

CENSUS DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Hawaii State Data Center, March 17, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016-2020 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR DATA FOR HAWAII

The U.S. Census Bureau released its 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates on March 17, 2021. Collection of 2020 data was disrupted due to the pandemic, and as a result, the Census Bureau took additional time to evaluate and revise their methodology around non-response bias to confirm that the data met the Census Bureau's standards for release. According to the Census Bureau's [press release](#), "[a]fter evaluating the effectiveness of this methodology, the Census Bureau determined the standard, full suite of 2016–2020 ACS 5-year data are fit for public release, government and business uses." Changes to the methodology for data collected in 2020 can be [viewed here](#).

Once a decade, along with the decennial census, geographic boundaries are updated to better reflect changes to political boundaries and changes to the geographic distribution of people. This version of the 5-year ACS includes new geographic boundaries for census blocks and block groups, census tracts, county subdivisions, census designated places, and ZIP code tabulation areas. The Census Bureau has released a [handbook](#) on the types of geography available in the ACS. They have also released [relationship files](#) to help users compare 2020 geographic boundaries with their 2010 equivalents. With these updates, the State of Hawaii now has 432 census tracts, excluding shoreline and uninhabited tracts. There were 327 census tracts under the 2010 boundary definition.

The 2016-2020 ACS dataset introduced new tables. One new detailed table presents estimates of computer ownership and internet subscription for the household population of those aged three and over. Estimates in this table describe individuals by their educational enrollment status (i.e., enrolled or not enrolled in school) and grade level starting from pre-kindergarten to an undergraduate program or higher.

Comparisons over time, 2006-2010 to 2016-2020

With this latest release, we are able to compare across the decade by looking at statistics from three nonoverlapping ACS releases: 2006-2010, 2011-2015, and 2016-2020. Below are some select highlights from the Comparative Profiles for Hawaii and its counties.

Housing Units and Households

The total number of households in Hawaii have increased by 5.8% between 2006-2010 and 2016-2020. Hawaii County had the greatest increase in households, 11.4%, while Honolulu had the smallest increase, 4.0%. Hawaii County's increase in households came primarily between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020, with total households increasing by 10.3% during that period.



Table 1. Total Households

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	442,267	450,572*	467,932*
Hawaii County	64,382	65,048	71,747*
Honolulu County	304,827	309,602*	316,928*
Kauai County	21,710	22,405*	23,331*
Maui County	51,281	53,463*	55,620*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

Total housing units in Hawaii increased by 6.7% between 2016-2020 and 2006-2010, outpacing the number of new households. Hawaii County had the greatest increase in housing units at 11.1%. The smallest increase in housing units was in Honolulu County at 5.4%.

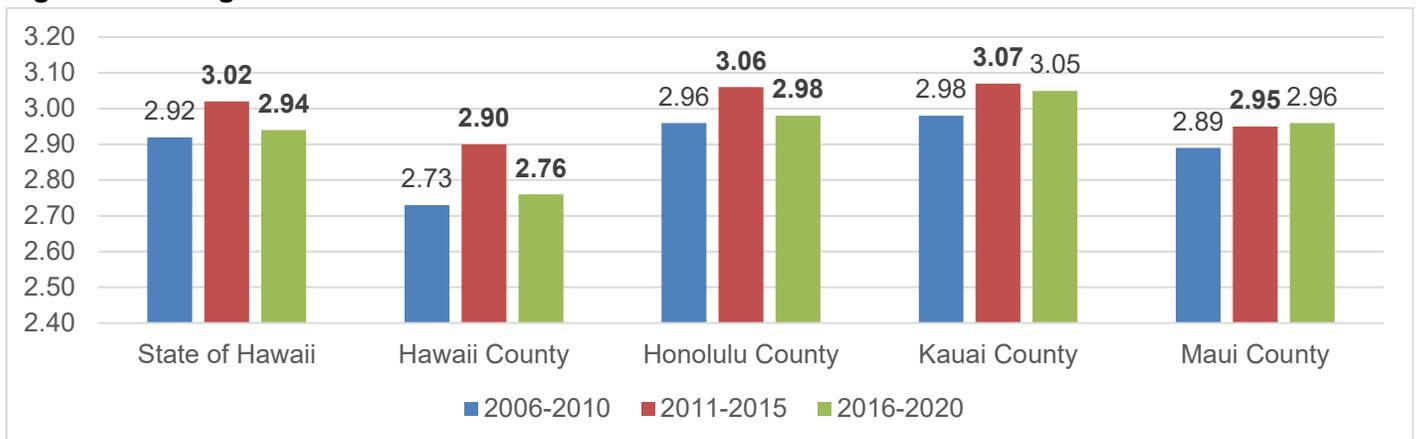
Table 2. Total Housing Units

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	512,157	527,388*	546,571*
Hawaii County	79,771	84,656*	88,624*
Honolulu County	334,812	341,239*	352,788*
Kauai County	29,040	30,238*	31,261*
Maui County	68,417	71,157*	73,535*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

Between the periods of 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, average household sizes increased in all counties. However, between 2016-2020, average household sizes returned to 2006-2010 levels for the State, Hawaii County, and Honolulu County.

Figure 1. Average Household Size



Bold text indicates a statistically significant change from prior time period

Owner Occupancy and Mortgage Status

The majority of occupied housing units in Hawaii are owner-occupied. However, the percentage of owner-occupied units declined between the periods of 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 before recovering during 2016-2020. Hawaii County was the only county that did not decline in owner-occupancy during the 2011-2015



period. Maui County, however, had the largest percentage point increase in owner-occupancy between 2006-2010 and 2016-2020, at 3.7 percentage points, despite the decrease in owner-occupancy in 2011-2015.

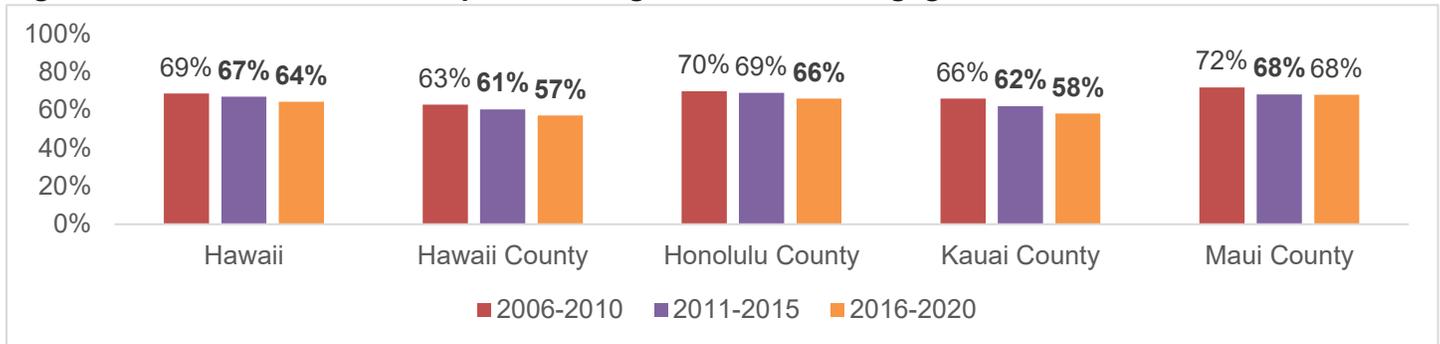
Table 3. Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	59.3	56.9*	60.3*
Hawaii County	66.2	66.4	69.3*
Honolulu County	57.6	54.4*	57.5*
Kauai County	65.0	61.6*	65.1*
Maui County	58.8	57.7*	62.5*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

During the period of 2016-2020, 64.4% of owner-occupied units in the state had a mortgage, a significant drop from 67.2% in 2011-2015. Maui County saw no changes between the same period as about 68.0% of owner-occupied housing still had a mortgage on the unit. The greatest decrease in mortgages for owner-occupied units was in Hawaii County, which decreased by 3.2 percentage points between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. Decreases in owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage could indicate either that the owner paid off the mortgage free and clear or that the owner no longer lives in the home for which they have a mortgage.

Figure 2. Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units with a Mortgage



Bold text indicates a statistically significant change from prior time period

There is some evidence to suggest that housing costs for owners with mortgages was less burdensome across the decade. During 2006-2010, 38.1% of owners with mortgages paid more than 35% of their income on housing costs. By the 2016-2020 period, that percentage had decreased by 8.7 percentage points. Relatedly, the percentage of owners with mortgages paying less than 20% of their income on housing costs has increased across the decade.

Owners with mortgages in Honolulu County were least burdened at the top end—only 28.1% of owners with mortgages paid more than 35% of their income during the 2016-2020 period. During the same period, Hawaii County had the largest share of owners paying less than 20% of their income in housing, at 37.1%. Mortgages and other associated owner costs, however, were more expensive than rents in Hawaii during 2016-2020. Median monthly owner costs for those with mortgages was \$2,443 during 2016-2020. Gross rent was \$1,651 during the same period.



Table 4. Percentage of mortgaged housing units with owner costs of 35% or more of income

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	38.1	34.6*	29.4*
Hawaii County	39.9	35.9*	30.7*
Honolulu County	36.4	32.5*	28.1*
Kauai County	41.9	44.1	32.9*
Maui County	44.4	41.0	33.3*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

Table 5. Percentage of mortgaged housing units with owner costs of less than 20% of income

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	25.8	27.0	34.1*
Hawaii County	29.3	28.0	37.1*
Honolulu County	26.0	27.6*	33.2*
Kauai County	23.0	23.4	32.9*
Maui County	21.2	24.1*	35.5*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

Aging Population

Between 2006-2010 and 2016-2020, the population aged 65+ increased by 40.1%. Among the counties, Honolulu County had the smallest share of the 65+ population during the 2016-2020 period, as well as the smallest growth in their 65+ population. During the 2006-2010 period, Maui County had the small share of the 65+ population, but Maui County had the largest increase in the 65+ population between 2006-2010 and 2016-2020, increasing by 67.3%.

Table 6. Percent of the population aged 65 years and older

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	14.0	15.6*	18.4*
Hawaii County	14.0	16.8*	20.9*
Honolulu County	14.2	15.5	17.8
Kauai County	14.5	16.7*	20.0*
Maui County	12.1	14.6*	18.2*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

The population within the prime retirement years of 65-74 years old increased significantly between the periods of 2006-2010 and 2016-2020. Between 2006-2010 and 2016-2020, the population between the ages of 65-74 increased 57.8%, which outpaced the growth of the total 65+ population, due to the aging of Baby Boomers.

Among the counties, Hawaii County had both the biggest share of population aged 65-74 in 2016-2020 and the biggest increase in the population when compared to the 2006-2010 period. Honolulu County had both the smallest share of seniors between the ages of 65-74, and the smallest growth of that population.



Table 7. Percentage of the population aged 65-74 years old

	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020
State of Hawaii	7.0	8.5*	10.4*
Hawaii County	7.6	10.1*	13.3*
Honolulu County	7.0	8.1*	9.6*
Kauai County	7.5	9.7*	12.1*
Maui County	6.6	8.8*	11.3*

* Indicates statistically significant change from prior time period

Additional data relating to the social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of Hawaii's population are available through the American Community Survey. To view more Hawaii data, including data down to the census tract, visit [DBEDT's Census website](#) or the [Census Bureau's data platform](#).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, [Comparative Profiles for Hawaii and its Counties](#). Highlights authored by Carlie Liddell and Giovanni Vila, Research Statisticians for the Hawaii State Data Center in the Research & Economic Analysis Division of DBEDT.

