

Census 2000 Highlights: Hawaiians in the United States and Hawai'i

Hawaiians in the United States

The U.S. Census launched a brand new approach in the year 2000 with a novel reporting format for race and ethnicity. For the first time in history, individuals were offered the opportunity to report multiple races. Although the new format limits our ability to estimate population growth by race since the last census, many individuals argue that it more adequately reflects their true racial identity. Another change in the Census 2000 was a new category added for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander Americans (NHOPI). This feature altered the standard reporting practice in prior years of collapsing the NHOPI with Asian Americans. These changes provide some new insights about people who report Native Hawaiian race in the United States. *Note that this report uses both Hawaiian and Native Hawaiian to refer to the Native Hawaiian census category.*

- **Total Hawaiian population 401,162:** A count of all adults and children who identified Native Hawaiian race in the Census 2000 (alone or in addition to other races or ethnicities) reveals a total of 401,162 individuals, or about 0.1 percent of the entire U.S. population. About 35 percent of this total reported only Hawaiian race and no other race. By state, the counts ranged from 239,655 in Hawai'i to a mere 76 Hawaiians in Vermont.
- **60% of all Hawaiians live in Hawai'i:** Ten states in the union account for 88 percent of the entire population of Hawaiians (see Table 1). About 60 percent of self-reported Hawaiians reside in the state of Hawai'i. California holds the next largest population with just over 60,000 individuals, or 15 percent of the total. Note that more Hawaiians live in California than on the island of Hawai'i and twice as many Hawaiians live in California than on the island of Maui!
- **Hawaiians in the NHOPI Census Category:** Among the 874,414 NHOPI individuals in the nation, Table 1 shows that slightly less than half (46 percent) reported some Hawaiian race. The proportion of Hawaiians among the NHOPI varied substantially from state to state. For example, in New York, only 13 percent of the NHOPI population reported Hawaiian race, compared to 85 percent of NHOPI in Hawai'i. In most states, about one third of the NHOPI declared Hawaiian race. Note that NHOPI race responses accounted for 0.3 percent of all race responses in the Census 2000, compared to 77 percent White, 12.9 percent African American, 1.5 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4.2 percent Asian, and 6.6 percent Other.
- **Single Race Hawaiians 140,652:** The final column in Table 1 shows the percent of Hawaiians in each state that identified with no other race except Hawaiian. Overall, just over one third of all Hawaiians reported Hawaiian race only (note that this is a question of racial identity, not blood quantum). In Hawai'i, one third of Hawaiians reported single race, but in other states, many on the East Coast, single race Hawaiians appeared with much greater frequency as a percent of total Hawaiians. Most notably, 59 percent of Hawaiians in Washington, DC reported only Hawaiian race. In part, this may be due to different politicalization about the issue of multi-race reporting and its possible repercussions for affirmative action and/or entitlement programs.

Table 1: Native Hawaiian Population by State in the Census 2000 (Source: Census 2000, Summary File 1)

State	State Population	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population (NHOPI)	Native Hawaiian Population				
			Alone or in any combination	% Dist. across United States	% of State NHOPI declaring Hawaiian	Alone	% of Hawaiians declaring single race
Hawai'i	1,211,537	282667	239655	59.74	84.78	80137	33.4
California	33,871,648	221458	60048	14.97	27.11	20571	34.3
Washington	5,894,121	42761	13507	3.37	31.59	4883	36.2
Nevada	1,998,257	16234	8264	2.06	50.91	3471	42.0
Texas	20,851,820	29094	7775	1.94	26.72	3475	44.7
Oregon	3,421,399	16019	6366	1.59	39.74	2244	35.2
Florida	15,982,378	23998	5285	1.32	22.02	2131	40.3
Arizona	5,130,632	13415	4906	1.22	36.57	1985	40.5
Colorado	4,301,261	10153	3990	0.99	39.30	1435	36.0
New York	18,976,457	28612	3758	0.94	13.13	1684	44.8
Utah	2,233,169	21367	3642	0.91	17.04	1251	34.3
Virginia	7,078,515	9984	2795	0.70	27.99	1023	36.6
Illinois	12,419,293	11848	2506	0.62	21.15	1003	40.0
North Carolina	8,049,313	8574	2390	0.60	27.87	932	39.0
Georgia	8,186,453	9689	2183	0.54	22.53	866	39.7
Michigan	9,938,444	7276	2058	0.51	28.28	734	35.7
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	8790	2051	0.51	23.33	897	43.7
Ohio	11,353,140	6984	1989	0.50	28.48	788	39.6
Oklahoma	3,450,654	5123	1932	0.48	37.71	702	36.3
Alaska	626,932	5515	1878	0.47	34.05	695	37.0
Missouri	5,595,211	6635	1620	0.40	24.42	594	36.7
Minnesota	4,919,479	5867	1526	0.38	26.01	593	38.9
New Jersey	8,414,350	10065	1501	0.37	14.91	634	42.2
Maryland	5,296,486	6179	1475	0.37	23.87	583	39.5
Indiana	6,080,485	4367	1402	0.35	32.10	606	43.2
Massachusetts	6,349,097	8704	1356	0.34	15.58	562	41.4
Tennessee	5,689,283	4587	1302	0.32	28.38	539	41.4
New Mexico	1,819,046	3069	1261	0.31	41.09	498	39.5
Wisconsin	5,363,675	4310	1143	0.28	26.52	458	40.1
Idaho	1,293,953	2847	1139	0.28	40.01	391	34.3
South Carolina	4,012,012	3778	1056	0.26	27.95	391	37.0
Kansas	2,688,418	3117	997	0.25	31.99	391	39.2
Louisiana	4,468,976	3237	850	0.21	26.26	373	43.9
Kentucky	4,041,769	3162	845	0.21	26.72	338	40.0
Alabama	4,447,100	3169	833	0.21	26.29	359	43.1
Connecticut	3,405,565	4076	781	0.19	19.16	365	46.7
Arkansas	2,673,400	3129	718	0.18	22.95	295	41.1
Iowa	2,926,324	2196	699	0.17	31.83	270	38.6
Nebraska	1,711,263	1733	543	0.14	31.33	244	44.9
Montana	902,195	1077	529	0.13	49.12	217	41.0
Mississippi	2,844,658	1901	505	0.13	26.56	197	39.0
Rhode Island	1,048,319	1783	311	0.08	17.44	114	36.7
New Hampshire	1,235,786	777	266	0.07	34.23	117	44.0
West Virginia	1,808,344	887	264	0.07	29.76	111	42.0
Maine	1,274,923	792	243	0.06	30.68	90	37.0
Wyoming	493,782	614	233	0.06	37.95	75	32.2
District of Columbia	572,059	785	231	0.06	29.43	138	59.7
South Dakota	754,844	556	207	0.05	37.23	79	38.2
Delaware	783,600	671	140	0.03	20.86	41	29.3
North Dakota	642,200	475	132	0.03	27.79	52	39.4
Vermont	608,827	308	76	0.02	24.68	30	39.5
Total	281,421,906	874414	401162	100	45.88	140652	35.1

Hawaiians in the State of Hawai'i

As noted in a prior brief, “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” (Kanaiaupuni, 2001).

- **Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i 239,655:** In 1990, 138,742 individuals reported Native Hawaiian in response to the request to select a single racial identity, accounting for about 12.5 percent of the state population (see Table 2). In answer to the Census 2000 request to select one or more races, 239,655 individuals chose Native Hawaiian, resulting in a higher proportion, 20 percent, of the state's population. This proportion more closely reflects other estimates of Hawaiians in the state, for example, the Department of Health records roughly 22 percent of the state population (see <http://www.state.hi.us/doh/stats/surveys/hhs/hhs00t1.pdf>) and 36 percent of births in 2000.
- **Native Hawaiians by county, Census 2000:** Differences appeared in the proportion Hawaiian *within* each county, shown in Table 2. The county of Hawai'i had the largest proportion of Hawaiians among its residents, comprising 29 percent of total residents on the island. O'ahu contained the smallest proportion of Hawaiians, at 17.5 percent of its residents. The distribution of Hawaiians *across* the counties changed little since 1990. About two thirds of all self-reported Native Hawaiians in the state are still located on the island of O'ahu, 18 percent on the island of Hawai'i, 12.5 percent in the county of Maui, and 5.6 percent in Kaua'i county. Small differences appear in the percent of single race Hawaiians across the four counties, with Maui registering about 38 percent of its Hawaiians reporting no other race but Hawaiian.
- **Other information from the Census 2000 about Native Hawaiians:** To date, the Census has released population counts for the major subgroups within each racial category. These counts also are available by Census Tract (see report by Alu Like, 2001). Future scheduled releases from the Census Bureau will contain further information available about Hawaiians in the Census 2000.

Table 2. Native Hawaiian Population in the 2000 U.S. Census: State of Hawai'i by County

Racial Subgroup in Census 2000	State	Honolulu County	Hawai'i County	Maui County 1/	Kaua'i County
Population Counts					
Native Hawaiian--Single Race	80,137	49,267	14,461	11,474	4,935
Native Hawaiian--Two/More Races	159,518	103,850	28,549	18,543	8,576
Total Native Hawaiian	239,655	153,117	43,010	30,017	13,511
Total Population (all races)	1,211,537	876,156	148,677	128,241	58,463
Total Hawaiians % of County Population	19.8%	17.5%	28.9%	23.4%	23.1%
Percent Distribution by County:					
Native Hawaiian--Single Race	100%	61.5%	18.0%	14.3%	6.2%
Native Hawaiian--Two/More Races	100%	65.1%	17.9%	11.6%	5.4%
Total Native Hawaiian	100%	63.9%	17.9%	12.5%	5.6%
Percent Distribution:					
Native Hawaiian--Single Race	33%	32%	34%	38%	37%
Native Hawaiian--Two/More Races	67%	68%	66%	62%	63%
Total Native Hawaiian	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2. (continued)

Racial Subgroup in Census 1990	State	Honolulu County	Hawai'i County	Maui County 1/	Kaua'i County
Population Counts					
Number of Native Hawaiians (Single race)	138,742	91,967	23,120	15,919	7,736
Total Population (all races)	1,108,229	836,231	120,317	100,504	51,177
Total Hawaiians % of Total Population	12.5%	11.0%	19.2%	15.8%	15.1%
Percent Distribution Across Counties:	100%	66.3%	16.7%	11.5%	5.6%
Total Pop. % Change 1990-2000	9.3%	4.8%	23.6%	27.6%	14.2%

1/ Includes Kalawao County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 via American FactFinder, Table QT-P7 by area and U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990.

A Brief Note on Accuracy in the Census 2000 Coverage

Overall, the latest Census appears to be a big improvement over the last Census. According to the latest report of the Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy (ESCAP) on October 17, 2001, the net undercount in 2000 was .06 percent, compared to 1.6 percent in 1990. Note, however, that the undercount disproportionately affects minorities, renters, and children, including Native Hawaiians.

References

Alu Like, Inc. 2001. *Native Hawaiian Population by District and Census Tract in Census 2000*. Research and Evaluation Unit, September.

Kanaiaupuni, Shawn. 2001. *Census Highlights: Aging in the Aloha State*. Policy Analysis & System Evaluation Report #2000-01:12.

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