ka huaka‘i i mua...

Findings from the 2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment

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Overview

• Native Hawaiian Educational Assessments
  - 1983 & 1993
  - Resource for re-authorization
  - Data and information for grant writers, researchers, advocates & public

• ka huaka‘i
  - Educational assessment
  - Tied to various domains of well-being
  - Viewed across life course
Well-being

Emotional
- Spirituality
- Sense of place
- Hawaiian identity
- Mental health

Social & Cultural
- Family/social relationships
- Cultural practices/language
- Engaged citizens
- Safe communities

Material
- Employment
- Income
- Home ownership
- ʻĀina mole

Physical
- Health
- Wellness
- Longevity
- Nutrition

Cognitive
- Knowledge
- Intellectual functioning
- Applied learning
- Innovation
The Native Hawaiian population will double in size: from 239,655 in 2000 to 536,947 by 2050.

The largest population increase will be among keiki younger than five years of age.
• Native Hawaiian families are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as the average family in Hawai‘i.
• The percentage of impoverished Native Hawaiian families with children did not change between 1990 and 2000.
Material Well-being

Differences in selected employment characteristics between Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i state averages: 1975, 1990 & 2000

- Native Hawaiians consistently exhibit higher rates of unemployment than the state average.
- Native Hawaiians are increasingly underrepresented in white-collar jobs and remain overrepresented in blue-collar jobs.
Infant mortality and low-birth weight births among Native Hawaiians:

- Infant mortality among Native Hawaiians has decreased dramatically over the past two decades.
- Among Native Hawaiians, the percentage of low-birth weight babies is increasing.
Health and Physical Well-being


- Native Hawaiian youth are more likely than their peers to have smoked cigarettes.
- Native Hawaiian youth are more likely to be sexually active than other groups.
Emotional Well-being

Suicide rates by age group, 1996 to 2000

- Young Native Hawaiians (younger than 44 years) are slightly more likely to commit suicide.
- The suicide rate among Native Hawaiian kūpuna is almost half the statewide rate.
Emotional Well-being

Support systems, by ethnicity

- I can always count on my family for support in times of need
  - Native Hawaiian: 77.2%
  - Non-Hawaiian: 70.7%
- If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I live in now
  - Native Hawaiian: 47.3%
  - Non-Hawaiian: 45.4%
- When I am troubled, I find comfort in prayer/meditation
  - Native Hawaiian: 48.8%
  - Non-Hawaiian: 35.9%

- Native Hawaiians are more likely to trust in support from their families than non-Hawaiians.
- Spirituality serves as a prominent coping strategy among Native Hawaiians.
Native Hawaiian families are more likely to include children.

Native Hawaiian families with children are more likely to be headed by a single female.
Native Hawaiian grandparents are more likely to live with their grandchildren.

Grandparents assume caregiving responsibilities for their grandchildren in nearly 1 out of 12 family households.
2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment

Social & Cultural Well-being

Hawaiian language, cultural affiliation and community involvement

- Nearly 80 percent of Native Hawaiians feel it is important to “live and practice” Hawaiian culture daily.
- Roughly three-quarters of Native Hawaiian families express desire for Hawaiian language courses.
- Over half of Native Hawaiian adults report active participation in community groups over the past 3 years.
The majority of Native Hawaiian families provide educationally supportive environments to their children.

The majority of Native Hawaiian families include their young children in activities outside the home that can influence positive educational outcomes.
• Native Hawaiian 3- and 4-year olds are approaching the state average in preschool enrollment.
• In 2000, 47.5 percent of Native Hawaiian children enrolled in preschool, nearly 20 percentage points higher than in 1990 (29.3 percent).
Native Hawaiian elementary students have consistently scored roughly 15 points lower than their peers on SAT-9 Reading tests over the past decade. Native Hawaiian middle-school students have narrowed the SAT-9 Reading test gap from 20 to 16 points over the past decade. Despite improvements, the achievement outcomes for Native Hawaiian children remain among the lowest throughout elementary and secondary school.
The gaps between Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian elementary students on SAT-9 Math tests have steadily increased over the past decade.

Native Hawaiian high-school students have narrowed the SAT-9 Math test gap by an average of 5 percentiles over the past decade.

The math achievement scores of Native Hawaiians continue to be significantly lower than those of other ethnic groups.
The prevalence of bachelor’s degrees and graduate degrees in the Native Hawaiian adult population increased significantly between 1990 and 2000.

Native Hawaiian adults are less than half as likely to hold either a bachelor’s degree or a graduate/professional degree as are all adults in the state.
Findings

- **Improvements/Strengths**
  - Early childhood health
  - Family/community supports
  - Preschool enrollment

- **Mixed Results**
  - High-risk behaviors
  - Standardized test scores
  - Parental involvement

- **Setbacks**
  - Poverty & occupational isolation
  - Higher education enrollment
  - Dependency ratios
Promising Directions

• Early Childhood Education
  – ‘Aha Punana Leo
  – KS Preschools
  – Pauahi Keiki Scholars
  – School readiness and universal pre-k efforts

• K-12 Education
  – Immersion programs and schools
  – Hawaiian-focused charter schools
  – Expanded cultural and educational opportunities:
    • Polynesian Voyaging Society
    • Na Pua No‘eau Center for Gifted & Talented Hawaiian Children
    • Ka‘ala Farms programs,
Implications

• Data & Research
  - the story is incomplete without findings from all stakeholders

• Indigenous Perspectives
  - the story is incomplete without Native Hawaiian voices & vision

• Collaboration & Coordination
  - the story is incomplete without consistent accountability efforts from throughout community
Mahalo nui loa