

# HAWAII'S CHILDREN 2006

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## Hawaii's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup>	1,262,840
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup>	298,693
State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup>	8.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup>	9.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) <sup>5</sup>	8.5

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, 4,046 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Hawaii, a rate of 13.6 per 1,000 children, representing an 8.1% increase from 2002. Of these children, 16.9% were neglected, 11.9% were physically abused, and 5.7% were sexually abused.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2003, 6 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Hawaii.<sup>7</sup>
- On September 30, 2003, 2,967 children in Hawaii lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,762 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 37.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11% were 16 or older.<sup>8</sup>
- Of all Hawaii children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 9% were white, 1.1% were black, 1.7% were Hispanic, 0.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 87.7% were of other races and ethnicities.<sup>9</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,108 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 62.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2003, 318 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Hawaii, a 13.1% decrease from 366 in 2002.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the 2,967 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 786 or 26.5% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>12</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 14,225 Hawaii grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,967 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 40.1% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>14</sup>
- Of all Hawaii children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 5.8% were white, 0.1% were black, 1.4% were Hispanic, 0.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 92.1% were other races.<sup>15</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Hawaii decreased from 22,704 in March 2004 to 20,713 in March 2005, a decrease of 8.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 8,169, a 7.4% decrease from March 2004.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Hawaii was at 54.3% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2004, Hawaii spent \$127,601,295 in TANF funds, including 68.4% on basic assistance and 31.6% on nonassistance.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Hawaii collected and distributed \$80,829,473 in child support funds, an increase of 6.8% from 2003.<sup>19</sup>

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- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Hawaii was \$915 per month, or 91.5% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.25 per hour.<sup>20</sup>

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

- In 2004, an estimated monthly average of 10,000 of Hawaii's children received subsidized child care; 11,200 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 11,400 in 2002.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Hawaii, a family of three could make no more than \$44,136, which is equivalent to 78% of the state's median income.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2005, Hawaii had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 3,063 Hawaii children, the same as in 2003.<sup>24</sup>

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

- In 2001, 88,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 46.4% of the total number of enrollees in Hawaii.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, 5,045 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 5.7% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Hawaii.<sup>26</sup>
- Hawaii spent \$1,550 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004, Hawaii had 19,237 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 16.4% increase from 2003, when 16,526 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Hawaii was 18.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 63.9 births. This reflects a total rate of 37.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2003, 2,816 adults and adolescents, as well as 17 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Hawaii.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12–17, and 81,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>31</sup>

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

- In 2004, 4% of Hawaii teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 20% decrease from 2000.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2004, 10% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17 in Hawaii needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2002, 6 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.81 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>36</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 2002, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Hawaii, compared with 1 in 2001.<sup>37</sup>

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- In 2004, 9,542 children younger than 18 were arrested in Hawaii, an 18.7% decrease from 11,743 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 276 were for a violent crime and 41 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>38</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 103 children in juvenile correction facilities in Hawaii.<sup>39</sup>

### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN

- 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. Of this number, 46% was from federal funds, and 54% was from state funds.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$37,028,343 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 17.8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 5.4% was from TANF, and 2.9% came from other federal sources.<sup>41</sup>
- Out of 2,967 children in out-of-home care in Hawaii on September 30, 2003, only 1,173 children, or 39.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>42</sup>

### 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.<sup>43</sup>
- 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.<sup>44</sup>
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>45</sup>
- 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.<sup>46</sup>

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