

OVERVIEW

PROFILE OF YOUNG HAWAIIAN CHILDREN

Background

Much of the work of Ho‘owaiwai Nā Kamali‘i is done at the community level, promoting the conditions and supports necessary for Native Hawaiian keiki to be safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school. This community service is a vital part of developing a rich continuum of services for keiki and their families. To gain widespread support, the work must be understood within the context of the larger State of which these communities are a part; therefore, an overview of the past and current well-being of young Hawaiian children forms a foundational piece that informs efforts to support children’s developmental needs.

Methodology

The information in this Profile of Young Hawaiian Children consists of data related to health and safety, education, and family composition and resources that were collected and reported at the State level. The data are from administrative records and surveys conducted by governmental and academic entities. While much of the information is about school-aged children, it also sheds light on the condition and environment of younger children as well. In addition to the Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian population, comparative data on the whole Statewide population or on non-Hawaiians are presented.

Cautions

Much of the "Native Hawaiian" designation is by self-report or by parental response. This is not a precise category, may be interpreted differently by the disparate sources of the data, or may be affected by situations and motivations not linked to the purposes for which the designation may be used.

The use of State-level data masks pockets of excellence and pockets of problems. It produces an average only and, therefore, provides only a generalized profile.



Photo by University Relations

EDUCATION

Education is a lifelong process and when early experiences prepare children for the formal part of that process, they are most likely to be successful. School readiness is determined by the positive interaction among the child's developmental characteristics, school practices, and family and community support.

INDICATORS	HAWAIIAN	STATE
3-year-olds with child care subsidies in center-based care	61.0%	75.0%*
3-year-olds with child care subsidies in kith and kin care	31.0%	25.0%*
Kindergarteners having preschool experience	41.3%	45.4%
Public school students scoring below average – reading SAT	29.0%	20.0%*
Public school students scoring below average – math SAT	26.0%	18.0%*
Students in Special Education programs (elementary)	15.0%	12.0%
Teens in GRADS program for DOE pregnant/parenting students	385	774

Note: *non-Hawaiian data



Photo by Tami Dawson, Photo Resource Hawaii, Inc.

FAMILY

The family is the most important resource for any child. Hawaiian families have many strengths, yet face many challenges. They place a higher value on family relationships and activities, but are often less stable and over-represented among the poor.

INDICATORS	HAWAIIAN	STATE
Average family size	4.1	3.4
6th graders living 2 adults, at least one biological parent	67.3%	73.8%
Births that are to women under 18 years of age	4.9%	3.2%
First births as proportion of all births	27.2%	41.2%
Non-marital births	41.3%	32.3%
Births to mother with less than 12 years education	12.9%	10.7%
Children in free/reduced price lunch program	67.4%	49.6%
Kids reporting parents unconcerned about anti-social behavior	28.0%	25.7%
Kids reporting poor family supervision	49.1%	48.0%
Kids reporting family conflict	46.8%	40.6%
Adults reporting family makes time to do things together	91.0%	87.0%
Number of times per week children see their grandparents	4.4	3.4
Families attend neighborhood celebrations and cultural events	61.0%	58.0%



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