

SUMMARY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 2005-2009 5-YEAR DATA FOR HAWAII

The U.S. Census Bureau released its 2005-2009 5-year estimates on December 14, 2010. The estimates are based on the annual American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau. This is the first time the Bureau released the 5-year data since the American Community Survey was launched in 1996. This is also the first time that data at the Census tract level has become available since the 2000 Census. Due to the similarity of survey questions to the “long form” used in the 2000 Census, cost saving, and data consistency purposes, the Census Bureau did not use the “long form” for the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau recommends that we use data on our population’s social, economic, and housing characteristics from the ACS’s 5-year estimates while our population’s demographic information such as population count, race, sex, and Hispanic origin should be taken from the 2010 Census.

The following is a brief summary of the ACS data for Hawaii:

- 27 of the 28 Census tracts that had median household incomes of over \$100,000 were located on Oahu. Census Tract 306, Spreckelsville, on Maui ranked the 6th highest in the state, with an average median household income of \$122,159 during the 2005-2009 period.
- In terms of family income, 48 of the top 50 Census tracts with family income over \$100,000 were located on Oahu. Two of the Census tracts, Spreckelsville (Census Tract 306) and Wailea (Census Tract 303.02), were located on Maui.
- Of the 28 Census Tracts with a population poverty rate of over 20%, 19 were located on Oahu, 7 on the Big Island, one on Molokai, and one on Maui. Kuhio Park Terrace (Census Tract 62.02) on Oahu had the highest population poverty rate at 60.5% over the 5-year period.
- In terms of family poverty rate, Mayor Wright Housing (Census Tract 54) on Oahu ranked the highest with 60.2% of families below the poverty standard. The 10 highest family poverty Census Tracts were all located on Oahu.
- Of the 24 Census Tracts with civilian unemployment rates above 10%, Iwilei-Anuenue (Census Tract 57) on Oahu ranked the highest with 22.4% of the labor force unemployed during the 5-year period. Many of the high unemployment Census Tracts were located on military bases.
- Waialae-Iki (Census Tract 4.02) on Oahu had the highest rate of educational attainment with 71.3% of the population 25 years or over having at least a bachelor’s degree. The top 30 Census Tracts with 50% or more of their population 25 years and over holding bachelor’s degree or higher were all located on Oahu.

- Chinatown (Census Tract 52) in Honolulu had the highest foreign-born population at 65.3% of the population in this area who were born in foreign countries, followed by Palama (Census Tract 55 on Oahu) with a foreign-born population of 60.2%, and Kaheka Street (Census Tract 36.02 on Oahu) with 60.1% of the population in this area being foreign-born.
- About 74.5% of the people in Chinatown (Census Tract 52 on Oahu) spoke a language other than English at home and ranked the highest among all the Census tracts in the state, followed by Waiakamilo (Census Tract 58 on Oahu) with 70.9% of the people in this area who spoke a foreign language at home, and Palama which ranked in third place.
- Owner occupied homes in Eastern Honolulu had the highest median values with averages of over a million dollars during the 5 year period. Manoa, Kuhio Park Terrace, Kalaheo Avenue, and Lanikai, all on Oahu, also had average median home values of over a million dollars for home owner occupied homes. Wailea (Census Tract 303.02), on the island of Maui, had home values of over a million dollars and it was the only neighbor island Census Tract with over million dollar average median values for owner occupied homes during the 5-year period.

Source: Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis Division.