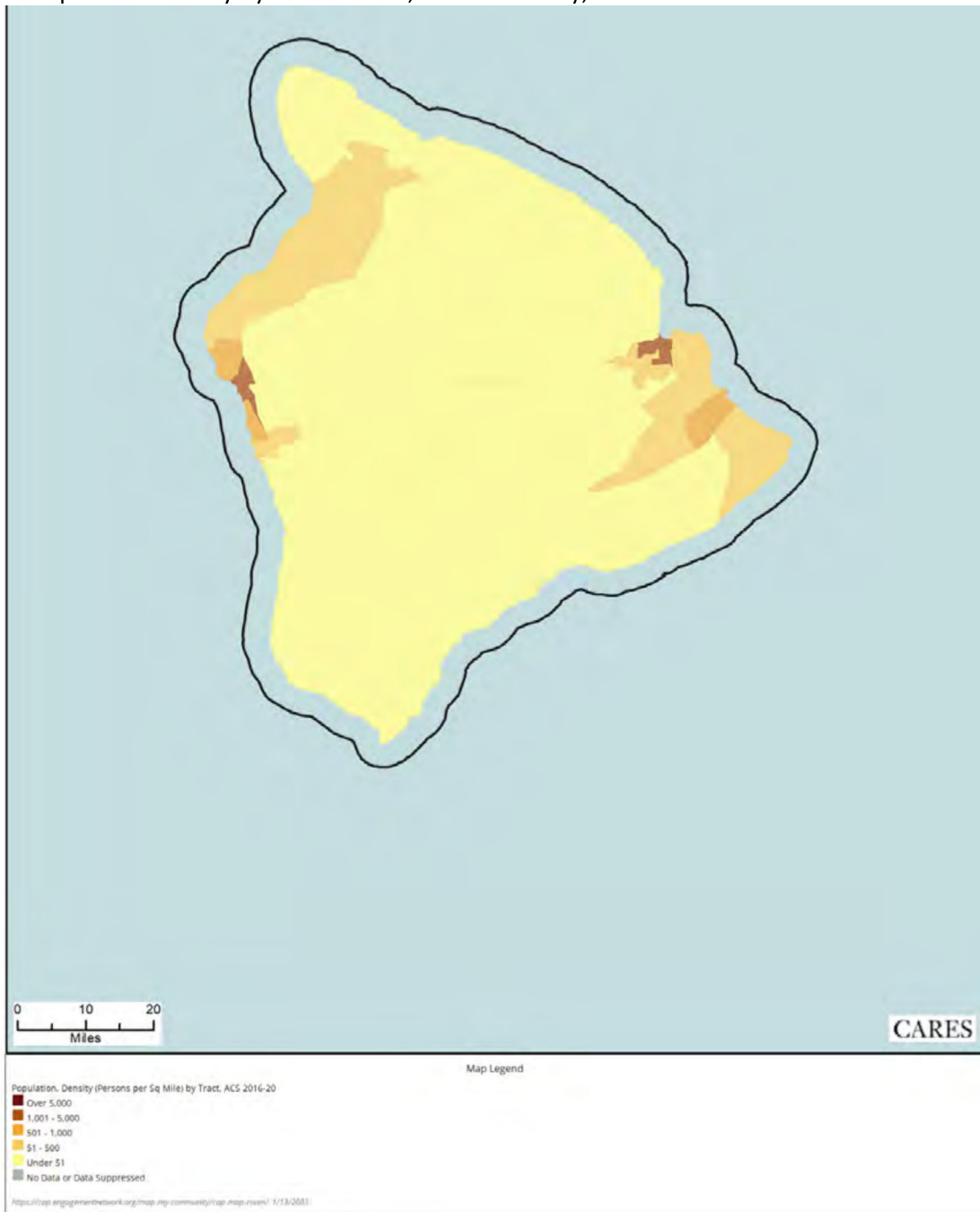
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Population Density

There are 49.8 people per square mile in Hawai'i County. This is less than half of the population density of Kaua'i (at 118.2 people per square mile), Maui (140.5 per sq mile), or Honolulu (1,692 per sq mile).³⁰

Hilo and Kailua-Kona have the highest population density within Hawai'i County.

Figure 6: Population Density by Census Tract, Hawai'i County, 2016-2020



Children 0-17 Years Old

57% of children (0-17) in Hawai'i County live in the Kona & Hilo Districts. The largest share of children under 3 live in the Kona District. the Puna District has one of the fastest growing populations of families with young children (including close to 1,800 children younger than three).

Table 6: Population of Children 0-17 Years Old³²
Hawai'i County, 2021

	Hāmākua District	Hilo District	Ka'ū District	Kohala District	Kona District	Puna District	Hawai'i County Total
Under 3 Years Old	328	1,377	616	657	2,303	1,792	7,073
3-4 Years Old	250	862	607	261	1,565	718	4,263
5 Years Old	97	559	288	143	801	379	2,267
6-8 Years Old	389	1,943	438	707	2,245	1,561	7,283
9-11 Years Old	355	2,223	452	648	2,932	1,742	8,352
12-14 Years Old	331	2,121	280	576	2,065	1,615	6,988
15-17 Years Old	299	1,870	377	760	1,955	1,642	6,903
Total Children	2,049	10,955	3,058	3,752	13,866	9,449	43,129

Children 0-5 Years Old

11,336 children under 5 live on Hawai'i Island. 56% of young children live in the Kona and Puna Districts.

Table 7: Population of Children Under 5 Years Old³³
Hawai'i County, 2021

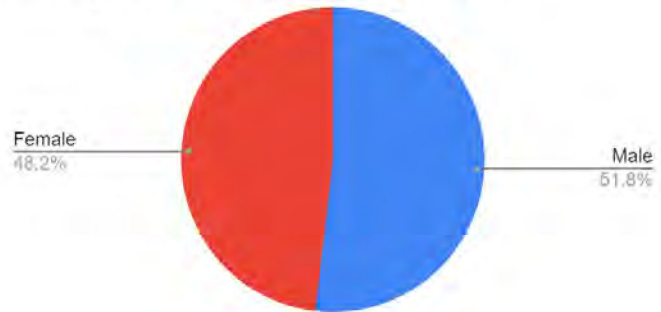
	Hāmākua District	Hilo District	Ka'ū District	Kohala District	Kona District	Puna District	Hawai'i County Total
Under 3 Years Old	328	1,377	616	657	2,303	1,792	7,073
3-4 Years Old	250	862	607	261	1,565	718	4,263
Total Children Under 5	578	2,239	1,223	918	3,868	2,510	11,336

52% of young children in Hawai'i County are male and 48% are female.

Figure 7: Demographics of Population Under 5 Year Old by Gender, Hawai'i County, 2021

Table 8: Gender-Makeup of Young Children Under 5 Years Old ³⁴ Hawai'i County, 2021	
Male	5,889
Female	5,469
Total	11,358

Demographics of Population Under 5 Year Old by Gender, Maui County, 2020



Families with young children are more likely to live in certain communities. Kailua-Kona & Hilo are home to the largest numbers of young children.

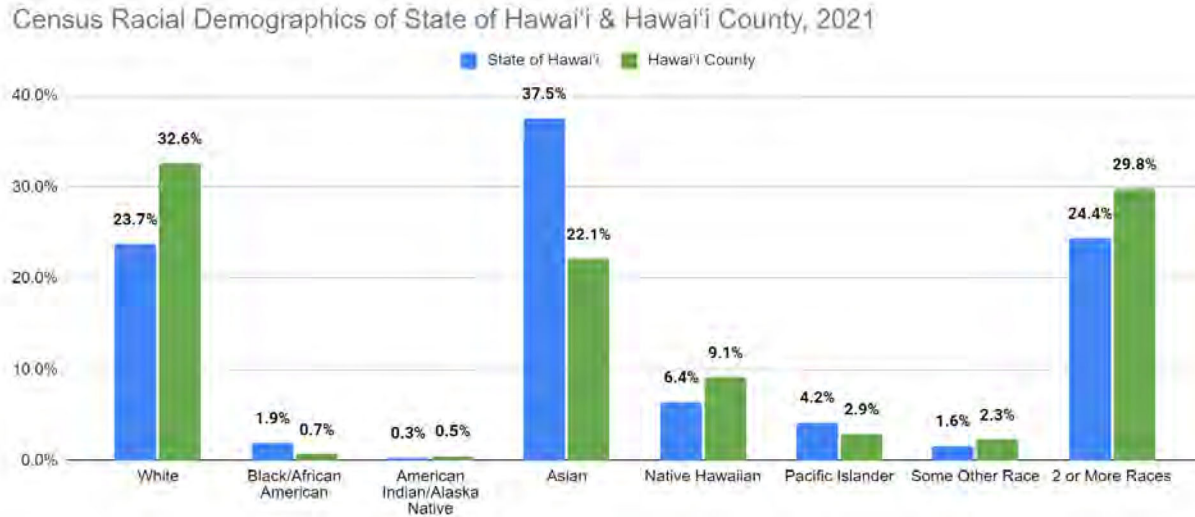
Table 9: Communities with the Largest Population of Children < 5 Years Old ³⁵ Hawai'i County, 2021		
Community	Number of Children Under 5 Years Old	Share of All Children Under 5 in the community
Kailua-Kona	2,612	23.0%
Hilo	2,203	19.4%
Kea'au	1,103	9.7%
Pahoā	737	6.5%
Kamuela	732	6.5%
Mountain View	637	5.6%

Racial & Ethnic Demographics of Children and Families in Hawai'i County

In Hawai'i County, 22.1% of residents identify as Asian (22.1%), 32.6% identify as White, and 29.7% identify as Native Hawaiian (either Hawaiian alone or in combination with another race).³⁶

As a percent of total population, Hawai'i County has the largest share of residents who identify as White, Native Hawaiian, or 2 or More Races in the state.

Figure 8: Census Racial Demographics of State of Hawai'i & Hawai'i County, 2021



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The Native Hawaiian Population is Counted Two Different Ways

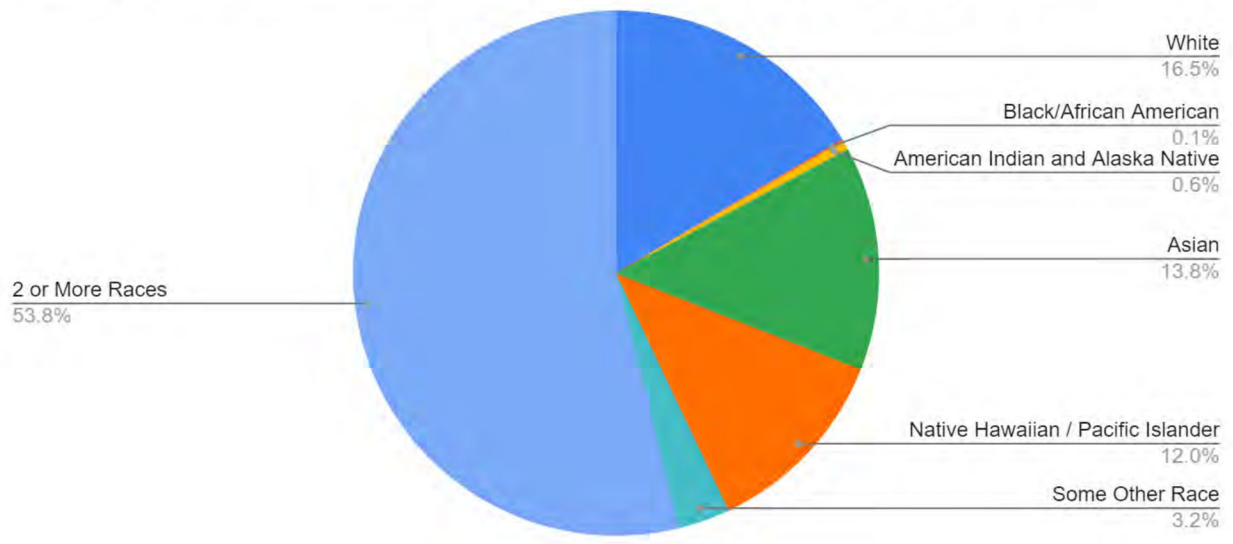
The US Census count of Native Hawaiians includes only those respondents who identify as Native Hawaiian alone. In comparison, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs includes both residents who identify as Native Hawaiian Alone as well as those who identify as Native Hawaiian in combination with another race, in the Native Hawaiian Category. Using this broader definition, 29.7% of residents of Hawai'i County identify as Native Hawaiian or Native Hawaiian in combination with another race.³⁸

Census Race of Children Under 18 Years Old

The largest racial and ethnic groups represented in the population of children under 18 in Hawai'i County are mixed-race (53.8%), White (16.5%) or Asian (13.8%).

Figure 9:

Census Race of Children Under 18 Years Old, Hawai'i County, 2021



3. HOUSEHOLDS & FAMILIES

Children are born and raised in many different types of families, and families can help to build young children's resilience and support children's early development. Aspects of family structure (i.e. families raised by single parents, families raised by grandparents, etc.) are associated with measures of child development, school readiness and later life success.

Composition of Households & Families

In Hawai'i County, 20,677 households (29%) include children under age 18.⁴⁰ A quarter of all children (23.4%) live in households that also contain a grandparent, other relatives or other adults.

County-wide, roughly 1 in 5 households (19%) include a young child (under 6), and 2 in 5 households with a young child (43%) are headed by single parents.⁴¹

Table 10: Households with Children by County⁴²
2020

	Households with Children	Total Households	Percentage
Hawai'i County	20,677	71,402	29.0%
Honolulu County	104,577	330,393	31.7%
Kaua'i County	6,912	22,668	30.5%
Maui County	17,505	53,919	32.5%
State of Hawai'i	149,671	478,413	31.3%

There are 20,677 households with children in Hawai'i County. Pāhalā has the highest share of households that are made up of families with children (42.6%).

Table 11: Households with Children by Zip Code & Town⁴³
Hawai'i County, 2021

Zip Code	Town	Total Households with Children	Total Households	Percentage of Households with Children
Hawai'i County, Hawai'i		20,677	71,402	29.0%
96704	Captain Cook	843	2,935	28.7%
96710	Hākālau*	5	135	3.7%
96719	Haw'i	100	434	23.0%
96720	Hilo	4,962	17,038	29.1%
96725	Hōlualoa	381	1496	25.5%
96726	Hōnaunau*	0	9	0.0%
96727	Hōnoka'a	431	1511	28.5%
96728	Hōnomū	39	155	25.2%
96737	Ocean View	497	1740	28.6%
96738	Wāikōloa	1,038	2841	36.5%
96740	Kailua Kona	4,070	14272	28.5%
96743	Kamuela	1,460	4662	31.3%
96749	Kea'aū	2,074	6234	33.3%
96750	Kēalakēkuā	322	1246	25.8%
96755	Kapa'aū	330	1215	27.2%
96760	Kurtistown	345	1332	25.9%
96764	Lāpahōehōe*	26	220	11.8%
96771	Mountain View	651	2386	27.3%
96772	Nā'ālehū	284	990	28.7%
96773	Ninōle*	11	80	13.8%
96774	Ō'okala*	0	85	0.0%
96776	Pa'auilo	175	518	33.8%
96777	Pāhalā	258	605	42.6%
96778	Pahoā	1,604	5838	27.5%
96780	Papa'aloā	47	250	18.8%
96781	Papai'koū	83	459	18.1%
96783	Pepe'ekeō	228	594	38.4%
96785	Volcano	413	2132	19.4%

* Due to small population sizes, estimates have a low confidence level and can vary in these communities

Family Structure

Families with children need quality childcare, healthcare, adequate housing, and other resources. Most parents face the challenge of having to balance parenting with work demands. Low wages, unstable work schedules, a lack of paid leave, high housing costs, and a severe shortage of high quality, affordable childcare often intensify the challenges that many families with children face.⁴⁴

Across Hawai'i County, there are 43,114 children under the age of 18 and 13,624 children younger than 6.

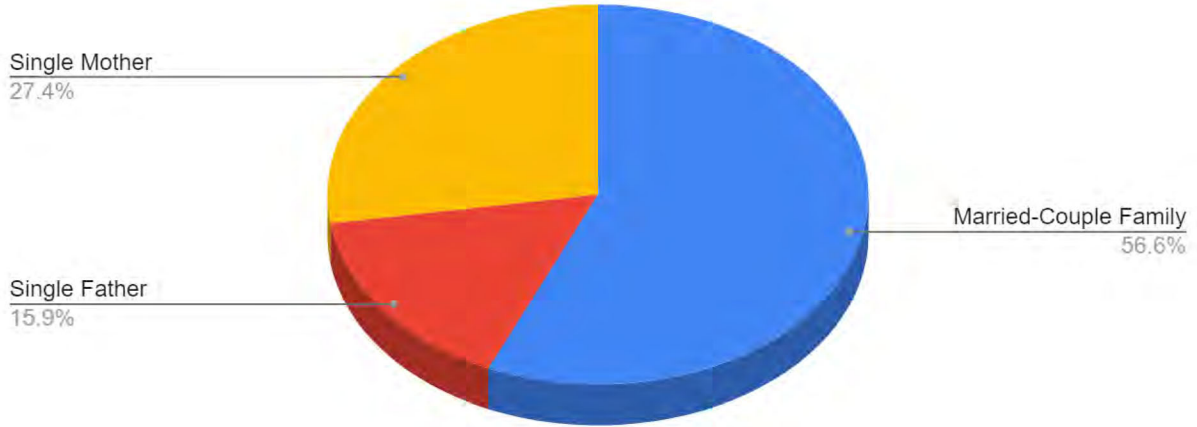
The majority of children (56.6%) live in families headed by married couples.

	# of Children 0-17	# of Children under 6
Family Headed households	43,114	13,624
Married-couple	26,049	7,684
Single Mother	11,776	3,721
Single Father	5,206	2,161

^a Householder: The person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roommates, boarders, or paid employees. [Census.gov Householder Definition](https://www.census.gov/hhes/housing/units/units.html)

Figure 10:

Family Structure of Households with Children Under 6 Years Old, Hawai'i County, 2021



46

15.7% of children live with grandparents (approximately 6,782 children). 5.3% of children (2,279) live with aunts and uncles or other relatives.

Table 13: Children Under 18 Years Old in Households by Relationship to Householder^{47,48}
Hawai'i County, 2021

Child Relationship to Householder	Number of Children	Percentage
Own Child (Biological, Adopted, Stepchild)	33,033	76.6%
Grand Child	6,782	15.7%
Other Relatives	2,279	5.3%
Foster child or other unrelated child	1,020	2.4%
Total Children	43,114	

Grandparents & Grandchildren

In Hawai'i, there are many family households with more than 2 generations living together. This is consistent with the spirit of Aloha and the commitment to 'ohana. Multi-generational families can take many forms. In some, it is the middle generation that is both raising children and caring for aging parents. In other families, grandparents are shouldering the financial and caretaking burden for both younger generations.

Many grandparents raising grandchildren are living on fixed incomes. These households face a high financial burden when limited incomes are stretched to care for children as well.

Grandparents can share the responsibilities of working parents by providing additional support in caring for their grandchildren thus reducing the need for childcare expenses. Watching grandchildren while parents are at work, grandparents who watch grandchildren have a 37% decreased mortality rate than adults of the same age who don't watch children.⁴⁹

Close to 7,000 grandparents in Hawai'i County live with grandchildren under the age of 18. In a third of those households, grandparents have principal responsibility for supporting their grandchildren.

Table 14: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren ⁵⁰ Hawai'i County, 2021		
Grandparents living with grandchildren under 18	6,908	
Grandparents responsible for grandchildren	2,260	32.7%
Grandparent lives with but does not have primary responsibility for grandchildren	4,648	67.3%

4. ECONOMICS & POVERTY

When children experience poverty in early childhood, they face a harder road to school readiness and later life success. Children at every age and developmental stage are impacted by impoverished environments, and those impacts build upon one another and continue across time.

In 2021, one in five young children in Hawai'i County were living below the Federal Poverty Line.⁵¹ The current poverty line for the State of Hawaii for a family of 4 is \$34,500.⁵² Communities with high concentrations of families with children living in poverty include Papa'aloā, Ocean View, Haw'i, Mountain View, Pa'auilo, Pahoā, and Pepe'ekeō.

Employment

Access to jobs that pay a living wage is a core component of family safety and security. When parents are unemployed or underemployed, it is difficult for them to meet their family's basic needs and can undermine physical and mental health, and heighten family stress.⁵³

Workforce

In 2021, 59.4 % of Hawai'i County residents 16 and over were employed. An estimated 70.5% of the people employed were private and salary workers; 17.6% were federal, state, or local government workers, and 11.6% were self-employed.



Figure 11: ⁵⁴

Share of Hawai'i County Residents 16 Years and Older by Workforce Participation, 2021

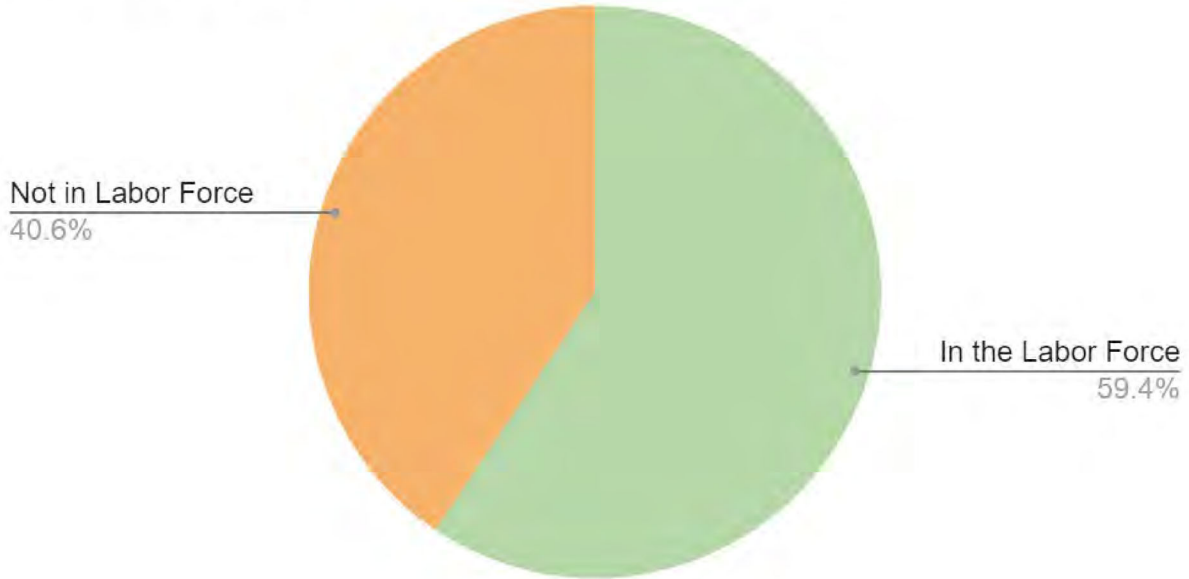
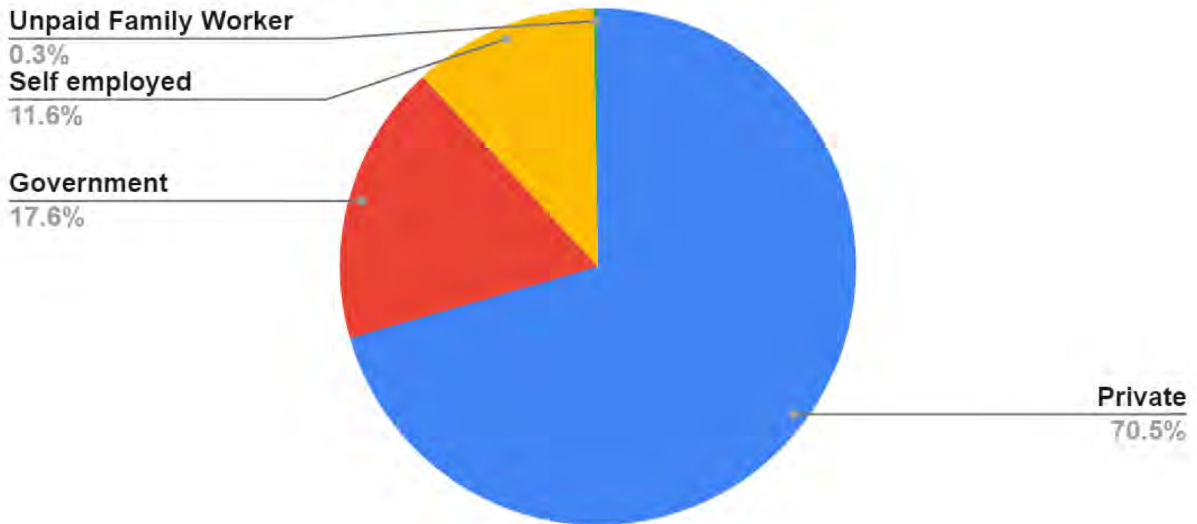


Figure 12: ⁵⁵

Share of Civilian Employed Persons by Classification Hawai'i County, 2021



The majority of residents are employed in the visitor industry or in jobs supported indirectly by tourism.

Figure 13:⁵⁶

Mean Annual Wage for the Top 10 Most Common Occupations
Hawai'i County, 2021

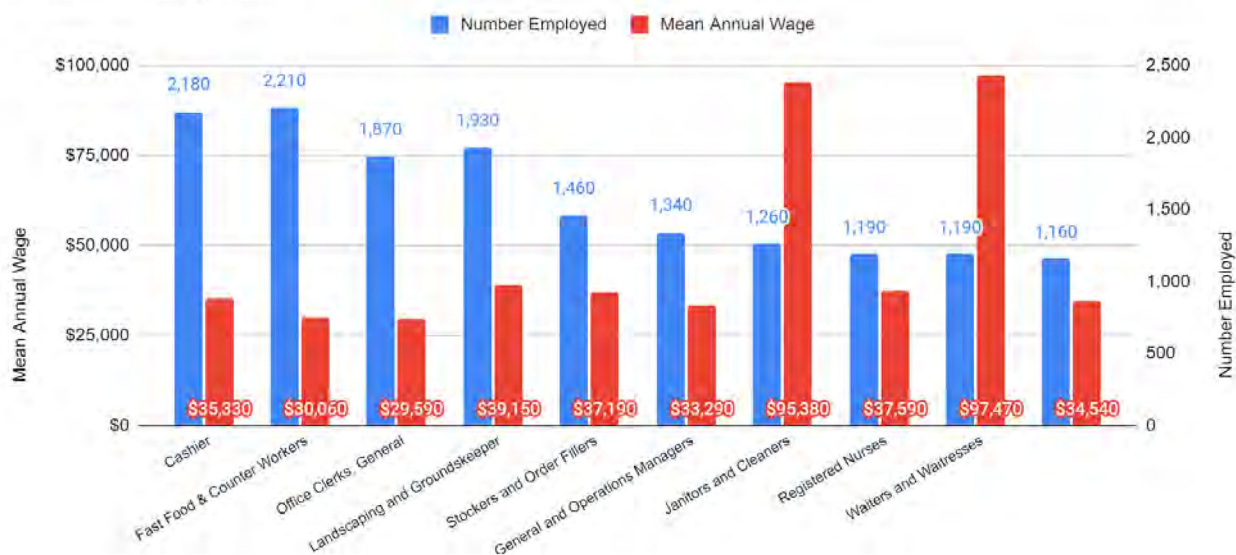


Table 15: Top Five Principal Employers in Hawai'i County, 2021

Principal Private Sector Employers in Hawai'i County	Number of Employees
Mauna Kea Resort	1,357
KTA Super Stores	900
Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i	686
Fairmont Orchid	588
Goodwill Hawai'i	436

Unemployment

During periods of unemployment, individuals are likely to feel severe economic strain and mental stress. Unemployment is also related to access to health care, as many individuals receive health insurance through their employer. A high unemployment rate places strain on financial support systems, as unemployed persons qualify for unemployment benefits and food stamp programs.⁵⁷

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate in Hawai'i County spiked to almost 25%. By September 2022, the unemployment rate in Hawai'i County had returned to 3.5%.^{58,59}

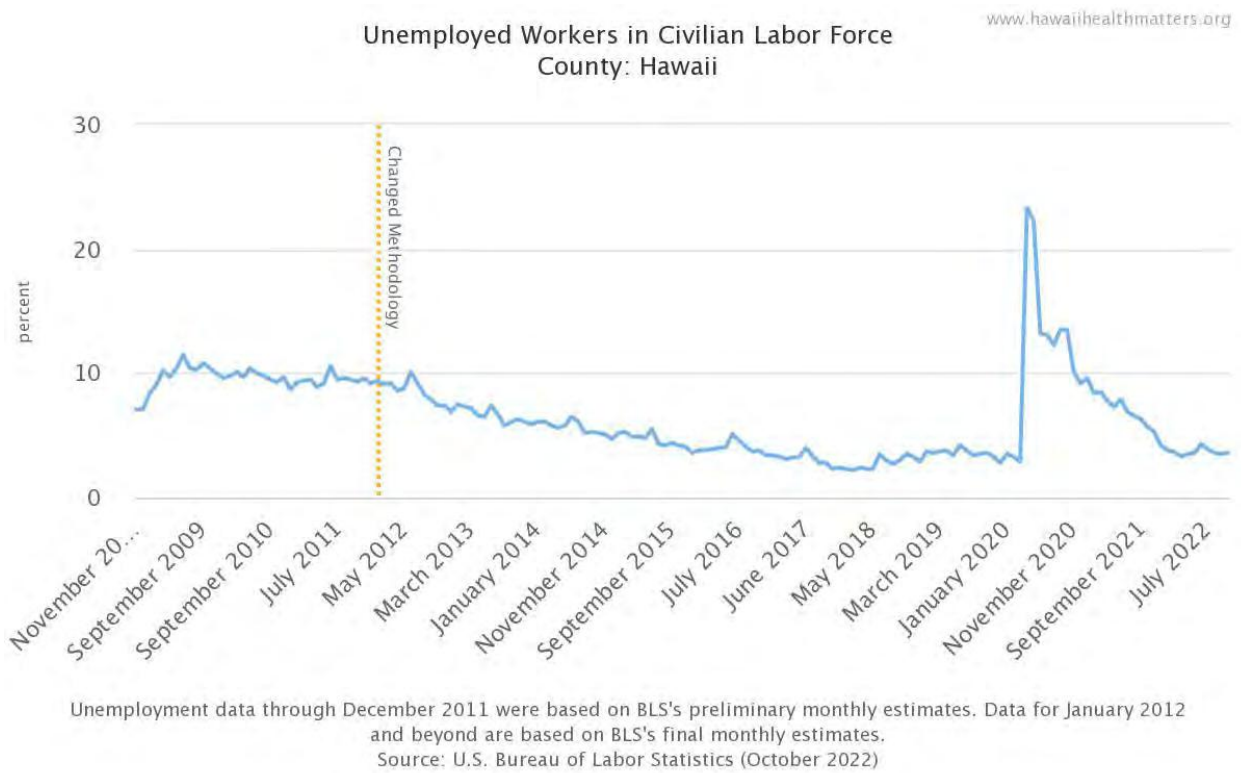
Table 16: Unemployment Rate for Hawai'i Counties, 2022⁶⁰

	SEP 2022	AUG 2022	SEP* 2021
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.5	4.0	4.8
U. S.	3.5	3.7	4.7
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.4	3.6	5.3
HONOLULU	3.3	3.4	5.0
HAWAII COUNTY	3.5	3.6	5.1
KAUAI	4.0	4.2	6.5
MAUI COUNTY	3.7	3.9	6.3
Maui Island	3.7	3.7	6.3
Molokai	7.4	10.4	7.8
Lanai	1.8	1.8	3.6
U. S.	3.3	3.8	4.6

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

* benchmarked data

Figure 14: ⁶¹



Income

Characteristics of Household & Family Income

In Hawai'i County and across the country, family income varies with family structure. On Hawai'i Island, the median household income is \$64,399. That figure rises to \$101,780 for married couple families with children (56.6% of families with young children in Hawai'i County) and falls to \$25,327 for single mothers with young children (27.4% of families with young children in Hawai'i County).⁶²

Hawai'i County's median household income is almost \$20,000 below the state average.

Table 17: Median Household Income in 2021⁶³

	Hawai'i County	State of Hawai'i	National Average
Median Household Income	\$68,399	\$88,005	\$69,021
Median Family Income	\$81,910	\$103,593	\$85,028
Median Income for Families with Their Own Children	\$71,773	\$97,843	\$82,767

Families headed by married couples earn almost tripe the income of single fathers and four times the income of single mothers.

Table 18: Median Income of Families with Own Children Under 18 Years Old by Family Structure, Hawai'i County, 2021⁶⁴

Married Couple	\$101,780
Single Father	\$38,200
Single Mother	\$25,327

The median income in Hawai'i County of households with grandparents raising grandchildren is \$38,417.

Table 19: Median Family Income of households in which a Grandparent is Responsible for Grandchildren Under 18, with No Parent Present, 2021⁶⁵

Hawai'i County	\$38,417
Maui County	\$60,347
Honolulu County	\$76,583
Kaua'i County	\$68,571

Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander families raising children are likely to live on lower incomes than Asian or White families with children.

Table 20: Median Household Income by Race⁶⁶
Hawai'i County, 2021

	Household Income	Percent of Children living in this type of family
Asian	\$78,559	13.8%
White	\$68,007	16.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	\$60,086	12.0%
2 or More Races	\$68,383	53.9%
Other Race	\$55,000	3.2%

Poverty

When children experience poverty in early childhood, they face a harder road to school readiness and later life success. These kids are less likely to have stable homes, regular meals and bed times, fewer books and developmental toys, spend fewer minutes reading and playing with parents and family, as a result, they are more likely to reach school behind their middle class peers.⁶⁷ Hawai'i County has several communities with high concentrations of families living in poverty.

The federal poverty line is updated each year by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Federal poverty levels are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits, including savings on Marketplace health insurance, and Medicaid and CHIP coverage.⁶⁸ The Federal Poverty Threshold for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children) is \$34,500.⁶⁹

Hawai'i County has several communities with high concentrations of families living in poverty.

Over 20% of children under age 5 in Hawai'i County live in poverty. Over 30% of children living in Papa'aloā, Ocean View, Haw'i, Mountain View, Pa'auilo, Pahoā, and Pepe'ekeō are living in high poverty communities. In Papa'aloā, 8 in 10 children live in families below the poverty threshold.

Table 21: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Hawai'i County, 2021⁷⁰

	Total	Percent of each group living in poverty in Hawai'i County
Individuals	27,243	13.8%
Children 0-4 Years Old	2,305	20.7%
Children 0-17 Years Old	7,752	18.3%

Table 22: Percentage of Individuals & Children Living in Poverty by Zip Code⁷¹
Hawai'i County, 2021

Town	Zip Code	Percentage of Individuals Living in Poverty	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty
Captain Cook	96704	14.3%	16.2%
Hākālau*	96710	-	-
Haw'i	96719	18.1%	47.6%
Hilo	96720	15.7%	20.5%
Hōlualoa	96725	9.4%	10.9%
Hōnaunau*	96726	-	-
Hōnoka'a	96727	6.4%	6.9%
Hōnomū	96728	6.5%	7.8%
Ocean View	96737	39.2%	52.9%
Wāikōloa	96738	7.5%	7.7%
Kailua Kona	96740	10.1%	12.5%
Kamuela	96743	9.3%	9.8%
Kea'aū	96749	8.9%	9.7%
Kēalakēkuā	96750	6.5%	8.7%
Kapa'aū	96755	8.6%	8.4%
Kurtistown	96760	18.9%	23.0%
Lāpahōehōe*	96764	8.3%	9.6%
Mountain View	96771	26.1%	41.2%
Nā'ālehū	96772	9.8%	12.3%
Ninōle*	96773	-	-
Ō'okala*	96774	-	-
Pa'auilo	96776	20.2%	39.7%
Pāhalā	96777	11.1%	14.9%
Pahoā	96778	25.2%	36.5%
Papa'aloā	96780	35.9%	79.2%
Papai'koū	96781	9.2%	14.3%
Pepe'ekeō	96783	19.6%	31.6%
Volcano	96785	8.4%	4.0%

In Hawai'i County, the poverty rate among 2-parent families as well as for single-parent families is higher than the state average.

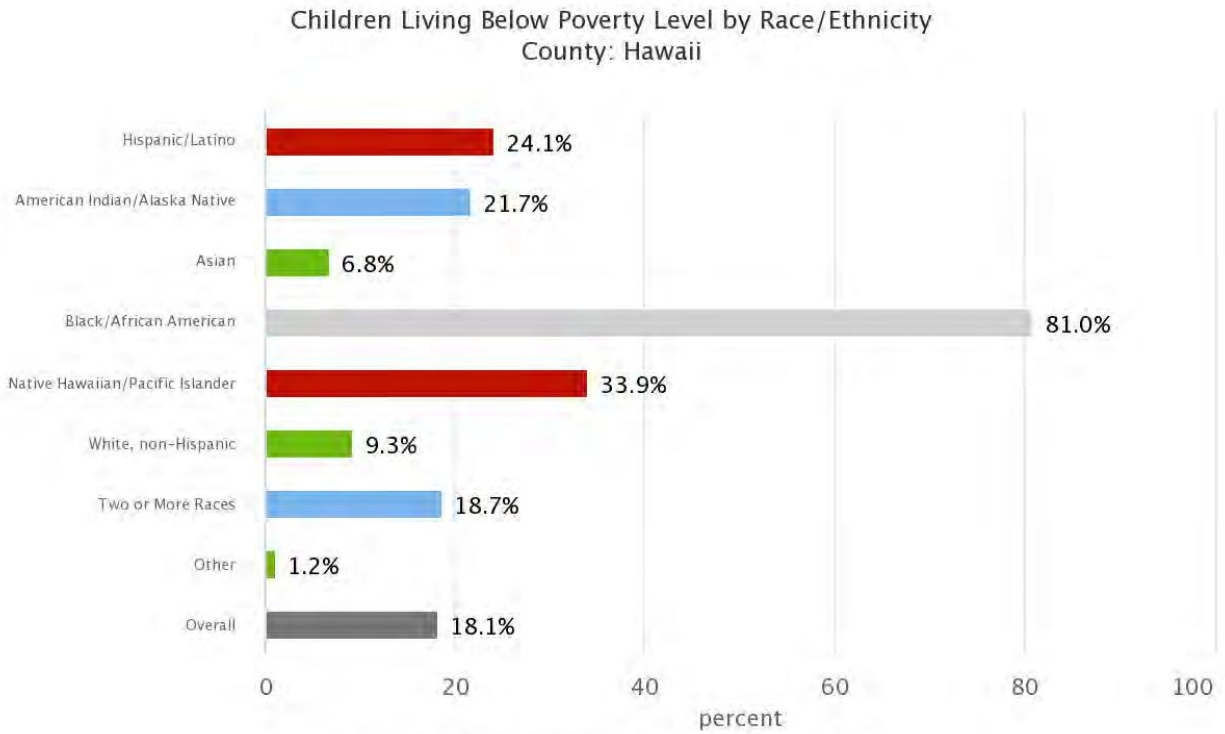
Table 23: Children Living in Poverty by Family Structure ⁷² Hawai'i County & State of Hawai'i, 2021		
	Hawai'i County	State of Hawai'i
Poverty rate for children living with 2 parents	6.5%	5.3%
Poverty rate for children living with a single father	21.7%	15.4%
Poverty rate for children living with a single mother	43.0%	31.9%

Almost 400 multi-generational families in Hawai'i County are living in poverty. While most households with grandparents living with grandchildren are living at or above the poverty level, they may still be living on fixed incomes and have limited resources to cover their expenses.

Table 24: Income Level of Households with Grandparent Living with Grandchildren in Hawai'i County, 2021 ⁷³		
	Total Families	Percentage
Living below poverty level	394	5.7%
Living at or above the poverty level	6,514	94.3%





In Hawai'i County, 81% of African American children live in poverty; 33.9% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) children live in poverty; and 24.1% of Latino children live in poverty.

Figure 15:



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year (2016-2020)

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-  Significantly **better** than the overall value
-  Significantly **worse** than the overall value
-  No significant difference with the overall value
-  No data on significance available

5. HOUSING/ HOMELESSNESS

There are approximately 88,259 housing units, including both homes and apartments in Hawai'i County.⁷⁵ Having sufficient housing is important because it allows families to build wealth, attend good schools, and live in communities that are more conducive to long-term success.⁷⁶

While residential stability can support early childhood development, more than 1 in 8 young children (13% ages 1 to 4 live in families that have moved in the past year.⁷⁷

Many young children are also likely to experience homelessness. The most current data from the Homeless Service Utilization Report from 2023 shows us that there are 131 children 0-17 years old who are homeless in Hawai'i County.⁷⁸ Of those 131 homeless children, 50 are under the age of 6 years old.⁷⁹

1 in 8 young children (13% live in families that have moved in the past year.⁸⁰ There are 131 children who are homeless in Hawai'i County.⁸¹ Of those 131 homeless children, 50 are under the age of 6.⁸²

Housing

Housing Availability

The high cost of housing in Hawai'i County puts homeownership out of the reach of many families. The median housing unit value for Hawai'i County was \$385,900 in 2021.⁸³

Currently, 1 in 5 housing units in Hawai'i County (19.1% are vacant.⁸⁴ Housing units may be vacant for a variety of reasons. Some are second homes for part-time residents and illegal short-term rentals.



Figure 16: ⁸⁵

Share of Housing Occupancy & Ownership in Hawai'i County, 2021

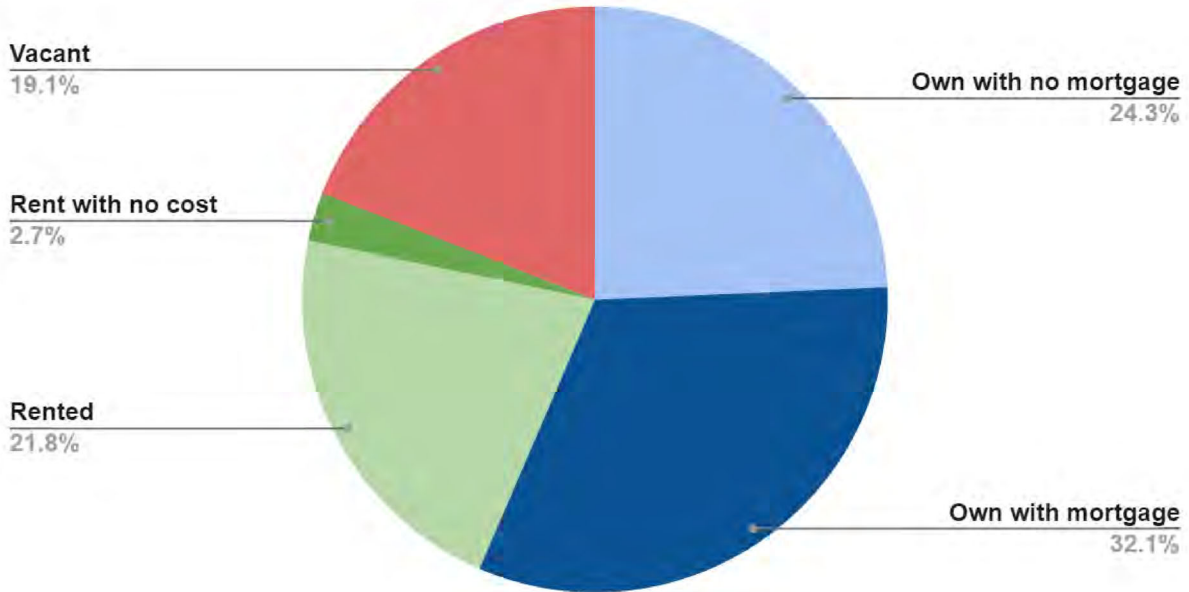


Table 25: Locations of Vacant Housing Units, Hawai'i County, 2021⁸⁶

Captain Cook	4,625
Hilo	2,359
Wāikōloa	1,898
Kamuela	1,535
Pahoā	1,100

547 new housing units were authorized to be built in 2020 across Hawai'i County.

Table 26: New Authorized Housing Units, Hawai'i County, 2017-2020⁸⁷

Year	Total Units
2017	796
2018	1,054
2019	787
2020 ⁺	547

+ 4th Quarter 2020 data not included

Home Sales

The high cost of housing in Hawai'i puts homeownership beyond the reach of many families. Local buyers tend to purchase lower valued properties, with mainland buyers and foreign buyers on average purchasing properties more than double the price of local buyers.

Table 27: Home Sales by Origin of Buyer, Hawai'i County, 2018-2020⁸⁸

Year	Local Buyer		Mainland Buyer		Foreign Buyer	
	Number of Homes Purchased	Average Price of Homes Purchased	Number of Homes Purchased	Average Price of Homes Purchased	Number of Homes Purchased	Average Price of Homes Purchased
2018	2,002	\$394,462	1,329	\$704,015	81	\$1,343,417
2019	2,404	\$373,210	1,419	\$728,322	66	\$1,008,839
2020 ⁺	1,867	\$368,010	940	\$802,451	32	\$1,175,568

+ 4th Quarter 2020 data not included

Housing Mobility

When families move frequently, this dislocation can add to the level of chaos experienced by children as they are uprooted, lose access to their supportive institutions like schools, and lose connections to family and friends.

Housing stability allows a family to stay in their home without unplanned or unwanted disruptions or moves, such as those caused by foreclosures or evictions. Residential stability allows people to establish stable home lives, relationships with friends and neighbors, become part of their communities, and engage in healthy activities including exercise, and raise their levels of education. On the other hand, housing instability can lead to stress, job loss, and distances residents from each other and undermines social and civic engagement. Eviction is a particularly destabilizing event for families with long lasting negative social and psychological effects.⁸⁹

Table 28: Housing Mobility in Hawai'i County (moves in the past year), 2021⁹⁰

	Total Population	Percentage
Same House	174,629	88.1%
Different House; Same County	13,368	6.7%
Different County; Same State	1,992	1.0%
Different County; Different State	6,813	3.4%
Abroad	1,325	0.7%

Most families with young children in Hawai'i County have not moved in the past year. Those who have moved are likely to have moved nearby.

Table 29: Housing Mobility of Children 1-4 Years Old in Hawai'i County, 2021⁹¹

	Families with young children	Percent of families with young children
Same Home	7,739	86.3%
Different House; Same County	878	9.8%
Different County; Same State	117	1.3%
Different County; Different State	237	2.6%
Abroad	-	-

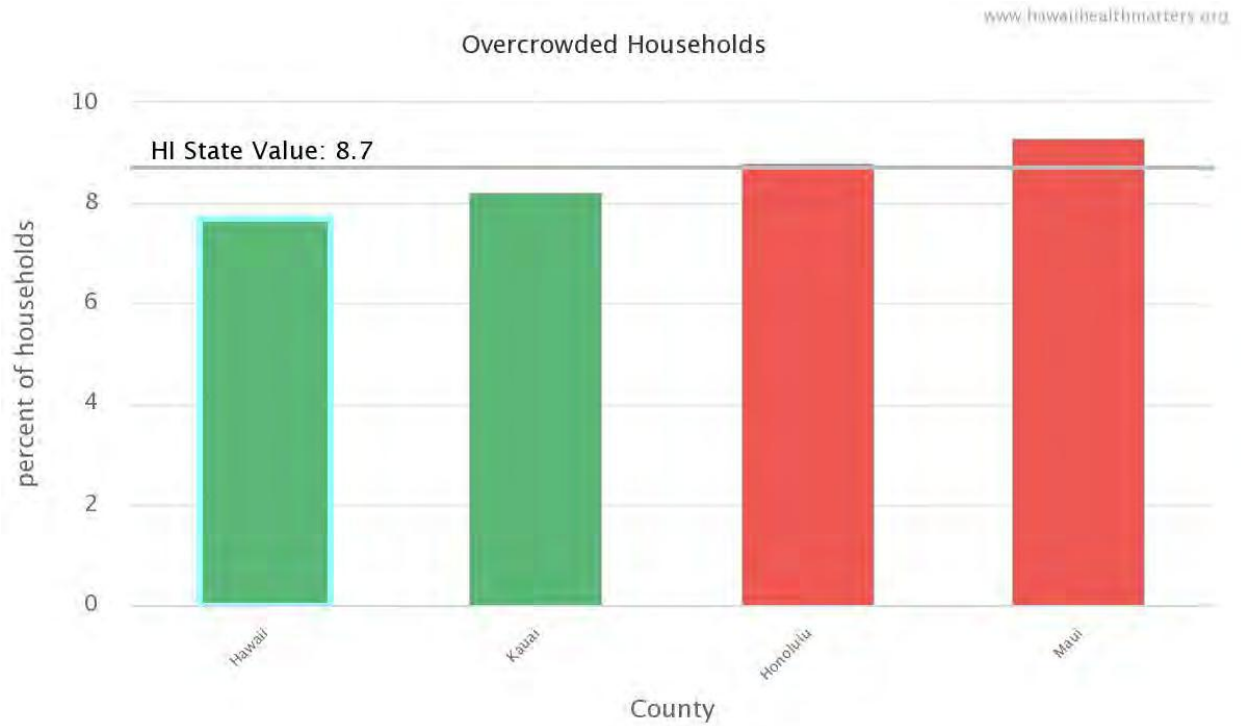
Overcrowding

Overcrowding^b occurs when more people are living within a dwelling than the space allows, or when there are more people than there are rooms.⁹² Overcrowding housing is associated with low-paying jobs and high housing costs and a shortage of available housing stock.⁹³

^b Overcrowding is defined as more than one occupant per room in a home.

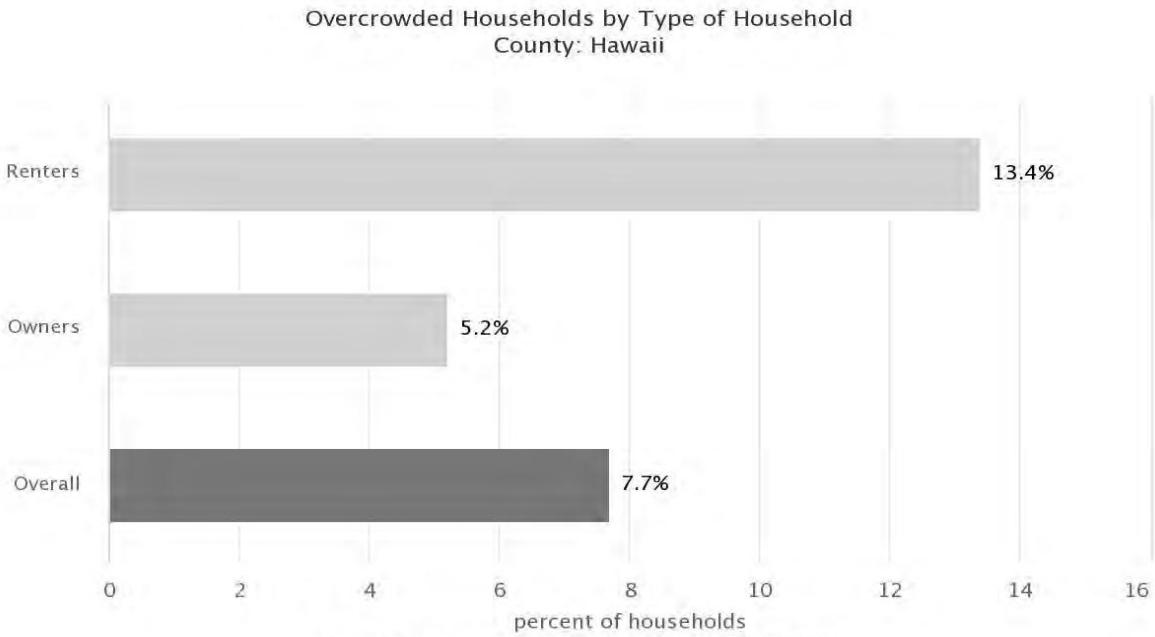
Within Hawai'i County, 7.7% of homes are overcrowded. Overcrowding in Hawai'i County has slowly been on the rise since 2017. Renters are more likely to experience overcrowded housing than homeowners (13.4% vs 5.2%).

Figure 17: ⁹⁴



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year (2016-2020)

Figure 18:⁹⁵



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year (2016–2020)

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Homelessness

Homelessness is lacking fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. The rate of homelessness for Hawai‘i County in 2022 is 41.7 per 10,000 people.⁹⁶ The largest share of homeless families with children are headed by single parents.⁹⁷

In 2023, 131 children in Hawai‘i County were considered homeless. More than half of the homeless were female and the majority were either Native Hawaiian or Micronesian.

Age Range	Count	Percentage
Total	220	
Birth to 5 Years	50	22.7%
6 to 17 Years	81	36.8%
18 and over	89	40.5%

Table 31: Homeless Adults with Children by Sex, Hawai'i County, 2023⁹⁹

Male	99	45%
Female	121	55%

Table 32: Primary Race of Homeless Families with Children by Race/Ethnicity, Hawai'i County, 2023¹⁰⁰

Race/Ethnicity	Total Individuals	Percentage
Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian	88	40%
Micronesian	28	12.7%
Caucasian	21	9.5%
Marshallese	21	9.5%
Filipino	16	7.3%
Samoan	12	5.4%
Japanese	8	3.6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8	3.6%
Unknown	7	3.1%
Black	4	1.8%
Portuguese	3	1.4%
Tongan	2	0.9%
Guamanian/Chamorro	1	0.4%
Other Asian	1	0.4%

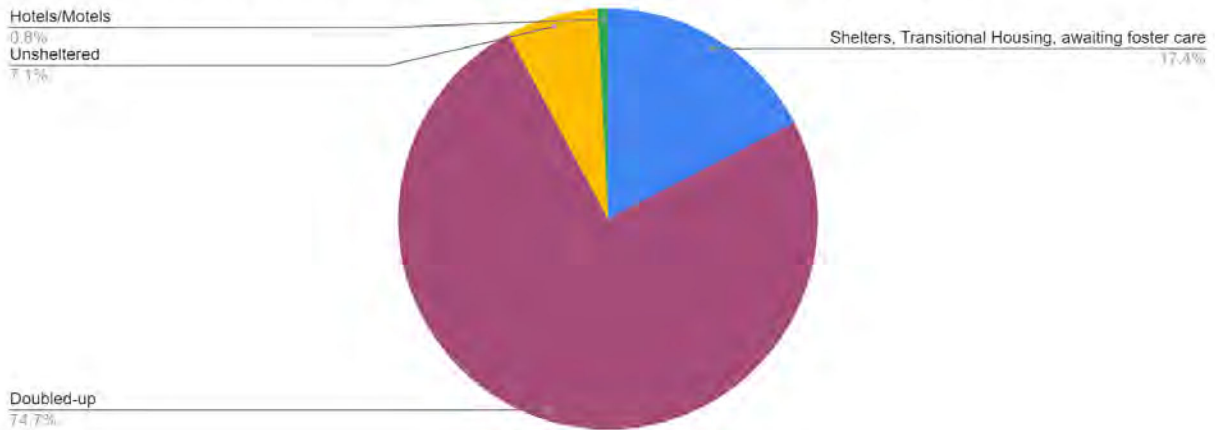
Homeless Children and Youth Enrolled in Public School

According to the National Center for Homeless Education, in Hawai'i for the 2020-2021 school year an estimated 3,080 students across the State of Hawai'i were enrolled in a public school and had unstable housing.¹²¹ This includes those living in shelters, transitional housing, with another family (doubled-up), in unsheltered settings (car, parks, campgrounds, abandoned building), and hotel/motels. In the 2020-2021 school year, statewide, there were 3,080 homeless students in public school.¹⁰¹

74.7% of housing insecure children are in families that are doubled-up with another family, 17.4% are living in shelters, transitional housing or awaiting foster care, 7.1% are unsheltered and 0.8% are living in hotels or motels.

Figure 19: ¹⁰²

Homeless Children/Youth Enrolled in Public School, State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021



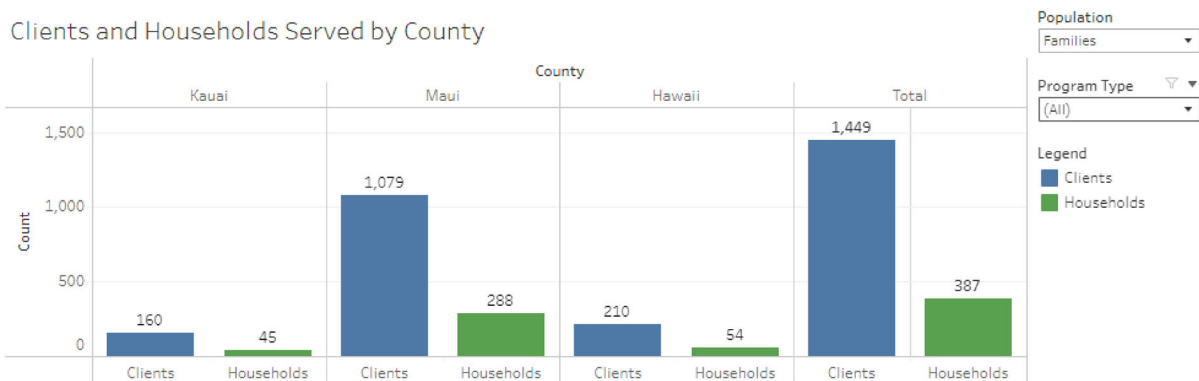
Information on the number of young, housing insecure children who have access to early care and learning opportunities is limited. 14 of the 235 children (6%) enrolled in PACT Head Start (on Oahu and Hawai'i Islands) were homeless. Of the 248 pregnant moms and children served by PACT Early Head Start program, 14% (35 individuals) were homeless.¹⁰³

Bridging the Gap (BTG): Is a group of diverse stakeholders working to end homelessness across the rural counties of Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. In Hawai'i County the following organizations participate in BTG: HOPE West Hawai'i, Hawaii Affordable Properties, Inc., County of Hawaii, Hawaii Island Home for Recovery, Neighborhood Place of Puna, Salvation Army Family Intervention Services, Steadfast Housing Development Corporation, USVETS.¹⁰⁴

In 2021-2022 Bridging the Gap served 288 individuals and families on Hawai'i Island.

Figure 20: ¹⁰⁵

Clients and Households Served by County



6. FOOD SECURITY

A quarter of Hawai'i County children are projected to experience food insecurity at some point during the year.¹⁰⁶ Thirty-five percent of those children are estimated to be ineligible for nutrition programs because their income is too high to qualify for public assistance programs but not sufficient to provide quality food daily.¹⁰⁷

Food Insecurity

Across Hawai'i County, many families are unable to afford enough food to meet their needs. Estimates suggest that a quarter of all children live in families that are “food insecure.”

Table 33: Share of People who are Food Insecure, Hawai'i County, 2020¹⁰⁸

	Total Number	Percentage
Hawai'i County:	29,120	14.5%
Food Insecure Children (0-17):	11,110	25.7%

35% of food insecure children are likely to be ineligible for nutrition programs because of their family's income level.



Figure 21: ¹⁰⁹

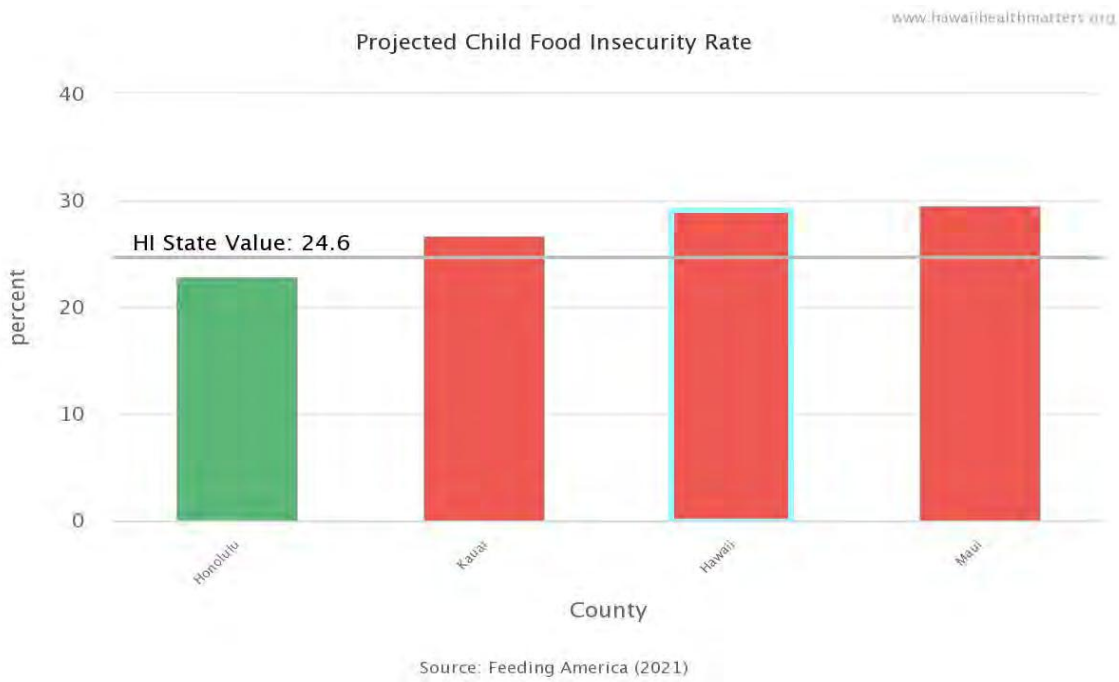
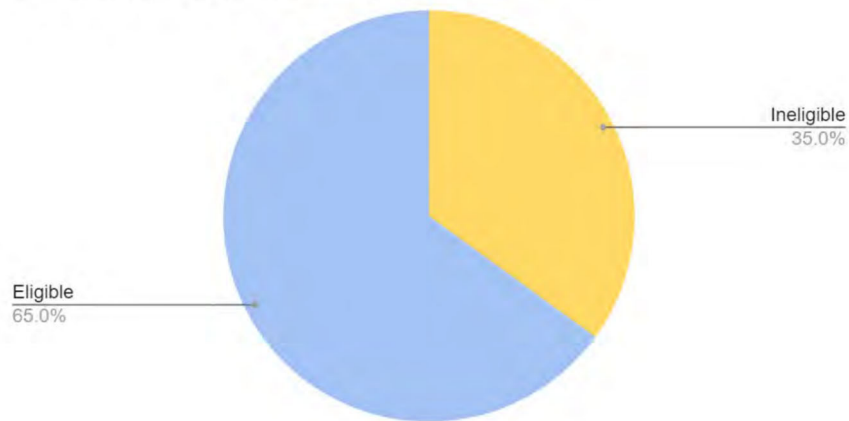


Figure 22: ¹¹⁰

Estimated Program Eligibility* Among Food Insecure Children in Hawai'i County, 2020



*Eligibility for nutrition programs is based on income at or below 185% of the federal poverty limit

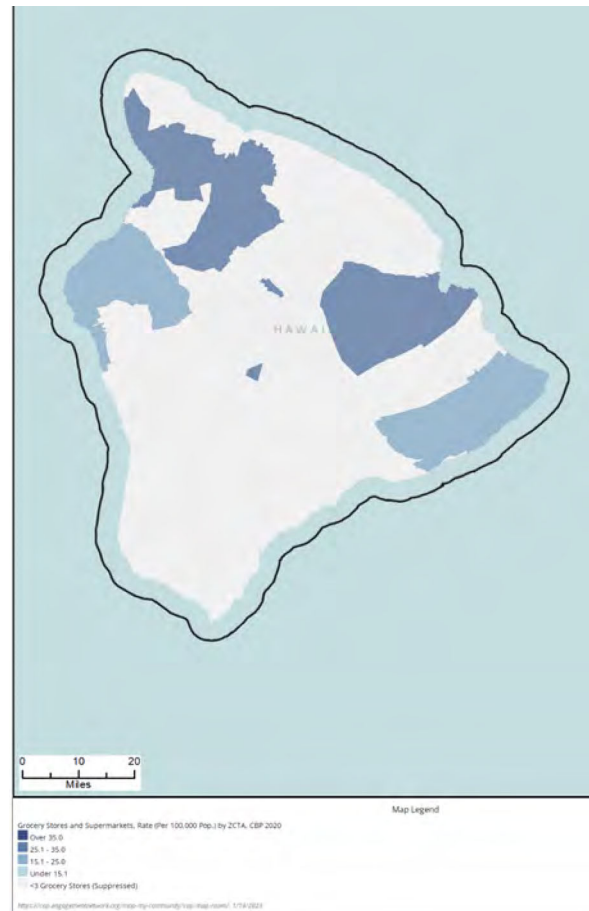
Grocery Stores, Access to Food Shopping

USDA data estimates that there is one grocery store for every 4,545 people in Hawai'i County.¹¹¹ Access to nutritious foods that support healthy dietary patterns supports health not only at that point in time but also across the lifespan and possibly for future generations.¹¹² Evidence demonstrates that a healthy diet is associated with beneficial outcomes for all-cause mortality, cardiovascular disease, overweight

and obesity, type 2 diabetes, bone health, and certain types of cancer (breast and colorectal).^{113,114} Having access to healthy, safe, and affordable food is crucial for a healthy diet.

Residents of the Kohala and Hilo Districts have limited access to groceries stores locally. This suggests that transportation is a vital component of food access for these individuals. Roughly 3,426 (4.8%) households in Hawai'i County have no car and must rely on other sources of transportation to shop for food.¹¹⁵

Figure 23: Total Number of Grocery Stores & Supermarkets by Zip Code, Hawai'i County, 2020



116

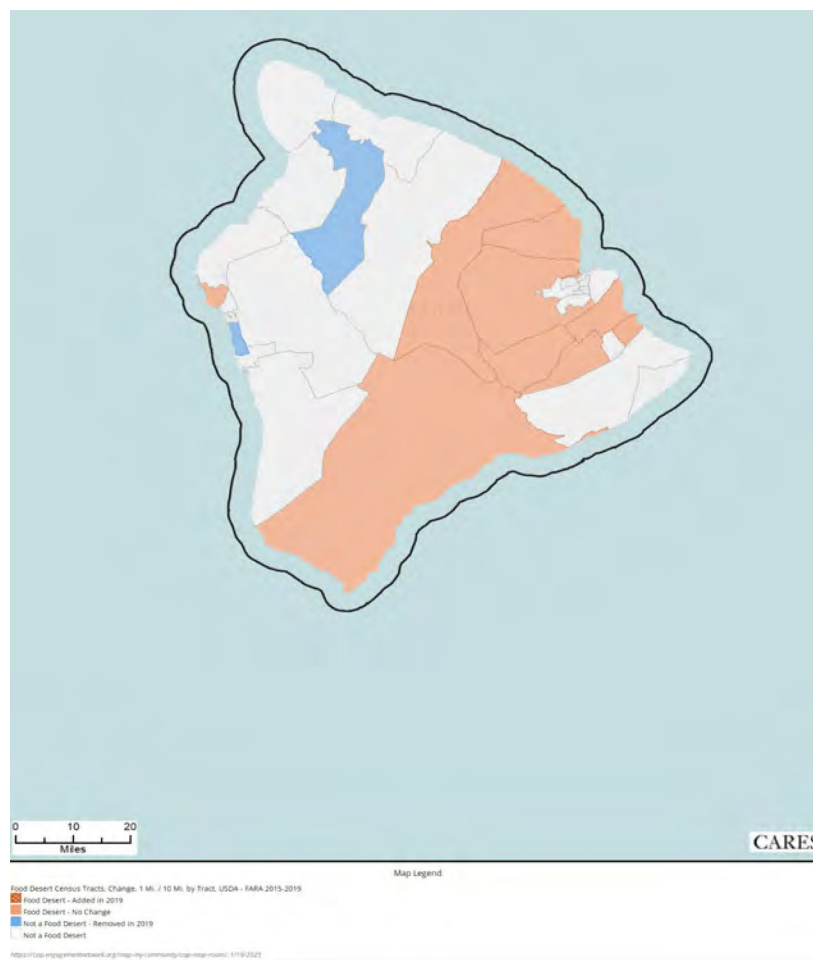
Food Desert Map

The USDA defines a food desert as a low-income tract in which a substantial share of the population has low access (1 mile for urban areas & 10 miles for rural areas) to supermarkets or large grocery stores. By this definition, close to half (49.7%) of people in Hawai'i County live in food deserts.¹¹⁷ This is much higher than the state estimate of 10.3%.

Feeding America, a non-profit working to end hunger, estimates that an additional \$20M would be needed each year to close the food budget shortfall.¹¹⁸

The majority of Hilo and Ka'ū Districts are considered to be food deserts (highlighted in orange on Figure 26). Two areas in Kohala and Kona Districts were removed from the food desert list in 2019 (highlighted in blue).

Figure 24: Food Desert by Census Tract, Hawai'i County, 2019¹¹⁹



Food Distribution Programs

In Hawai'i County, there are several programs designed to ensure that families and children have access to nutritious food. Many of these programs have limited reach in Hawai'i County.

The State of Hawai'i's Participation in Child Nutrition Programs

- 44th in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)¹²⁰
- 50th for the School Breakfast Program (SBP)¹²¹
- 51st in the nation for the At-Risk Afterschool Supper Program through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)¹²²

7. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In Hawai'i County, over 16,804 children (40% of all children) live in a household that has received public assistance in the past 12 months.¹²³ Fewer than half of these children live in households receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) funds.¹²⁴

46 schools participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program, providing the whole student body with free breakfast and lunch.¹²⁵ For most of the past decade, more than half of all public school students in Hawai'i County have been eligible for the federal free & reduced price lunch program. In academic year 2020-2021, 55.1% of students in Hawaii County were eligible.¹²⁶

Public Assistance Access

In Hawai'i County, 16,804 (38.9%) children under 18 live in households that have received public assistance in the past 12 months (year).¹²⁷ These government programs provide either cash assistance or in-kind benefits to individuals and families.

Types of public assistance include:¹²⁸

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**- provides crucial food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households, and those making the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)**- assists low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.
- **National School Lunch Programs (NSLP)** is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions through the Community Eligibility Provision, Free & Reduced-Price Lunch, and the Child & Adult Care Food Programs.¹²⁹
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**- help lower income families with minor children with cash assistance, particularly while parents are seeking employment. TANF funds can be used for a variety of other activities (for example, administrative costs, child care and pre-K programs, child welfare services, and work support activities)
- **Supplemental Security Income**- provides monthly cash payments to adults and children who have low income and resources, and who are blind or disabled.
- **General Assistance**- provides cash benefits for food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials to adults ages 18 through 64, without minor dependents, who are temporarily disabled and who do not qualify for Social Security

Food Assistance

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is recognized as the nation's most effective anti-hunger program, providing low-income households with supplemental resources to purchase food.¹³⁰

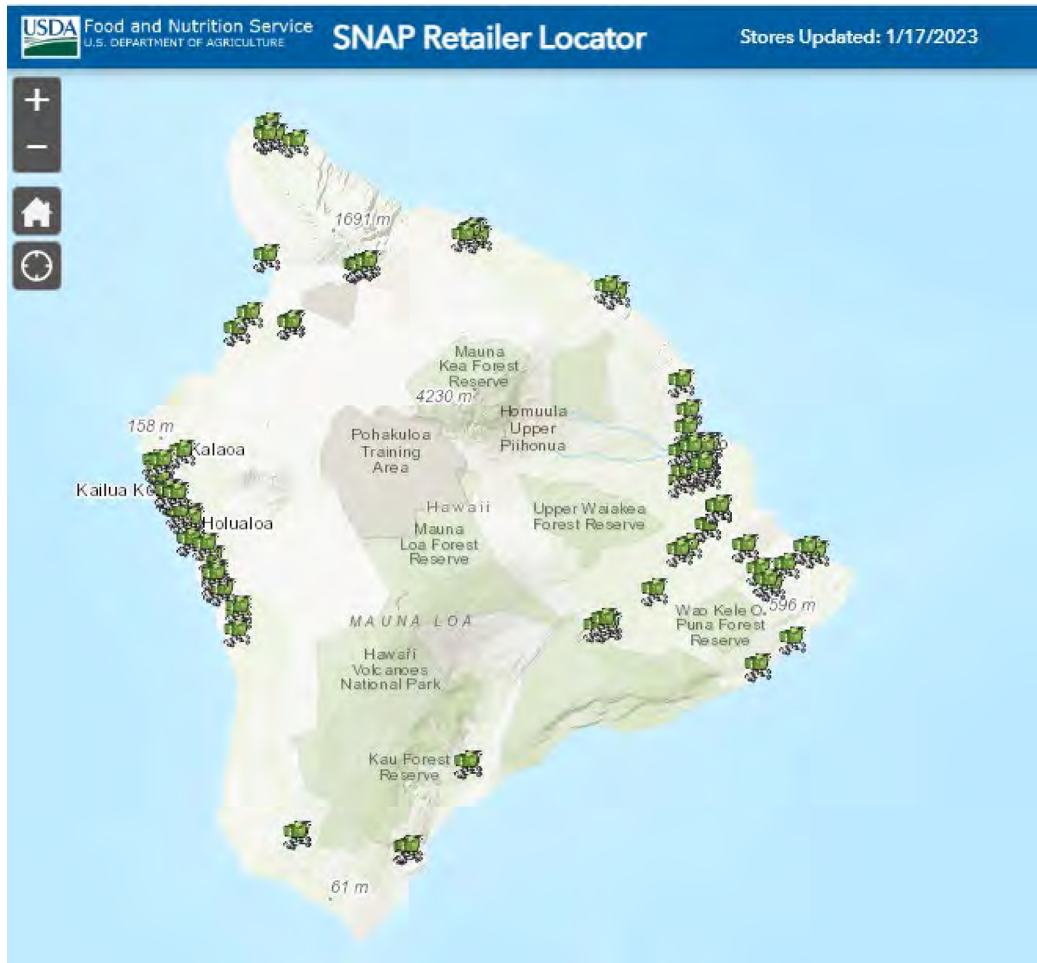
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a federal program that provides nutrition benefits to low-income individuals and families that are used at stores to purchase food. The program is administered by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) through its nationwide network of FNS field offices. Local FNS field offices are responsible for the licensing and monitoring of retail food stores participating in SNAP.¹³¹

Approximately 1 in 5 (19%) of all households in Hawai'i County receive SNAP benefits, and 1 in 3 households with children in Hawai'i County (33.5%) receive SNAP benefits (C.f.: Table 34)

Table 34: Households with Children under 18 Receiving SNAP by Household Type¹³²
Hawai'i County, 2021

Total Households with children receiving SNAP	6,932	33.5%
Married couple family household	2,566	
Single mother	3,208	
Single father	1108	

Figure 25: the Location of SNAP Authorized Retailers in Hawai'i County, 2023



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WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritional support low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides participants with nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health and other social services.¹³⁴

According to the Hawai'i State Department of Health, pregnant women who enroll in WIC are less likely to give birth prematurely, they experience fewer fetal and infant deaths, seek prenatal care earlier in pregnancy, and consume more of such key nutrients as iron, protein, calcium, and Vitamin C. It has been estimated that every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers.¹³⁵

An estimated 43.5% of pregnant mothers within Hawai'i County participate in WIC during pregnancy.¹³⁶

Across the State of Hawai'i there are 25,000 WIC participants in a typical month, including 20,000 infants and children.

Table 35: Average monthly participation for 2021 WIC Recipients ¹³⁷ State of Hawai'i, 2021		
Total Number of Participants:	25,907	
Total Women:	5,431	21.0%
Total Infants:	5,305	20.5%
Total Children:	15,171	58.6%

National School Lunch Program

The [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost lunches to children each school day through the Community Eligibility Provision, Free & Reduced-Price Lunch Programs, and the Child & Adult Care Food Program.¹³⁸ Children are eligible for reduced price lunch if their family's income is below 185% of the federal poverty line. They are eligible for free lunch if their family income is below 130% FPL.

In the 2020-2021 school year, 55.1% of students in Hawai'i County received free or reduced price lunch. Hawai'i County has the highest rate of participation in the FPL program in the state, above Kaua'i (42.3%), Maui (40.9%), & Honolulu (34.5%) counties.¹³⁹

students, even if they do not qualify for free or reduced- priced lunch in low-income areas. Below are the participating schools in Hawai'i County for the 2022-2023 school year.

Chiefess Kapiolani El.	Kealakehe High	Connections PCS
Hilo High	Keaukaha El.	Hawai'i Academy of Arts & Science PCS
Hilo Inter.	Keonepoko El.	Ka Umeke Kaeo PCS
Hilo Union El.	Kohala Elementary	Ke Ana Laahana PCS
Honaunau El.	Kohala Middle	Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha Learning Center PCS
Honokaa El.	Konawaena Elementary	Ke Kula O
Honokaa High & Inter.	Konawaena Middle	Nawahiokalaniopuu Iki
Hookena El.	Konawaena High	Kua O Ka La Charter School
Kahakai El.	Mountain View El.	Kualapuu PCS
Kalaniana'ole El. & Inter.	Naalehu El.	Laupahoehoe Community PCS
Kau High & Pahala El.	Paauilo El. and Inter.	Na Wai Ola PCS
Ke Kula O Ehunuikaimalino	Pahoa El.	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences PCS
Keaau El.	Pahoa High and Inter.	Waimea Middle School
Keaau High	Waiakea El.	
Keaau Middle	Waiakeawaena El.	
Kealakehe El.	Waikoloa El.	
Kealakehe Inter.	Waimea El.	

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in daycare facilities. CACFP contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and adults in the United States.¹⁴³

In 2022, CACFP provided a total of 4,168,979 meals across Hawai'i.¹⁴⁴

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/ Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) Cash Assistance

The TANF program assists families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives cannot provide for the family's basic needs. The Federal government provides grants to States to run the TANF program. These State TANF programs are designed to accomplish four goals:

1. to aid needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives,

2. to end the dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage,
3. to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies, and
4. to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

States have broad flexibility to carry out their programs. The States, not the Federal government, decide on the design of the program, the type and amount of assistance payments, the range of other services to be provided, and the rules for determining who is eligible for benefits.¹⁴⁵

Across the State of Hawai'i more than 20,000 individuals participate in TANF during any given month. 62% of beneficiaries are children under the age of 18.

The State of Hawai'i has established a companion program to the federal TANF program. TANOF provides subsidy support to additional family members who may not be US citizens. A small portion of TANF/TAONF participants are non-US citizens and 10% are Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants.

Table 36: TANF/TAONF Recipients ¹⁴⁶ State of Hawai'i, 2021		
Average Monthly Clients:	20,885	
Recipients under age 18:	12,948	62%

Table 37: TANF/TAONF Recipients by Citizenship ¹⁴⁷ State of Hawai'i, 2021	
US Citizenship-	88.0%
Compact of Free Association (COFA)	10.0%
Non-US / Unspecified	2.0%

Housing Support

Families struggling to cover the cost of rent and utilities may be eligible to access systems of support provided by the federal, state, and county governments, and by utilities such as Hawaiian Electric. The following section outlines the support available for public housing, rental subsidies, and energy assistance programs.

In 2020, the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) provided 5,600 housing units to a total of 19,000 occupants across the State of Hawai'i. As seen in Table 38, the average rent charged per month by HPHA was \$301, with some units paying zero rent. HPHA also provides rental subsidies for eligible families, elderly, veterans, and low-income households.

Publicly Funded Housing

Table 38: Federal & State Public Housing ¹⁴⁸ State of Hawai'i, 2021		
Total units occupied:	Total number of occupants:	Average Rent Charged per unit per month:
5,600	19,000	\$301

Federal & State Rental Subsidies for the State of Hawai'i¹⁴⁹

Section 8 Receipt among eligible families

Families served: 2,726

Average Housing Assistance Payment (State) \$1,327/month

Average Tenant Payment: \$470/month

Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers (NED)

Vouchers Administered: 133

Average Payment: \$1,074/month

Average Tenant Payment: \$321/month

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

Clients Served: 425

Average Payment: \$838/month

Average Tenant Payment: \$309/month

State Rent Supplement Program

Clients Served: 239

Average Payment: \$425/month

Average Tenant Payment: \$584/month

Health Insurance

Quality healthcare access is the foundation for a child's overall wellbeing and readiness for early learning. This starts with prenatal care and includes home visitation for newborn children and their families, regular health and wellness screening, referrals for needed services, and convenient access to those services.

Med-QUEST is the State of Hawai'i's public health insurance program for children in low-income families. In Hawai'i County there were a total of 87,650 Med-QUEST recipients in 2021.¹⁵⁰

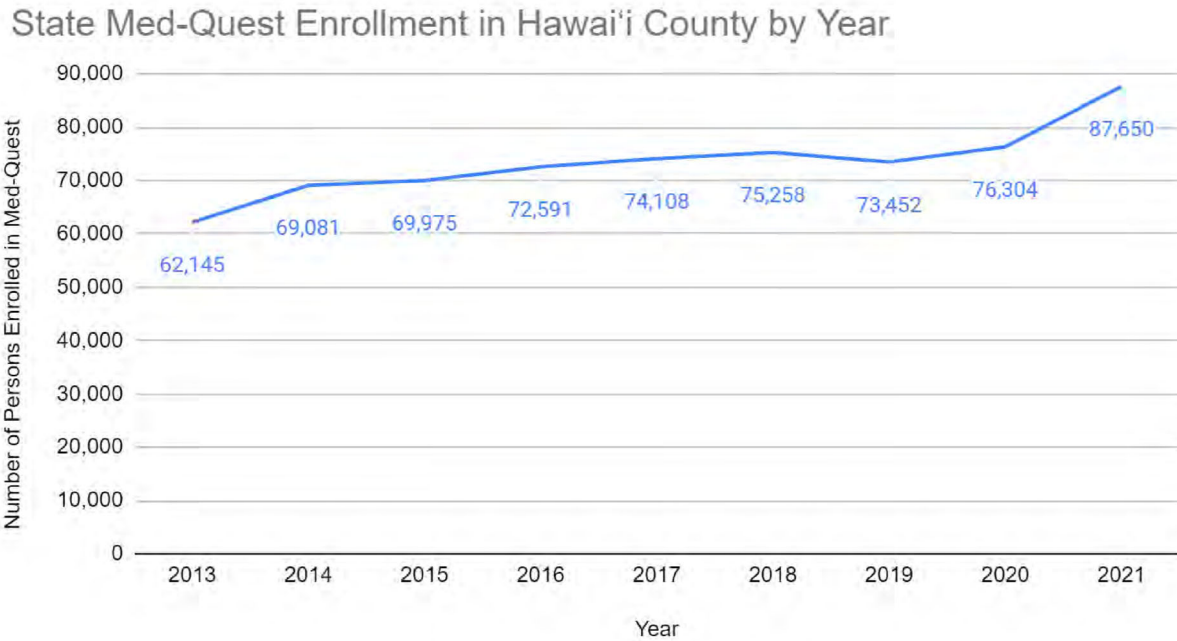
Of the 13,638 children 0-5 years old in Hawai'i County, 1.4% were not covered by any health insurance. The majority of young children are covered by public health insurance (59.9%), as seen in Table 40, with the remaining 42.5% having some form of private insurance.

Table 39: Children 0-5 Years Old by Health Insurance Coverage ¹⁵¹ Hawai'i County, 2021		
Covered by health insurance	13,445	98.6%
Not covered by any health insurance	193	1.4%

Table 40: Health Insurance of Children 0-5 Years Old by Insurance Type (Alone or in Combination) Hawai'i County, 2021	
Uninsured: ¹⁵²	1.4%
Private (Employer, Direct Purchase, Tricare/Military): ¹⁵³	42.5%
Public (Medicaid, Medicare, VA): ¹⁵⁴	59.9%

The share of families insured by MedQuest has increased by almost 40% over the past decade.

Figure 28: ¹⁵⁵



Child Care Assistance

Tuition Support

The Center for American Progress (CAP) estimates that in the State of Hawai'i, only 7.4% of subsidy-eligible children 0-5 years old actually receive child care assistance.¹⁵⁶

In Hawai'i, there are a number of early care and learning options that are available at no cost to families. These include:

- Head Start (Center based care for 3 and 4 year olds)
- Early Head Start (Home and Center based care for keiki 0-2)
- Executive Office on Early Learning Pre-Kindergartens and Public Charter School Pre-Kindergartens
- Early Intervention Services

Tuition Support Subsidies

- DHS The Child Care Connection Hawaii
- DHS The Preschool Open Door
- Kamehameha Schools Pauahi Keiki Scholars
- Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation and Weinberg Foundation grants
- Help for Child Care Programs - Keiki O Ka 'Āina

8. AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Almost 65% of young children in Hawai'i County have all available parents in the workforce.¹⁵⁷ Residents of Hawai'i County carry a high housing cost burden (defined as >30% of income devoted to housing). 26% of owners have high mortgage costs, and more than half of renters carry high housing costs.¹⁵⁸

Child Care Needs

Without reliable and affordable child care options, parents must often choose between spending a huge portion of their budget on child care, using less convenient or lower-quality care arrangements, cutting back their work hours, or patching together some combination of these options. Many mothers are forced to leave the workforce altogether because of child care struggles, which can cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of their careers.¹⁵⁹

A total of 8,797 out of 13,603 (64.7%) children under 6 years old living with their parents in Hawai'i County have all available parents in the workforce. More than 3,700 young children live with two parents, both of whom are in the workforce, and more than 5,000 young children live with one parent, and that parent works full time.

The National Survey for Children's Health estimates for the State of Hawai'i, that 12,114 (12.1%) of parents make career sacrifices due to issues with child care issues.¹⁶⁰

Table 41: Children Under 6 Years Old with All Available Parents in the Workforce¹⁶¹
Hawai'i County, 2021

Total number of Children under 6 years old with all available parents in the workforce	8,797	64.7%
Living with two parents, both of whom are working	3,746	28.8%
Living with one parent, who is working	5,051	38.8%

Table 42: Children 6-17 Years Old with All Available Parents in the Workforce¹⁶²
 Hawai'i County, 2021

Total number of Children 6-17 years old with all available parents in the workforce	20,471	69.33%
Children 6 to 17 years with both parents in the labor force	11,941	
Single mothers who are employed	5,830	
Single fathers that are employed	2,700	

Family Income Levels

Income is a vital resource for families with young children. Families with insecure or inadequate incomes have a difficult time accessing secure housing, sufficient nutrition, and quality child care, among other vital needs.

In Hawai'i County 17% of households live in poverty and another 31% of households are working, but still have an extremely difficult time making ends meet. These families are considered to be in the "ALICE" population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Another 52% of households above the ALICE threshold.

Figure 29: ¹⁶³

Hawai'i County Households by Income, 2018

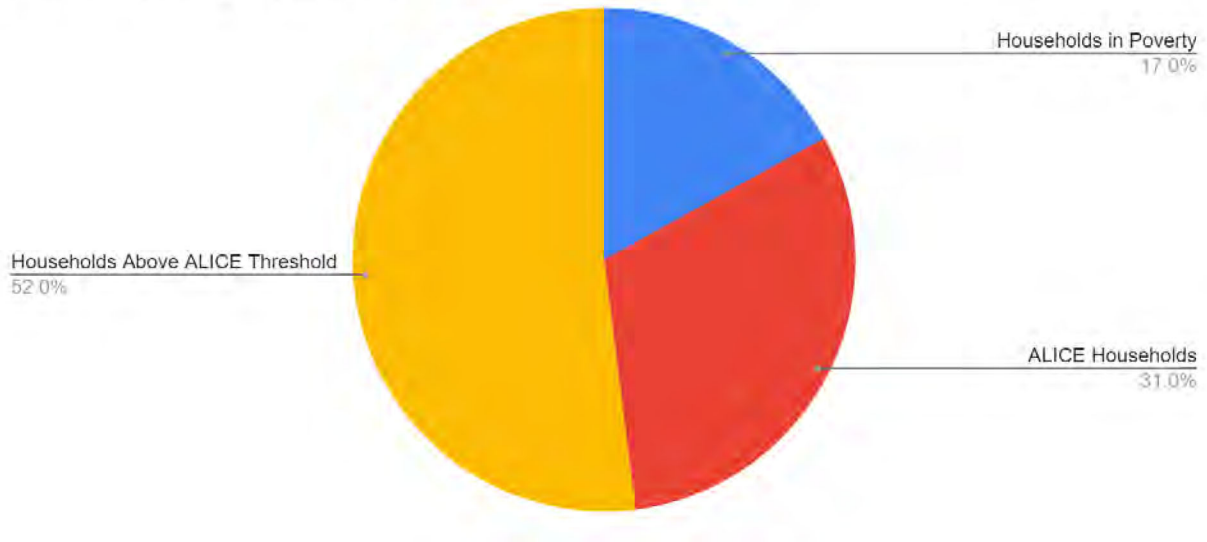


Table 43: ¹⁶⁴

AUW ALICE Household Survival Budget 2018	
Housing	\$1,322
Child Care	\$476
Food	\$1,186
Transportation	\$802
Health Care	\$756
Technology	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$548
Taxes	\$867
Monthly Total	\$6,032
Annual Total	\$72,384
Hourly Wage	\$36.19

Cost of Child Care

The average price for child care tuition for 2 children in the State of Hawai'i is \$20,945 annually.¹⁶⁵ Hawai'i is one of the least affordable states for center-based infant care and center-based care for 4-year old's.

Table 44: Affordability Ranking Child Care, State of Hawai'i, 2021¹⁶⁶

	State Ranking (least affordable)	Percent of Median Income of Married Families	Percent of Median Income of Single Parents
Cost of Center-Based Infant Care	#4	15.6%	43.7%
Cost of Family Child Care (FCC) for Infants	#39	8.0%	22.5%
Cost of Center-Based Toddler Care	#23	11.4%	31.8%
Cost of Family Child Care (FCC) for Toddlers	#35	7.8%	21.8%
Cost of Center-Based Care for 4 Year Old	#8	11.3%	31.7%
Cost of Family Child Care (FCC) for 4 Year Old	#30	22.0%	7.9%

Families with multiple children spend more on child care. A two parent family with income at the federal poverty level of \$34,500 would spend 80.8% of their income on the market cost for preschool for two children.

Table 45: Percent of Income Spent on of 2 Children Child Care¹⁶⁷
State of Hawai'i, 2020

	Center	Home
Two children-single parents	67.5%	51.5%
Two children- married couple family	23.7%	18.1%
Married family with two children at the poverty level	80.8%	61.7%

Tables 46 & 47 display monthly average rates for child care homes and child care centers. Prices are listed as averages of West and East Hawai'i provider rates.

Table 46: Monthly Average Full-Time Rate for Child Care Homes ¹⁶⁸ Hawai'i County, 2022		
Child Care Homes (Family Child Care & Group Homes)	West Hawai'i	East Hawai'i
0-12 months	\$884.79	\$727.98
12-24 months	\$885.50	\$710.68
2-3 years	\$887.87	\$689.35
4-5 years	\$884.47	\$692.53

Table 47: Monthly Average Full-Time Rate for Child Care Centers ¹⁶⁹ Hawai'i County, 2022		
Child Care Centers	West Hawai'i	East Hawai'i
0-12 months	\$2,380.00	N/A
12-24 months	\$1,985.00	\$650.00
2-3 years	\$1,121.83	\$1,055.74
4-5 years	\$1,057.81	\$1,247.92

Housing Costs

The characteristics of a child's home including cost, condition, residential mobility and surrounding neighborhood can affect all aspects of their health, social, and emotional wellbeing. Yet high housing costs complicate housing decisions, forcing families to make tradeoffs between housing quality, safety and location.

In Hawai'i County, the average monthly mortgage cost is \$1,867, and the average monthly rent is \$1,250.

Table 48: Median Monthly Cost of Occupied Housing¹⁷⁰
Hawai'i County, 2021

	Number of Units	Average Monthly Cost
Own with mortgage	28,370	\$1,867
Own with no mortgage	21,452	\$367
Rent	19,215	\$1,250

High & Severe Housing Cost Burden

As housing costs have outpaced local incomes, households not only struggle to acquire and maintain adequate shelter, but also face difficult trade-offs in meeting other basic needs. When most of a paycheck goes toward the rent or mortgage, it makes it hard to afford child care, doctor visits, healthy foods, utility bills, and reliable transportation to work or school. This can, in turn, lead to increased stress levels and emotional strain.¹⁷¹ This is known as housing cost burden¹⁷²

Households are considered "cost burdened" if they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. In Hawai'i County 50.1% of renters and 26.6% of homeowners are cost burdened.¹⁷³

For some households, housing costs are even more severe. The federal definition of "severe housing costs" is a household spending over half their income on housing. In Hawai'i County, 23% of households meet this definition.¹⁷⁴

9. MATERNAL HEALTH & BIRTHS

The birth rate for Hawai'i County is currently at 10 per 1,000 persons and has been declining since 2010.¹⁷⁵ There has been a notable decline in births to teen mothers (from 40 per 1,000) a decade ago to 16.8 (per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) in 2020. Reasons for this decline include more effective contraception, and more information about pregnancy prevention.^{176,177}

Birth Rates & Demographics

Over the past decade the number of babies born in Hawai'i County each year has been declining.

Figure 30:¹⁷⁸

Live Births by Year, Hawai'i County

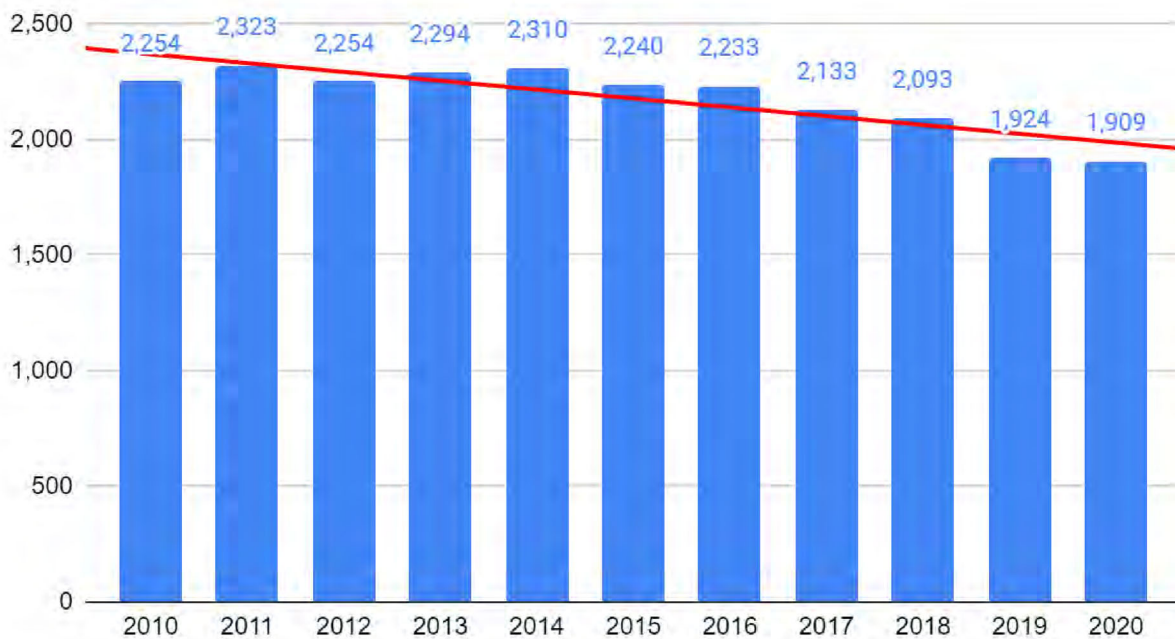


Table 49: Birth rate for Hawai'i County, 2010-2020¹⁷⁹

Year	Birth Rate (per 1,000 Persons)
2010	12.9
2011	13.2
2012	12.7
2013	12.6
2014	12.6
2015	12.1
2016	11.8
2017	11.4
2018	11.0
2019	10.1
2020	10.0

The largest share of births in Hawai'i County were to Native Hawaiian mothers (852 births), followed by White mothers (426 births). The highest birth rate in Hawai'i County is to Other Pacific Islanders who accounted for 216 births in 2020, but gave birth at a rate of 38.7 per 1,000 people.

Table 50: Number of Live Births & Birth Rate by Mother's Ethnicity¹⁸⁰
Hawai'i County, 2020

Race/Ethnicity	# of Live Births	Birth Rate (per 1,000 Persons)
White	426	6.8
Native Hawaiian	852	14.9
Other Pacific Islander	216	38.7
Filipino	230	11.2
Chinese	34	19.0
Japanese	109	5.4
Other Asian	37	14.0
Black or African American	22	11.4
Native Alaskan / American Indian	55	25.0
Other	52	3.8

*Data suppressed due to small population and not appropriate for publication.

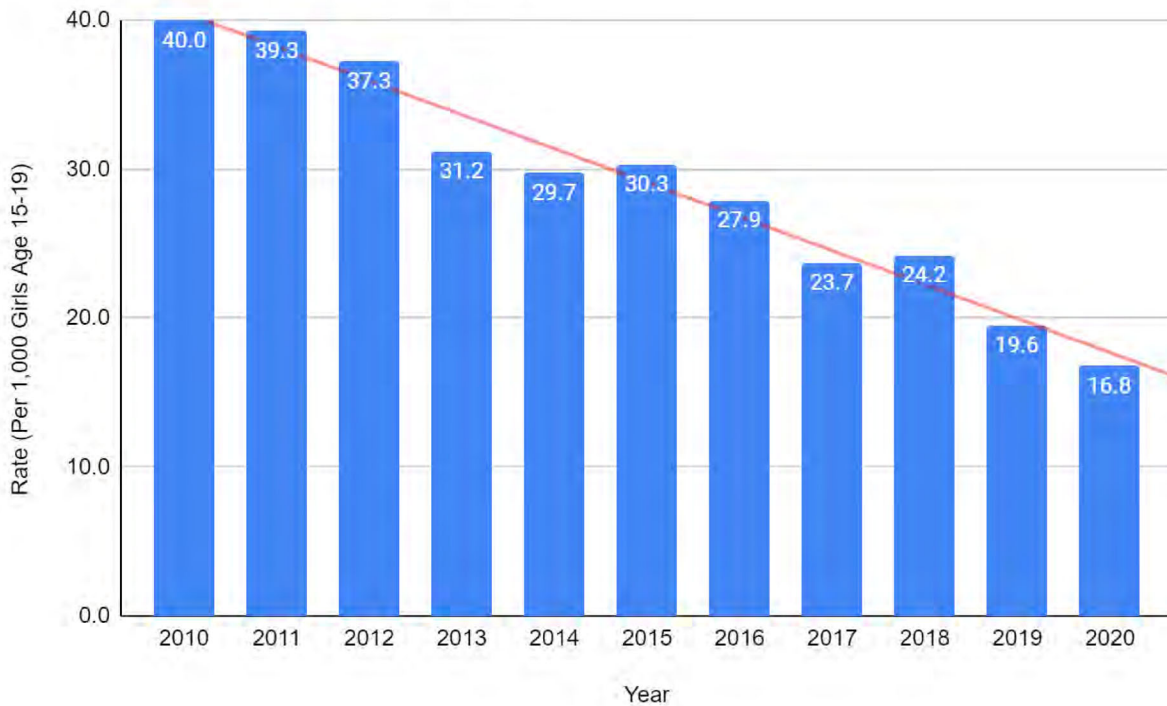
Teen Births

Teen birth is of concern for the health outcomes of both the mother and the child. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to be born preterm and/or have low birth weight.¹⁸¹

Mirroring national trends, there has been a steady decline in teen births over the last decade. For Hawai'i County there were 16.8 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 in 2020.

Figure 31:

Teen Birth Rate in Hawaii County



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Table 51: Teen Births Rate Girls Aged 15-19 by County, 2020¹⁸³

County	Births Rate per 1,000 Girls Aged 15-19
Hawai'i County	16.8
Honolulu County	12.4
Kauai County	11.4
Maui County	12.8

**More information on teen habits found in Section 15. Strong Families & Communities*

Pre-Pregnancy Health

In 2020, nearly pregnant women (46.7%) in Hawai'i County had a healthy body weight prior to pregnancy.¹⁸⁴ All counties in Hawai'i have a higher rate of women with healthy body weights prior to pregnancy than the national average.

Table 52: Women with a Healthy Weight Prior to Pregnancy by County¹⁸⁵
2020

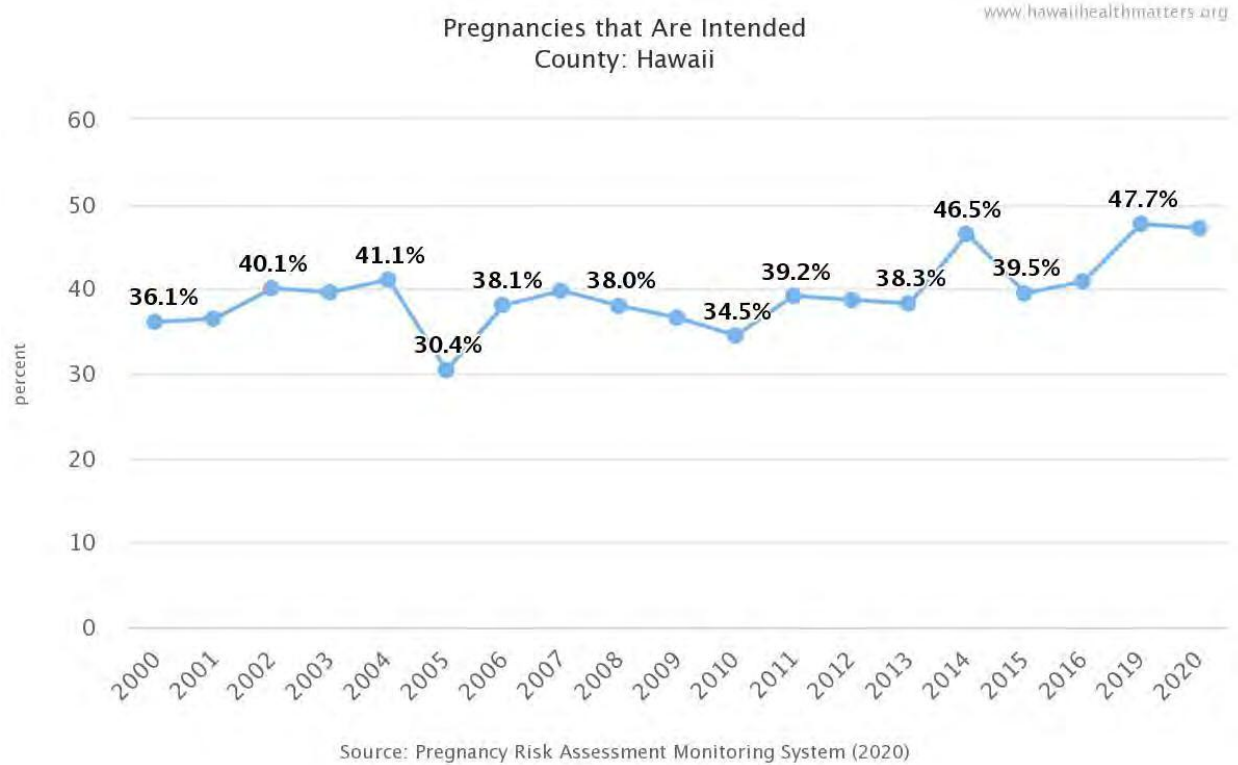
Hawaii County	46.7%
Honolulu County	44.1%
Kauai County	51.1%
Maui County	47.6%
U.S. Average	43.0%

Pregnancy

Access to quality prenatal care early in pregnancy can help prevent complications for women during pregnancy, reduce harm to the health of the fetus, and provide critical information and resources to families to ensure the healthiest possible start for their child.

In Hawai'i County, 47.2% of new mothers report that their pregnancies were intended.¹⁸⁶ This share has been increasing over the past 10 years.

Figure 32: ¹⁸⁷



Healthy Practices before and during pregnancy

Healthy behaviors during pregnancy are vital for the best start of a child. This includes substance abuse, mental health and development before, during and after pregnancy.

Maternal Drug & Alcohol Use

In Hawai'i County 4.4% of mothers report using marijuana during pregnancy.¹⁸⁸ 4% of mothers reported smoking cigarettes during the last 3 months of pregnancy.¹⁸⁹ 20.6% of mothers lived with a cigarette smoker during pregnancy and were exposed to secondhand smoke.¹⁹⁰

Alcohol Consumption

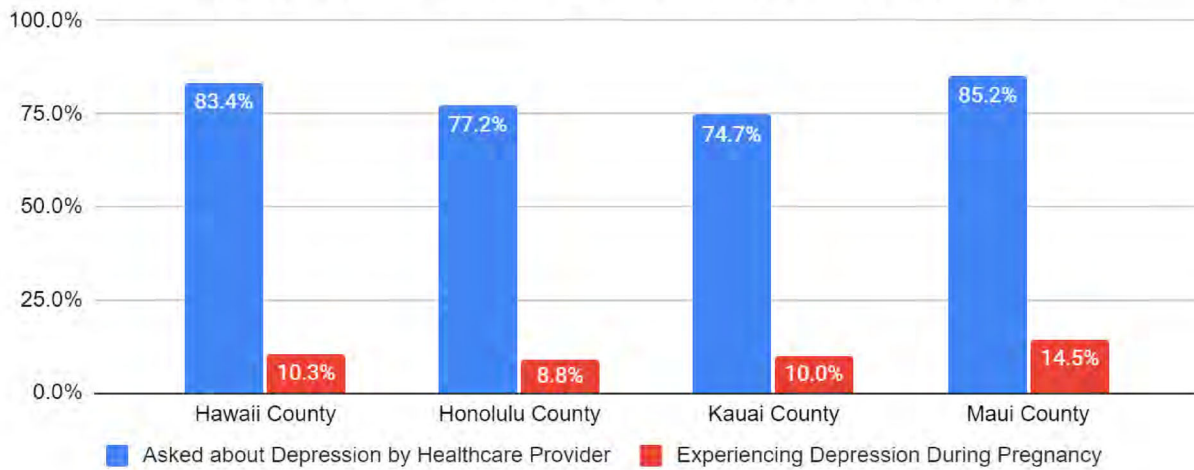
Within the 3 months prior to pregnancy, 52.7% of mothers consumed alcohol, and 20.2% of mothers reported binge drinking (drinking 4 or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion).^{191,192} During the last 3 months of pregnancy, 7.1% of mothers drank alcohol.¹⁹³

Prenatal Visit Depression Screening

Hawai'i County has the second highest rate of screening and depression identification, 83.4% and 10.3% respectively, supporting the importance of depression screening of expecting and new mothers.

Figure 33: 194,195

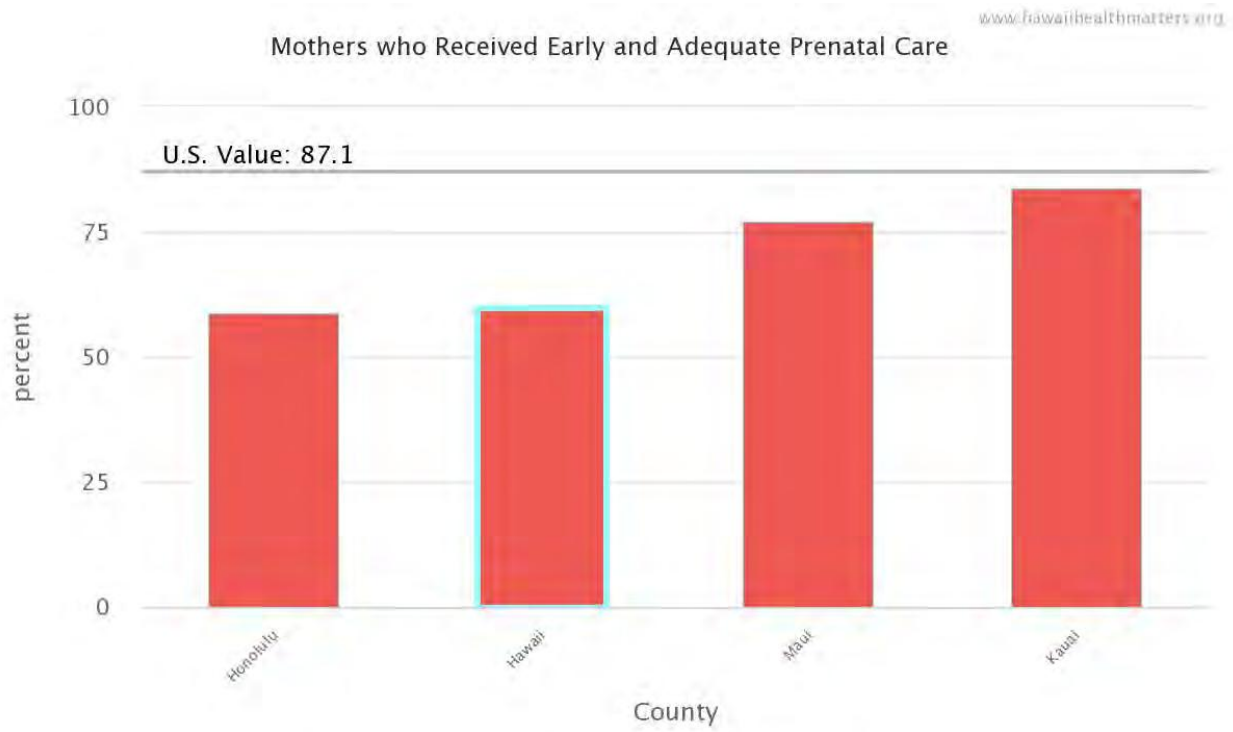
Prenatal Visit Depression Screening & Identification by County, 2020



Prenatal Care

Women who receive early and adequate prenatal care are more likely to give birth to healthy infants. Approximately 60% of mothers in Hawai'i County receive early and adequate prenatal care. Native Hawaiian mothers are least likely to receive early and adequate prenatal care.

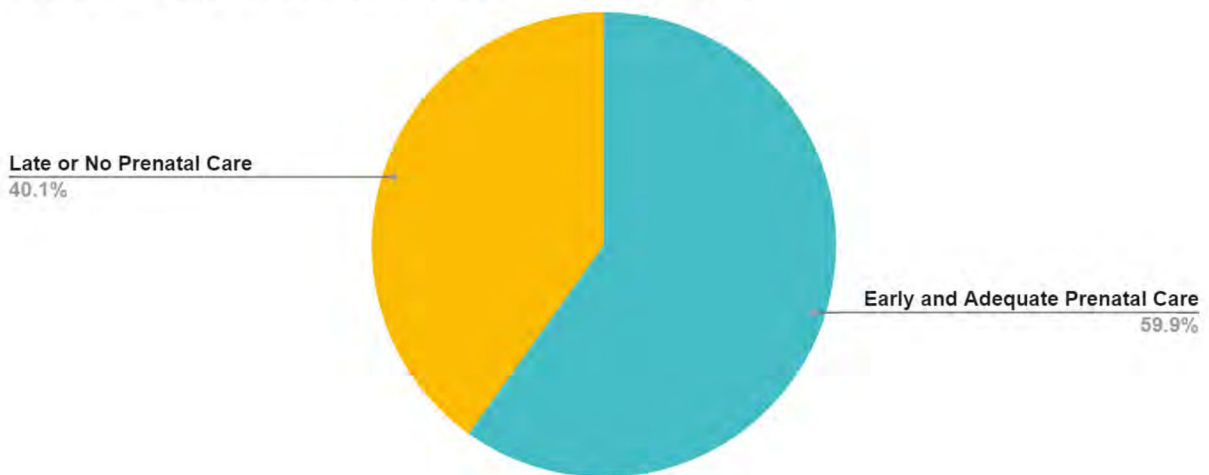
Figure 34: ¹⁹⁶



Source: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (2020)

Figure 35: ¹⁹⁷

Prenatal Care for Mothers, Hawai'i County, 2020



Birth Outcomes

Babies born premature are more likely to require specialized medical care, and often require intensive care stays. While there have been many medical advances enabling premature infants to survive, infants that are premature remain at greater risk of mortality or long-term disability. The most important things an expectant mother can do to prevent prematurity and very low birth weight are to take prenatal vitamins, stop smoking, stop drinking alcohol and using drugs, and most importantly, get prenatal care.¹⁹⁸

In Hawai'i County, 6.8% of births were preterm (before 37 weeks of gestation).¹⁹⁹ A total of 4.2% of babies were born with low birth weights (less than 5.5 lbs.).²⁰⁰

Low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds) is associated with poor developmental outcomes, beginning in infancy but extending into adult life. Low birthweight is often associated with preterm delivery but can occur also with full-term births. Research points to several factors that can contribute to the likelihood of low weight at birth, including smoking during pregnancy; low weight gain during pregnancy, or low pre-pregnancy weight; and the pregnant parent's stress during pregnancy.²⁰¹

Table 53: Birth Weight Range²⁰²
Hawai'i County, 2020

Birthweight	Percentage
Low Birth Weight (less than 5.5 lbs.)	4.2%
Normal Birth Weight	87.3%
High Birth Weight (8.8 lbs. and above)	8.6%

92.5% of mothers in Hawai'i County discussed contraception during their postpartum visit, and 71.8% of new mothers report using some form of birth control after giving birth.

Table 54: Postpartum Contraception Discussion & Use²⁰³
Hawai'i County, 2020

	Percentage
Discussed	92.5%
Inserted or Prescribed after Pregnancy	71.8%

Breastfeeding

Breast milk has benefits for both infants and mothers. Breastfeeding helps babies and mothers to bond and can help build a baby's immune system. Breast milk also provides complete nutrition for infants and is easier to digest than breast milk alternatives and is free and cost-effective for families.

Almost 80% of new parents in Hawai'i County breastfeed their newborns for 3 months or more.

Table 55: Breastfeeding Duration²⁰⁴
Hawai'i County, 2020

	Percentage
Never Breastfed	5.3%
Breastfed <1 Week	2.2%
Breastfed 1-4 Weeks	12.4%
Breastfed 5-8 Weeks	1.7%
Breastfed 9+ Weeks	78.4%



10. CHILD WELL-BEING RISK FACTORS

Health & Social Service Needs

Over 14.6% of children under 18 years old in Hawai'i have experienced 2 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).²⁰⁵ ACE's play a key role in the health outcomes of adults. ACE's are offset by protective factors that strengthen families and increase family resilience through difficult situations.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adolescence and adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential.²⁰⁶

Adverse Childhood Experiences include:

- Difficulty covering basics on family's income
- Parent or guardian divorced or separated
- Parent or guardian died
- Parent or guardian served time in jail
- Saw or heard parents or adults slap, hit, kick punch one another in the home
- Was a victim of violence or witnessed violence in their neighborhood
- Lived with anyone who was mentally ill, suicidal, or severely depressed
- Lived with anyone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs
- Treated or judged unfairly due to race/ethnicity
- Treated or judged unfairly due to sexual orientation or gender identity

Statewide in Hawai'i, 5.4% of infants and toddlers (0-2 years old) have experienced 2 or more adverse childhood experiences, 6.7% of children under 6 years of age and 14.6% for all children.

Table 56: Children Experiencing Two or More Adverse Childhood Experiences, by age State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021

	Number of Children	Percentage of All Children
Infant /Toddlers ²⁰⁷	2,673	5.4%
Children under 6 ²⁰⁸	6,784	6.7%
Children under 18 ²⁰⁹	43,287	14.6%

Domestic Violence & Child Abuse and Neglect

Children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to experience emotional, mental, and social damage that can affect their developmental wellbeing.²¹⁰

Across the State of Hawai'i the rate of CAN for infants and toddlers is 7.2 per 1,000.²¹¹

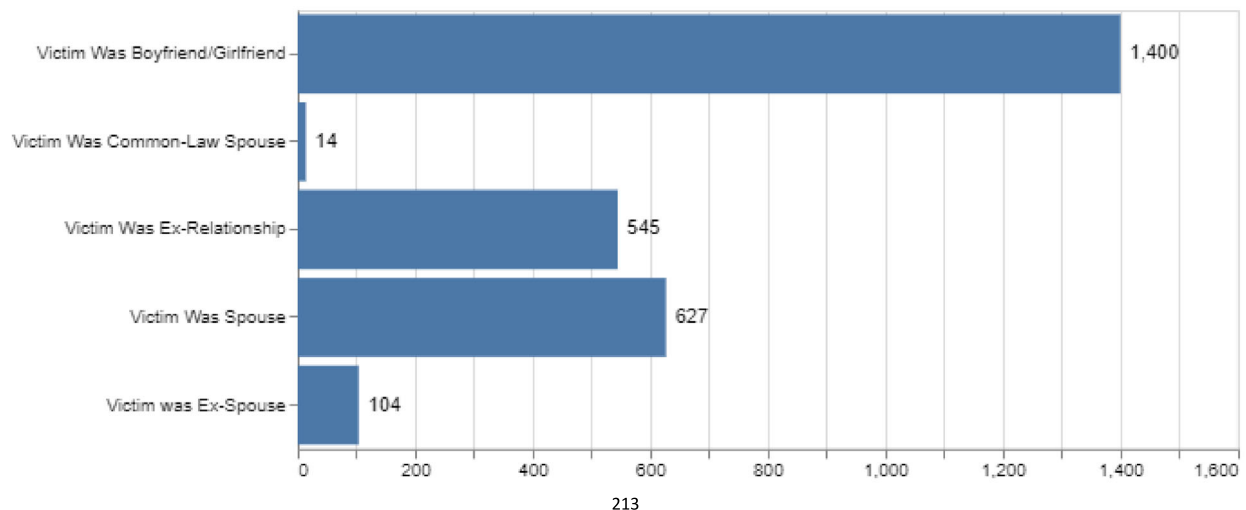
Table 57: Infant /Toddlers Removed from Home²¹²
State of Hawai'i, 2020

Rate of Infant /Toddlers (0-2) removed from home	7.5 per 1,000
Time in out-of-home placement (less than 12 months)	25.6%
Permanency Reunified	65.9%
Permanency Adopted	26.6%
Permanency Guardian	7.1%

Domestic Violence

Information on intimate partner violence is collected by the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Currently, only Honolulu, Maui and Kauai Counties contribute to the NIBRS system. Across Honolulu, Maui and Kauai counties, there were a total of 2,690 reported offenses of intimate partner violence in 2021. 93% of these offenses were assault, the remaining 7% were either kidnapping/abduction or sex offenses. The majority of victims of intimate partner violence were girlfriends or boyfriends of the perpetrators.

Figure 36: Number of Intimate Partner Violence Victims by Partner Relationship for the State of Hawai'i, 2021

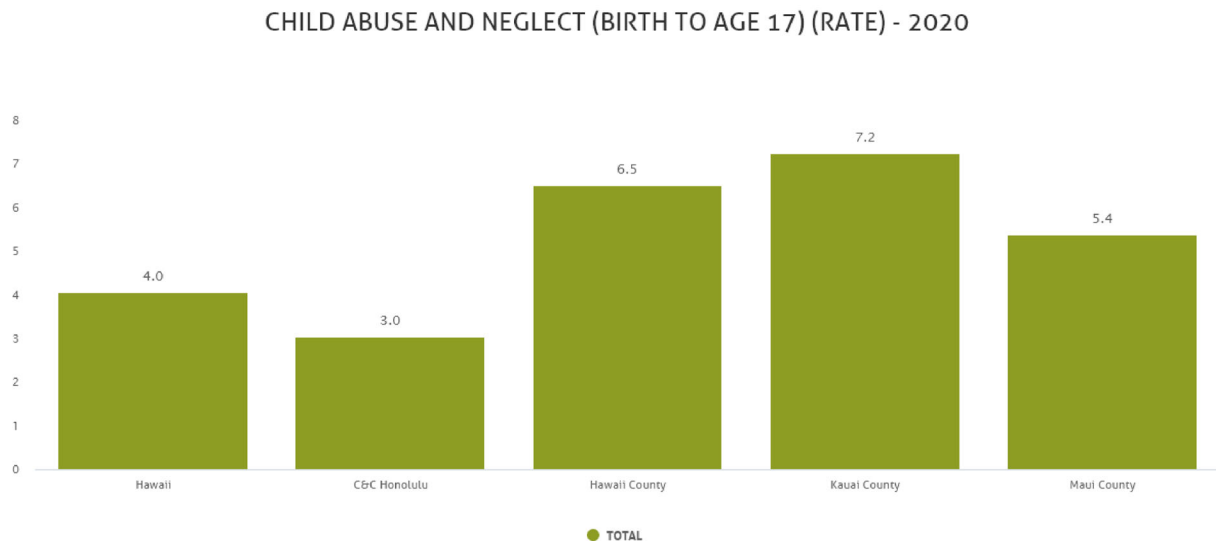


Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN)

Children who are abused or neglected may suffer both immediate harm and they may also develop lasting emotional and psychological problems, such as anxiety or posttraumatic stress. Over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities.²¹⁴

Hawai'i County has a CAN rate for children (0-17 years old) of 6.5 per 1,000 children. This is 50% higher than the State of Hawai'i CAN rate of 4.0.²¹⁵ Hawai'i County has had a higher rate of CAN than the state average across the past decade.

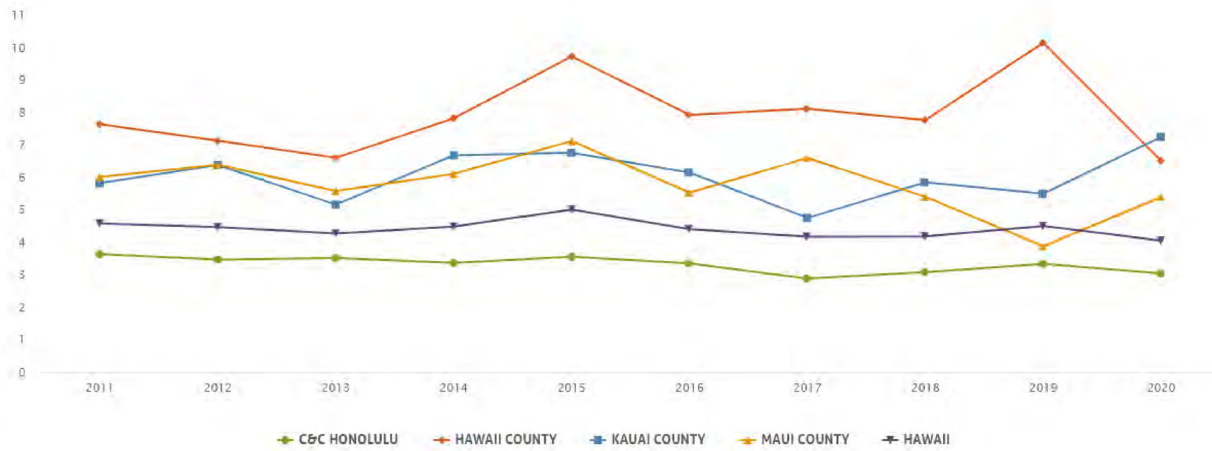
Figure 37:²¹⁶



Hawai'i Children's Action Network from datacenter.kidscount.org

Figure 38: ²¹⁷

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (BIRTH TO AGE 17) (RATE) - 2011-2020



Hawai'i Children's Action Network from datacenter.kidscount.org

In 2021 there were a total of 618 reported cases of suspected CAN in Hawai'i County. 241 of these cases were confirmed to be instances of CAN.

Among those cases of child abuse and neglect where a community was identified, the largest share of reports and confirmed cases were from Puna and South Hilo.

Table 58: Total Reported & Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse & Neglect by District ²¹⁸ Hawai'i County, 2021		
District	Reported	Confirmed
North Hilo	8	5
South Hilo	126	43
Puna	169	96
Ka'u	24	10
South Kona	6	4
North Kona	35	4
South Kohala	19	9
North Kohala	14	1
Hamakua	15	6
Unspecified	670	257
Total	1,086	435

75% of cases of child abuse and neglect in Hawai'i County are instances coded as "threatened harm." Another 15% were coded as cases of neglect, and 5% were coded as victims of physical abuse.

Table 59: Total Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse & Neglect by Maltreatment Type ²¹⁹ Hawai'i County, 2021	
Maltreatment Type	Confirmed (Unique Count)
Physical Abuse	28
Neglect	83
Medical Neglect	7
Sexual Abuse	14
Psychological Abuse	5
Sex Trafficking	0
Threatened Harm	418
Total	555

Statewide, Native Hawaiian children are over-represented among child victims.

Table 60: Top 5 Races of Confirmed CAN Victims ²²⁰ State of Hawai'i, 2021		
Race	Victims	Percent of Victims
Hawaiian/ Part-Hawaiian	552	39.8%
White	299	21.6%
Mixed	108	7.8%
Filipinx	106	7.6%
Samoaan	36	2.6%

In 2021, 26.1% of confirmed victims statewide were under age 3, and 42.3% of confirmed victims were younger than five.

Table 61: Confirmed Child Victims of CAN by Age ²²¹ State of Hawai'i, 2020		
Age	Children (unique count)	Percentage of all Confirmed CAN cases
Less Than One Year	223	16.1%
1 Year	78	5.6%
2 Years	61	4.4%
3 Years	79	5.7%
4 Years	76	5.5%
5 Years	70	5.1%
Total 0-5 Years Old	587	

Table 62 presents the top 5 causes of death from 2015-2019 among babies, children aged 1-14 years old and youth 15-24 years old. Unintentional injuries for babies less than a year old is the 4th leading cause, behind perinatal conditional, congenital abnormalities, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Between 2015-2019, there were a total of 7 cases. For children 1 years old to adults 24 years old there were a total of 183 cases of unintentional injury that resulted in death.

Table 62: Top 5 Leading Causes of Death Among Hawai'i Residents 0-24 Years Old ²²² State of Hawai'i, 2015-2019			
	<1 (492 total)	1-14y (174 total)	15-24y (460 total)
1	Perinatal conditions 262	Unintentional injuries 40	Unintentional injuries 163
2	Congenital anomalies 77	Malignant neoplasm 30	Suicide 136
3	Sudden infant death synd. 23	Congenital anomalies 14	Malignant neoplasm 37
4	Unintentional injuries 7	Suicide <10	Homicide 20
5	Heart disease 11	Homicide <10	Heart disease 20

Infant Mortality Rate

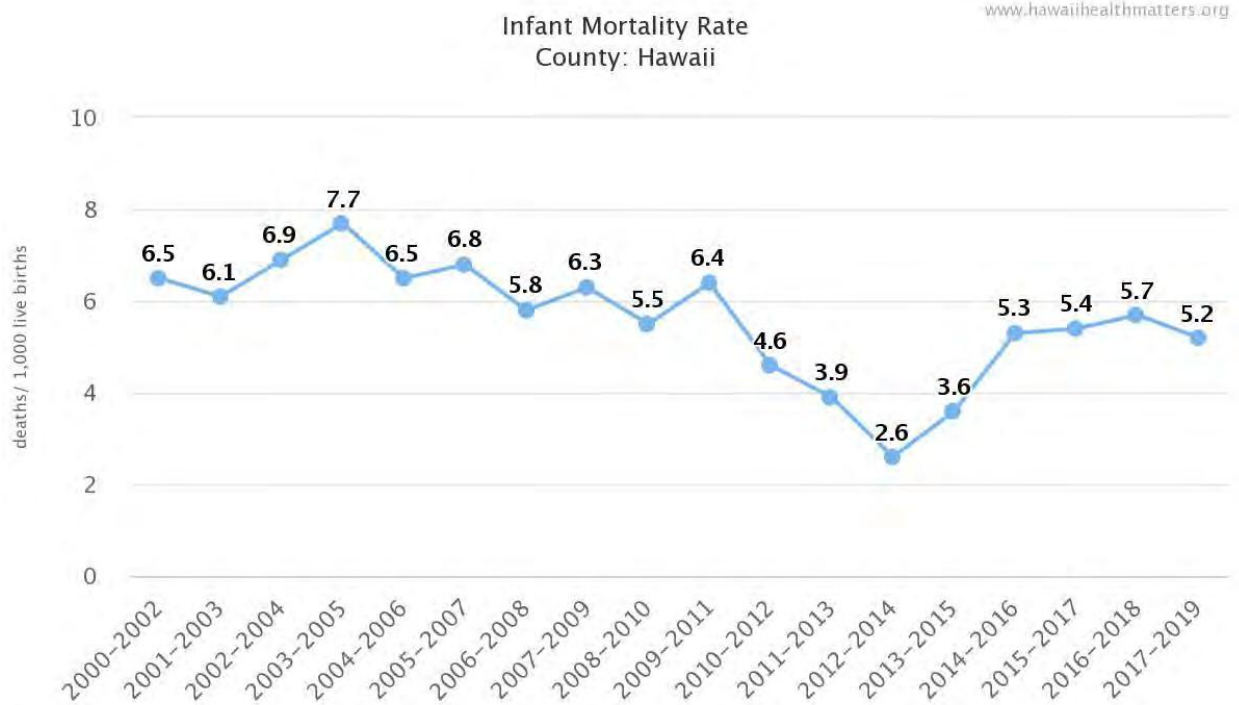
Birth outcomes are a critical indicator of a community's health status. Infant death is usually reported as the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)- the number of infant (first year of life) deaths per 1,000 live births. IMR is utilized worldwide as a measure of community health. The Infant Mortality Rate for Hawai'i County in 2019 was 5.2/1,000 babies, above the state rate of 4.6.²²³

Infant Mortality Rate

The Infant Mortality Rate for Hawai'i County in 2019 was 5.2 deaths/1,000 infants. This is higher than the state rate of 4.6 deaths / 1,000 infants.²²⁴

The Infant Mortality Rate in Hawai'i County has fallen over the past decade. Statewide, the leading cause of infant death is unintentional suffocation.

Figure 39:



Source: Hawaii State Department of Health, Vital Statistics (2017-2019)

Table 63: Infant Death Rates by Cause State of Hawai'i, 2020	
Due to All Birth Defects: ²²⁶	1/1,000 live births
Due to Congenital Heart Defects: ²²⁷	0.1 death/1,000 live births
Due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS): ²²⁸	0.3 deaths/1,000 live births
Due to Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths: ²²⁹	0.8/1,000 live births
Due to Unintentional Suffocation: ²³⁰	14.1 deaths/1,000 live births



11. CHILD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

Children's Health

Across the state, 88.4% of children under age 6 received a well-child check-up in the past year.²³¹ For children (aged 0-17) in Hawai'i with special needs, just under half (49.3%) have a medical home.²³² A medical home is a more holistic approach to the health of the child through a partnership between the patient, family, and primary care provider in cooperation with specialists and support from the community.²³³

Mental Health

Parental mental illness and depression can impact the lives of dependent children in direct and indirect ways including attachment formation, the cognitive, social and behavioral development of children. In 2020, 54.3% of adults in Hawai'i County reported good physical and mental health in the past month, slightly lower than the state average of 57.4%, but higher than the national average of 49.6%.²³⁴

Statewide, 67.7% of children aged 3-17 years are diagnosed with emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems for which they received treatment or counseling from a mental health professional in the past year.²³⁵

Disabilities

An estimated 1.91% of young children (0-4 years old) in Hawai'i County live with a disability.²³⁶ According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than six million children with disabilities receive special education and related services annually through their school system. As children with disabilities approach adulthood, they may have difficulties living independently or fulfilling work responsibilities without sufficient accommodations.²³⁷

Dental Care

Oral health has been shown to impact overall health and well-being. Nearly one-third of all adults in the United States have untreated tooth decay and one in seven have gum disease. Because untreated cavities and other dental concerns can have serious implications for health including infections, it is recommended that adults and children see a dentist on a regular basis.

Statewide, 84.9% of all children had a preventative dental care visit in 2021. 72% of younger children (under 5) had a visit to the dentist in the same year.

Table 64: Children with a Preventative Dental Care Visit by Age Group²³⁸
State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021

Age Group	Percentage
All Children (1-17)	84.9%
1-5	72.0%
6-11	91.8%
12-17	89.4%

In 2021, 79 children from Hawai'i County were transported off-island by Medicaid for dental care, due to the limited dental services available on the island.

Table 65: Number of Children Transported off Island by Medicaid for Dental Services by County, 2021²³⁹

County	Number of children
Honolulu:	0 children
Kaua'i	11 children
Hawai'i	79 children
Maui	166 children

Medical Home

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a medical home is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care that facilitates partnerships between patients, clinicians, medical staff, and families.²⁴⁰ A medical home extends beyond the four walls of a clinical practice. It includes specialty care, educational services, family support and more.²⁴¹

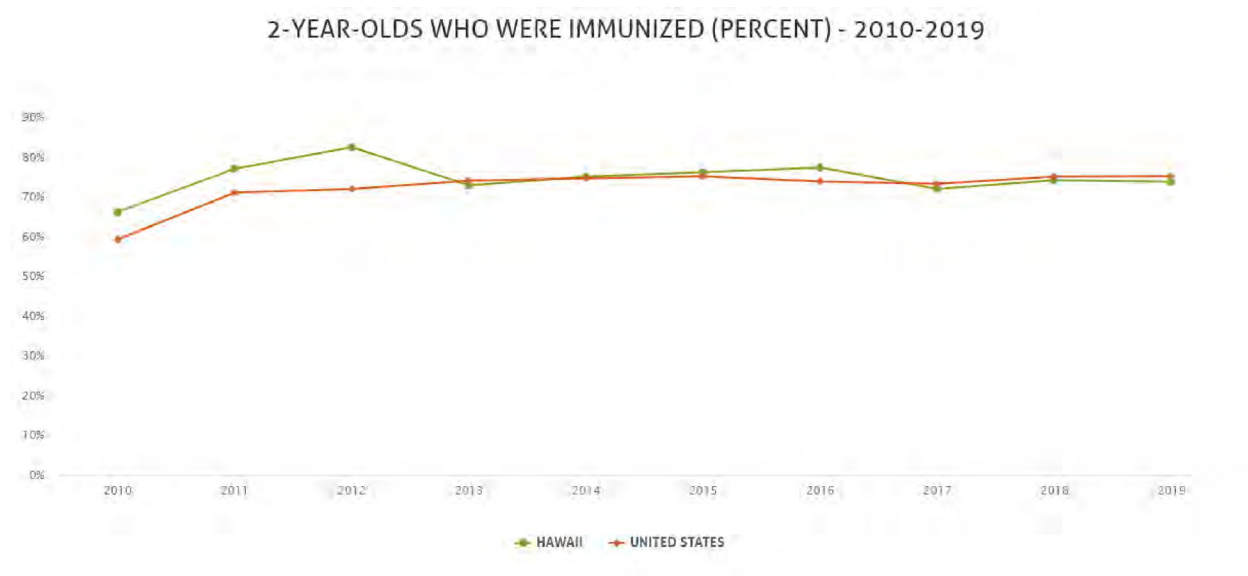
Across Hawai'i, half of children (49.3%) 0-5 have a medical home.²⁴² Numbers are lower for young children with special healthcare needs, 43.7% have access to a medical home.²⁴³

Immunization

Vaccines protect the community by preventing the spread of disease from one person to the next. Vaccines can prevent serious diseases that once killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults. Without vaccines, children are at risk for serious illness or even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough.²⁴⁴

Statewide, 73.7% of 2-year-olds have received their full set of recommended vaccines, below the national average of 75.1%.

Figure 40:²⁴⁵



The Annie E. Casey Foundation from datacenter.kidscount.org

Health Care Access

In Hawai'i, Medicaid coverage is offered to individuals and families living below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL).²⁴⁶

The State Medicaid policy recommends maternal depression screening in well child visits and covers social emotional screening for young children.²⁴⁷

12. EDUCATION

92.4% of adults in Hawai'i County have completed a high school degree. Meanwhile, 29.4% of adults in Hawai'i County have a 4-year college degree.

Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness includes exposure to activities that extend far beyond learning the letters of the alphabet or how to hold a crayon. It involves a basic understanding of core subjects as well as acquiring language skills, self-care skills, and social skills kindergartners need going into a classroom with other children. Research also tells us that providing a high-quality education for children before the age of five results in significant long-term benefits for students. The more prepared children are both academically and emotionally for kindergarten, the more successful learners they will become. The first few years are critical to help young children navigate and transition through a variety of settings and situations, while developing their emotional skills.²⁴⁸

Kindergarten Entry Assessment

Starting July 1st, 2023, the Hawai'i Department of Education will implement a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) within the first 30 days of each child's admission into kindergarten. English medium schools will utilize the Johns Hopkins University Ready for Kindergarten Tool. A KEA tailored to Hawaiian medium schools will be developed and implemented in the following year. The KEA will include the following domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, and Fine Arts.²⁴⁹

Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten provides young students with positive experiences that are important in establishing the foundation for future school attitudes and success. Kindergarten is mandatory in the state of Hawai'i for all children who are 5 years of age.²⁵⁰

In the 2021-2022 school year, there were almost 1,900 kindergarteners in Hawai'i County. The majority of kindergartners (73.9%) attend public school, 15.5% attend public charter schools, and 10.6% attend private schools.

Table 66: Kindergarten Enrollment* by School Type
Hawai'i County, 2021-2022 School Year

	Public ²⁵¹	Charter ²⁵²	Private ²⁵³	Total
Hāmākua	126	21	0	147
Hilo	447	69	41	557
Ka'ū	49	18	0	67
Kohala	52	42	41	135
Kona	445	50	53	548
Puna	278	94	65	437
Total	1,397	294	200	1,891
Percentage	73.9%	15.5%	10.6%	100%

* Homeschool data not available or reported

K-12 School Enrollment

There are 70 schools in Hawai'i County serving children in Kindergarten through 12th grade, including 41 public schools, 15 public charter schools, and 14 private schools.²⁵⁴

There were 30,560 students in grades K-12 in the 2020-2021 school year in Hawai'i County 75.6% of the student population attended public DOE schools.

Table 67: K-12 Enrollment, Hawai'i County, 2021-2022 School Year

	Public ²⁵⁵	Charter ²⁵⁶	Private ²⁵⁷	Total
Hāmākua	1,687	333	0	2,020
Hilo	7,710	795	368	8,873
Kau	940	266	0	1,206
Kohala	768	730	993	2,491
Kona	7,269	727	491	8,487
Puna	4,739	1,303	1,441	7,483
Total	23,113	4,154	3,293	30,560
Percentage	75.6%	13.6%	10.8%	100%

*Homeschool data not publicly available

Figure 41: Hawai'i Public Schools Hawai'i District Map



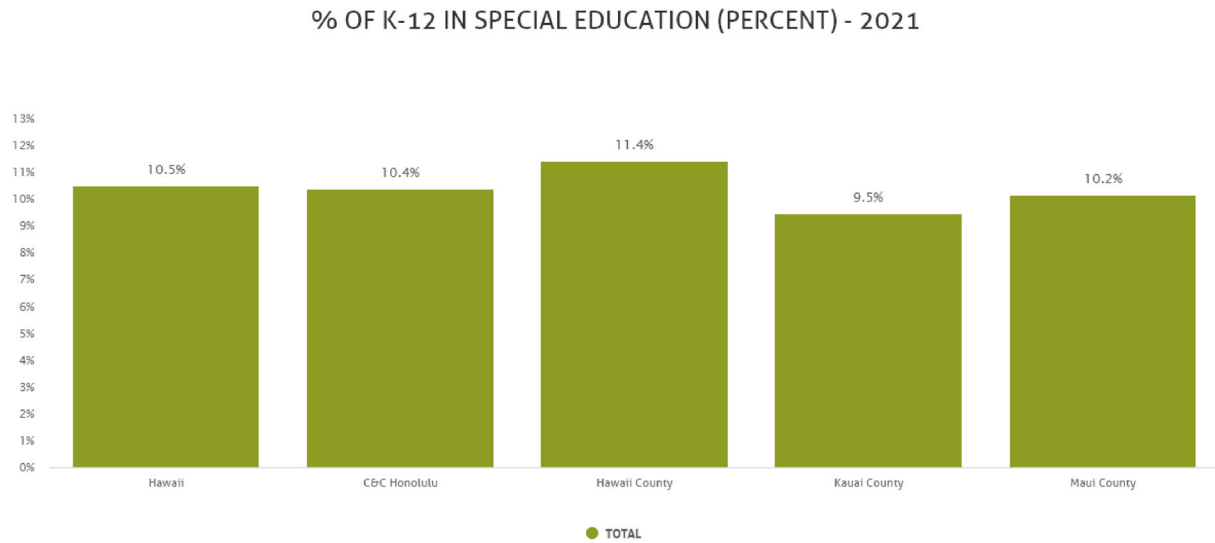
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Special Education

In 2021, 11.3% of Hawai'i County students in grades K-12 were enrolled in special education programs in public schools.²⁵⁹



Figure 42: ²⁶⁰



Hawai'i Children's Action Network from datacenter.kidscount.org

K-12 Student Performance

3rd & 4th Grade Achievement

Children who struggle to read are more likely to struggle in school more generally. There are significant disparities in reading skills among 3rd & 4th graders by race/ethnicity, school type, and eligibility for the National School Lunch Program. Reading skills are a crucial component of health literacy later in life. This indicator monitors the ability of educational systems to give children the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive members of society.²⁶¹

Close to half of third and fourth graders in Hawai'i County score at or above grade level on assessments of reading and mathematics.

Table 68: 3rd & 4th Grade Achievement Scores, Hawai'i County, 2021-2022²⁶²

Green= scores met or exceeded state average

School	3 rd graders at or above proficiency on English/ Language Arts (ELA) Assessment	4 th graders at or above proficiency on Math Assessment	4 th graders at or above proficiency on the English/ Language Arts assessment	4 th graders at or above proficiency on the Math Assessment
State Average Met/Exceeded Achievement	49.0%	51.0%	52.0%	46.0%
Connections NCPCS	Not Reported	Not Reported	20.8%	25.0%
de Silva Elem	60.3%	76.1%	72.7%	71.1%
Haaheo Elem	Not Reported	Not Reported	52.1%	52.0%
Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS	48.8%	48.9%	44.4%	33.3%
Hilo Union Elem	42.7%	24.4%	30.5%	30.6%
Holualoa Elem	45.1%	41.8%	51.1%	43.2%
Honaunau Elem	35.0%	30.0%	Not Reported	Not Reported
Honokaa Elem	37.4%	74.9%	58.3%	64.5%
Hookena Elem	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Innovations PCS	81.8%	63.6%	65.3%	69.2%
Ka Umeke Kaeo PCS	50.0%	61.5%	28.0%	8.0%
Kahakai Elem	34.6%	31.8%	44.9%	35.8%
Kalaniana'ole El & Int	24.9%	33.3%	16.0%	12.0%
Kanu O Ka Aina NCPCS	50.0%	25.7%	53.2%	40.6%
Kapiolani Elem	23.1%	16.0%	32.7%	18.1%
Kau High & Pahala Elem	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Kaumana Elem	58.2%	75.0%	53.6%	48.6%
Ke Kula Nawahiokalaniopuu Iki Lab PCS	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported

Ke Kula o Ehunuikaimalino	8.3%	20.8%	28.0%	12.0%
Keaau Elem	42.1%	38.1%	33.2%	24.5%
Kealakehe Elem	22.8%	13.5%	25.3%	15.0%
Keaukaha Elem	44.6%	40.3%	32.6%	31.1%
Keonepoko Elem	17.6%	11.2%	32.1%	15.5%
Kohala Elem	19.0%	27.6%	37.2%	30.4%
Kona Pacific PCS	55.0%	50.0%	75.0%	70.0%
Konawaena Elem	27.7%	33.9%	44.2%	38.7%
Kua O Ka La PCS	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Laupahoehoe Community PCS	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Mountain View Elem	22.7%	24.0%	21.1%	28.3%
Na Wai Ola NCPCS	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Naalehu Elem	23.1%	17.8%	36.3%	24.9%
Paauilo El & Int	Not Reported	Not Reported	52.0%	48.0%
Pahoa Elem	18.1%	15.8%	31.2%	19.3%
Volcano School of Arts & Sciences PCS	33.3%	23.7%	Not Reported	Not Reported
Waiakea Elem	60.2%	59.4%	44.1%	35.3%
Waiakeawaena Elem	42.7%	43.8%	55.2%	43.0%
Waikoloa El & Middle	46.3%	52.1%	52.1%	34.2%
Waimea Elem	43.6%	30.9%	30.7%	23.0%

High School Achievement Levels

Graduating high school is an important personal achievement and is essential for an individual's social and economic advancement. Graduation rates are also an important indicator of the performance of the educational system. Attainment of a higher level of education is associated with higher income, better working conditions, and more opportunities for promotion.²⁶³

Rates of high school graduation in Hawai'i County range from 73.8 to 90.4%.

Table 69: High School On-Time Graduation by School, Hawai'i County, 2021-2022 School Year ²⁶⁴

School Name	Students who are Economically Disadvantaged	% of Students who Received Diploma	% Graduated on Time (within 4 Years)
Hilo High School	70.8%	93.8%	78.7%
Honokaa High & Intermediate	67.9%	93.5%	87.3%
Kau High & Pahala Elementary	97.7%	87.3%	73.8%
Keaau High School	84.3%	94.3%	88.4%
Kealakehe High School	50.3%	79.0%	77.3%
Kohala High School	59.8%	98.3%	90.4%
Konawaena High School	55.5%	93.9%	72.4%
Pahoa High & Intermediate	93.2%	79.5%	77.2%
Waiakea High School	41.5%	95.5%	87.5%

Educational Attainment

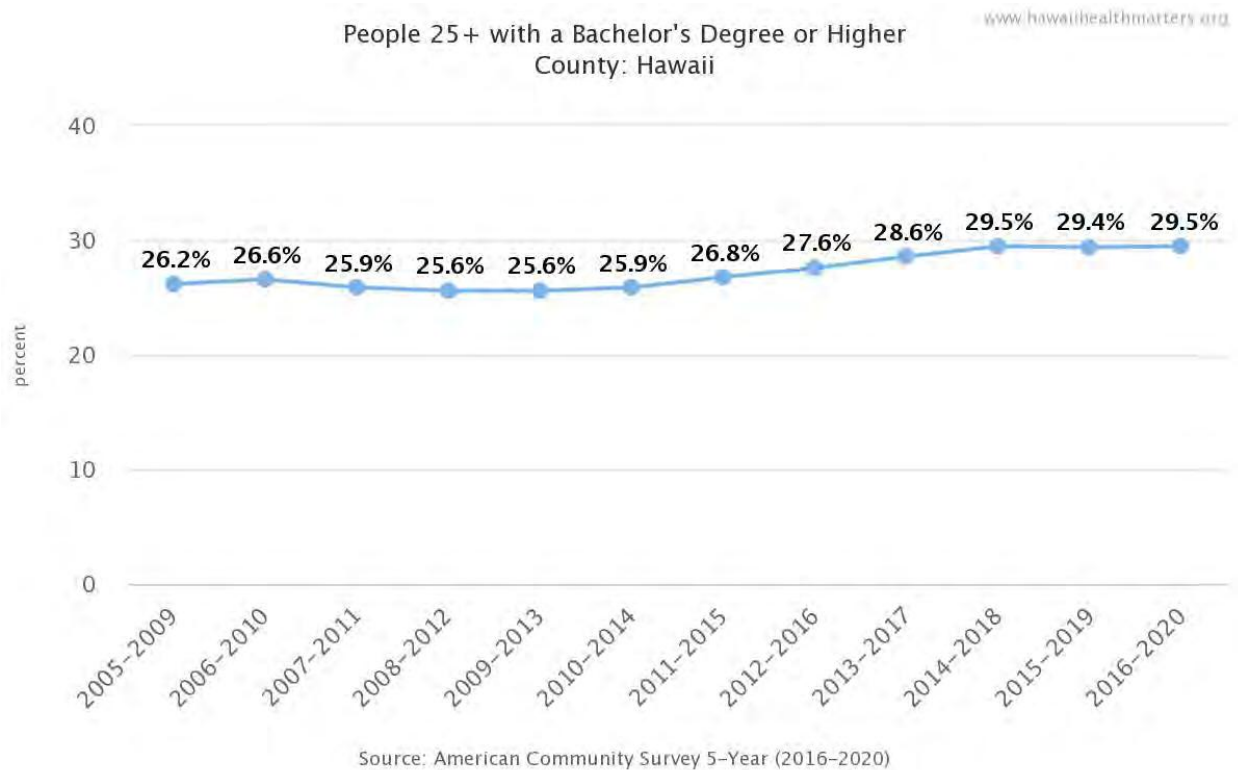
Census data shows that across the State of Hawai'i, 92.3% of people 25 years and over have graduated from high school, and 29.5% of adults have a 4-year college degree.²⁶⁵

Across the State of Hawai'i, high school graduation rates are above 90%

Table 70: People 25+ with a High School Degree or Higher by County, 2020²⁶⁶

Hawai'i County	91.1%
Honolulu County	92.4%
Kaua'i County	92.0%
Maui County	92.3%

Figure 46: ²⁶⁷



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Adult Literacy

Assessments by the US Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) indicate that 17% of adults in Hawai'i County lack basic literacy skills.²⁶⁹ These adults have difficulty using printed and written information to function in society.²⁷⁰

When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, lower health care costs, find and keep sustainable employment, and ultimately change their lives.²⁷¹

13. EARLY CHILDHOOD CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

Over the past decade, between 41% and 56% of children in Hawai'i County that had access to early childhood education programs.²⁷² Over the past 5 years the share of 3 & 4 year olds enrolled in preschool has hovered around 50%.

Child Care Capacity

As of April, 2023, early care and learning providers in Hawai'i County reported that they had the capacity to care for 2,474 children, including family child cares, infant / toddler programs, and preschool programs.²⁷³

Table 71: Child Care by Type & Capacity, Hawai'i County, 2022^{274,275}

Facilities by License Type	Number	Licensed Capacity	Desired Capacity	Pre-pandemic Desired Capacity Dec. 2019	Difference from Pre-pandemic capacity
Family Child Interactive Learning	*	*	*	*	*
Licensed Family Home	52	304	291	338	-47
Licensed Group Home	0	0	0	0	0
Licensed Infant/Toddler Center	6	78	78	93	-15
Licensed Preschool	53	2,388	2,233	2,683	-450
Public Pre-Kindergarten Classroom	19	400	295	380	-85
Total	130	3,170	2,897	3,494	-597

There are 105 child care providers on Hawai'i Island registered with the Department of Human Services, including 53 center-based programs and 52 home child care programs.

A number of early care and learning providers are not registered with DHS. These include informal (friend, family and neighbor) care providers. Additionally, pre-kindergarten classrooms offered by the Executive Office of Early Learning are not registered with DHS as child care providers.

Table 72: DHS Licensed Child Care Providers by Zip Code ²⁷⁶ Hawai'i County, 2023			
Town	Zip Code	Number of Center Based Providers	Number of FCC Providers
Captain Cook	96704	1	1
Haw'i	96719	1	0
Hilo	96720	19	16
Hōlualoa	96725	1	0
Hōnoka'a	96727	1	2
Wāikōloa	96738	1	4
Kailua Kona	96740	8	5
Kamuela	96743	6	7
Kea'aū	96749	5	8
Kēalakēkuā	96750	3	0
Kapa'aū	96755	0	1
Mountain View	96771	1	3
Pa'auilo	96776	1	3
Pāhalā	96777	1	0
Pahoā	96778	3	1
Papai'koū	96781	1	1
Hawai'i County	Total	53	52

There are very few child care options available in many communities across Hawai'i Island.²⁷⁷ County-wide, there is one available child care seat for every 4.5 children under age 5.

Table 73: Number of Young Children and Number of Early Learning Seats, Hawai'i County, 2022^{278,279}

	Number of Children 0-4*	Number of Early Learning Seats	Ratio
Hawai'i County	11,336	2,507	4.5 : 1

*Population Estimates are based on 2020 5 Yr estimate from American Community Survey Data

Quality Early Childhood Education

There are 14 early care and learning centers on Hawai'i Island accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and one center: Ka Hale o Na Keiki, that has NECPA (National Early Childhood Program Association) accreditation.

Table 74: Locations of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or National Early Childhood Program Association (NECPA) Accredited Preschools, Hawai'i County, 2023²⁸⁰

Ka Hale o Na Keiki	Honokaa
Kamehameha Schools Hilo	Hilo
Kamehameha Schools Honaunau	Captain Cook
Kamehameha Schools Kona	Kailua-Kona
Kamehameha Schools Piihouna	Hilo
Kamehameha Preschool Hamakua	Pa'auilo
Kamehameha Preschool Pahoā	Pahoā
YWCA Hawaii Island Developmental Preschool	Hilo
Hawaii Community College Children's Center	Hilo
Kamehameha Preschool Keaukaha	Hilo
Kamehameha Schools Waimea Preschool	Kamuela
Kamehameha Schools Kailua-Kona Preschool	Kailua-Kona
Kamehameha Preschool Waianuenu	Hilo
Kamehameha Preschool Kea'au	Kea'aū
Kamehameha Preschool-Kohala	Haw'i

Table 85: Locations of Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, Hawai'i County, 2023²⁸¹

Hilo Child Development Center (HCDC)	Hilo
Keauhou	Hōlualoa
Kalaniana'ole Elementary	Papai'koū
Puueo	Hilo
Mt. View PrePlus Elementary	Mountain View
Hawaiian Beaches	Pahoā
Keonepoko Pre-Plus Elementary	Pahoā
Hawaiian Beaches	Pahoā
Hilo EHS Home Base	Hilo
Easter Seals	Hilo
Kona Clusters	Kailua Kona
Greenwell Child Development Center	Kēalakēkuā
Waimea Cluster	Kamuela
Ka'u Cluster	Nā'ālehū

Currently, there are 11 public pre-kindergarten classrooms in Hawai'i County.

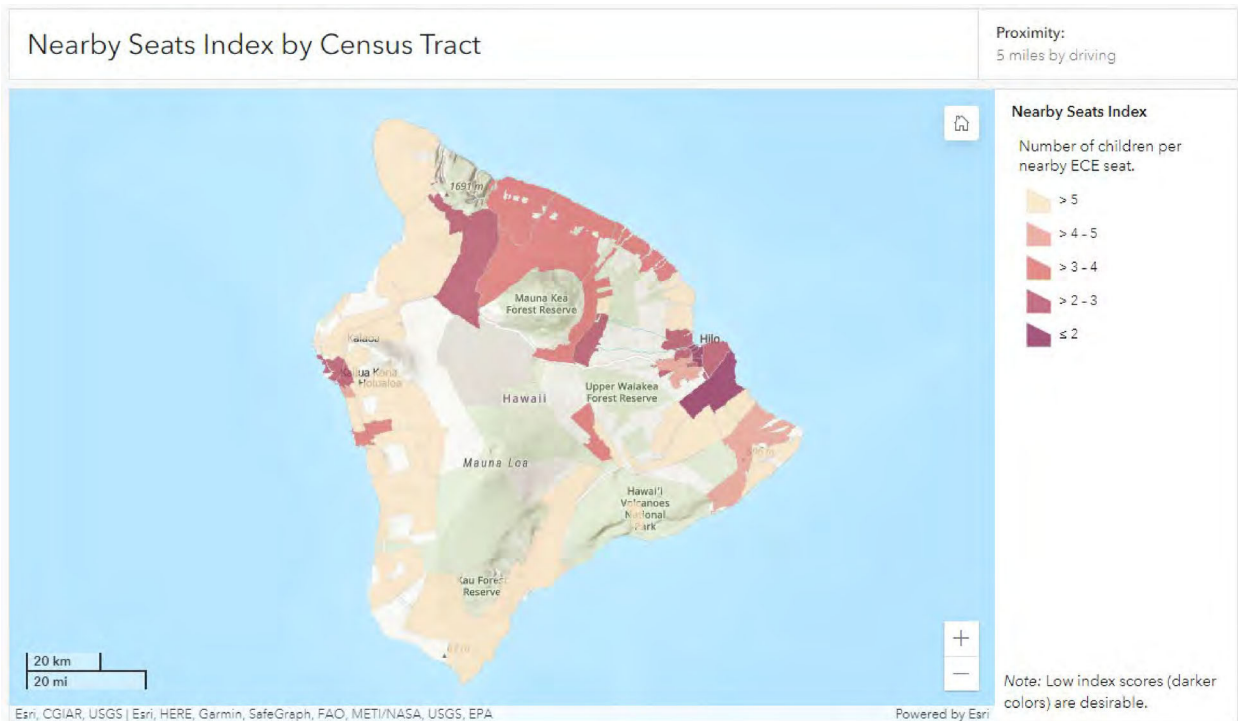
Table 76: Locations of EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms, Hawai'i County, 2023²⁸²

Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary	Hilo
Hilo Union Elementary	Hilo
Hōnaunau Elementary	Captain Cook
Honoka'a Elementary	Hōnoka'a
Kea'au Elementary	Kea'au
Keonepoko Elementary	Pahoā
Kohala Elementary	Kapa'au
Konawaena Elementary	Kēalakēkuā
Mountain View Elementary	Mountain View
Nā'ālehu Elementary	Nā'ālehū
Pāhoa Elementary	Pahoā
Waimea Elementary	Waimea (August 2023)

Access to Early Learning Programs

The Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i has undertaken a major study of child care access, affordability and quality across the State of Hawai'i. As the following maps indicate, there are few child care options in many regions of Hawai'i Island. Access is relatively better in Hilo and Hāmākua and in parts of the Kona District.

Figure 44: 283



The following map depicts levels of child care affordability across Hawai'i County. As the map indicates, the cost of child care is out of reach for many families county-wide.

Figure 45: 284

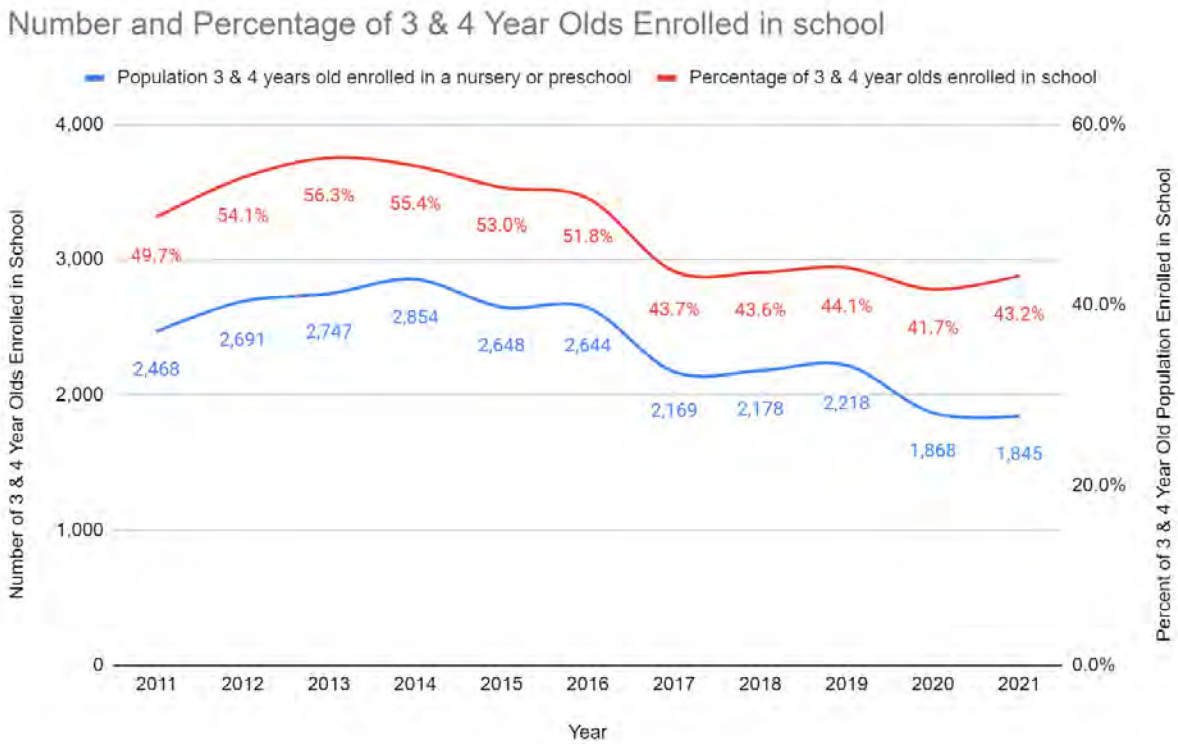


Early Childhood Education Enrollment

Even before the pandemic, rates of enrollment in ECE programs hovered around 50% in Hawai'i County.



Figure 46: 285



Enrollment in Public Early Childhood Education Programs

The State of Hawai'i has embraced [Ready Keiki](#), a major initiative designed to extend access to early care and learning to all 3 and 4 year olds statewide. Today, there is much work to be done to reach that goal.

Today, 8% of 3 year old's and 14% of 4 years old's are enrolled in public early childhood education programs, including Head Start, Special Education pre-kindergarten programs, Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) pre-kindergarten classrooms, or a Public Charter Pre-Kindergarten classroom

14. EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE & SERVICES

People who have careers with young children make less than other professions working with the same children.²⁸⁶ Child care workers make on average \$13.79 an hour. When adjusted for cost of living, a 2020 study found that child care workers make the equivalent of \$9.42 per hour.²⁸⁷

Across Hawai'i, 41.2% of infants and toddlers aged 9-35 months have received developmental screening in the past 12 months.²⁸⁸ In Hawai'i, a total of 20,424 children received early intervention services from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Also found in this section of early childhood workforce & services you will find information on early childhood careers and compensation, early intervention, developmental screening, and home visiting.

Early Childhood Careers & Compensation

Many children spend long hours in the care of other caregivers while their parents are at work. The professionals that make up Hawai'i County's early care workforce are responsible for safeguarding and facilitating the development and learning of young children yet, across the state and the nation, early care is among the lowest paid professions.²⁸⁹ Although Hawai'i has a highly qualified early learning workforce compared to other states, child care workers' compensation is the lowest in the nation when adjusted for the cost of living. At the adjusted rate, a 2020 study found Hawai'i's child care workers make the equivalent of \$9.42 per hour, which was the 5th lowest in the nation.²⁹⁰

Early Care & Learning Careers	Employment Rate per 1,000 Jobs	
Childcare workers	\$13.79	2.3
Preschool teachers	\$17.83	1.7
Preschool Administrators	\$22.84	0.5
Health Careers		
Dental Hygienist	\$37.37	2.4
Registered Nurses	\$53.40	20.2
Pediatricians, General	\$62.22	0.4
Dentist	\$80.19	1.1
Family Support Careers		
Child, Family, and School Social Worker	\$28.97	2.4
Librarians	\$29.84	0.5
Lawyers	\$48.02	3.9

Early Childhood Education Workforce Training

Certification Program

University of Hawai'i: Hawai'i Community College Degree Program

The University of Hawai'i- Hawai'i Community College offers an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education Degree program that prepares students to work with young children from birth to age 5 and their families. The curriculum is organized around a core of courses that provide skills and knowledge needed by early childhood educators. Students can earn a Certificate of Competence (CO), Certificate of Achievement (CA), an Associate in Science (AS) or a Child Development Associate (CDA).²⁹²

Early Intervention/Screening

Developmental Screening

Regular well-child visits with a health care provider are an integral part of promoting the healthy growth and development^c of children. During these visits, doctors monitor and screen for delays or problems in the child's development.

In 2020-2021, 41.2% of parents of infants and toddlers (aged 9-35 months) in Hawai'i reported that they had completed a developmental screening of their child in the past year.²⁹³

Early Intervention

Early intervention for infants and toddlers aims to lessen the effects of a disability or delay and minimize the need for special education through the provision of services to meet a child's developmental needs.

High quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and may be more effective and less costly when provided earlier in life rather than later.²⁹⁴

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is designed to provide needed services to children with disabilities across the nation. IDEA mandates that states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to millions of eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. IDEA ensures that all children are entitled to free public education to meet their individual needs and to prepare them for additional education, future employment, and independent living.²⁹⁵ Section 618 Part C serves children 0-2 years old, and Part B serves children 3-21 years of age.

In the State of Hawai'i a total of 407 children 0-3 years old are served by the IDEA Section 618 part C.

^c 5 Domains of Development (Communication, Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills, Problem Solving, Personal-Social Development); Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3: [Domains of Development](#)

Table 78: Children 0-3 Years Old Served by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA Section 618 Part C by Age, State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021²⁹⁶

Total	407
Birth to 1 Year	5
1 Year to 2 Years	99
2 Years to 3 Years	303

There are more than 20,000 children served by IDEA Section 618 Part B Statewide in Hawai'i.

Table 79: Age of children receiving Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 618 Part B services, State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021²⁹⁷

Ages Served	Number of Children
All Children served by Part B (3-21)	20,017
3-5 (Not In Kindergarten)	1,988
5 (In Kindergarten)-11	8,582
12-17	8,622
18-21	825

The majority of children receive services for developmental delays (1,420), followed by autism (260), and speech or language impairments (140).

Table 80: Children 3-5 Years Old Served by IDEA Section 618 Part B by Disability Type²⁹⁸
 State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021

All Disabilities	1,988	
Autism	260	13.1%
Deaf-blindness	0	0.0%
Developmental Delay	1,420	71.4%
Emotional Disturbance	1	0.1%
Hearing Impairments	30	1.5%
Intellectual disabilities	8	0.4%
Multiple disabilities	44	2.2%
Orthopedic impairments	8	0.4%
Other health impairments	69	3.5%
Specific learning disabilities	0	0.0%
Speech or language impairments	140	7.0%
Traumatic brain injury	5	0.3%
Visual impairments	3	0.2%

Children receiving early intervention services make substantial progress in achieving developmentally appropriate behaviors. Both Hilo Easter Seals and Kona Early Childhood Services scored above the state target for each of the reported measures.

Table 81: Early Intervention Outcome Measures by Program²⁹⁹
Hawai'i County, 2020-2021

Outcome Measure	Program	Substantially increased their rate of growth	Functioning within age expectations
Infant/Toddlers in an early Intervention Program who demonstrate improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs by the time they turned 3 years of age:	Hilo Easter Seals	75.0%	86.6%
	Kona Early Childhood Services Program	66.7%	76.9%
	North Hawai'i Early Childhood Services Program	61.5%	52.9%
	State Target	59.3%	67.6%
Outcome Measure	Program	Substantially increased their rate of growth	Functioning within age expectations
Infant/Toddlers in an early Intervention Program who demonstrate improved positive social-emotional skills by the time they turned 3 years of age:	Hilo Easter Seals	42.3%	73.9%
	Kona Early Childhood Services Program	66.7%	84.6%
	North Hawai'i Early Childhood Services Program	33.3%	41.2%
	State Target	47.5%	65.0%
Infant/Toddlers in an early Intervention Program who demonstrate improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills by the time they turned 3 years of age:	Hilo Easter Seals	55.6%	66.9%
	Kona Early Childhood Services Program	54.5%	46.2%
	North Hawai'i Early Childhood Services Program	47.1%	23.5%
	State Target	52.4%	42.7%

Home Visiting

High-quality home visiting programs can reduce rates of child abuse and neglect, improve maternal and child health, equip caregivers with useful knowledge of child development, ensure early developmental screening, and refer families to health and social supports that match their needs.

Programs that offer home visiting programs in Hawai'i County: include³⁰⁰

- Parents And Children Together (PACT)
- Family Support Hawai'i (FSH)
- Strong Families Home Visiting, offered by Child & Family Service (CFS)
- YWCA
- He Lei Piko He Lei Piko-Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Parents As Teachers (PAT)



15. STRONG FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

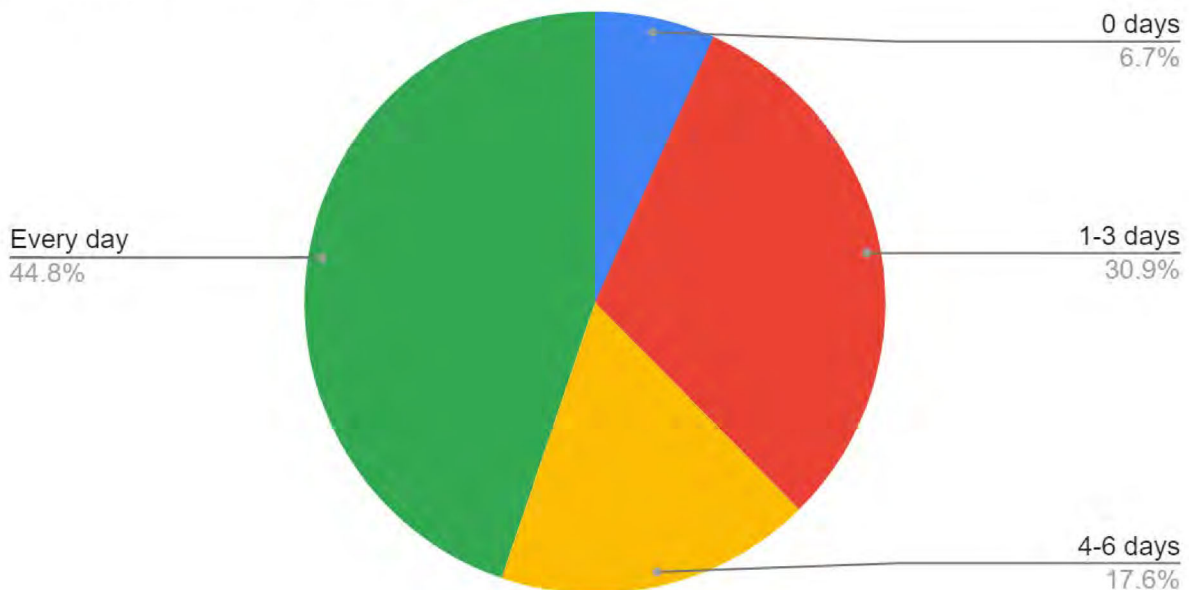
Family Early Childhood Language and Literacy Development Activities

Young children grow and develop in an environment of relationships. There are many things that families can do support their children’s early language and literacy development, including talking, singing, telling stories, and reading together.

Statewide, 44.8% of families with a child under 5 read with their children every day (2020-2021 data). Over 50% sing or tell stories with their children daily.^{301,302} Over 60% of families in Hawai’i eat dinner together every day.³⁰³

Figure 47:³⁰⁴

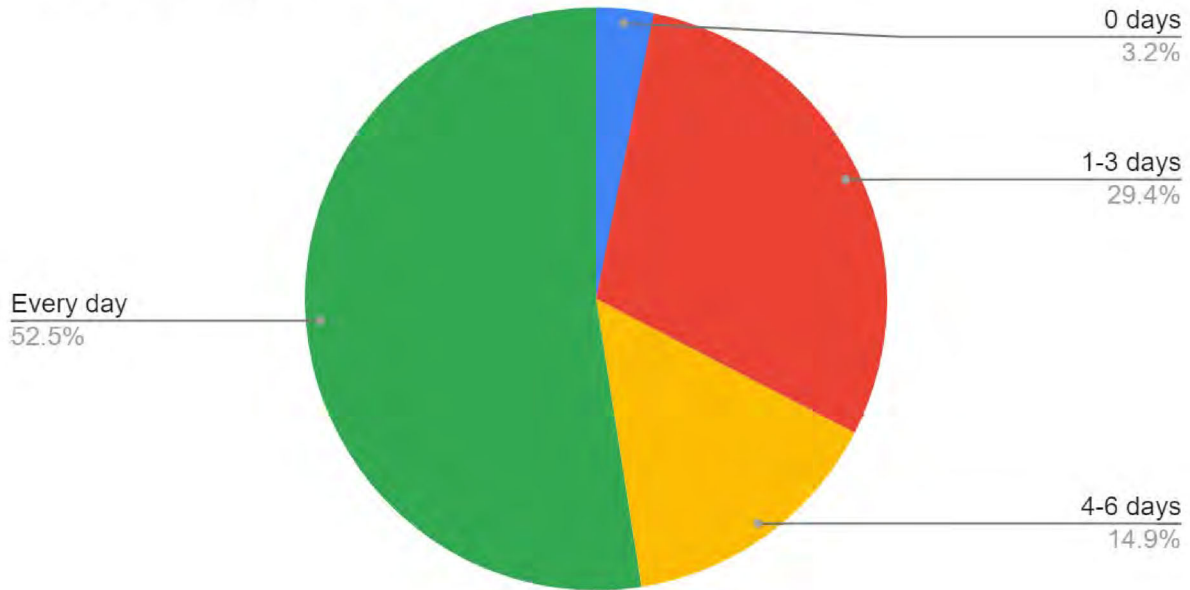
Frequency of Family Member Reading to Young Children State of Hawai’i 2020-2021



52.5% of families across the state sing and tell stories with their young children every day (2020-2021).

Figure 48: ³⁰⁵

Frequency that Family Member Sings and Tells Stories to Young Children, State of Hawai'i, 2020-2021



Language Spoken at Home

3.9% of households in Hawai'i County live in language isolation from the rest of the community, meaning that all members within that household aged 14 years and older have difficulty speaking English. ³⁰⁶

73.3% of the Hawai'i County population (age 5 and over) speak English at home. 8.9% of residents report that they speak English "less than very well."

Table 82: Language Spoken at Home, Hawai'i County, 2021³⁰⁷

	Language Spoken in Home	Speaks English "less than very well"
English	73.3%	N/A
Language other than English Spoken at Home	26.7%	8.9%
-Asian & Pacific Islander	17.6%	6.4%
-Spanish	3.2%	1.0%
-Indo-European	1.6%	0.4%
-Other	4.2%	1.1%

Citizenship

87% of residents of Hawai'i County are U.S. citizens.³⁰⁸ 13% (approximately 26,000 residents) are estimated to be non-citizens.

Adult Health

Dental Care

Oral health has been shown to impact overall health and well-being. Nearly one-third of all adults in the United States have untreated tooth decay and one in seven have gum disease. Because untreated cavities and other dental concerns can have serious implications for health including infections, it is recommended that adults and children see a dentist on a regular basis.

In Hawai'i County 32.8% of adults are overdue for a visit to the dentist.³⁰⁹ Statewide, the average is 25.3%.³¹⁰

Obesity

Obesity is one of the most common, chronic diseases in the United States and is a leading cause of mortality, morbidity, disability, and high healthcare costs.

Approximately 34.2% of adults in Hawai'i County are overweight. An additional 25.2% of adults are obese.³¹¹

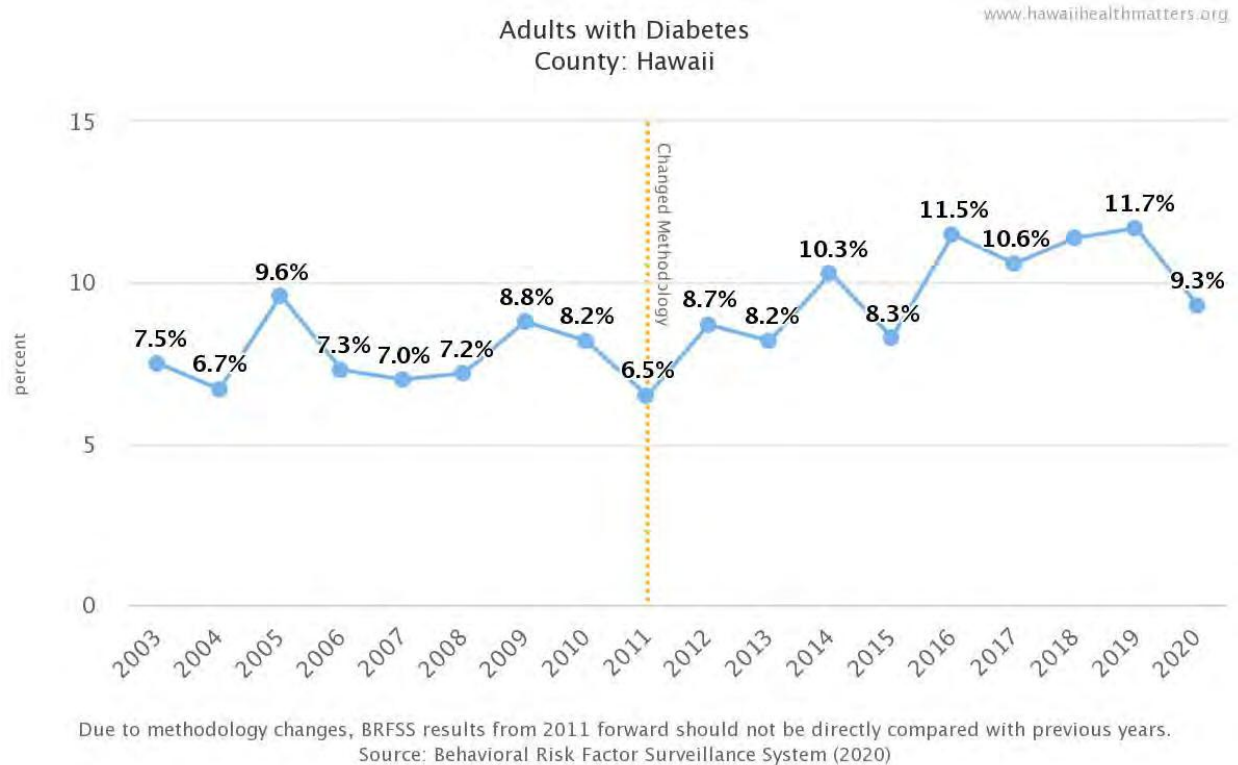
Diabetes

Diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke, and other serious complications, but can be controlled using medications, exercise, and diet. Diabetes disproportionately affects minority populations and the

elderly, and its incidence is likely to increase as minority populations grow and the US population becomes older.

In Hawai'i County, 9.3% of adults reported having diabetes in 2020.³¹² The share of the population with diabetes has grown over the past decade.

Figure 49: ³¹³



Mental Health

Mental and emotional well-being is essential to overall health. Positive mental health allows people to realize their full potential, cope with the stresses of life, work productively, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Early childhood experiences have lasting measurable consequences later in life; therefore, fostering emotional well-being from the earliest stages of life helps build a foundation for overall health.

In 2020, 54.3% of adults in Hawai'i County reported being in good physical and mental health.³¹⁴ This is lower than the rate in other counties in Hawai'i.

Community Safety

Community safety supports the well-being of young children and their families. When communities face crime and violence, or residents fear for the safety of their homes and families, their quality of life is diminished. The perception of neighborhood safety affects a family's daily behavior such as whether children play outdoors and the nature of families' activities and interactions near their home.³¹⁵

Crime

In 2019, Hawai'i County had the lowest rate of violent crimes and the lowest rate of property crimes in the State, adjusted for population size.

Table 83: Crime Rates for Counties in Hawai'i, 2019* ³¹⁶
2019

	C&C of Honolulu	Hawai'i County	Maui County	Kaua'i County
Violent Crime	280.3	181.3	268.1	325.6
Property Crime	3,031.8	2,099.5	2,976.0	2,458.3

*Number of reported offenses per 100,000 residents

Juvenile Crime

In Hawai'i County, the rate of arrests of juveniles (between 10 and 17) was 2,228 per 100,000 youth (2019).³¹⁷ The juvenile violent crime rate in Hawai'i County was 64 per 100,000 youth (2019).

In 2019, Hawai'i County had the lowest rate in the state of juvenile arrests for drug-related offenses (at 188 per 100,000 arrests of individuals aged 10-17). There has been a decline in the number of arrests of juveniles for drug-related offenses over the past decade.

Table 84: Juvenile Drug-Related Arrests by County and Year³¹⁸

Location	Data Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hawaii	Rate	437	416	417	361	321	351	339	341	270	NA
C&C Honolulu	Rate	309	298	259	223	246	264	256	247	205	47
Hawaii County	Rate	874	520	548	369	309	362	349	268	188	53
Kauai County	Rate	918	736	810	755	684	855	720	730	490	323
Maui County	Rate	449	833	984	954	592	601	618	768	617	NA

Risky Teen Behaviors

Alcohol and other drug use among the nation's youth remains a major public health problem. Substance use and abuse can increase the risk for injuries, violence, HIV infection, and other diseases. Moreover, alcohol and drug use in adolescence is a predictor of substance use behavior and disorders for the lifespan.³¹⁹

Teen Drug & Alcohol Use

In 2019, 57.3% of teens in Hawai'i County reported trying alcohol (57.3%).³²⁰ 51% of teens reported trying street drugs.³²¹ 56.5% of high school students reported that they had tried vaping.³²²

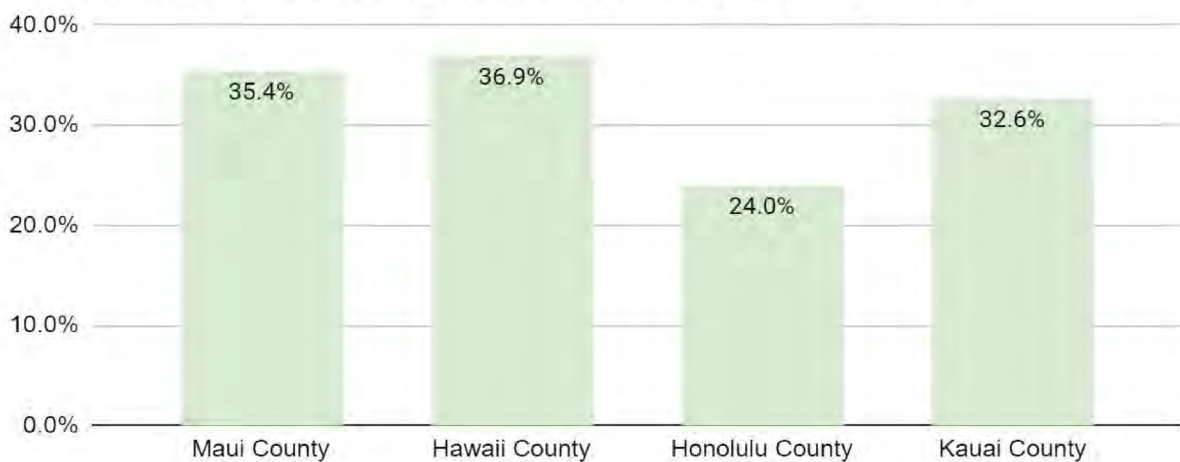
Teen Sexual Activity

In 2019, 36.9% of high school students in Hawai'i County reported that they were sexually active.

In 2019, 72.8% of high school students in Hawai'i County who were sexually active reported using birth control.³²³

Figure 50:³²⁴

Percentage of Sexually Active Teens by County, 2019



Foster Care

In 2021, 2,566 children were in foster care statewide.

Table 95: Children in Foster Care, State of Hawai'i, 2021³²⁵

	2019	2020	2021
# of Children in Foster Care	2,843	2,721	2,566

The largest group of children in foster care are under age 5.

Table 96: Age of Children in Foster Care, State of Hawai'i, 2021³²⁶

0-5 years old	1,020
6-11 years old	728
12-18 years old	817
Unknown	1
Total	2,566

Across the State of Hawai'i, the largest share of children in foster care are Native Hawaiian.

Table 97: Children in Foster Care, by Race, State of Hawai'i, 2021

RACE	Number of Children	Percent of all children in Foster Care
Hawaiian / Part Hawaiian	1,145	44.6
White	498	19.4
Mixed	230	9.0
Filipino	147	5.7
Samoan	106	4.1

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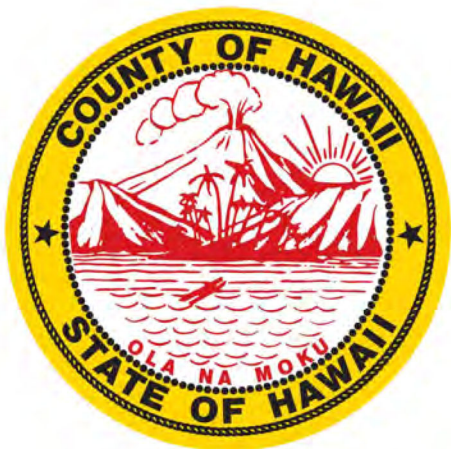
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- ²⁹⁸ 2020-2021 US Office of Special Education Programs: [IDEA Section 618 Part B 3-5 Year Olds](#)
- ²⁹⁹ Ibid
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- ³⁰³ 2021 Claritas Consumer Profiles: [Hawaii Health Matters](#)
- ³⁰⁴ 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH): [Family Reads to Children, 0-5 years](#)
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- ³¹⁶ Ibid
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- ³²¹ Illicit Drugs include: Marijuana, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Methamphetamines, Illegal Drugs Injected by a Needle, or Prescription Pain Medicine without a Doctor's direction; 2019 Hawaii State Departments of Education and Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Hawaii School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey: [YRBS Teen Illicit Drugs](#) *Modify Query 2019 and Hawai'i County*
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MAY 2023

HAWAI'I COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD INDICATOR REPORT

earlychildhood 
ACTION STRATEGY
TAKING ACTION FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

The Hawai'i County Early Childhood Indicator report was developed to accompany the Hawai'i County Early Childhood Community Profile. This report includes indicators of child wellbeing for Hawai'i County. Indicators are organized into the domains discussed in the 2023 Hawai'i County Early Childhood Community Profile. These indicators are intended to help us understand the condition of young children and their families, identify trends in children's wellbeing, and assessing the effectiveness of efforts to improve the conditions of families with young children.

The Hawai'i County Early Childhood Indicator Report was commissioned by the Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) More information on the work of ECAS can be found at: <https://hawaiiactionstrategy.org/>.

This report is divided into five sections:

- **Basic Demographics** includes basic demographic information on children in Hawai'i County, including age, ethnicity, island of residence, household living arrangements, and multigenerational households.
- **Economic Well-Being** presents indicators of economics, poverty, housing, homelessness, food security, public assistance, and affording childcare.
- **Health** includes indicators of maternal and newborn health, and children's access to health care and healthy development.
- **Early Learning** includes K-12 education, early childhood capacity and enrollment.
- **Community** includes indicators of family and community strength and safety.

Data Used

This report draws on publicly available data, primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates. A list of all data sources used can be found in the resource section.

Demographic Profile

Table 1: Population of Children Under 5 Years Old in Hawai'i County by District²
2021

	Hāmākua District	Hilo District	Ka'ū District	Kohala District	Kona District	Puna District	Hawai'i County Total
Under 3 Years old	328	1,377	616	657	2,303	1,792	7,073
3 & 4 Years old	250	862	607	261	1,565	718	4,263
5 Years Olds	97	559	288	143	801	379	2,267
Total	675	2,798	1,511	1,061	4,669	2,889	13,603

Table 2: Population Under 6 by County,
2021²

County	Total Population	Percentage
Hawai'i County	13,603	13.1%
Honolulu County	74,015	71.2%
Kaua'i County	5,024	4.8%
Maui County	11,361	10.9%
Hawai'i State	104,003	

Table 3: Race/Ethnicity of Children Under 18 Years Old in Hawai'i County⁸
2021

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
White	16.5%
Black/African American	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%
Asian	13.8%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	12%
Some Other Race	3.2%
2 or More Races	53.9%

**Table 4: Number of Children Under 6 by Living Arrangement
Hawai'i County, 2021⁸**

	Number of Children under 6	%
Total Children	13,624	
Married-couple Household	7,684	56.4%
Single Mother Household	3,721	27.3%
Single Father Household	2,161	15.9%

**Table 5: Grandparents Raising
Hawai'i County, 2021**

Grandparents living with grandchildren under 18		6,908	
	Grandparents responsible for grandchildren	2,260	32.7%
	Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under the age of 18	4,648	67.3%

Economic Well-being Indicators

Indicator Table

- ↓ =Negative trend that is lower than state average
- ↑ =Negative trend that is higher than state average
- ↓ =Positive trend that is lower than state average
- ↑ =Positive trend that is higher than state average
- =Equal or similar to the state average
- * Data not available

	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	Economics & Poverty						
	Civilians Unemployed	3.6%		3.5%		○	35
	Median Family (with children) Income	\$71,773		\$97,843		↓	12
	Married Couple Family Median Income	\$101,780		\$116,051		↓	13
	Single Father Family Median Income	\$38,200		\$64,315		↓	13
	Single Mother Family Median Income	\$25,327		\$39,573		↓	13
	Children 0-4 years old living below poverty level	2,305	10.6%	11,147	13.1%	↓	12
	Multi-generational families living in poverty	397	5.7%	3,087	5.8%	○	9
	Housing & Homelessness						
Occupied Housing units that are owner-occupied	49,822	69.8%	291,814	61.0%	↑	7	

	Vacant Housing	16,857	19.1%	78,524	14.1%	↑	7
	Housing Mobility of families with young children	1,232	13.7%	12,668	18.1%	↓	1
	Living in overcrowded dwellings	5,566	7.8%	41,290	8.6%	○	7,42
	Homeless Population 0-5 years old	182	12.6%	1,622	10.4%	○	32

	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	Food Security						
	Children (0-17 years old) who are food insecure	11,110	25.7%	50,180	16.6%	↑	46
	Share of the population living in a Food Desert	91,892	49.7%	140,491	10.3%	↓	46
	Public Assistance						
	Children in families receiving public assistance	16,804	38.9%	76,945	24.7%	↑	3
	SNAP households with children	6,932	33.5%	25,862	17.3%	↑	14
	WIC participation	43.5%		29.5%		↑	31
	Students Eligible for the Free Lunch Program	55.1%		38.9%		↑	47
	Children 0-5 years old with no health insurance coverage	193	1.4%	2,515	2.4%	↓	15
	Children 0-5 years old with Public Insurance (ex. Med-Quest)	8,171	59.9%	39,124	37.5%	↑	16

	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	Affording Child Care						
	All parents in the Workforce	8,797	67.5%	63,875	65.4%	●	5
	Annual cost of center-based care						
	Infants	\$28,560		\$20,750		↑	51
	Toddlers of ages 1-2	\$16,028		\$17,431		●	51
	Preschoolers of ages 3-4	\$13,856		\$13,528		●	51
	Annual cost of licensed family child care homes:						
	Infants	\$9,685		\$10,399		●	51
	Toddlers of ages 1-2	\$9,540		\$10,159		●	51
	Preschoolers of ages 3-4	\$9,475		\$10,039		●	51
	Households with a high housing cost burden	22,691	33.4%	182,840	39.6%	↓	7

↓ =Negative trend that is lower than state average ↓ =Positive trend that is lower than state average
 ↑ =Negative trend that is higher than state average ↑ =Positive trend that is higher than state average
 ● =Equal or similar to the state average * Data not available

Health Indicators

	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
HEALTH	Maternal Health & Births						
	Healthy Weight prior to pregnancy	46.7%		45.2%		○	27
	Born to a mother who received late or no prenatal care	40.1%		38.5%		○	43,53
	Born to a mother who smoked during the last trimester of pregnancy	4.0%		3.0%		○	25
	Born to a mother who drank alcohol during the last trimester of pregnancy	7.1%		6.6%		○	26
	Preterm Births	6.8%		9.2%		↓	30
	Born low birth weight	4.2%		7.0%		↓	28
	Ever breastfed	94.7%		96.5%		○	29
	Child Well-being Risk Factors						
	Child Abuse & Neglect per 1,000	6.5		4		↑	20,33
	Child Health & Development						
	Overweight or Obese among high school students	30.0%		30.8%		○	45
	Children 0-5 who had a medical home	-		46,694	49.3%	*	49
	Children 0-5 with special health needs who had a medical home	-		3,277	43.7%	*	48
	Rate of children transported off-island by Medicaid for dental services per 10,000	18.3		8.5		↑	22,39
	Children 0-4 years old that live with a disability	118	1.0%	529	0.6%	○	4

↓ =Negative trend that is lower than state average ↓ =Positive trend that is lower than state average
 ↑ =Negative trend that is higher than state average ↑ =Positive trend that is higher than state average
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Education Indicators

	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
EDUCATION	Education						
	Children enrolled in special education	3,071	11.3%	17,979	10.4%	○	24
	Proficiency in 3rd grade reading scores	35.1%		48.9%		↓	23
	Proficiency in 3rd grade math scores	39.6%		51.3%		↓	23
	Proficiency in 4th grade reading scores	34.5%		51.6%		↓	23
	Proficiency in 4th grade math scores	31.9%		46.0%		↓	23
	High school seniors graduating with a diploma	92.2%		93.7%		○	17,44
	High school students graduating on time	84.8%		86.2%		○	18,44
	Adults (aged 25+) who have a high school diploma or higher	92.8%		92.7%		○	11,37
	Adults (aged 25+) who have a Bachelor's degree or more education	30.2%		34.3%		↓	36
	Indicators	Hawai'i County		State of Hawai'i		Compared to State	Source
EDUCATION	Early Childhood Capacity & Enrollment						
	Percent of 3 & 4 Year olds enrolled in early childhood education	43.2%		42.2%		○	10
	Number of registered childcare facilities	2,770		23,85		○	52
	Ratio to population aged under 6	4.1 : 1		4.4 : 1			2,52
	Desired capacity of licensed child care facilities	2,602		20,857		○	52
	Ratio to population aged under 6	4.4 : 1		5.0 : 1			2,52

↓ =Negative trend that is lower than state average ↓ =Positive trend that is lower than state average
 ↑ =Negative trend that is higher than state average ↑ =Positive trend that is higher than state average
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Community Indicators

	Indicators	Hawai'i County	State of Hawai'i	Compared to State	Source
COMMUNITY	Strong Families & Communities				
	Speaks English less than very well	8.9%	11.2%	↓	6,41
	Adults who are obese	25.2%	24.5%	○	34
	Persons with a disability	14.4%	11.4%	↑	4
	Index Crime Rates per 100,000 population	4,643	3,130	↑	21
	Juvenile Drug-Related Arrests per 100,000 juveniles	188	270	↓	19,21

- ↓ =Negative trend that is lower than state average ↓ =Positive trend that is lower than state average
 ↑ =Negative trend that is higher than state average ↑ =Positive trend that is higher than state average
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21	Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General's Annual Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Hawai'i, 2019
22	Hawai'i Med-Quest CMS 416 Reports 2021
23	Hawai'i State Department of Education. Accountability Resource Center Hawaii ARCH Accountability Data Center SY 2021-2022
24	Hawai'i State Department of Education. Accountability Resource Center Hawaii Search "Trend Report: Educational & Fiscal Accountability" by Complex
25	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: Smoke Last 3 Months of Pregnancy <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>

26	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: Drank Alcohol Last 3 Months Pregnancy <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>
27	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: Healthy Body Weight Prior to Pregnancy <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>
28	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: PRAMS Birth Weight <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>
29	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: PRAMS Breastfeeding Duration <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawaii County</i>
30	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: PRAMS Preterm Births <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>
31	Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2020: PRAMS WIC Participation <i>Modify Query 2020 and Hawai'i County</i>
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39	Hawaii Health Matters Children Transported by Medicaid for Dental Services.
40	Hawaii Health Matters Children with a Disability
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