



Hawaii Women's *Health Status*

CHART BOOK FOR PLANNING *and* DEVELOPMENT



Imi Hale
Native Hawaiian Cancer Network
A Program of Pūpū Ola Lokahi



Hawaii Health
Information Corporation



Hawai'i
Primary Care
Association



**KAPĪOLANI
WOMEN'S CENTER**

An affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health



FOREWORD

With a rich history in the islands dating back more than a century, Kapi'olani has dedicated itself to the health and well-being of Hawaii's women. As a leader and advocate for women's health, Kapi'olani is pleased to present this unprecedented report, "Hawaii Women's Health Status: Chart Book for Planning and Development".

Queen Kapi'olani opened the Maternity Home in 1890 to improve birth outcomes for mothers and babies. Since then, Kapi'olani has expanded on the Queen's vision to care for women throughout the life stages.

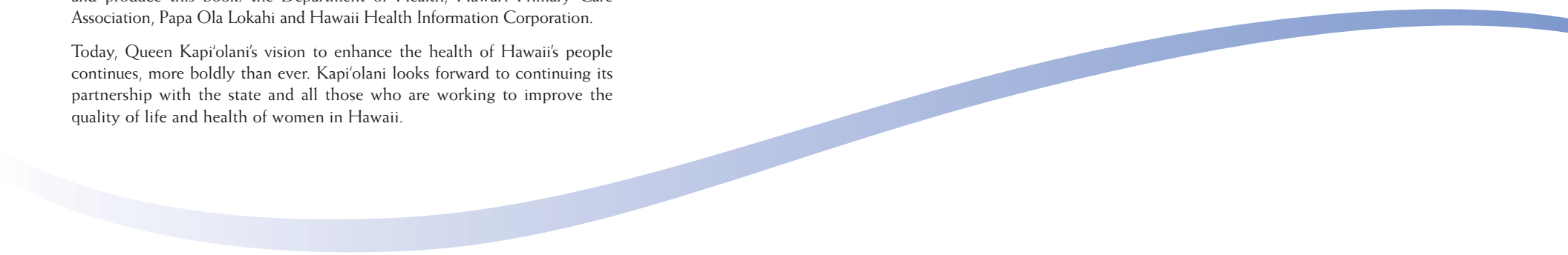
The Kapi'olani Women's Center focuses on women beyond the childbearing years, providing a wide range of screening, therapy and treatment services in a beautiful, healing environment. The Kapi'olani Breast Center and Kapi'olani Women's Cancer Center, offer state-of-the-art, coordinated care.

As the primary sponsor for this project, Kapi'olani continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to its mission. By making women's healthcare a top priority, Kapi'olani is helping to ensure a promising future for generations of women to come.

This book was created to serve as an invaluable resource for healthcare providers, state policymakers and for women themselves with the goal of improving the health of women in Hawaii. Its main aim has been to open a dialogue for exchange and discussion of new ideas and to provide new insight with the intention of contributing to the medium- and long-term health policy agenda for women in Hawaii.

Kapi'olani is grateful to the many organizations that came together to support and produce this book: the Department of Health, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Papa Ola Lokahi and Hawaii Health Information Corporation.

Today, Queen Kapi'olani's vision to enhance the health of Hawaii's people continues, more boldly than ever. Kapi'olani looks forward to continuing its partnership with the state and all those who are working to improve the quality of life and health of women in Hawaii.





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INTRODUCTION

Women's health extends beyond the biological to encompass the social, economic, political and emotional context of women's lives. Due to their longer life expectancy and unique reproductive lifecycle, women's healthcare needs are different from men in a number of ways. Acknowledging and addressing these differences will help prevent biases in Hawaii's healthcare system.

Hawaii Women's Health Status: Chart Book for Planning and Development offers a framework for discussing gender-relevant priorities in women's health-care and developing a women's health policy in Hawaii. The objectives of Hawaii's first women's health chart book are to improve women's health, to monitor the progress made in women's healthcare and to establish effective policies in health promotion and disease prevention.

This book is organized into six major chapters. To the extent possible, each chapter provides gender-relevant insights into women's health. Included in this report are a series of graphs and tables which present selected statistical data on women's health in Hawaii derived from multiple state, national and private data sources.

While this book provides empirical research with policy directions, it also serves as an advocate and resource for women themselves, providing them with up-to-date information so they can play an active role in their own health. Ultimately this book aspires to make a real difference in the lives of Hawaii women, empowering them about their healthcare choices and self-care.



Context for Women's Health

Questions to be addressed in this chapter include:

- *What are the population characteristics of women in Hawaii?*
- *How multi-racial are the women of Hawaii?*
- *What demographic, socio-economic, and environmental factors affect women's health?*

INTRODUCTION

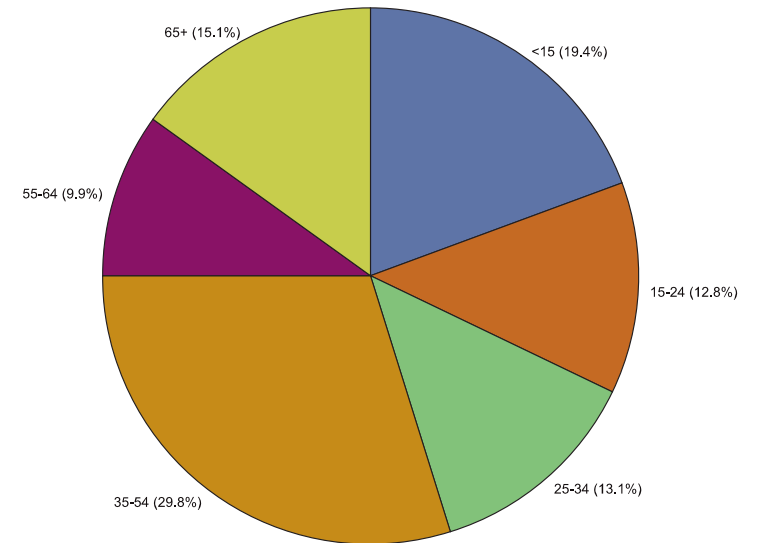
Epidemiologists use demographics to evaluate the health of a population and determine the characteristics associated with the presence or absence of disease. The following section will present data on the diverse population characteristics that affect women's health in Hawaii. Analysis and comparison of data across gender, age, and race and ethnicity can be used to tailor the development of programs and policies serving women's health.

What are the population characteristics of women in Hawaii?

In 2002, the Hawaii population exceeded 1.2 million with females representing 49.9 percent of the total population, or approximately 600,000 women and girls. Women under the age of 34 represent the largest proportion of the female population at 45.3 percent, followed by women aged 35-64 at 39.7 percent, and those aged 65 and older at 15.1 percent.

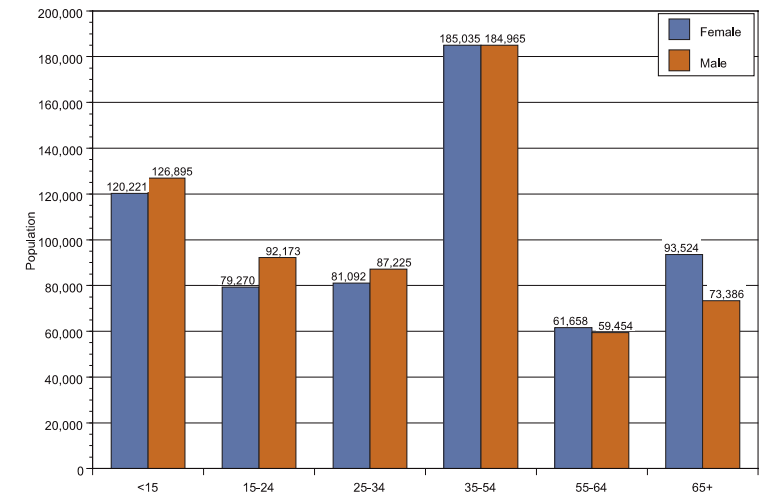
Men outnumber women under the age of 35 in Hawaii, reflecting the fact that more boys than girls are born every year. During the years 35 to 64 the ratio of women to men shifts closer to equal. Among older adults aged 65 and older, women comprise 56 percent of the population, increasingly outnumbering men due to their greater longevity.

Figure 1: Population – Hawaii Women's Population by Age Group



U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2004

Figure 2: Population – Hawaii Population by Age Group and Gender



U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2004

How multi-racial are the women of Hawaii?

The female population of Hawaii is ethnically diverse. According to 2002 Department of Health (DOH) estimates, four different ethnic groups comprise 80 percent of the population, with no single group comprising a majority: Hawaiians/Part-Hawaiians, Caucasians, Japanese, and Filipinos.

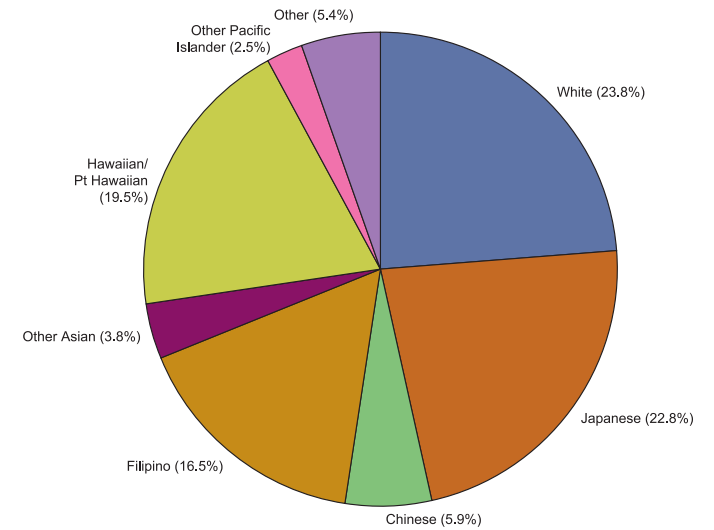
In 2002, Japanese women represented 30 percent of the female population aged 65 and older, nearly twice the proportion of Filipino, Hawaiian, and White racial groups. The number of females aged 25 and younger is much higher in the Hawaiian racial and ethnic group, with 50 percent of the female population falling within this age cohort. In comparison, only 20 percent of the Japanese and White populations, and 36 percent of the female Filipino population, are aged 25 and younger.

What demographic, socio-economic, and environmental factors affect women's health?

EDUCATION

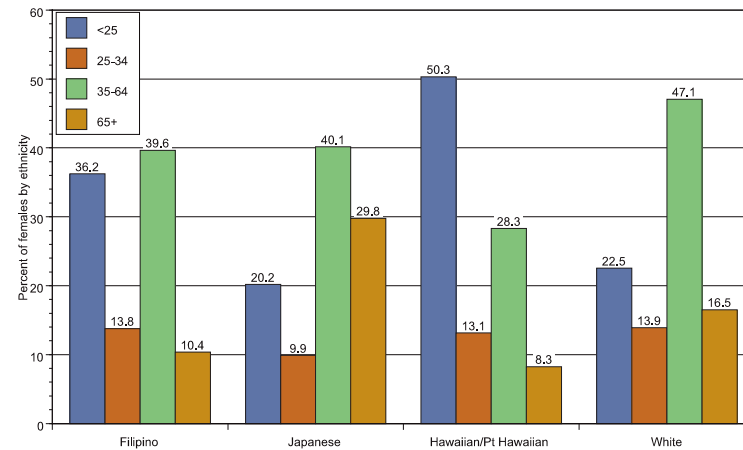
An important marker of socioeconomic status is higher educational attainment. Research suggests that college-educated women have better health and survival rates than those with less education. In 2002, 35 percent of all women in Hawaii had a bachelor's degree or higher, representing half of all the college degrees awarded in the state. This reflects considerable gains compared to earlier years, when males were more likely than females to be awarded post-secondary degrees. In 1980, only 13.6 percent of women age 25 and older had four or more years of college compared to 20.9 percent of men nationwide.

Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity – Hawaii Women's Race/Ethnicity Distribution, 2000-2002



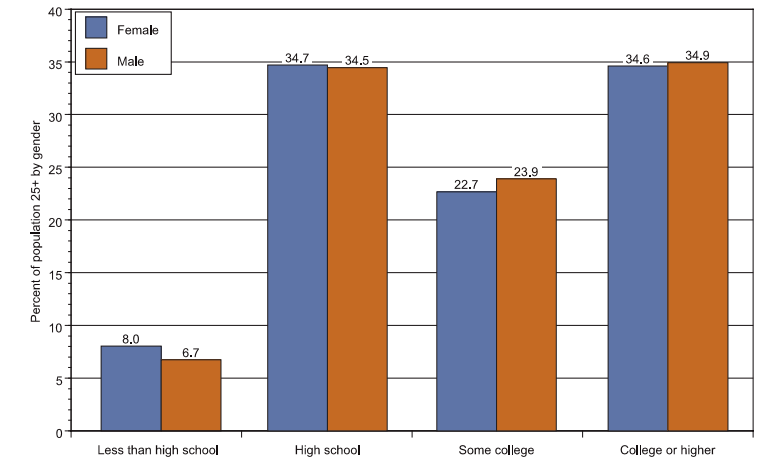
Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Survey, 2002

Figure 4: Race/Ethnicity – Hawaii Women's Race/Ethnicity Distribution by Age



Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Survey, 2002

Figure 5: Hawaii Age 25 and Older by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2002



Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Survey, 2002

LABOR FORCE

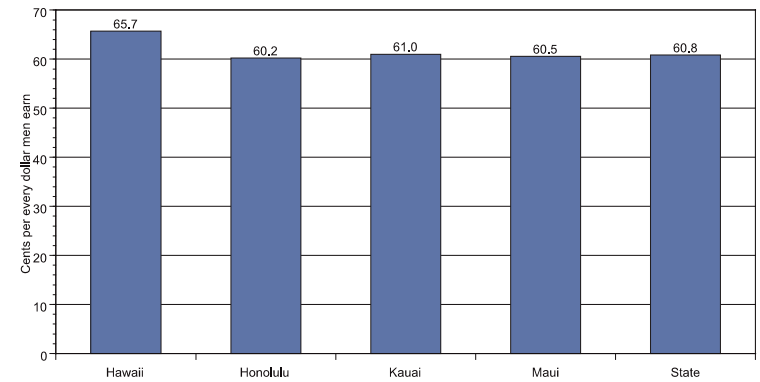
The correlation between higher income, good health, and lower mortality rates is well-documented. In 2002, women made up 45.8 percent of the nation's labor force. The occupational sectors with the highest representation of women included sales and office occupations (63.7 percent) and service occupations (56.7 percent)¹. Although women are making strides in terms of equal employment with men, only 30.5 percent of those earning \$50,000 - \$99,999 were women, with an even smaller percentage of women earning over \$100,000 (18.6 percent). Furthermore, women still earned only 60.8 cents for every dollar that men earned according to the 2000 Census.

POVERTY

The detrimental effects of poverty on women's health include malnutrition, overwork and the inability to afford medical expenses. In 2002, 14.4 percent of women and 10.8 percent of men aged 18 and older were living with incomes 150 percent below the Federal poverty level. Women aged 65 and older and younger women aged 18-24 are at the highest risk for living below the poverty level, while women aged 45-64 have a lower poverty rate (10.9 percent).

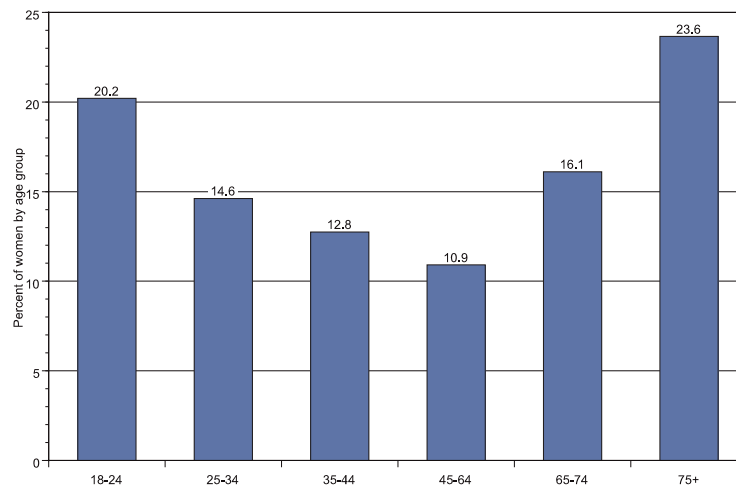
Among selected household types, women heading households with no spouse have the highest rates of poverty (24.9 percent), followed by females living alone (17.6 percent). The poverty rate for women living in married couple families is much lower (10.2 percent).

Figure 6: Hawaii Women's Earnings Compared to Men, 2000



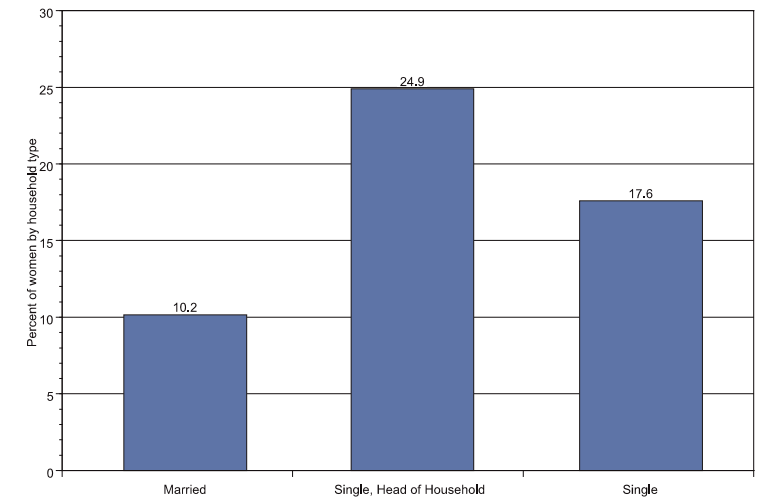
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, 2002

Figure 7: Poverty – Women Living Below Poverty Level by Age



Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Survey, 2002

Figure 8: Poverty - Women Living Below Poverty Level by Household Type



Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Survey, 2002

¹Data on occupation by sector and gender could not be obtained for this book.