In 2021, Hawaii had 5,431 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,829 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 1,322 child victims of abuse or neglect in Hawaii in 2021, at a rate of 4.3 children per 1,000. This translates to a 3.3% increase since 2017.

Of the 1,322 children, 1,052 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 235 of the 1,322 cases.

88% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
12% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
53% of Hawaii’s child victims in 2020 were female while 46% were male.

In 2021, Hawaii reported 34 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
Hawaii did not report plans of safe care for screened-in infants.
Hawaii's Children

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Child fatalities have increased from 0 in 2020 to 2 in 2021.
- Hawaii reported 22 child victims of sex trafficking.
- 903 victims received post-response services while 568 non-victims received post-response services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION
- Hawaii's family first plan was approved by the administration in June 2021.
- Hawaii's Family First Plan

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 2,556 total children were served by the foster care system in Hawaii in FY 2021.
- 1,418 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 1,037 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 1,138 exited during the same year.
- 273 of Hawaii’s children were adopted while 244 were waiting to be adopted.

There was a 11.0% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system increased by 32.5% from 2020.

92 children in Hawaii aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is an increase from 73 in 2019 and represents a 26.0% increase.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 17.2 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Hawaii for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 32.6 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.0 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 4.3 years old.

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Hawaii's Children

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?, 2020

Data from 2020 shows that 656 children in foster care within Hawaii were living with non-relatives while 744 stayed with a relative.

55 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 21 children were classified as runaways.

7% of households in Hawaii in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 12.1 months.

Child Poverty

Hawaii had 96,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 31% of all children.

39% of Hawaii’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of TANF recipients fell from 20,302 in 2021 to 13,326 in 2022. This represents a 34.4% decrease.

The state spent $9,103,859 on WIC in 2022, serving 25,885 people. This represents a 0.2% decrease in total participants and a 2.2% decrease in spending.

136,190 people in Hawaii were food insecure in 2020, including 50,180 children who struggled with hunger.

32.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Hawaii in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time

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Hawaii's Children

Health

Hawaii had 1,281 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.1% of infants born in Hawaii in 2020.

Hawaii had 1,582 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 7.9% of all White babies were born prematurely while 10.5% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 10.03%.

There were 470 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Hawaii in 2020, representing a rate of 13 in every 1,000 teen girls.

79 infants under 1 died in Hawaii in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.0 per 1,000.

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019

9,000 of Hawaii’s children had no health insurance in 2021. This is the same as 2019.

Hawaii is a Medicaid expansion state as of January 2014.

144,370 children in Hawaii were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.5% increase from 2019.

27,611 children in Hawaii were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 9.5% decrease from 2019.

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Juvenile Justice

- There were 1,849 total arrests for children under 18 in Hawaii in 2019.
- 43 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 297 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 274 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 63 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Hawaii in 2019. This is a decrease from 60 kids in 2017, representing a 5% incline.

Teens & Youth

- 6,000 (10%) of Hawaii’s youth, ages 16–19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were no reports of children in Hawaii aged 10–14 committing suicide and 24 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15–24.
- There was no data on children under age 19 being killed by a firearm in Hawaii in 2020.

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Hawaii spent $89,217,224.99 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $47,886,576.22 were allocated from the federal government and $40,403,190.55 came from state and local funds.

The significant funding sectors of the $47,886,576.22 in federal funding received in Hawaii in 2018:
- $1,307,653.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- $15,013,673.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Hawaii’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $26,318,969.00

Federal Funding Sources, 2018