



Children in the States

HAWAII

September 2015

Child Population

308,444 children lived in Hawaii in 2014; 86 percent were children of color.

- 14 percent were White
- 17 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 25 percent were Asian
- 31 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- 12 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 7 (14.7 percent) of Hawaii's children were poor in 2014, a total of 44,363 children.¹

- Hawaii ranked 5th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 17 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 1 in 7 children under age 6 were poor; more than 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Hawaii are disproportionately poor.

- More than 1 in 6 Black children and nearly 1 in 7 Hispanic children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 10 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Hawaii leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 2,312 Hawaii public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 4 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Hawaii and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 22 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 27 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Hawaii ranked 30th of 50 states in child food security and 12th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 24 percent of Hawaii children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 91 percent of Hawaii children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Hawaii 44th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Hawaii's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage, jeopardizing their education and their future.

- In 2013, 92.7 percent of eligible children participated in Med-QUEST or Quest, Hawaii's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 138,258 Hawaii children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Med-QUEST, and 30,979 in Quest.
- More than 9,000 Hawaii children ages 0-17 (3 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 2nd lowest uninsured rate among states.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- In 2012, 8,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Med-QUEST or Quest but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$11,748 – 29.1 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Hawaii did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 49 percent of Hawaii's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 41 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were served.

Hawaii's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 70 percent of Hawaii's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 54 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 63 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 66 percent could not compute.
 - 74 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 57 percent could not compute.
- 78 percent of Hawaii public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Hawaii 34th among states. 77 percent of Black students and 68 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 56 percent of White students.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Hawaii, 1,324 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 4.3 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 1,089 Hawaii children in foster care.

Too many Hawaii children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 8,691 children were arrested in Hawaii in 2012 – a rate of 6,655 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 99 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 21 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 9 percent were Hispanic, and 30 percent were White.
- No Hawaii children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Hawaii spent 2.9 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Fewer than 10 children and teens were killed by guns in Hawaii in 2013.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits