



DATA REPORT

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Census 2000 Highlights: Aging of the Aloha State

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Population Age Trends

The aging of the nation's population has slowed considerably, according to the latest Census figures. Not so in the state of Hawai'i. Compared to the nation's median age of 35.3 (2.5 years older than in 1990), Hawai'i's median age was 36.2 in the year 2000, up 3.6 years from 32.6 in 1990.

- **Total population 1,211,537:** Overall, Hawai'i continued its recent course of slower population growth, increasing by 9.3 percent between 1990 and 2000, compared to 14.9 (1980 to 1990) and 25.3 (1970 to 1980) percent increases in prior decades (see the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism website for further details at www.hawaii.gov/dbedt).
- **Elderly population 75,339:** The most dramatic gains by age were found in the population 75-84 years and 85 years and older, which grew by 60.7 and 68.9 percent, respectively. This growth reflects nearly 28,000 new additions in the population 75 and older compared to 1990.
- **Baby boomers 231,540:** Big gains were also evident among those aged 45-59 years, reflecting the aging baby-boom generation. Again, Hawai'i's growth was more dramatic than the nation's, with a 57 percent increase among 45-54 year-olds compared to a 49 percent increase in that group in the nation.
- **Youth population 327,251:** In contrast, the population less than 5 years old grew only 6.1 percent since 1990. Small gains also emerged among Hawai'i's youth between the ages of 5 and 19. This group grew by about 9.6 percent, accounting for nearly 249,000 of the state's population. The biggest decreases were found among young adults aged 20-24 years, which decreased by roughly 13 percent.

Race and Ethnicity

Hawai'i State contains a *very* diverse population. Roughly 21 percent of the 1.2 million in the state (about one in every five people) declared more than one race -- compared to only 2.4 percent of the nation's total population! Even California State pales by comparison, with only 4.7 percent of its population reporting more than one race.

- **Total Asian population 703,232¹:** The most common race response in Hawai`i was Asian, followed by White, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NHOPI).
- **Total NHOPI population 282,667¹:** People reporting NHOPI race were the most racially diverse. Forty percent of Hawai`i's NHOPI category marked only one race, while the remaining 60 percent reported more than one race. Most Asians marked a single race as did 61 percent of Whites in the state.
- **How many Hawaiians?** The answer to this question is yet unknown. Although more than 80,000 individuals reported Hawaiian race with no other racial category, more detailed race data are currently unavailable to count what promises to be a much larger population of multiracial Hawaiians.

Family Structure

Other statistics produced in the latest Census 2000 demographic profiles reveal the rise of non-traditional families in Hawai`i.

- **Non-family households 116,172:** Non-family households increased by more than twice the rate of family households (25.2 versus 9 percent).
- **Family households 287,068:** The number of married-couple families with young children dropped by more than 4 percent whereas other types of households increased, including married couples with no children, householders living alone, and women-headed households. Still, married couple families comprised 59 percent of all households in Hawai`i, compared to 52 percent in the nation.
- **Female householders 49,923:** The number of women householders in Hawai`i (no husbands present) rose by more than 30 percent, including both women with and without young children at home. In the nation, women headed-households increased by 21 percent.

Other Highlights:

- Hawai`i's average household size was 2.9, down 3 percent from 3.0 in 1990, yet still larger than the 2.59 national average.
- Average family size in Hawai`i fell very slightly from 3.48 to 3.42, compared to 3.14 in the nation.
- A smaller percentage of Hawai`i's housing units were owner occupied compared to the nation (66 percent); however, that percentage edged up from 53 to 56 percent between 1990 and 2000.

¹ Note that these numbers are not unduplicated counts because they reflect individuals who report one or more races by each category of Asian, White, or NHOPI race.

