

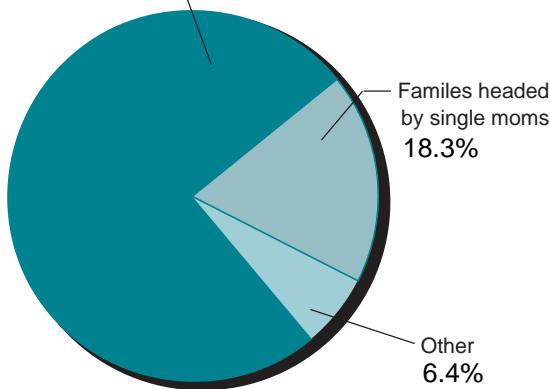
DEMOGRAPHICS

What characteristics best describe Hawai'i's teens?

- 8.1% of Hawai'i's population, or 98,646 young people, are between the ages of 12 and 17. The 2000 census showed a 17% increase over 1990, when this group constituted 7.5% of the population.
- The Department of Education reports that more than 25% of public school students identify themselves as Hawaiian or Part-Hawaiian.
- Nearly 13% of Hawai'i's teens live below the federal poverty level.
- More than 32% (nearly twice the rate of 1990) of Hawai'i's high school students receive free and reduced price lunch at school. Eligibility is based on 185% of the federal poverty level.
- More than 7% of young people ages 14 to 15 work.
- More than 24% of youth ages 16 to 17 work.
- About 10% of Hawai'i's teens ages 16 to 19 are "idle" (that is, not working and not enrolled in school). This is higher than the national average of 8%.

Family Households with Own Children Under 18

Two-parent families, at least 1 biological parent
75.3%



RELATIONSHIPS

How do local teens relate to their families and community?

Almost half of our teens live in nurturing and supportive families and communities that support resiliency and encourage a healthy trajectory toward adulthood. From the 2000 Hawai'i student alcohol, tobacco and other drug use study we learn:

- Almost 46% enjoy spending time with their parents and report that their parents acknowledge them for doing well.
- More than 91% regularly spend time visiting with relatives.
- Almost 43% report that their neighbors provide encouragement for adolescents engaging in positive activities.

Almost half of our island teens live in family and community environments that place them at risk for multiple social, educational, and health problems. Exposure to multiple risks can seriously derail youth on their journey to responsible adulthood. From the same study:

- Almost 42% report that they frequently experience yelling, insults, and unresolved arguments at home.
- More than 46% report that their parents fail to monitor their whereabouts or set clear expectations.
- Almost 44% report that they don't feel safe in their neighborhoods due to problems with graffiti, fights, drugs, and other crimes.
- Almost 39% report a lack of connection to their communities and a desire to move elsewhere.
- More than 45% report that their friends condone antisocial behaviors such as stealing, fighting, hurting others intentionally, playing hooky from school, carrying guns to school, or using cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs.