

HAWAII'S CHILDREN 2005

Hawaii's Children At a Glance	
State Population (2003) ¹	1,257,608
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	297,142
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	15.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	17.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 7,318 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii, a rate of 24.8 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, seven children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Hawaii.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 2,762 children in Hawaii lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,584 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 39.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.1% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 9.7% white children, 1.6% black children, 1.8% Hispanic children, 0.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 86.4% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Hawaii.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,097 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 61.0% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 366 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Hawaii, a 40.8% increase from 260 in 2001.¹²
- Of the 2,762 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 849 or 30.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 13,756 Hawaii grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 2,762 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 39.0% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Hawaii children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 3.5% were white, 1.1% were black, 1.3% were Hispanic, 0.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 93.1% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* 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 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Hawaii was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, Hawaii spent \$134,070,178 in TANF funds, including 68.0% on cash assistance and 32.0% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2002, Hawaii collected and distributed \$73,490,476 in child support funds, an increase of 6.0% from 2001.²⁰
- 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.²¹

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

- In 2001, Hawaii served an estimated monthly average of 8,900 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 7,200 children were served, and in 1999, when 7,100 children were served.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 85% of Hawaii's median income, or \$39,288, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Hawaii did not maintain a waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 3,063 Hawaii children were served by Head Start, a 0.3% decrease from 2002.²⁵

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2003, Hawaii had 12,022 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 41.9% increase from 2002, when 8,474 children were enrolled.²⁶
- In 2002, 209 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Hawaii. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,538, reflecting a rate of 38.2 births per 1,000 girls.²⁷
- As of December 2002, 2,704 adults and adolescents, as well as 16 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Hawaii.²⁸
- In 2001, 12 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.63 per 100,000 children in the population.²⁹
- In 2002, an estimated 8,000 children ages 12–17, and 72,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³⁰

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 5% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, the same as in 2000.³¹
- In 2002, 15% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³²

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 under age 18 was killed in a firearm homicide in Hawaii, compared with none in 2000.³³
- In 2003, 11,743 children under age 18 were arrested in Hawaii, a 19% increase from 9,850 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 263 were for violent crimes and 48 were for possession of weapons.³⁴
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 103 children in juvenile correction facilities in Hawaii.³⁵

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 2002, Hawaii spent \$80,423,767 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁶ Of this amount, 46% was from federal funds and 54% was from state funds.³⁷
- In 2002, of the \$80,423,767 spent for child welfare, 31% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% was from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.³⁸
- Out of 2,762 children in out-of-home care in Hawaii on September 30, 2002, only 1,108 or 40% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁹

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HAWAII'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁴⁰
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁴¹
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁴²
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Hawaii was \$36,336 ; the median income for a family of four in Hawaii was \$67,564.⁴³

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