

# HAWAII'S CHILDREN 2004

## Hawaii's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	1,244,898
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	298,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	11.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	14.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	15.0%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 3,716 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Hawaii, a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 3,930 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Hawaii, a rate of 13.2 per 1,000 children, representing an 11% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 2.1 were neglected, 1.8 were physically abused, and 0.9 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, three children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Hawaii.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 2,584 children in Hawaii lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,379 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 37.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 305 white children, 48 black children, 53 Hispanic children, 19 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 2,173 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,920 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 64% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 260 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Hawaii, a 73% increase from 150 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,584 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 1,576 or 61% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 2,584 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 38% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 14,695 Hawaii grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Hawaii declined from 30,228 in March 2002 to 25,409 in March 2003, a decrease of 15.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 9,690, a 12.3% decrease from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Hawaii was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Hawaii spent \$136,649,298 in TANF funds, including 62.2% on cash assistance and 37.8% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Hawaii collected and distributed \$69,349,488 in child support funds, an increase of 4.2% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Hawaii was \$885 per month, or 89% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.25 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

## **C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T**

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 8,900 of Hawaii's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 7,200 in 2000 and 7,100 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 80% of Hawaii's median income, or \$39,288, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, funding for child care training programs in Hawaii, approximately \$300,000, has been replaced by federal child care funds.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 3,073 Hawaii children.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 86% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Hawaii had at least a high school degree or equivalent.<sup>26</sup>

## **H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E**

- In 2000, 90,984 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Hawaii, representing 28% of Hawaii's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, Hawaii had 8,474 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 18.7% increase from 2001, when 7,137 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 24 babies in Hawaii were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,672—a rate of 43 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 2,704 adults and adolescents, as well as 16 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Hawaii.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 12 Hawaii children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.63 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 15,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

## **J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N**

- In 2001, one child younger than 18 was killed in firearm homicides in Hawaii, compared with none in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 9,850 children younger than 18 were arrested in Hawaii, a 32% decrease from 14,433 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 1,997 were for violent crimes and 36 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 118 children in juvenile correction facilities in Hawaii.<sup>35</sup>

## **F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R H A W A I I ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Hawaii spent \$53,539,765 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 71% came from federal funds, and 29% from state funds; none came from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$37,965,301 in federal funds received for child welfare, 68% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 6% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 23% from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.<sup>38</sup>
- Of the 2,584 children in out-of-home care in Hawaii on September 30, 2001, only 1,287, or 49.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>39</sup>

## HAWAII'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2000, a caseworker in Hawaii responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 25 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 35 families. In-home services include parent support programs, child day care, community-based counseling, and other services to enable children to live safely in their own homes.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii was \$35,208.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Hawaii for a family of four was \$65,872.<sup>43</sup>

**Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on  
CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.**

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