



**NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND POVERTY

Hawaii had an estimated 734 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving twice their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

**State Taskforce on Homelessness**

**Taskforce:** The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by Governor Lingle in 2004) coordinates the state's efforts to end homelessness.

**Governor's Appointee:** Sandra Miyoshi, Homeless Programs Administrator for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, has served as the head of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness since 2004. Russ Saito, Comptroller for the Department of Accounting and General Services, has served as the head of the state's Homeless Efforts Achieving Results Together initiative and the state Homeless Coordinator since 2007.



**Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization**

	Hawaii	Honolulu
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	2,735	1,660
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	2,557	1,995
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	64	55
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	9.03%	8.05%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2004	No plan <sup>6</sup>
10-Year plan target population	All	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Hawaii Public Housing Authority	Honolulu Department of Community Services
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Hawaii Public Housing Authority	Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Hawaii Public Housing Authority	Honolulu Department of Community Services

**Statewide Homeless Data Collection**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) manages the statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which collects information required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on all homeless persons that access any city, state, or federally-funded shelter services. Hawaii's HMIS collects data on 98% of emergency shelter and 100% of transitional housing beds for families—higher than the national average family bed coverage rates of 63% and 68%, respectively.<sup>7</sup>

Drawing from HMIS client data, HPHA, with the Center on the Family at the University of Hawaii, releases an annual report analyzing homeless program utilization throughout the state. The 2009 report identified 7,501 unduplicated individuals receiving assistance through the state's Shelter Stipend Program during the previous fiscal year. This program funds emergency and transitional housing, case

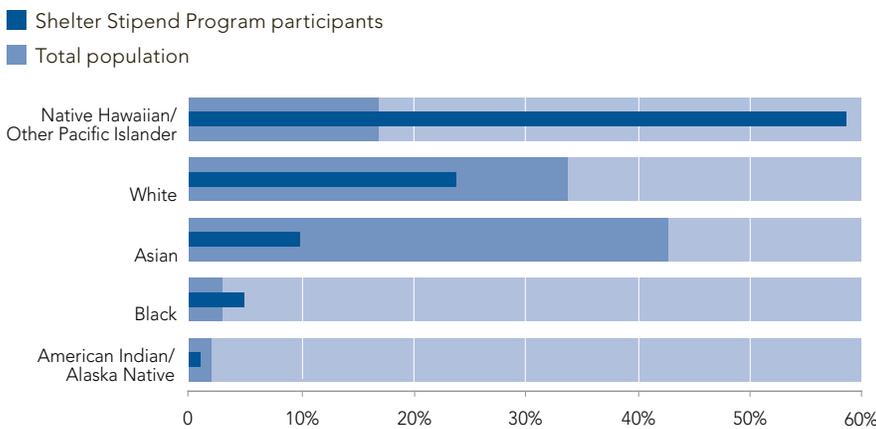
The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Hawaii and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)



management for families, and various on-site supportive services. Over one-third (38%) of persons receiving assistance were members of a family, with half (53%) belonging to a single-parent family. Females headed three-quarters (78%) of single-parent households and two-thirds (68%) of families had two or more children.

Of the homeless family members and individuals receiving shelter in 2009, more than three-quarters (79%) experienced homelessness for less than one year prior to accessing services. For a large majority of clients, gaining employment remained a significant barrier to stability. Although 71% had earned a high school diploma or GED, 70% of sheltered homeless persons were unemployed. In addition, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders comprised a disproportionate 59% of the sheltered population while only accounting for 17% of the state's total population.<sup>8</sup>

### Racial Composition of Homeless Persons and the Total Population



Source: University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, *Homeless Service Utilization Report, 2009*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2008 Population Estimates*.

### Homeless Families on Oahu's Coast

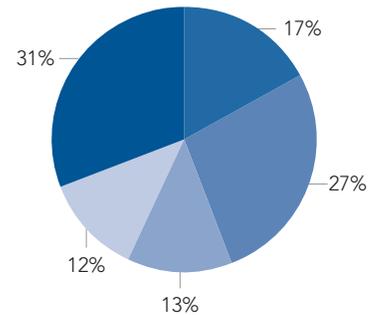
In 2008, homeless children receiving state services on Oahu's Leeward Coast numbered more than 1,300, up from 942 in 2006, a 38% increase.<sup>9</sup> In this area, west of the capital city of Honolulu, homeless children and their families are sleeping in shelters, on beaches, and in beach parks. In July 2006, recognizing the plight of homeless families and individuals on the Leeward Coast as a "major disaster," Governor Lingle signed an emergency proclamation for disaster relief to expedite the construction of shelters.<sup>10</sup> While this decree resulted in the creation and expansion of several shelters, the growing number of homeless families and individuals continues to outpace the state's efforts to serve them.

### Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach

To address the needs of those homeless families living along Oahu's Leeward Coast, the Partners in Development Foundation created the Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach Program in 2007. This mobile preschool education outreach effort is designed to increase literacy and empower homeless Native Hawaiian families, which make up almost one-third of persons accessing state shelter and outreach services in Oahu.<sup>11</sup> Using culturally-sensitive strategies, Ka Pa'alana incorporates early childhood and family education programs that serve between 15 and 40 children and their parents in a mobile day-center each week.<sup>12</sup> The program also provides food distribution services and collaborates with the Wai'anae Community Outreach, a shelter provider and supportive service outreach agency, to assist homeless families as they transition to stable housing.

### Residence Prior to Shelter Entry

- Sheltered\*
- Doubled-up or in owned/rented housing (at risk)
- Beach or park (unsheltered)
- Street or building (unsheltered)
- Car or vehicle (unsheltered)



\*Sheltered includes previously residing in emergency or transitional shelters, institutions, hostels, foster homes, or permanent housing for formerly homeless persons. Source: University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, *Homeless Service Utilization Report, 2009*.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- <sup>6</sup> Honolulu has formally adopted Hawaii's plan to end homelessness.
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- <sup>8</sup> University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, *Homeless Service Utilization Report, 2009*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2008 Population Estimates*.
- <sup>9</sup> State of Hawaii Office of the Governor, *Fourth Supplementary Proclamation, June 27, 2008*.
- <sup>10</sup> State of Hawaii Office of the Governor, *Proclamation, July 6, 2006*.
- <sup>11</sup> University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, *Homeless Service Utilization Report, 2009*.
- <sup>12</sup> Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan (Administrative Advisor, Wai'anae Community Outreach), e-mail message to ICP, January 31, 2010.

