



# Children in the States

## HAWAII

July 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 8 (13.3 percent) of Hawaii's children were poor in 2013, a total of 40,288 children.<sup>1</sup>**

- Hawaii ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1 in 16 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 8 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

**Children of color in Hawaii are disproportionately poor.**

- More than 1 in 7 Hispanic children and more than 1 in 4 Pacific Islander children were poor in 2013, 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 30<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 44<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest uninsured rate among states.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)