



# HAWAII'S OLDER ADULTS: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



## OVERVIEW

Respect for elders is a cultural value that continues in Hawai'i today and is demonstrated in myriad ways, from seeking the sage advice of *kūpuna* to caring for frail grandparents. How our state, communities, and families regard older adults will be tested in the years ahead, as this segment of our population is increasing rapidly: By the year 2020, every fourth person in Hawai'i will be 60 years or older. Needless to say, this will have significant impacts on all aspects of society, including the economic structure, use of health and social services, and interpersonal and family relationships.

*Hawai'i's Older Adults: Demographic Profile* is the first in a series of publications developed by the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family and the Executive Office on Aging to present relevant data and information on this important cohort. More comprehensive data and publications are available at the Data Center on Hawai'i's Aging ([www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu/datacenter/aging/](http://www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu/datacenter/aging/)). Note that unless otherwise specified, *older adults* in this report refers to individuals who are 60 years and older. We hope our publications will spur policymakers, program directors, advocates, and others to develop and implement actions that will proactively address the present and future needs of Hawai'i's older people. Two of the best ways to respect our elders are to provide opportunities for them to serve as valuable community resources and to make adequate, accessible, and affordable services available for those who require them.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- There are about 238,000 Hawai'i residents aged 60 and over. They constitute 18.7% of Hawai'i's total population, slightly higher than 16.8% in the nation as a whole.
- Among older adults, there are more females than males as age increases. In Hawai'i, for every 100 females 60 years and over, there are 76.8 males of those ages; for those 65 years and older, 71.0 males; and for those 85 years and over, 52.5 males.
- People in Hawai'i have a longer life expectancy than those across the nation—79.8 years vs. 76.9 years—and women tend to live longer than men—82.5 years vs. 77.1 years.
- The improvement in longevity during the 20th century was unprecedented. For instance, men who were born in 1910 were expected to live 44.0 years, compared to their counterparts in 2000, who are expected to live 77.1 years, representing a 75.2% increase in life expectancy at birth.
- By 2030, people aged 60 and older are projected to increase to more than one fourth (27.4%), and the oldest-old population (aged 85 and over) is expected to grow to 3.3% of the state's population.
- Hawai'i's total population is expected to grow by 21.0% between 2000 and 2030. However, the number of adults 60 years and older will increase by 93.8% and those 85 years and older will increase by 174.7% during the same period of time.
- The high rate of growth of the older cohort will affect the age distribution of Hawai'i's population in the future: In general, there will be a smaller proportion of children and younger adults in relation to those 60 years and older.
- Hawai'i has a racially diverse population. Compared to the U.S., Hawai'i has a higher percentage of Asian (60.9% vs. 2.4%) and Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (5.5% vs. 0.1%) older adults and a smaller percentage of White (23.5% vs. 86.0%) and Black (0.4% vs. 8.5%) older adults. Within the state's Asian older population, Japanese (34.3%) and Filipinos (14.7%) are the largest racial groups.

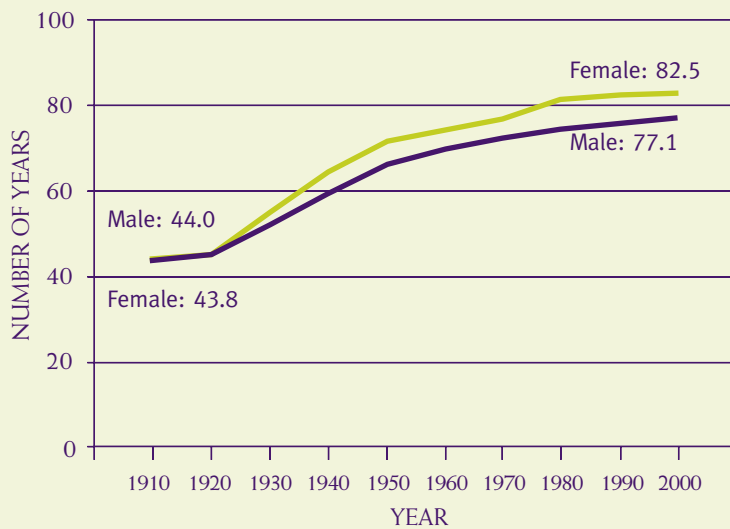


**Table 1**  
Size and Sex Ratio of Older Adult Population and Life Expectancy

|   | U.S.       | State of Hawai'i | County   |          |          |          |
|---|------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|   |            |                  | Hawai'i  | Honolulu | Kaua'i   | Maui     |
| <b>RESIDENT POPULATION, 2005</b>              |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| Number of residents aged                      |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| 60 and over                                   | 49,791,976 | 237,918          | 30,546   | 172,177  | 12,071   | 23,124   |
| 65 and over                                   | 36,790,113 | 174,538          | 22,269   | 127,364  | 8,836    | 16,069   |
| 85 and over                                   | 5,095,938  | 27,653           | 3,329    | 20,317   | 1,527    | 2,480    |
| Percent of residents aged                     |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| 60 and over                                   | (%) 16.8   | (%) 18.7         | (%) 18.3 | (%) 19.0 | (%) 19.3 | (%) 16.5 |
| 65 and over                                   | 12.4       | 13.7             | 13.3     | 14.1     | 14.1     | 11.5     |
| 85 and over                                   | 1.7        | 2.2              | 2.0      | 2.2      | 2.4      | 1.8      |
| <b>SEX RATIO, 2005</b>                        |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| Number of males per 100 females aged          |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| 60 and over                                   | 76.7       | 76.8             | 83.4     | 74.8     | 78.8     | 82.8     |
| 65 and over                                   | 72.1       | 71.0             | 77.9     | 68.8     | 74.3     | 77.2     |
| 85 and over                                   | 45.9       | 52.5             | 56.5     | 50.8     | 63.8     | 55.3     |
| <b>LIFE EXPECTANCY, 2000<sup>a</sup></b>      |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| Number of years expected to live at birth for |            |                  |          |          |          |          |
| all residents                                 | 76.9       | 79.8             | 77.3     | 80.5     | 79.7     | 80.4     |
| males   | 74.1       | 77.1             | 74.2     | 77.6     | 76.2     | 77.5     |
| females                                       | 79.5       | 82.5             | 80.7     | 83.4     | 83.8     | 83.7     |

<sup>a</sup> Data for the year 2000 are reported for the U.S. and state; 3-year averages for the years 1998-2000 are reported for the county.

**Figure 1**  
Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex, State of Hawai'i, 1910-2000

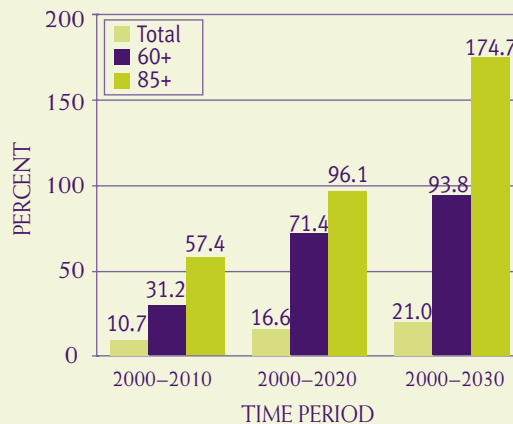


**Table 2**  
Population Projection of Older Adults, 2000-2030

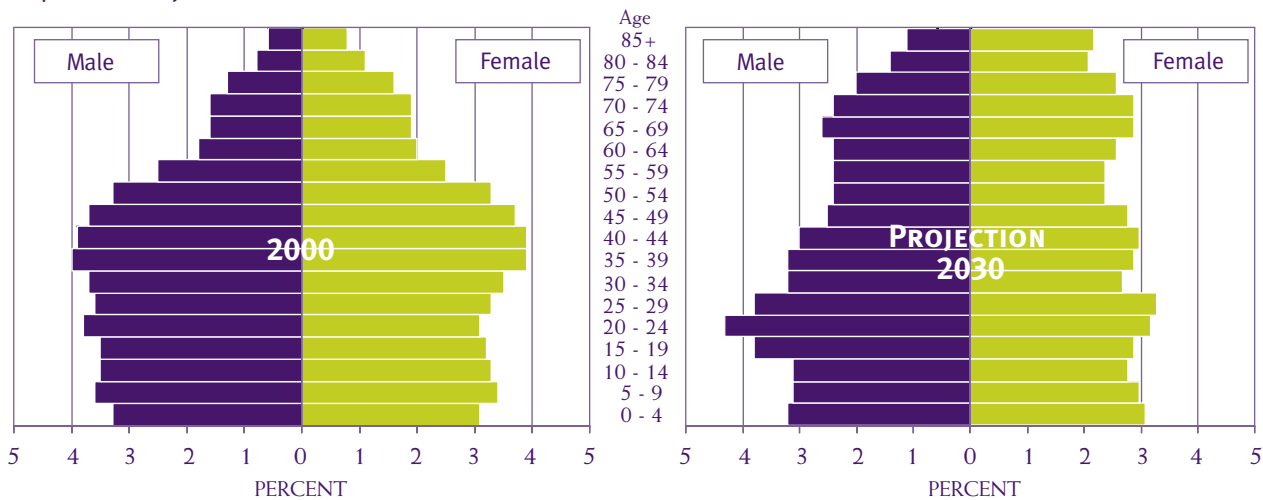
| Year | Percent of residents aged 60 and over |                      | Percent of residents aged 85 and over |                      |
|------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
|      | U.S. (%)                              | State of Hawai'i (%) | U.S. (%)                              | State of Hawai'i (%) |
| 2000 | 16.3                                  | 17.1                 | 1.5                                   | 1.4                  |
| 2005 | 16.8                                  | 18.1                 | 1.7                                   | 1.7                  |
| 2010 | 18.4                                  | 20.3                 | 2.0                                   | 2.1                  |
| 2015 | 20.3                                  | 22.7                 | 2.1                                   | 2.3                  |
| 2020 | 22.5                                  | 25.1                 | 2.2                                   | 2.4                  |
| 2025 | 24.2                                  | 26.9                 | 2.3                                   | 2.7                  |
| 2030 | 25.1                                  | 27.4                 | 2.6                                   | 3.3                  |



**Figure 2**  
Projected Growth Rates of Total and Older Adult Populations, State of Hawai'i, 2000-2030



**Figure 3**  
Population Pyramids of Hawai'i



**Table 3**  
Racial Composition of Older Adult Population, 2000

| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who are | U.S. (%) | State of Hawai'i (%) |
|--|----------|----------------------|
| White                                      | 86.0     | 23.5                 |
| Black and African American                 | 8.5      | 0.4                  |
| American Indian and Alaska Native          | 0.4      | 0.1                  |
| Asian                                      | 2.4      | 60.9                 |
| <i>Chinese</i>                             | 0.7      | 7.8                  |
| <i>Filipino</i>                            | 0.5      | 14.7                 |
| <i>Japanese</i>                            | 0.4      | 34.3                 |
| <i>Korean</i>                              | 0.2      | 2.3                  |
| <i>Other Asian</i>                         | 0.6      | 1.9                  |
| Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander        | 0.1      | 5.5                  |
| Other                                      | 1.5      | 0.5                  |
| Two or more races                          | 1.1      | 9.1                  |



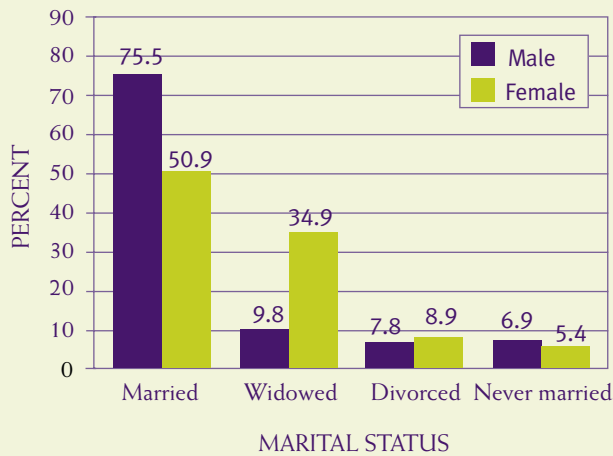
## HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

- Almost two thirds (62.0%) of Hawai'i's older adults are married, and less than one tenth (6.1%) have never been married. These percentages are higher than those relating to counterparts in the U.S. (59.8% married, 4.5% never married). On the other hand, there are slightly lower percentages of those who are widowed (23.6%) and divorced (8.4%) in Hawai'i compared to older adults in the nation (27.1% and 8.6% respectively).
- Older men in Hawai'i are much more likely to be married than older women (75.5% vs. 50.9%), whereas older women are far more likely to be widowed (34.9% vs. 9.8%).
- Compared to the U.S., a higher percentage of older adults in Hawai'i live in family settings (77.6% vs. 67.5%), while smaller percentages live alone (16.5% vs. 25.4%) or in institutions (1.7% vs. 3.7%).
- More older males (81.7%) than females (74.2%) live in family households in Hawai'i, while older women are more likely to live alone than men (20.2% vs. 12.1%).
- A smaller percentage of older adults in Hawai'i are found in smaller households than in the U.S. (29.7% in Hawai'i vs. 40.4% in U.S. for one-person households and 39.5% vs. 45.7% for two-person households), but the reverse is true for larger households (13.9% in Hawai'i vs. 8.5% in U.S. for three-person households, 6.7% vs. 2.8% for four-person households, and 10.4% vs. 2.6% for 5-or-more-person households).
- Hawai'i's older adults tend toward residential stability: The vast majority (79.4%) have lived in the same residence for the past five years, and the 14.9% who occupied a different residence five years ago remain in the same state. Only 5.6% have relocated from another state or elsewhere in the past five years.
- Approximately three times as many older householders in Hawai'i own their homes as rent them (74.4% vs. 25.6%).

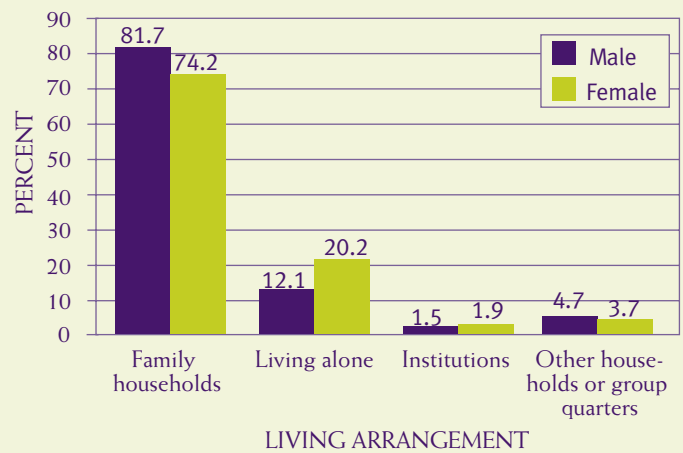
**Table 4**  
Household and Family Characteristics of Older Adults, 2000

|  | U.S.<br>(%) | State of<br>Hawai'i<br>(%) | County         |                 |               |             |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
|  |             |                            | Hawai'i<br>(%) | Honolulu<br>(%) | Kaua'i<br>(%) | Maui<br>(%) |
| <b>MARITAL STATUS</b>  |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who are                       |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| married  | 59.8        | 62.0                       | 62.0           | 61.8            | 63.6          | 62.2        |
| widowed  | 27.1        | 23.6                       | 22.8           | 23.6            | 25.2          | 23.9        |
| divorced   | 8.6         | 8.4                        | 9.6            | 8.1             | 6.5           | 9.7         |
| never married  | 4.5         | 6.1                        | 5.6            | 6.5             | 4.6           | 4.3         |
| <b>LIVING ARRANGEMENTS</b>                                       |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who are living                |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| in family households   | 67.5        | 77.6                       | 73.8           | 78.5            | 77.0          | 76.4        |
| alone  | 25.4        | 16.5                       | 19.8           | 15.8            | 16.7          | 18.3        |
| in institutions  | 3.7         | 1.7                        | 2.2            | 1.7             | 2.0           | 0.8         |
| in other households or group quarters                            | 3.3         | 4.2                        | 4.3            | 4.1             | 4.6           | 4.7         |
| <b>RESIDENTIAL STABILITY</b>                                     |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who, five years ago, lived in |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| the same residence   | 76.1        | 79.4                       | 76.0           | 80.6            | 78.5          | 75.2        |
| different residence within the same state                        | 18.6        | 14.9                       | 15.4           | 14.9            | 13.1          | 15.4        |
| different state or elsewhere                                     | 5.3         | 5.6                        | 8.7            | 4.5             | 8.4           | 9.3         |
| <b>HOME OWNERSHIP</b>  |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of householders aged 60 and over who are                 |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| owners   | 78.1        | 74.4                       | 80.2           | 73.2            | 76.2          | 74.9        |
| renters  | 21.9        | 25.6                       | 19.9           | 26.8            | 23.9          | 25.1        |

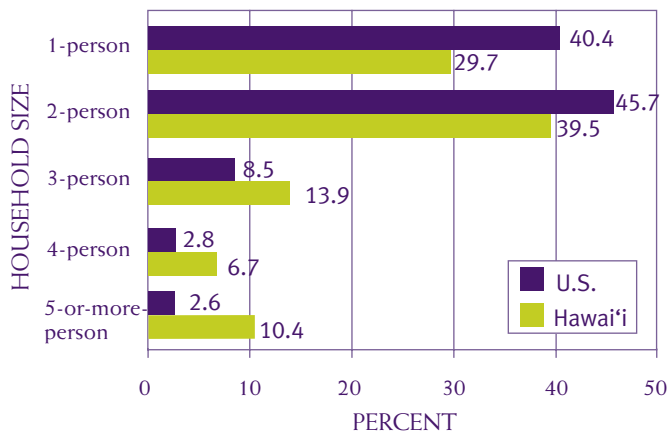
**Figure 4**  
Marital Status of Older Adults by Sex, State of Hawai'i, 2000



**Figure 5**  
Living Arrangements of Older Adults by Sex, State of Hawai'i, 2000



**Figure 6**  
Size of Households with Householders Aged 60 and Over, U.S. and State of Hawai'i, 2000



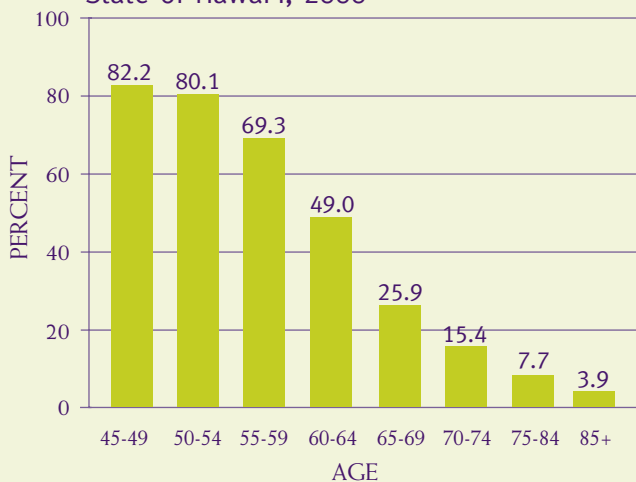
## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- More than one third (35.0%) of the state's older adults have some college experience (17.2%) or a college degree or higher (17.8%). The remainder graduated from high school (33.0%) or have less than a high school education (32.1%).
- Compared to the U.S., there are fewer native-born (77.2% vs. 89.9%) and more foreign-born (22.8% vs. 10.1%) older adults in Hawai'i.
- Many older adults speak English poorly or not at all. Older adults in Hawai'i are more than twice as likely as their U.S. counterparts to experience language barriers (11.2% vs. 4.1% of those 60 years and older), with the difference magnified in the oldest cohort (16.1% vs. 3.5% of those 85 years and older).
- About one in five (22.0%) older adults in Hawai'i are employed or seeking a job. More than three fourths (78.0%) of older adults are *not* in the labor force.
- The rate of labor-force participation among older adults drops rapidly with age. At ages 60-64, half of the people (49.0%) are in the labor force. The proportion drops to about one fourth (25.9%) among those aged 65-69, to just over one seventh (15.4%) among those aged 70-74, to 7.7% among those aged 75-84, and to 3.9% among the oldest-old (85 years and older).
- More than one fifth (21.2%) of Hawai'i's adults aged 60 and over has an income below 200% of the poverty threshold.
- Among older adults, the chance of living in poverty increases with age and for women vs. men. Almost one in three (31.5%) women aged 85 or older has an income below 200% of the poverty threshold, compared to about one in four (24.6%) men.

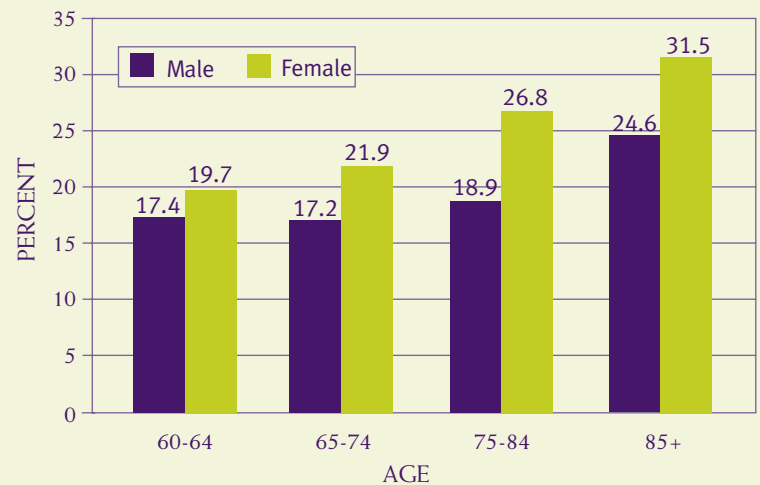
**Table 5**  
Social and Economic Characteristics of Older Adults, 2000

|  | U.S.<br>(%) | State of<br>Hawai'i<br>(%) | County         |                 |               |             |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
|  |             |                            | Hawai'i<br>(%) | Honolulu<br>(%) | Kaua'i<br>(%) | Maui<br>(%) |
| <b>EDUCATIONAL LEVEL</b>   |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over whose educational attainment is         |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| less than high school  | 32.0        | 32.1                       | 31.4           | 31.2            | 37.7          | 36.4        |
| high school graduate/GED   | 32.1        | 33.0                       | 32.4           | 33.8            | 30.0          | 28.7        |
| some college   | 19.3        | 17.2                       | 19.3           | 16.6            | 19.7          | 17.9        |
| 4-year college   | 9.4         | 10.6                       | 10.2           | 11.0            | 7.5           | 9.8         |
| graduate/professional degree   | 7.1         | 7.2                        | 6.7            | 7.4             | 5.1           | 7.2         |
| <b>NATIVITY</b>  |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who are                                 |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| native born  | 89.9        | 77.2                       | 86.5           | 75.3            | 80.4          | 77.9        |
| foreign born   | 10.1        | 22.8                       | 13.5           | 24.7            | 19.5          | 22.1        |
| <b>LANGUAGE BARRIER</b>  |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who do not speak English well or at all |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
|  | 4.1         | 11.2                       | 6.5            | 12.2            | 8.4           | 11.4        |
| <b>LABOR-FORCE PARTICIPATION</b>   |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over who are                                 |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| in labor force   | 21.1        | 22.0                       | 21.7           | 21.9            | 20.6          | 24.0        |
| not in labor force   | 78.9        | 78.0                       | 78.4           | 78.1            | 79.4          | 76.0        |
| <b>POVERTY STATUS<sup>a</sup></b>  |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| Percent of adults aged 60 and over whose poverty level is below            |             |                            |                |                 |               |             |
| poverty threshold  | 9.9         | 7.4                        | 7.5            | 7.4             | 7.0           | 7.9         |
| 200% of poverty threshold  | 29.4        | 21.2                       | 26.1           | 19.9            | 23.7          | 23.3        |

**Figure 7**  
Labor-Force Participation Rates by Age,  
State of Hawai'i, 2000



**Figure 8**  
Poverty Status<sup>a</sup> by Age and Sex, State of Hawai'i, 2000



<sup>a</sup> Poverty status for an individual is defined as having a household income that in 1999 was below the specified levels of the federal poverty threshold for that year. Poverty levels at 100% and 200% of the poverty threshold are reported in Table 5. Figure 8 presents data on individuals with an income below 200% of the poverty threshold. Data exclude institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

## DATA SOURCES

### Resident population and sex ratio

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### Life expectancy

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### Population projection

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### Racial composition

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### Source for multiple indicators:

U.S. Census Bureau. (2004). *Census 2000 special tabulation on aging (STP 9)*. Retrieved from [www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/Tab/aoacensus2000.html](http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/Tab/aoacensus2000.html)

### Marital status

Table P13: *Age by sex by marital status for the population 60 years and over.*

### Living arrangement

Table P12: *Age by sex by household type (including living alone) and relationship for the population 60 years and over.*

### Residential stability

Table P25: *Age by residence in 1995 for the population 60 years and over—state and county level.*

### Home ownership

Table H23: *Age of householder by tenure for occupied housing units with a householder 60 years and over.*

### Household size

Table H22: *Age of householder by household size for occupied housing units with a householder 60 years and over.*

### Educational level

Table P27: *Age by educational attainment for the population 60 years and over.*

### Nativity

Table P19: *Age by citizenship status by place of birth for the population 60 years and over.*

### Language barrier

Table P17: *Age by ability to speak English for the population 60 years and over.*

### Labor-force participation

Table P29: *Age by employment status for the population 45 years and over.*

### Poverty status

Table P88: *Age by ratio of income in 1999 to poverty level.*  
Table P89: *Age by sex by ratio of income in 1999 to poverty level for the population 60 years and over.*

## PHOTO CREDITS

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