



HAWAII'S OLDER ADULTS

A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

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Hawai'i's population is rapidly aging. In 2010, persons aged 60 and over made up 20.6% of the state's population. This share is projected to increase to 28.5% by 2040 (Hawai'i State Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, 2014). This aspect of Hawai'i's changing demography has been coined by some policy makers as the "silver tsunami"—a term that encapsulates both the rapid rise in the number of seniors as well as the potentially devastating impact on the state due to inadequate preparation to meet the demands of this aging population.

Policy makers, funders, community leaders and service providers need ready access to current, localized data on older adults and their families in Hawai'i. Unlike many parts of the mainland, older adults in Hawai'i face a number of unique challenges, such as extraordinary housing costs as well as a dearth of affordable long-term care services. However, older adults in Hawai'i are also fortunate to have stronger 'ohana (family) networks as well as longer life expectancies than older adults in other parts of the United States. The demographic profile that follows presents an up-to-date snapshot of the older population in Hawai'i, including as much as possible, comparison with the broader U.S. population of older adults.

The data presented paint a broad-brush illustration of older adults in the state. The discussion starts with the share of the population who make up older adults in Hawai'i and looks at population projections for these individuals. Next is an examination of racial and ethnic diversity in the older population, followed by a brief description of family and household characteristics. Finally, basic indicators are presented on older adult socioeconomic status in Hawai'i. In the coming years, more detailed reports are planned on the family, economic and health status of older adults in Hawai'i. These future reports will possess greater detail about specific aspects of well-being for those aged 60 and over.

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DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH OF OLDER ADULT POPULATION IN HAWAI'I

This demographic profile defines persons aged 60 or older as older adults. However, according to a recent Pew study, only 32% of Americans thought of someone aged 65 as “old” (Pew Research Center, 2009). Table 1 data suggest that concerns about a “silver tsunami” in Hawai'i are likely tied to what one uses as the age cutoff for the elderly. In Hawai'i, 21.5% of the population is aged 60 and over, a little more than the U.S. average of 19.5%. Only 2.5% of the state's population is among the “oldest old,” aged 85 or older, but this also exceeds the U.S. average of 1.9%. The share of “oldest old” adults is similarly distributed across the counties in Hawai'i. Similar to the national trend, the share of men to women decreases as one becomes older. Among those aged 65 and older, women outnumbered men: For every 100 women, there were 80 men in Hawai'i. The sex ratio imbalance becomes even more obvious with age, given the shorter life expectancy of men compared with women. Among those aged 85 and older, for every 100 women, there are 58 men. The sex ratio of men to women is more evenly distributed for those aged 85 and older in Hawai'i than compared to the national average. Part of this is due to the longer life expectancy of Hawai'i residents, compared to the national average. The last row of Table 1 shows that in 2014, the life expectancy for Hawai'i was higher than the national average. Babies born in Hawai'i in 2014 could expect, on average, to live to age 83 compared to 79 years for the entire United States.

Data note:

The data used came from a wide variety of sources. At the national and state level, public data from the American Community Survey (ACS) was used through the *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series* (IPUMS) project. Specifically used were the 5-year ACS estimates from 2010 – 2014. For comparable county-level data, data used was released through American Factfinder at the U.S. Census Bureau. Life expectancy data and population projections came from a number of sources. At the national level, data was used from the Center for Disease Control and in Hawai'i, estimates produced by the Hawai'i Health Data Warehouse and the State of Hawai'i Data Book 2014, produced by the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Footnotes at the bottom of each table and figure list specific data sources. Finally, where possible, significance testing was conducted to assess differences in indicators between Hawai'i and the U.S. population. Significance testing in the context of survey data based on the U.S. population allows the reader to assess whether an observed contrast is due to random sampling alone. In this profile, the standard significance level of $p < .05$ is used, with one interpretation due to 95% (1-p-value) confidence that the contrasts presented are true and not simply due to sampling error. These significance tests are presented in the tables, but they are not discussed in the narrative text. The reader is advised to refer to the tables for significance test results. Note that significance testing is not available at the county level for Hawai'i due to small sample sizes.

Table 1. Size and Sex Ratio of Older Adult Population, 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates

| RESIDENT POPULATION | U.S. | State of Hawai'i | County | | | |
|---|------------|------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| | | | Hawai'i | Honolulu | Kaua'i | Maui |
| Number of residents aged | | | | | | |
| 60+ | 60,894,615 | 299,937 | 45,157 | 203,618 | 16,281 | 33,124 |
| 65+ | 42,965,035 | 212,571 | 30,424 | 147,853 | 11,169 | 22,189 |
| 85+ | 5,777,989 | 34,407 | 4,545 | 25,368 | 1,925 | 3,494 |
| | | | | | | |
| Percent of residents aged | | | | | | |
| 60+ | 19.5 | 21.5* | 23.8 | 20.9 | 23.7 | 20.9 |
| 65+ | 13.7 | 15.3* | 16.1 | 15.2 | 16.2 | 14.0 |
| 85+ | 1.9 | 2.5* | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| SEX RATIO | | | | | | |
| Number of men per 100 women aged | | | | | | |
| 60+ | 81.3 | 86.3* | 95.3 | 82.1 | 89.8 | 91.2 |
| 65+ | 77.2 | 80.4 | 90.5 | 77.3 | 83.5 | 84.2 |
| 85+ | 49.7 | 58.3* | 74.3 | 53.9 | 78.2 | 65.8 |
| | | | | | | |
| LIFE EXPECTANCY | | | | | | |
| Number of years expected to live at birth for | | | | | | |
| all residents (2014) | 78.8 | 82.5† | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Notes:

1. U.S. and State of Hawai'i estimates are based on IPUMS data (IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.)

2. Estimates at county level are from American FactFinder tables S0101, S0102, and S0103.

3. Life expectancy estimates for the U.S. are from the Center for Disease Control: "Health, United States, 2015," Table 15.

4. Life expectancy estimates for Hawai'i are from the Hawai'i Health Data Warehouse, Hawai'i State Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring, 2014.

* Indicates that Hawai'i is significantly different from the U.S. average at $p < .05$. Note that due to small sample sizes, no significance testing is available at the county level.

† Indicates that significant test is not available.



Figure 1 shows rising life expectancy from birth across different birth year cohorts for the United States and Hawai'i. Among earlier birth cohorts, residents in Hawai'i had shorter life expectancies than the U.S. average. This shifted around the time of the baby boom in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when life expectancy for latter-born Hawai'i cohorts exceeded the U.S. average.

With increasing longevity, the share of older adults will increase. Table 2 presents population projections for the older adult population in Hawai'i and the United States as a whole. Similar to the national average, the share of older adults in Hawai'i will increase dramatically over the next 25 years. Between 2010 and 2040, the share of adults aged 60 and over will increase by 38%, from 20.6% in 2010 to 28.5% in 2040. Although this is less dramatic than the national trend, which shows a 49% increase in those aged 60 and over the same time period, it is noteworthy.

Figure 1.

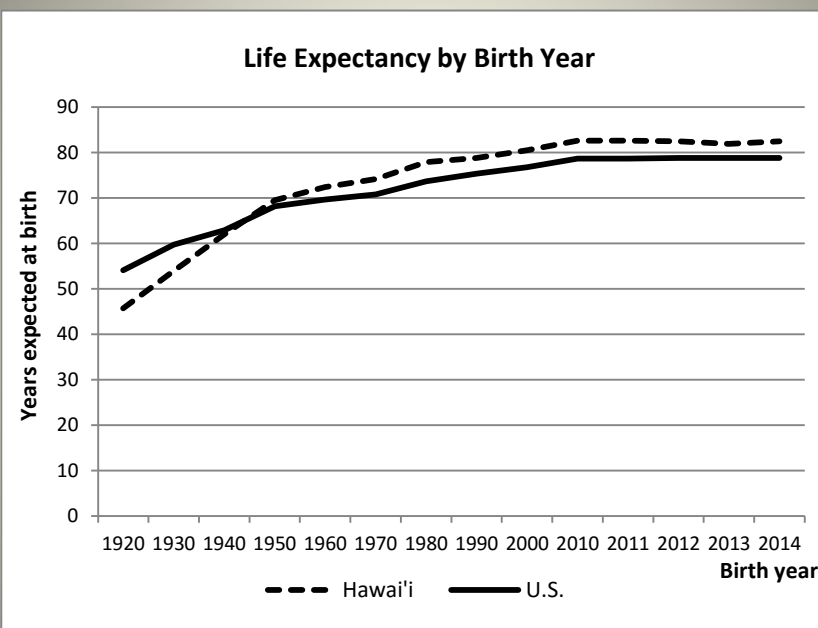


Table 2. Population Projection of Older Adults, 2010 – 2040

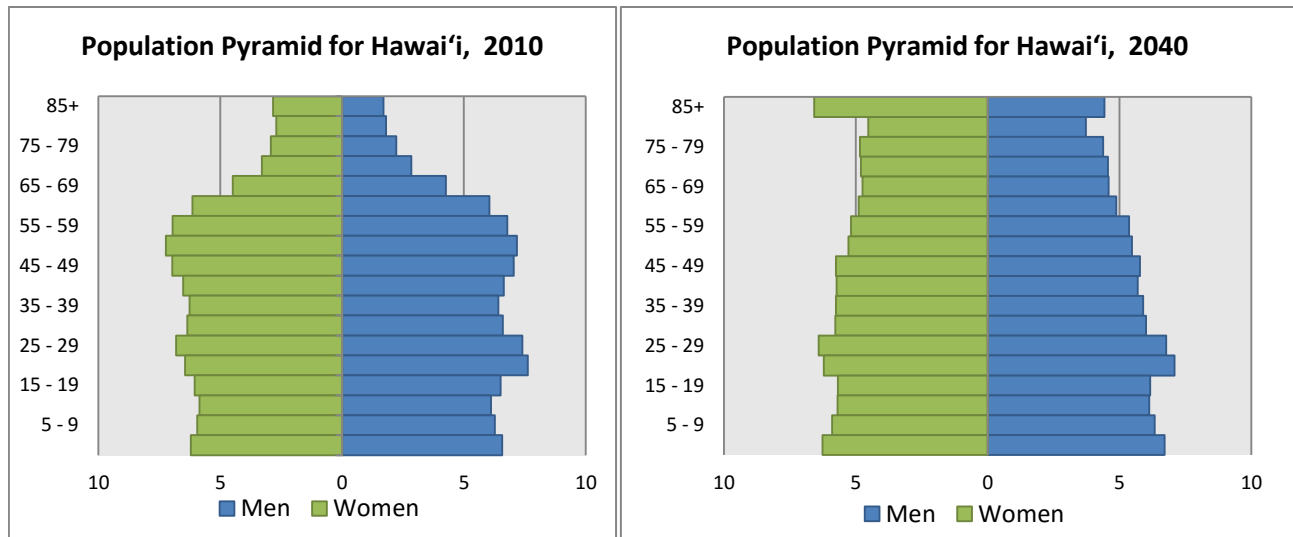
| | % of residents aged 60+ | | % of residents aged 85+ | |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | U.S. | State of Hawai'i | U.S. | State of Hawai'i |
| 2010 | 18.0 | 20.6 | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| 2020 | 23.2 | 25.8 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| 2030 | 26.1 | 28.4 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| 2040 | 26.9 | 28.5 | 3.8 | 5.5 |

Notes:

1. Population estimates from 2010 are from the U.S. 2010 Census, "Table 1. Population by Age and Sex."
2. U.S. population projections are from the U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 9. Projections of the Population by Sex and Age for the United States: 2015 to 2060"
3. Hawai'i population projections are from the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Population, Hawai'i to 2040 - DBEDT 2040 Series (March 2012), "Table 1.27--PROJECTED RESIDENT POPULATION, BY AGE AND SEX: 2010, 2020, 2030 AND 2040"

One reason for the overall increase is that the dramatic uptake in the older population affects the distribution of the population and the ratio of old to young. Figure 2 shows that in 2010, older adults in Hawai'i still made up a smaller portion of the population compared to those who are middle-aged, young adults and children. However, by 2040, the distribution of age groups will be much more even as cohorts born in the 1940s and 1950s (the Baby Boomers) gradually enter later life.

Figure 2.



RACE, ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY AMONG HAWAII'S OLDER ADULTS

Although policy makers and scholars tend to speak of “the elderly” in collective terms, this masks the real diversity of those in later life. This is especially true of Hawai'i, a state that is rich in racial and ethnic diversity, but is also characterized by significant social and economic inequality as well. Table 3 demonstrates some of this unique diversity, with Hawai'i having far fewer Whites and African Americans among its later-life population, compared to the national average. Noteworthy, however, is the share of Whites differing dramatically across state counties, with the City and County of Honolulu containing the lowest share of Whites (20%) compared to Hawai'i County with the highest at 47.2%. At the state level, however, the share of those who are Asian is 14 times the national average: 53.5% compared to 3.4%. Japanese and Filipino ethnicities are the most common among this age group and again, much larger than the national average. In addition, the share of older adults who are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander is also higher than the national average, as are those who identify with two more or races.

The significant racial/ethnic diversity in Hawai'i is not only due to its unique history and geographic location in the Pacific. It is also because of the large share of foreign-born residents who make up 24.3% of those aged 60 and over, compared to only 13.3% for the national average. In Hawai'i, 28% speak a language other than English at home and among those, 16.3% of all residents report that they do not speak English at all or do not speak English well.

Table 3. Racial, Ethnic, Nativity and Language Characteristics of Older Adult Population Aged 60+, 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates

| | U.S. | State of Hawai'i | County | | | |
|--|------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| RACE/ETHNICITY | (%) | (%) | Hawai'i (%) | Honolulu (%) | Kaua'i (%) | Maui (%) |
| White | 83.7 | 28.2 | 47.2 | 20.0 | 41.9 | 44.9 |
| Black and African American | 9.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Asian | 3.7 | 53.5 | 30.9 | 62.9 | 44.2 | 35.3 |
| Chinese | 1.0 | 6.7 | | | | |
| Japanese | 0.3 | 27.4 | | | | |
| Filipino | 0.8 | 14.6 | | | | |
| Korean | 0.4 | 2.4 | | | | |
| Other Asian | 1.3 | 2.4 | | | | |
| Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander | 0.1 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 6.2 |
| Other race | 1.7 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Two or more races | 1.0 | 11.0 | 13.1 | 10.2 | 6.4 | 12.3 |
| NATIVITY | | | | | | |
| Native born | 86.7 | 75.7 | 87.9 | 73.1 | 78.6 | 79.6 |
| Foreign born | 13.3 | 24.3 | 12.1 | 26.9 | 21.4 | 20.4 |
| LANGUAGE BARRIER | | | | | | |
| Language other than English | 14.6 | 28.4 | 16.9 | 32.1 | 24.9 | 21.2 |
| Does not speak English at all or does not speak English well | 6.2 | 16.3 | 7.7 | 21.1 | 13.8 | 13.0 |

Notes:

1. Estimates about U.S. and State of Hawai'i are based on IPUMS data (IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org).
2. Estimates at county level are from American FactFinder table S0102.

All the characteristics in this table of the State of Hawai'i are significantly different from the U.S. average at $p < .05$. Note that due to small sample sizes, no significance testing is available at the county level.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Table 4 presents a snapshot of family and household characteristics of older adults in Hawai'i and the United States. The majority in Hawai'i are married and one-fifth are widows. Compared to the national average, Hawai'i has a slightly lower share of separated or divorced older adults (14.0% vs. 15.3%) but a higher percentage of those who are never married (8.0% vs. 5.8%). Some variation exists across the four counties. For example, the City and County of Honolulu has the lowest rate of separated or divorced older adults but the highest rate of widows.

Table 4. Family and Household Characteristics of Older Adults Aged 60+, 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates

| | U.S. | State of Hawai'i | County | | | |
|---|------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| | (%) | (%) | Hawai'i (%) | Honolulu (%) | Kaua'i (%) | Maui (%) |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | |
| Married | 58.0 | 57.6 | 55.7 | 57.4 | 61.4 | 58.4 |
| Separated/Divorced | 15.3 | 14.0* | 16.2 | 12.9 | 13.6 | 16.8 |
| Widowed | 20.9 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 21.3 | 18.8 | 18.4 |
| Never married | 5.8 | 8.0* | 8.7 | 8.4 | 6.2 | 6.5 |
| HOUSEHOLD TYPE | | | | | | |
| Family households | 71.6 | 77.6* | 59.0 | 65.9 | 65.0 | 62.3 |
| Nonfamily households | 28.4 | 22.4* | 41.0 | 34.1 | 35.0 | 37.7 |
| Householder living alone | 24.8 | 17.8* | 35.5 | 31.0 | 28.1 | 31.8 |
| The same residence | 93.6 | 94.1* | 93.9 | 94.2 | 95.0 | 90.6 |
| Different residence within the same state | 5.0 | 4.3* | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 5.8 |
| Different state or elsewhere | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.6 |

Notes:

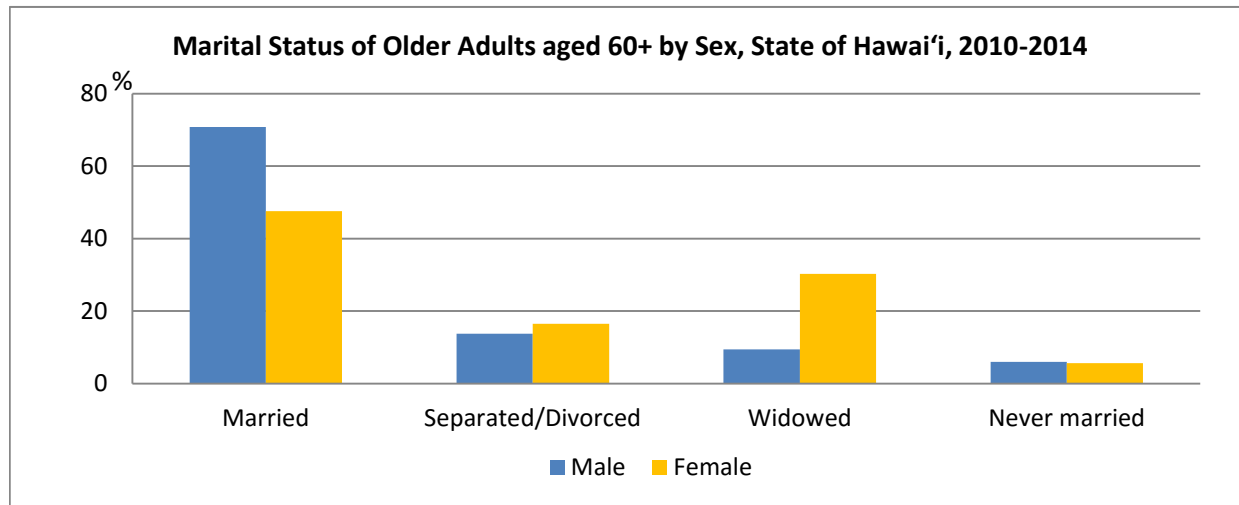
1. Estimates about U.S. and State of Hawai'i are based on IPUMS data (IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.)
2. Estimates at county level are from American FactFinder table S0102.
3. For county-level estimates, different residence within the same state includes different house in the same county and same state. Different state or elsewhere includes different house in different state and abroad.

*Indicates that Hawai'i is significantly different from the U.S. average at $p < .05$. Note that due to small sample sizes, no significance testing is available at the county level.



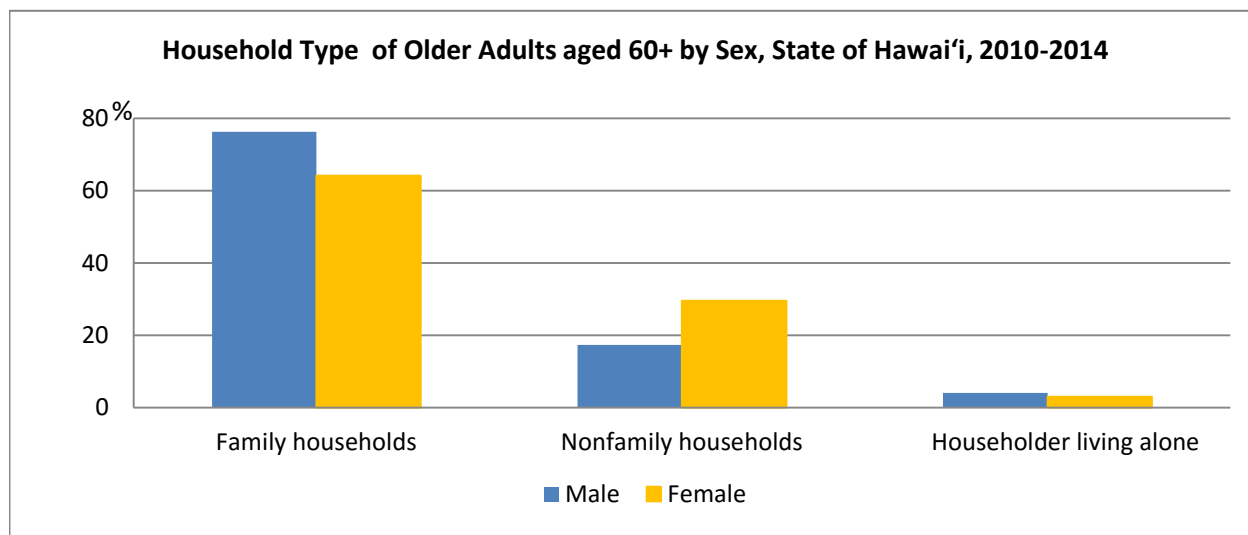
A closer look at marital status reveals significant differences by sex as shown in Figure 3. The share of men who are married is higher than women who are married (70.8% vs. 47.6%). Part of this is due to the longer life expectancy of women versus men that is reflected in the higher share of widowed women compared with men among those aged 60 and over.

Figure 3.



Families are important in Hawai'i. Consistent with the cultural emphasis on 'ohana, older adults reside primarily in family-households: 77.6% of Hawai'i households compared to 71.6% of U.S. households. A family-household is defined as households where individuals identify as being related to one another by birth, marriage or adoption in the United States. Hawai'i also has a lower percentage of people living alone (17.8% vs. 24.8%). When broken down in Hawai'i's older population by sex, as shown in Figure 4, a higher percentage of men live in family households (76.3% vs. 64.2%) and a lower percentage of women live by themselves (3% vs. 4%). Because women tend to outlive men, they are more likely to be in non-family households in the later years of their lives.

Figure 4.



SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Table 5 illustrates significant socioeconomic diversity in Hawai'i. Compared to the national average of 44%, older adults in Hawai'i are more educated, with almost half with at least some college education. Approximately 28% of older adults in Hawai'i, compared 25.3% nationally, have at least a Bachelor's degree. Hawai'i also has a lower poverty rate for older adults on average than the U.S. average. At the county level, Honolulu and Maui Counties have the lowest poverty rate. Hawai'i County with the highest poverty rate (11.6%) is closest to the national average of 11.8%. Although Hawai'i in general is better off based on the poverty threshold measures, life is not easy for older adults living here. The state has a greater share of older adults still employed or who are seeking jobs compared to the national average (31.2% vs. 28.0%). It also has lower rates of homeownership compared to the national average (77.7% vs. 81.3%), possibly due to the state's high cost of living, which includes housing.

Table 5. Social and Economic Characteristics of Older Adults Aged 60+, 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates

| | U.S. | State of Hawai'i | County | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| | (%) | (%) | Hawai'i (%) | Honolulu (%) | Kaua'i (%) | Maui (%) |
| EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT | | | | | | |
| Less than high school | 15.5 | 14.2 | 12.3 | 16.4 | 16.5 | 15.0 |
| High school grad/GED | 40.5 | 36.4 | 28.6 | 30.6 | 26.0 | 28.3 |
| Some college | 18.7 | 21.1 | 30.4 | 24.2 | 30.1 | 27.7 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 25.3 | 28.4 | 28.8 | 28.8 | 27.4 | 29.0 |
| LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION | | | | | | |
| Not in the labor force | 72.0 | 68.8 | 70.2 | 69.4 | 69.5 | 64.3 |
| In the labor force | 28.0 | 31.2 | 29.8 | 30.6 | 30.5 | 35.7 |
| POVERTY STATUS | | | | | | |
| Poverty threshold | 11.8 | 9.8 | 11.6 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.3 |
| 200% of poverty threshold | 31.0 | 23.6 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| HOME OWNERSHIP | | | | | | |
| Owned or being bought (loan) | 81.3 | 77.7 | 78.4 | 74.4 | 77.0 | 73.3 |
| Rented | 18.7 | 22.3 | 21.6 | 25.6 | 23.0 | 26.7 |

Notes:

1. Estimates about U.S. and State of Hawai'i are based on IPUMS data (IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org).
2. Estimates at county level are from American FactFinder table S0102.

All the characteristics in this table of the State of Hawai'i are significantly different from the U.S. average at $p < .05$. Note that due to small sample sizes, no significance testing is available at the county level.

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