

QUALITY of LIFE in Hawai'i



Department of Business,
Economic Development & Tourism



Center on the Family
University of Hawai'i

2009 Report

OVERVIEW

A broad concept that describes and assesses people's well-being, Quality of Life (QOL) is an outcome of the interaction of various living conditions that shape the shared experience of individuals and families in their communities. Policy makers, scholars, and citizens in many communities across the nation and abroad assess communities' collective well-being and make informed decisions by monitoring QOL indicator data over time.

One of the earliest measurements of Hawai'i's QOL, *Quality of Life in the State of Hawai'i*, was produced in 1974 by the presently named Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT). Three decades later, in 2005, the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family (COF), in collaboration with Aloha United Way, published *Quality of Life in Hawai'i*, which included county-level data.

This report is an initiative of the DBEDT and COF. It presents a comprehensive framework for understanding and tracking QOL in Hawai'i, and is based on an extensive review of the research literature, national and international QOL projects, and previous work undertaken in Hawai'i, including the Hawai'i 2050 Plan. Presenting the most current QOL indicator data and the relative standing of QOL in Hawai'i, this document invites discussion on how the positive aspects of Hawai'i's living conditions can be preserved and how negative aspects can be curtailed to work toward and sustain a high QOL for all community members.



Methods and Data

The QOL framework in this document is composed of 6 major domains—economic, education, environment, health, housing and transportation, and social—representing the community's well-being. Each domain consists of 4 dimensions (with a total of 24 dimensions across the 6 domains) that address key living conditions, outcomes of societal goals, and social ties and inequalities in Hawai'i. The indicators for each dimension were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Relevancy**—measures a concept or issue that is clearly relevant to the community.
- **Validity**—accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept or issue that it is measuring.
- **Acceptability**—can be easily understood or accepted by the community.
- **Reliability**—is comparable across time and geographic locations.

- **Availability**—has data available in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner over the long term.

Out of the screened indicators, a final list of 67 indicators was selected. There are between 1 and 6 indicators (with an average of 2–3 indicators) in each domain-dimension.

The relative standing of QOL in Hawai'i is analyzed from three perspectives:

- The same indicator data for the most current available year for the state is **compared to the national average** (mean or median). For positive indicators (e.g., per capita income), a higher value indicates the outcome is better; whereas for negative indicators (e.g., violent crime rate), a higher value indicates the outcome is worse.
- Using the earliest available year since 2000 as the benchmark, the percentage change of an indicator data from that year to the most current available year is calculated to determine if the state is progressing **over time** (i.e. an increase for a positive indicator, and a decrease for a negative indicator).
- From the most current available year, data are first compared to determine if any differences exist for an indicator **across counties**. The counties with the highest and lowest indicator values are then compared to determine ranks. The county with the best outcome on an indicator is ranked top.

Annual data for the indicators were collected for the nation, and for the state and counties of Hawai'i from 2000 to the most current available year. Data sources include surveys and administrative records from governmental agencies and public and nonprofit organizations.

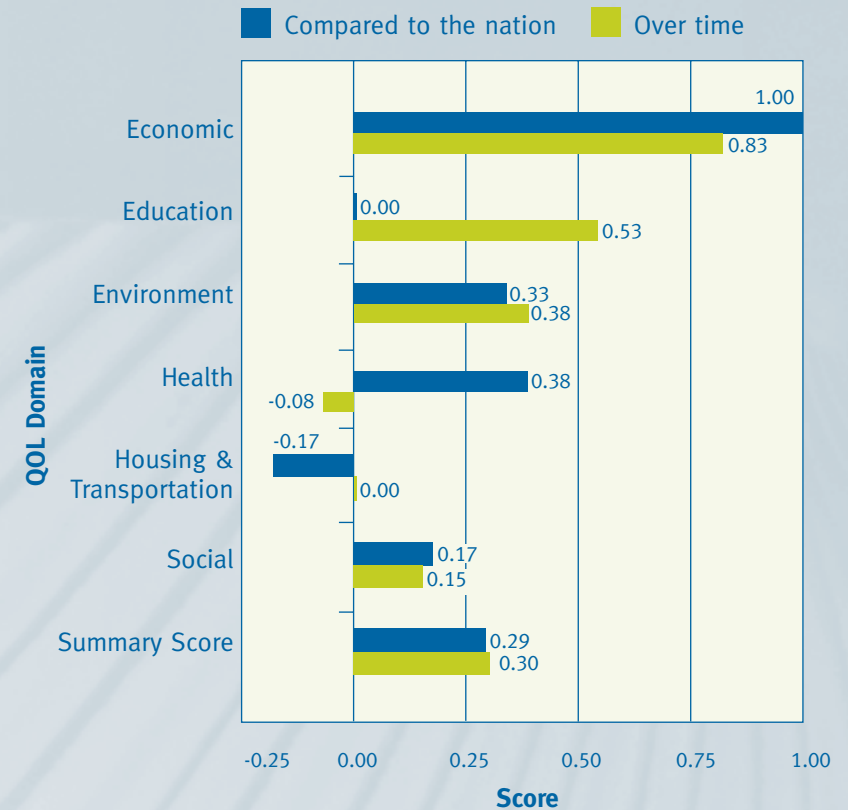
For more detail, see the full report: *Quality of Life in Hawai'i, 2009 Report: Framework, Indicators, and Technical Documentation*, which is available on <http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/publications.asp>

Quality of Life in Hawai'i: Summary Findings, 2009

Hawai'i fares above the national average on overall quality of life. The state scored 0.29 in relative standing to the national average on a scale of -1 to +1 (worse to better than the nation). The state's scores were also better in 4 of the 6 domains: economic (1.00), health (0.38), environment (0.33), and social (0.17). In the education domain, Hawai'i was similar to the nation (0.00), but in housing and transportation Hawai'i scored below the nation (-0.17), primarily because of unfavorable housing conditions.

The quality of life in Hawai'i has improved since 2000. Positive change was observed in 4 of the 6 QOL domains, with a QOL score of 0.30 on a scale of -1 to +1 (worsened to improved since 2000). The greatest progress was in the economic domain (0.83), followed by education (0.53), environment (0.38), and social (0.15). There was a slight decline in health-related quality of life (-0.08), and no gain was observed in the housing and transportation domain (0.00).

Hawai'i's counties share similar conditions on some QOL measures, but present different strengths and weaknesses on others. There was no county difference on about 15% (9 of 61) of county-level QOL indicators. Among the indicators (52) that showed county variation, the City and County of Honolulu ranked top on the largest number of indicators (37%) while Hawai'i County ranked lowest on almost half of the indicators (48%). Kaua'i and Maui Counties were in the middle range on the majority of indicators.



Data Notes

When numbers were small for a given year, a 3-year average was reported to minimize unreliability in measurement (e.g., data for Kaua'i County from the American Community Survey).

For indicator data based on surveys, margin of error was taken into consideration to ascertain the difference between two sample estimates (e.g., data for 2000 vs. 2008, the nation vs. Hawai'i, and Kaua'i County vs. Maui County). A 95% confidence level was utilized unless the data source adopted the 90% level (e.g., American Community Survey). Tests of significance were applied to 35 indicator data (52% of all indicators). Most of the remaining indicator data were from administrative records, such as vital statistics and crime reports, for which margins of error were not available.

We included some indicators that lack national, county, or trend data because they were the best data available for measuring a specific QOL dimension. For the same reason, we used more negative indicators than positive indicators of well-being. Moreover, there is an absence of data on concepts that may play important roles in influencing QOL, such as the *aloha spirit*, as these are difficult to quantify. Note that a time lag between data collection and reporting exists; therefore, even the most recent data may not reflect real-time conditions.

Summary Score Calculations

Two summary QOL scores are calculated: one for Hawai'i's standing compared to the nation, and one for Hawai'i's change over time. The indicator score for a positive outcome is 1, for a negative outcome is -1, and for no difference/no change is 0. Indicator scores within each dimension are averaged to obtain dimension scores, which then are averaged to obtain domain scores. A summary QOL score is the average of 6 domain scores. Dimension, domain, and summary scores range from -1, or "worse/worsened," to +1, or "better/improved," while 0 means "no difference/no change."

ECONOMIC DOMAIN



HAWAI'I'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IS BETTER THAN THAT OF THE NATION, SHOWING IMPROVEMENT SINCE 2000 AND OUTPERFORMING ALL OTHER QOL DOMAINS.

Compared to the nation, Hawai'i fared better on all of the 8 economic indicators for which there were data. Since the benchmark year 2000, Hawai'i improved on 5 indicators while there was relatively little change on 1 indicator. There were no trend data available for the remaining 3 indicators.

Standard of Living: Since 2000, there has been a rise in the state's mean income, and reductions in poverty and children receiving free or reduced-cost school lunch due to low family incomes. On average, people in Hawai'i have a higher per capita income and are less likely to be in poverty than their national counterparts.

Income Inequality: There is a lesser degree of income concentration in the state compared to the nation, as indicated by a lower Gini index, and a smaller percentage of income shared by households in the top 20% income group. Trend data for Hawai'i are not available.

Employment: Hawai'i has a lower economic dependency ratio than the nation. For every 100 people in the labor force, 89.7 people are not economically active in Hawai'i, compared to 97.8 in the nation. The state's annual unemployment rate was 3.9% in 2008, almost 2 percentage points lower than the national rate, and about the same level as it was in 2000. From 2000 to 2007, the overall employment trend increased as the economic dependency ratio decreased by 8% and the unemployment rate remained low.

Compensation and Work Hours: Workers in Hawai'i have a higher median wage and are less likely to work long hours than their national counterparts. Since 2000, the state has improved on reducing the percentage of workers (including multiple job holders) who worked 41 hours or more per week.

County Comparisons

- Among the four counties, the City and County of Honolulu had the most favorable conditions on the largest number of indicators: per capita income, Gini index, income share of the top 20%, unemployment rate, and median earnings.
- Maui County ranked best on having the lowest rates for poverty, free or reduced-cost lunch, and economic dependency ratio.
- Kaua'i County's performance was in the middle range among the counties.
- Hawai'i County had the least favorable economic conditions, ranking the worst on per capita income, poverty rate, free or reduced-cost lunch, Gini index, income share of the top 20%, economic dependency ratio, unemployment rate, and median earnings.
- The four counties were similar in the percentage of workers who worked long hours.

ECONOMIC INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAI'I: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAI'I: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENE	HONOLULU	HAWAI'I	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM- PARISON	
Standard of living												
Per capita income, <i>current dollars</i>	2007	\$38,615	\$39,242		38%		\$42,015	\$29,702	\$33,356	\$35,835	<>	
Poverty rate, % of people	2007	13.0%	8.5%		-14%		7.8%	13.1%	9.0%	6.8%	<>	
Free or reduced-cost lunch, % of school children	2008	••	38.6%	••	-8%		37.9%	48.1%	35.0%	33.1%	<>	
Income inequality												
Gini index, <i>a scale of 0–100</i>	2005–2007	46.5	42.7		••	••	42.0	44.9	42.7	43.5	<>	
Income share of households in the top 20% income group, % of income	2005–2007	50.0%	46.5%		••	••	45.8%	48.4%	46.1%	47.8%	<>	
Employment												
Economic dependency ratio, <i>number of people in the total population who are not in the labor force per 100 of those who are</i>	2005–2007	97.8	89.7		-8%		91.7	93.2	82.2	77.1	<>	
Unemployment rate, % of people in the civilian labor force	2008	5.8%	3.9%		-3%		3.5%	5.5%	4.4%	4.5%	<>	
Compensation and work hours												
Median earnings: <i>For people aged 16 and over with earnings in the past 12 months, current dollars</i>	2005–2007	\$28,029	\$30,716		••	••	\$31,405	\$27,191	\$28,435	\$30,202	<>	
Working long hours: <i>Usually work 41 hours or more per week, % of employed people aged 25–64</i>	2007	31.6%	22.9%		-14%		22.1%	23.1%	25.3% ⁽²⁾	25.3% ⁽²⁾	≈	

Symbols: •• Data not available, HI better than the nation, No difference, HI worse than the nation, HI has improved, No change, HI has worsened, <> Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, ≈ No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 for all economic indicators.

(2) Data is based on a combined sample of Kaua'i and Maui Counties because individual county data were not available.

QOL RATINGS SHOW THAT THE QUALITY OF HAWAII'S EDUCATION IS ON PAR WITH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, AND HAS IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS.



When compared to the nation, Hawai'i's education indicators showed mixed results. The state fared better on 3 and worse on 4 indicators for which national data were available. Of the 12 indicators tracked in the 2000s, Hawai'i improved on 7 indicators, declined on 1 indicator, and remained at the same level on 4 indicators.

Attainment: People in Hawai'i obtained a higher level of education than their counterparts in the nation. The percentage of people in the state aged 25 and over with less than a high school education declined significantly since 2000, and the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased.

Performance: Hawai'i's public school students had consistently weaker performance than their national peers. The percentage of 8th-grade students meeting National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) proficiency was about 10 percentage points below the national average in mathematics, reading, and writing. However, 8th graders have shown improvement in math on the NAEP since 2000. In addition, students in grades 3 through 10 showed improvement in math and reading from 2007 to 2008 according to the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS III).

Readiness: Since 2004, some progress has been made in preparing children entering kindergarten to be successful in school. The on-time graduation rate among public school students has remained unchanged at about 80% since 2003. The average Student Achievement Test (SAT) score of college-bound seniors continued to be lower than the national figure, and has slipped further in recent years.

Participation in Higher Education: Compared to the rest of the U.S., Hawai'i residents 24–44 years old have a higher participation rate in college or postgraduate education, and the data for this indicator has not changed significantly since 2000. Meanwhile, the percentage of high school seniors accepted into higher education has increased since 2000.

County Comparisons

- The City and County of Honolulu fared better than other counties, ranking highest for individuals with Bachelor's degrees or higher, meeting Hawai'i's standards in math and reading, and participating in lifelong learning.
- Maui County performed best in terms of children being ready to learn in kindergarten, and worst for having the highest percentage of people with less than a high school education and for having the lowest college-going rate.
- Kaua'i County ranked highest for on-time graduation from high school and lowest on individuals having a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- Hawai'i County ranked first for having the lowest percentage of people with less than a high school education and the highest college-going rate. However, it ranked lowest for student performance (2 indicators), education readiness (2 indicators), and participation in lifelong learning (1 indicator).

EDUCATION INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAI'I: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAI'I: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENER	HONOLULU	HAWAI'I	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM- PARISON	
Attainment												
Less than high school, % of people aged 25 and over	2005–2007	16.0%	11.3%		-27%		11.2%	10.9%	11.2%	12.7%	<>	
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of people aged 25 and over	2005–2007	27.0%	28.6%		9%		30.0%	26.0%	23.4%	25.4%	<>	
Performance												
Meeting Hawai'i standards in math, % of students	2008	••	42.3%	••	10%		45.2%	34.7%	42.2%	34.9%	<>	
Meeting Hawai'i standards in reading, % of students	2008	••	61.8%	••	4%		63.7%	57.0%	60.1%	58.1%	<>	
At or above 8th-grade proficiency in math, % of 8th-grade students	2007	31%	21%		31%		••	••	••	••	••	
At or above 8th-grade proficiency in reading, % of 8th-grade students	2007	29%	20%		0%		••	••	••	••	••	
At or above 8th-grade proficiency in writing, % of 8th-grade students	2007	31%	20%		11%		••	••	••	••	••	
Readiness												
Ready to learn, % of kindergarten classes	2008	••	8.4%	••	40%		8.3%	7.8%	7.9%	9.9%	<>	
On-time graduation, % of high school students	2008	••	80.1%	••	0%		79.7%	78.2%	85.1%	82.6%	<>	
SAT score of college-bound seniors, combined average scores of math and critical reading	2008	1,017	983		-2%		••	••	••	••	••	
Participation in higher education												
College-going rate, % of high school seniors	2008	••	54.0%	••	18%		54.7%	59.2%	50.6%	45.4%	<>	
Lifelong learning: Enrolled in college or graduate school, % of people aged 25–44	2007	8.1%	9.8%		7%		11.5%	5.4%	5.5% ⁽²⁾	5.5% ⁽²⁾	<>	

Symbols: •• Data not available, HI better than the nation, No difference, HI worse than the nation, HI has improved, No change, HI has worsened, <> Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 or later, depending on the availability of comparable data. 2002: At or above 8th-grade proficiency in reading/writing, college-going rate. 2003: On-time graduation. 2004: Ready to learn. 2007: Meeting HI standards in math/reading.

(2) Data is based on a combined sample of Kaua'i and Maui Counties because individual county data were not available.



HAWAII'S QOL IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURPASSES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND HAS IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS; ONLY THE DIMENSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION SHOWS A DETERIORATING TREND.

On measures of environmental quality, Hawai'i fared better than the nation for 2 indicators, worse for 1 indicator, and about the same on 1 indicator. Since 2000 the state improved on 7 of the indicators in this domain and declined on the remaining 4 indicators.

Pollution: Hawai'i fared better than the nation in releasing a lesser amount of toxic chemicals per capita, and data for this indicator improved 16% between 2001 and 2007. However, Hawai'i's air quality has been adversely affected by recent volcanic activity in Hawai'i County: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared the state's air quality unhealthy for 16 days in 2008, worse than the national median of 1 day, and worse than the usual 1–2 days for the state recorded between 2000 and 2007. Over time, other indicators have deteriorated, including surface water advisory days and solid waste generated.

Conservation: The rate of Hawai'i's renewable energy use was at the same level as the nation in 2007, but this represented a 10% improvement for the state upon its 2000 rate. There was an increase in the acres of parks and historic sites in the state during the aforementioned 7-year period.

Consumption: The state's energy consumption was about three fourths of the national average in 2007, a reduction of 3% since 2000. Although water consumption has fluctuated over time, it increased 1% from 2000 to 2007.

Recycling: Over time, the state has improved in solid waste recycled (2003–2008), wastewater reused (2000–2008), and the percentage of adults participating in HI-5 recycling (2006–2008). No national data are available for comparison.

County Comparisons

- Hawai'i County ranked best on surface water advisory days, acres of parks and historic sites, water consumption, energy consumption, and HI-5 recyclers. However, air quality was the worst in this county.
- Maui County ranked best on renewable energy and ranked worst on 3 indicators—solid waste generated, water consumption, and energy consumption.
- The City and County of Honolulu had the least impressive record in this domain with 5 indicators ranked worse than the other counties: surface water advisory days, toxic releases, renewable energy, wastewater reused, and HI-5 recyclers. Honolulu ranked better than the other counties only on solid waste recycled.
- Kaua'i County performed best on 3 indicators: solid waste generated, toxic releases, and wastewater reused. The County ranked lowest on 2 indicators: acres of parks and historic sites, and solid waste recycled.

ENVIRONMENT INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAI'I: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAI'I: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENER	HONOLULU	HAWAI'I	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM- PARISON	
Pollution												
Unhealthy air quality days, <i>number of days</i>	2008	1	16		700%		0	16	••	0	<>	
Surface water advisory days, <i>number of days</i>	2008	••	141	••	213%		108	5	21	7	<>	
Solid waste generated, <i>number of pounds per day per person</i>	2007	••	9.8	••	14%		10.2	8.3	7.5	10.7	<>	
Toxic releases, <i>number of pounds per person</i>	2007	13.5	2.4		-16%		2.6	2.2	0.4	2.1	<>	
Conservation												
Acres of parks and historic sites, <i>per 1,000 acres of total area</i>	2007	••	100	••	44%		40	132	36	55	<>	
Renewable energy, <i>% of total energy consumption</i>	2007	6.7%	6.7%		10%		3.0%	14.4%	10.0%	19.3%	<>	
Consumption												
Water consumption, <i>number of gallons per day per person</i>	2007	••	158	••	1%		154	141	151	197	<>	
Energy consumption, <i>number of million BTU per person</i>	2007	337	257		-3%		262	200	223	312	<>	
Recycling												
Solid waste recycled, <i>% of total solid waste</i>	2008	••	32.1%	••	8%		33.4%	29.2%	15.8%	32.5%	<>	
Wastewater reused, <i>% of treated wastewater</i>	2008	••	15.8%	••	17%		13.1%	19.8%	52.1%	15.0%	<>	
HI-5 recyclers, <i>% of adults</i>	2008	••	82.0%	••	13%		78.0%	93.0%	85.0%	84.2%	<>	

Symbols: •• Data not available, HI better than the nation, No difference, HI worse than the nation, HI has improved, No change, HI has worsened, <> Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, ≈ No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 or later, depending on the availability of comparable data. 2001: Toxic releases. 2003: Solid waste generated, solid waste recycled. 2006: HI-5 recyclers.

HAWAI‘I HAS A BETTER QOL RATING THAN THE NATION IN TERMS OF HEALTH DESPITE A SLIGHT DECLINE IN RECENT YEARS.



As indicated by better ratings on 10 of the 14 indicators for which comparisons were possible, Hawai‘i enjoyed a better QOL in health than the nation. The state performed worse on 2 indicators and about the same on 2 other indicators. In tracking changes over time, scant progress was made: 7 indicators with positive change, 6 with negative change, and 3 with no change since 2000.

Mortality: Cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes are 3 of the major causes of death in Hawai‘i, yet the death rates due to these diseases are lower than that of the nation. Hawai‘i also has a slightly lower infant death rate and a longer life expectancy than the nation. While progress has been made in reducing deaths in infancy and deaths that cardiovascular disease caused since 2000, the loss of lives due to cancer and diabetes has increased.

Health Status: Hawai‘i residents rated their health status similarly to their counterparts in the rest of the nation, and there has been a slight decline in the rating since 2000. The average Hawai‘i resident has about 24.4 healthy days per month, a decline from 25.6 days in 2000.

Disease Prevention: On 4 of the 6 disease-prevention measures, Hawai‘i fared better than the nation: lower rates of obesity and smoking among adults, higher child immunization rate, and a higher percentage of adults who consumed 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily. In all of the aforementioned areas, Hawai‘i progressed over time, except for the rate of obesity, which worsened. State and national data for the percentage of adults engaged in physical activity are similar with little change since 2001. However, the state fared worse than the nation in the rate of adults who engage in binge drinking, and the rate has increased over time.

Access to Care: Compared to the nation, Hawai‘i’s adult residents have better health insurance coverage, but their access to long-term care from home- and community-based services (HCBS) is more limited. While there has been no change in health insurance coverage for both adults and children since 2000, more HCBS have become available and are being utilized by elderly and disabled persons as reflected by an increased percentage of Medicaid spending for this purpose.

County Comparisons

- The City and County of Honolulu ranked the best for life expectancy at birth; death rates due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes; and health insurance coverage for adults; but ranked the worst for physical activity rate and fruit and vegetable consumption.
- Maui County had the lowest infant mortality rate, but the highest diabetes death rate.
- Hawai‘i County ranked worst on life expectancy at birth, cardiovascular disease death rate, prevalence of smoking, and health insurance coverage for adults.
- Kaua‘i County ranked first for having the lowest smoking rate, and highest physical activity rate and fruit and vegetable consumption, but ranked last for having the highest infant mortality and cancer death rates.
- The four counties were similar on 5 indicators—adults reporting good or better health, number of healthy days, health insurance coverage for children, obesity, and binge drinking.

HEALTH INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAI'I: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAI'I: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENERD	HONOLULU	HAWAI'I	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM- PARISON	
Mortality												
Life expectancy at birth, years	2005	77.8	80.8		1%		80.9	79.7	80.7	80.6	<>	
Infant mortality, per 1,000 live births	2007	6.6	6.2		-18%		6.6	6.7	6.9	2.8	<>	
Cardiovascular disease death rate, per 100,000 people	2007	275 ⁽²⁾	236		-12%		227	278	263	228	<>	
Cancer death rate, per 100,000 people	2007	187 ⁽²⁾	169		11%		163	188	199	168	<>	
Diabetes death rate, per 100,000 people	2007	24 ⁽²⁾	22		34%		21	24	27	30	<>	
Health status												
Good or better health, % of adults	2008	85.6%	85.2%		-3%		85.5%	84.2%	83.8%	85.4%	≈	
Healthy days, per month for adults	2008	••	24.4	••	-5%		24.6	23.9	24.3	24.0	≈	
Disease prevention												
Obesity, % of adults	2008	26.7%	23.1%		47%		22.8%	24.0%	23.5%	23.8%	≈	
Smoking, % of adults	2008	18.4%	15.4%		-22%		14.8%	18.9%	13.1%	16.5%	<>	
Binge drinking, % of adults	2008	15.6%	17.6%		69%		17.2%	18.7%	18.7%	18.2%	≈	
Immunization rate, % of children aged 19–35 months	2007	77.4%	87.5%		20%		••	••	••	••	••	
Physical activity: Moderate or rigorous, % of adults	2007	49.5%	51.0%		2%		50.1%	52.5%	55.5%	53.2%	<>	
Fruit and vegetable consumption: Consume 5 or more daily servings, % of adults	2007	24.4%	28.7%		28%		27.1%	32.3%	34.1%	31.9%	<>	
Access to care												
Adults without health insurance, % of adults	2008	14.5%	6.3%		-7%		5.3%	9.5%	8.6%	7.3%	<>	
Children without health insurance, % of children aged 17 and younger	2007	••	3.9%	••	-13%		3.5%	5.7%	4.6%	4.3%	≈	
Home- and community-based service expenditures, % of Medicaid long-term care spending for aged and disabled persons	2007	26.3%	17.5%		26%		••	••	••	••	••	

Symbols: •• Data not available, HI better than the nation, No difference, HI worse than the nation, HI has improved, No change, HI has worsened, < > Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, ≈ No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 or later, depending on the availability of comparable data. 2001: Binge drinking, physical activity. 2002: Home- and community-based service expenditures.

(2) U.S. data is from 2006, the latest year for which data were available for this report.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION DOMAIN



THE QUALITY OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION IN HAWAII HAS NOT IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS AND REMAINS BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF UNFAVORABLE HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Hawaii's housing was rated below the national average on 4 of 5 indicators with only 1 indicator rated on par with the national average. The situation for transportation was better with 1 indicator rated above the national average and 1 indicator at the national average. No gain was observed in this domain since 2000: Data for 2 indicators improved, 2 worsened, and 1 remained unchanged. Two indicators did not have trend data.

Affordable Housing: Compared to the nation, Hawaii has a lower percentage of owner-occupied housing units and a higher percentage of homeowners with a mortgage that results in their spending 30% or more of household income on housing. The financial burden for Hawaii's renters is similar to that of other renters in the nation. Between 2000 and 2007, the state's home ownership rate increased by 4%.

Unmet Housing Needs: Although there has been progress in reducing overcrowded dwellings in Hawaii since 2000, the issue remains a greater problem in the state than in the nation. The homeless rate increased between 2005 and 2007, and was two times worse than the national rate in 2007.

Commute Time: There was no difference between Hawaii and the nation in the percentage of workers who experienced a long commute time to work, and no significant change since 2000 was observed on this indicator.

Automobile Dependence: From 2000–2007, Hawaii's dependence on automobiles increased as indicated by the higher percentage of workers who drove alone to work. However, Hawaii's figure compared favorably to that of the nation.

County Comparisons

- Kauai County fared better than other counties in housing, and ranked best for having the highest home ownership rate and lowest rates of overcrowded dwellings and homelessness. Transportation in Kauai ranked best for keeping commute time under 1 hour, but ranked worst for the highest percentage of workers who drove alone to work.
- Hawaii County ranked first for having the lowest housing cost burden for homeowners and ranked last for having the highest rental cost burden, homelessness rate, and percentage of workers with long commutes to work.
- Maui County ranked worst on housing cost burden to homeowners, and for overcrowded dwellings.
- The City and County of Honolulu ranked best for rental cost and workers driving alone to work, and ranked worst on the home ownership rate.

HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAII: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAII: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENER	HONOLULU	HAWAII	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM- PARISON	
Affordable housing												
Rental cost burden: <i>Spending 30% or more of household income on rent, % of renter-occupied housing units</i>	2005–2007	45.7%	46.1%	⊖	••	••	48.0%	38.3%	43.7%	43.3%	<>	
Housing cost burden: <i>Spending 30% or more of household income on selected monthly owner costs, % of owners with a mortgage</i>	2005–2007	36.3%	43.8%	⊖	••	••	42.8%	42.3%	46.2%	50.9%	<>	
Home ownership, % of occupied housing units	2005–2007	67.3%	58.9%	⊖	4%	↑	56.9%	66.0%	66.6%	58.6%	<>	
Unmet housing needs												
Overcrowded dwellings: <i>1.01 or more occupants per room, % of occupied housing units</i>	2005–2007	3.0%	8.9%	⊖	-42%	↑	8.6%	8.0%	7.5%	11.9%	<>	
Homelessness: <i>Point-in-time count, per 100,000 people</i>	2007	223	474	⊖	12%	↓	416	748	409	540	<>	
Commute time												
Long commute time: <i>Travel 60 minutes or more to work, % of commuting workers</i>	2005–2007	8.0%	8.0%	⊖	-1%	↔	8.6%	10.7%	3.0%	4.1%	<>	
Automobile dependence												
Driving alone to work, % of workers	2005–2007	79.2%	70.5%	⊖	6%	↓	67.7%	74.9%	83.5%	77.4%	<>	

Symbols: •• Data not available, ⊖ HI better than the nation, ⊖ No difference, ⊖ HI worse than the nation, ↑ HI has improved, ↔ No change, ↓ HI has worsened, <> Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, ≈ No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 or later, depending on the availability of comparable data. 2005: Homelessness.

HAWAI'I'S QOL RATING IN SOCIAL WELL-BEING IS SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND HAS IMPROVED TO SOME EXTENT IN RECENT YEARS.



Of the 6 indicators in this domain with national data, Hawai'i fared better on 4 indicators and worse on 2 indicators. Comparisons over time indicate that the state made slight progress since 2000 in improving its social conditions. There were improvements on 4 indicators, negative changes on 4 indicators, and no change on 4 indicators.

Public Safety: The rates of violent crime; deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide; and drug-related arrests were lower in Hawai'i than the nation. However, these rates have increased since 2000, suggesting a deterioration of public safety in the state. In contrast, the property crime rate has reduced by 17% since 2000, but it is currently higher than the national rate. Nevertheless, about three fourths of Hawai'i's families reported living in a safe neighborhood, and this figure has not changed significantly over time.

Family Relationship: The state has made noticeable progress in reducing the number of child abuse and neglect cases since 2000, achieving a rate that was lower than the national average in 2007. Unfortunately, there has been a worsening of the state's domestic abuse rate over the same period. On the bright side, about 70% of Hawai'i's families with children eat together regularly 5 or more times per week and the percentage has not changed since 2002.

Community Connectedness: Compared to their national peers, a higher percentage of Hawai'i's youth was not attending school and not in the labor force although a slight improvement was observed in recent years. On the other hand, almost all of Hawai'i's families with children under 18 years felt they had someone to rely on in the community.

Social Participation: The rate of Hawai'i's residents voting in elections increased between 2000 and 2008, when it reached two thirds of all registered voters. Within the state, 3 in 5 families with children under 18 years volunteered their time to the community in 2006, about the same rate as reported in 2002. No national data are available for comparison.

County Comparisons

- Kaua'i County ranked top for having the lowest child abuse rate and the highest volunteering and registered voters' voting rates.
- Maui County ranked first for having the lowest rates of violent crime and accident, homicide, and suicide deaths. It ranked last on 2 indicators: property crime rate and registered voters voting.
- The City and County of Honolulu ranked best for having the lowest rates of drug-related arrests and domestic abuse. However, it ranked worst on the violent crime rate, families eating together, and volunteerism.
- Hawai'i County ranked best on 2 indicators—property crime rate and families eating together—and worst on rates of accident, homicide, and suicide deaths; drug-related arrests; child abuse and neglect; and domestic abuse.
- There were no county differences on: safe neighborhoods, idle youth, and having someone to rely on in the community.

SOCIAL INDICATOR	YEAR	U.S.	HI	HAWAII: COMPARED TO THE NATION	HAWAII: OVER TIME ⁽¹⁾		COUNTY					
					% CHANGE	IMPROVED OR WORSENE	HONOLULU	HAWAII	KAUA'I	MAUI	COM-PARISON	
Public Safety												
Violent crime rate, <i>per 100,000 people</i>	2007	467	276		13%		289	260	269	221	<>	
Property crime rate, <i>per 100,000 people</i>	2007	3,264	4,119		-17%		4,107	3,420	4,519	4,870	<>	
Accident, homicide, and suicide death rate, <i>per 100,000 people</i>	2005–2007	57 ⁽²⁾	47		8%		45	58	55	42	<>	
Drug-related arrests, <i>per 100,000 people</i>	2007	611	261		2%		171	517	351	482	<>	
Safe neighborhoods, <i>% of families with children under 18 years old</i>	2006	••	72.1%	••	2%		72.8%	68.0%	74.3%	72.5%	≈	
Family relationship												
Child abuse and neglect, <i>per 1,000 children aged 17 and younger</i>	2007	10.1	7.1		-41%		6.5	10.9	5.7	6.8	<>	
Domestic abuse, <i>per 100,000 people</i>	2008	••	352	••	19%		279	683	371	398	<>	
Families eating together regularly, <i>% of families with children under 18 years old</i>	2006	••	71.3%	••	1%		69.5%	78.2%	73.0%	71.2%	<>	
Community connectedness												
Idle youth, <i>% of people aged 16–24</i>	2005–2007	8.0%	9.1%		-13%		8.9%	7.9%	10.8% ⁽³⁾	10.8% ⁽³⁾	≈	
Have someone to rely on in the community, <i>% of families with children under 18 years old</i>	2006	••	89.1%	••	6%		88.1%	91.4%	92.7%	89.5%	≈	
Social participation												
Participated in volunteer activities, <i>% of families with children under 18 years old</i>	2006	••	59.3%	••	1%		57.1%	60.8%	66.0%	64.2%	<>	
Voted in elections, <i>% of registered voters</i>	2008	••	66.0%	••	13%		66.1%	67.7%	68.2%	61.1%	<>	

Symbols: •• Data not available, HI better than the nation, No difference, HI worse than the nation, HI has improved, No change, HI has worsened, <> Difference found between top-ranked and bottom-ranked counties, ≈ No difference among counties.

(1) The benchmark year is 2000 or later, depending on the availability of comparable data. 2000–2002: Accident, homicide, and suicide death rate. 2002: Safe neighborhoods, families eating together regularly, have someone to rely on in the community, participated in volunteer activities.

(2) U.S. 3-year average is from 2004–2006, the latest 3 years for which data were available for this report.

(3) Data is based on a combined sample of Kaua'i and Maui Counties for which individual county data were not available.

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