

# 2020 Decennial Census Series: Demographic and Housing Characteristics for Hawaii

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**May 25, 2023**—Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Census Demographic Profile and Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC). This release includes data and cross tabulations by age group, race group, Hispanic or Latino origin, and sex. There are additional data on families, households, and group quarters. These releases do not include detailed race data. Those data will be released in the [Detailed DHC-A data](#), expected in September 2023.

The Demographic Profile provides an overview of 2020 Census data down to the tract level, and the DHC provides detailed data down to the tract or block level. Blocks are the smallest unit of geography released by the Census Bureau. However, the Census Bureau encourages data users to aggregate small populations to improve accuracy.

## An acceleration of Hawaii’s aging population

In 2020, Hawaii’s median age was 40.8 years, up 2.2 years from the 2010 decennial census (38.6 years). This increase in the median age was due to an increase in the older population. In 2020, there were 282,451 people aged 65 or older, up 44.7% from 195,138 in 2010. The United States experienced similar trends in aging, but the rate was faster in Hawaii. The number of people aged 65 and over increased by 38.6% in the U.S. Among the 50 states and Washington D.C., Hawaii ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in terms of oldest median age and 7<sup>th</sup> for highest share of population aged 65 and over (19.4%).

Hawaii’s population aged 85 years and over increased by 25.1% between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, 37,839 people were 85 years and above, accounting for 2.6% of Hawaii’s population. This was higher than the U.S. percentage at 1.9%. In 2010, Hawaii had 30,238 people, or 2.2% of the population, aged 85 and above.

Hawaii’s aging population has contributed to an increase in Hawaii’s dependency ratio; that is, the number of dependent-age people for every 100 working-age people.<sup>1</sup> The dependency ratio provides an approximation of economic dependency in a population. In 2010, there were 57.9 dependent-age people for every 100 working-age people. In 2020, that ratio was 66.6 dependent-age people for every 100 working-age people. The dependency ratio for the United States was 63.6 in 2020. The states with the highest dependency ratios were South Dakota (73.0) and Idaho (72.4).

Declining fertility rates, which are seen across the United States, are also impacting Hawaii’s age structure. Between 2010 and 2020, Hawaii’s under 5 population declined 11.5%, and the under 18 population dropped by 1.5%. Comparatively, the U.S. under 5 population declined 8.9%, and the under 18 population dropped by 1.4%.

## Sex and Age Distributions

In 2020, Hawaii’s population was equally split between males and females. However, the ratio of males to females was not equal across age groups. About 54% of Hawaii’s population aged 18-24 were males, and Hawaii’s working-age population was split 51% to 49% for males and females, respectively. However, among those aged 65 years and older, nearly 54% were female. As a result, the median age was 42.2 for females and 39.5 for males.

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<sup>1</sup> The “working-age population” is defined here as people between the ages of 18 and 64. The “dependent-age population” is defined here as those under 18 years of age and those 65 years of age and older.

Figures 1 and 2 visualize the changes to Hawaii's sex and age structures since 2010, showing population pyramids for 2010 and 2020. The 2020 population pyramid is heavier at the top of the distribution than the 2010 pyramid, illustrating the aging of the Baby Boom generation. In 2020, for all age groups from "Under 5 years" to "40 to 44 years," the male population outnumbered the female population. Starting with the "45 to 49" age group and for all older age groups, the female population outnumbered the male population.

Figure 1. State of Hawaii, Population Pyramid, 2010

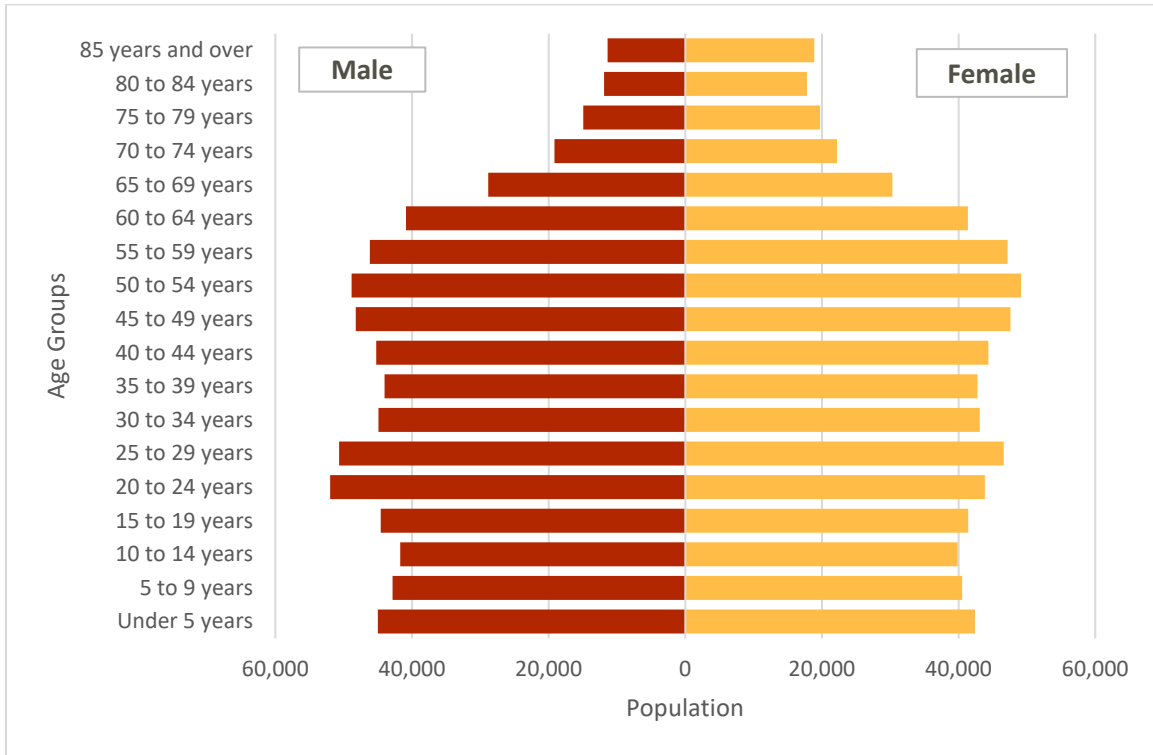
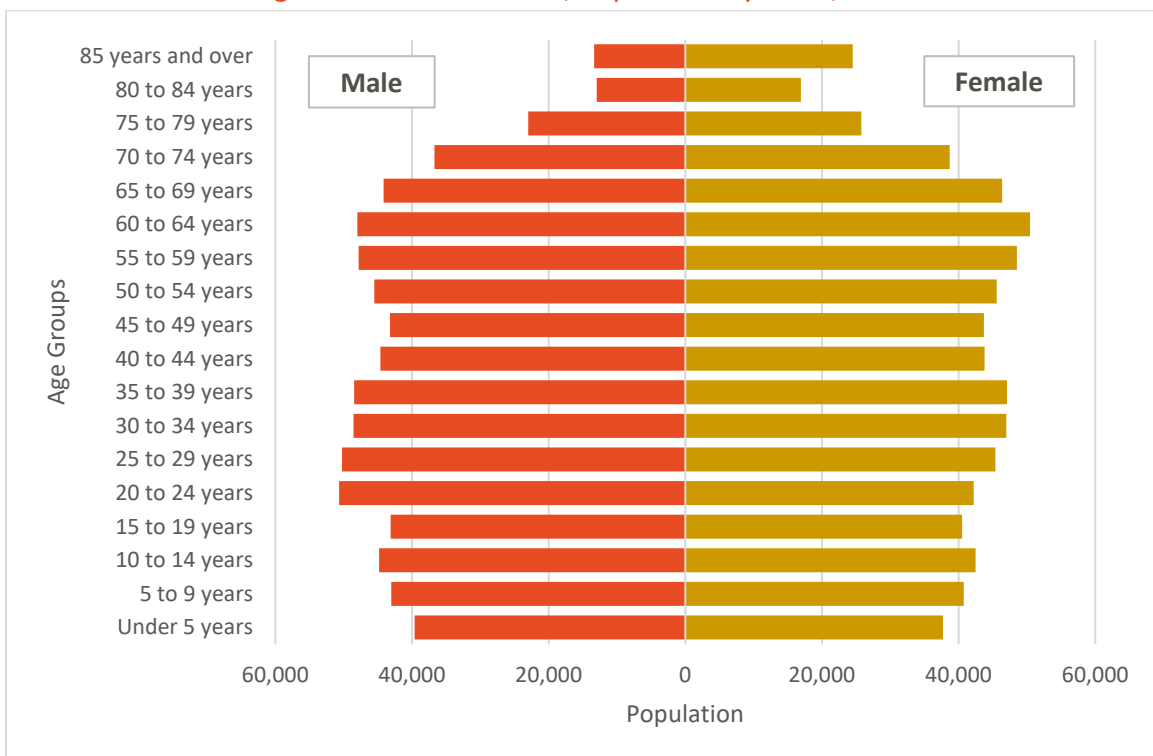


Figure 2. State of Hawaii, Population Pyramid, 2020



## Race and Age Distributions

Hawaii boasted the highest racial and ethnic diversity in the United States in 2020, with a 76.0% chance that two people chosen at random would be from different racial groups.<sup>2</sup> Hawaii's multiracial population made up 25.3% of Hawaii's population, up from 23.6% in 2010. The multiracial population in the United States was 10.2% of the total population in 2020.

Between 2010 and 2020, every major race alone group increased, except for the white alone group, which decreased by 1.0%. The largest population increase was for the "some other race alone" group, which grew 57.5%. The Hispanic or Latino population increased 15.0% from 2010 to 2020.

Age structures varied by major race group, as shown in Table 1 below. Compared to people who identified as a single race, the multiracial (two or more races) group was younger, with a median age of 29.2 and 33.7% of the population under the age of 18. People with Hispanic or Latino origin had an even younger median age, at 27.4 years, and comparable under 18 percentages. These data match similar trends in the United States. The multiracial group had a median age at 29.5, with 32.5% of the population under the age of 18, and the Hispanic or Latino population had a median age of 30.0, with 30.2% of the population under 18.

Hawaii's oldest race alone group is the Asian alone category, with a median age of 50.1 years. This group had the largest share of their population over the age of 65 and the second smallest share of their population under the age of 18. Hawaii's white alone race group had the second oldest median age at 45.9, and the smallest share of their population under the age of 18.

**Table 1. State of Hawaii, Population and Age Statistics for Major Race Groups and Hispanic Origin, 2020**

|  | <b>2020<br/>Population</b> | <b>Percent of<br/>Population</b> | <b>Median<br/>Age</b> | <b>Percent<br/>Under 18</b> | <b>Percent<br/>65 and<br/>over</b> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Total Population                                 | 1,455,271                  | 100.0%                           | 40.8                  | 20.6%                       | 19.4%                              |
| White Alone                                      | 333,261                    | 22.9%                            | 45.9                  | 12.9%                       | 24.1%                              |
| Black or African American Alone                  | 23,417                     | 1.6%                             | 32.5                  | 18.5%                       | 8.7%                               |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Alone          | 4,370                      | 0.3%                             | 41.2                  | 15.7%                       | 15.4%                              |
| Asian Alone                                      | 541,902                    | 37.2%                            | 50.1                  | 14.0%                       | 26.6%                              |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone | 157,445                    | 10.8%                            | 31.9                  | 29.9%                       | 11.0%                              |
| Some Other Race Alone                            | 26,747                     | 1.8%                             | 32.6                  | 17.8%                       | 9.8%                               |
| Two or More Races                                | 368,129                    | 25.3%                            | 29.2                  | 33.7%                       | 9.5%                               |
| Hispanic or Latino (any race)                    | 138,923                    | 9.5%                             | 27.4                  | 33.0%                       | 7.9%                               |

Given the significant racial diversity in Hawaii, many nuances of the population's statistics are lost in the major race group data. Topics related to the Hawaii's race makeup will be highlighted in greater detail after the release of the [Detailed DHC-A data](#), expected in September 2023. This release will include population counts and sex-by-age statistics for around 370 detailed race and ethnic groups.

## Homeownership on the rise, with changes to household structures

Between 2010 and 2020, Hawaii's homeownership increased from 57.7% to 58.8%. Most places—45 states and the District of Columbia—experienced declines in homeownership. Of the five states that experienced an

<sup>2</sup> Calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau as the diversity index then translated into percentages, where 0% indicates that everyone in the population has the same racial and ethnic characteristics, and values closer to 100% indicate that everyone in the population has different racial and ethnic characteristics. See more in the [Racial and Ethnic Diversity data visualization](#).

increase in their homeownership rate, Hawaii had the largest percentage-point increase at 1.2 percentage points. Alaska had a 0.8 percentage point increase, followed by Idaho (0.5), South Carolina (0.4), and Wyoming (0.1). At 63.1%, the U.S. homeownership rate was higher than Hawaii's, but the U.S. rate was the lowest rate of homeownership since 1970.

### Changes to household structures

The percentage of married couple households declined from 2010 to 2020. In 2010, married couple households made up 50.5% of all households, and in 2020, they made up 49.0% of households. The percentage of married couples with children also declined in 2020. In 2010, 39.8% of married couples had children under the age of 18. In 2020, 35.4% of married couples had children under the age of 18. As a share of total households, married couple households with children under the age of 18 declined by 2.8 percentage points across the decade. Despite these declines, the percentage of family households remained about the same.

The percentage of households comprised of a senior living alone increased by 2.6 percentage points, from 8.1% in 2010 to 10.8% in 2020. Overall, the percentage of households with someone aged 65 and over living in them increased by 9.3 percentage points.

**Table 2. State of Hawaii, Select Household Types as a Percentage of Total Households, 2010 and 2020**

|   | 2010    | 2020    | Percentage Point Change |
|---|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| Total households (number)                     | 455,338 | 490,267 | (X)                     |
| Family households                             | 68.9    | 68.7    | -0.3                    |
| Married couple households                     | 50.5    | 49.0    | -1.5                    |
| With own children under the age of 18         | 20.1    | 17.3    | -2.8                    |
| Non-family households                         | 31.1    | 31.3    | 0.3                     |
| Living alone                                  | 23.3    | 24.1    | 0.7                     |
| 65 years and over                             | 8.1     | 10.8    | 2.6                     |
| Households with individuals under 18 years    | 34.3    | 31.5    | -2.7                    |
| Households with individuals 65 years and over | 30.3    | 39.6    | 9.3                     |

X Not applicable

### Further Reading from the Census Bureau

- [Data Visualization](#), *How Has Our Nation's Population Changed?*
- [America Counts: Stories](#), *U.S. Older Population Grew From 2010 to 2020 at Fastest Rate Since 1880 to 1890*
- [Statistical Brief](#), *The Older Population: 2020*
- [Statistical Brief](#), *Age and Sex Composition: 2020*

To view Hawaii data, visit our [DBEDT 2020 Census Data page](#). For original data, visit <https://data.census.gov>, the Census Bureau's platform for data and digital content.

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