

HAWAII'S CHILDREN 2009

Hawaii's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	1,283,388
Population, Children Under 18 ²	285,694
State Poverty Rate ³	7.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	7.1%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 2,045 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Hawaii, a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 26.0% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 323 were neglected, 233 were physically abused, and 93 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2006, four children in Hawaii died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- In 2006, 2,355 children in Hawaii lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,766 children in 2005. In 2006, 38.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 14.3% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of Hawaii children in out-of-home care in 2006, 9.7% were white, 70.0% black, 4.3% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 85.1% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,008 children exiting out-of-home care in Hawaii in 2006, 59% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2006, 397 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Hawaii, a 12% decrease from 452 in 2005.¹²
- Of the 2,355 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,064 or 45.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹³
- In 2007, approximately 12,747 Hawaii grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 2,355 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 42.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Hawaii children in kinship care in 2006, 4.2% were white, 0.1% were black, 4.3% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 91.2% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Hawaii decreased from 14,173 in March 2007 to 13,739 in March 2008, a decrease of 3.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 5,624, a 2.6% decrease from March 2007.¹⁷
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Hawaii was at 54.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸



- In 2006, Hawaii spent \$156,407,754 in TANF funds, including 54.1% on basic assistance, and 45.9% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2007, Hawaii spent \$21,977,213 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 32,612 participants.²⁰
- In 2007, Hawaii collected and distributed \$90,747,169 in child support funds, a 3.7% increase from 2006.²¹
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Hawaii was \$1,509 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$29.02 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Hawaii had a monthly average of 8,600 children served by subsidized child care; 8,900 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 10,000 in 2004.²³
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Hawaii, a family of three could make no more than \$47,124, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.²⁴
- As of early 2008, Hawaii had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2007, Head Start served 3,049 Hawaii children, a 0.8% increase from 2001.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 106,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Hawaii—46.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2005, 7,014 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Hawaii on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2005, of the 7,014 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 263 received Targeted Case Management services, and 2 received Rehabilitative Services.²⁹
- In 2007, Hawaii had 17,226 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.6% increase from 2006, when 15,569 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2007, Hawaii had 14,000 uninsured children, representing 4.8% of its child population.³¹
- In 2005, 1,468 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Hawaii a rank of 11 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2005, 116 infants under age 1 died in Hawaii, giving it a rank of 11 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Hawaii was 19 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 62. This reflects a total rate of 36 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2006, 2,927 adults and adolescents, as well as 17 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Hawaii.³⁵
- In 2006, an estimated 7,000 children ages 12–17, and 79,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Hawaii.³⁶



VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 152 children aged out of out-of-home care in Hawaii.³⁷
- In 2007, 3,000 Hawaii teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.³⁹
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2006, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 in Hawaii needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2005, six Hawaii children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.81 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Hawaii, the same as in 2004.⁴⁴
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 123 children in juvenile correction facilities in Hawaii.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Hawaii spent \$113,837,471 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 47% was from federal funds, and 53% from state funds.⁴⁶
- In 2006, of the \$53,812,835 in federal funds received for child welfare, 57% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 23% from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.⁴⁷
- Out of 2,355 children in out-of-home care in Hawaii in 2006, only 1,387, or 58.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰



- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; 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.⁵¹
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Hawaii was \$42,348; the median income for a family of four in Hawaii was \$71,320.⁵²

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