Summary Report

Hawaiian Children and Education Kindergarten through 12th Grade

From Data for Hawaiian School-Age Children from the Kamehameha Schools Community Survey, 2001

I. Introduction

Background – The data being analyzed in this report is part of a more comprehensive survey conducted by PASE entitled: the Annual Survey of the Hawaiian Community Living in Hawaii, 2001. The portion of the data being analyzed in this report pertains to data gathered on children in Hawaiian households who are in kindergarten through 12th grade (K through 12).

Objectives – The survey seeks to establish benchmark information about the educational and developmental needs of Hawaiian children, adults and communities, particularly as it pertains to the current educational priorities of Kamehameha Schools:

- Quality Kindergarten through grade 12 education.
- Quality educational programs and services from the prenatal period through pre-kindergarten.
- Literacy skills in English and Hawaiian among people of Hawaiian ancestry.
- Hawaiian culture and language.
- Quality diverse career development opportunities.

In particular, this report analyzes data that pertains to the first bullet pointed objective above: quality kindergarten through grade 12 education.

Methodology – The survey was conducted by telephone interviews. The methodology entailed randomly selecting 2,000 Hawaiian households in the State of Hawai'i and interviewing them by telephone between June 15, 2001 and July 28, 2001. The survey was conducted using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system, enabling the interviewer to enter responses directly into a computer file. The contingency patterns were automatically programmed so that the interviewer was able to view the questions and answers of the survey on a computer screen.

Definitions – The target population for the survey is "the Hawaiian Community" and the first problem to be addressed is the definition of that population. "The Hawaiian Community" is comprised of all Hawaiian households. Hawaiian households are defined as households with either the respondent being Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian, or the respondent states that there is someone in the household who is Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian.

Survey Instrument – The objective of the survey was to develop a survey instrument that specifically addressed seven items:

1. Support issues of na keiki
2. Educational support issues of na opi'o
3. Educational support issues of na makua and na kupuna
4. Needs of the ohana
5. Ancillary service issues
6. Demographics
7. Community identifiers

This report addresses data regarding the second of these seven items: educational support issues of na opi'o (school-age children).

Segmentation – The findings of this survey were segmented in two ways:

1) By household composition (family type) – Since this data only involved people with children, the only type of households that pertained were households with children (under 18). Households with children were further broken down into four groups:

- Married couple with kids
- Single parent
- Multi-generation with kids
- Mixed households with kids

Married couple with kids is a typical nuclear family of respondent, respondent's spouse and respondent's children, and all children are under 18 years of age. A single parent household is composed only of the respondent, the respondent's children, and all children are under 18 years. No other adults live with the single parent. Multi-generation with kids is a household where there is a grandchild, grandparent, or parent of the respondent in the home and there is a presence of children under 18 years. Finally, mixed household with kids is defined as all other households with children less than 18 years. Families under this definition would be any unmarried partners, unrelated adults, roommates or boarders living with a family, or aunts/uncles.

2) By island – The categories were:

- O'ahu
- Maui
- Moloka'i
- Lana'i
- East Hawai'i
- West Hawai'i
- Kaua'i

3) By Kamehameha Schools affiliation – Three segments were created based on the relationship of the household to Kamehameha Schools:

- Households with alumni and/or students
- Households that have only used non-school services
- Unserved beneficiary households

4) By parental education levels – the categories were:

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree

- Master’s degree
- Doctorate degree
- Don’t know/refused

II. Survey Summary

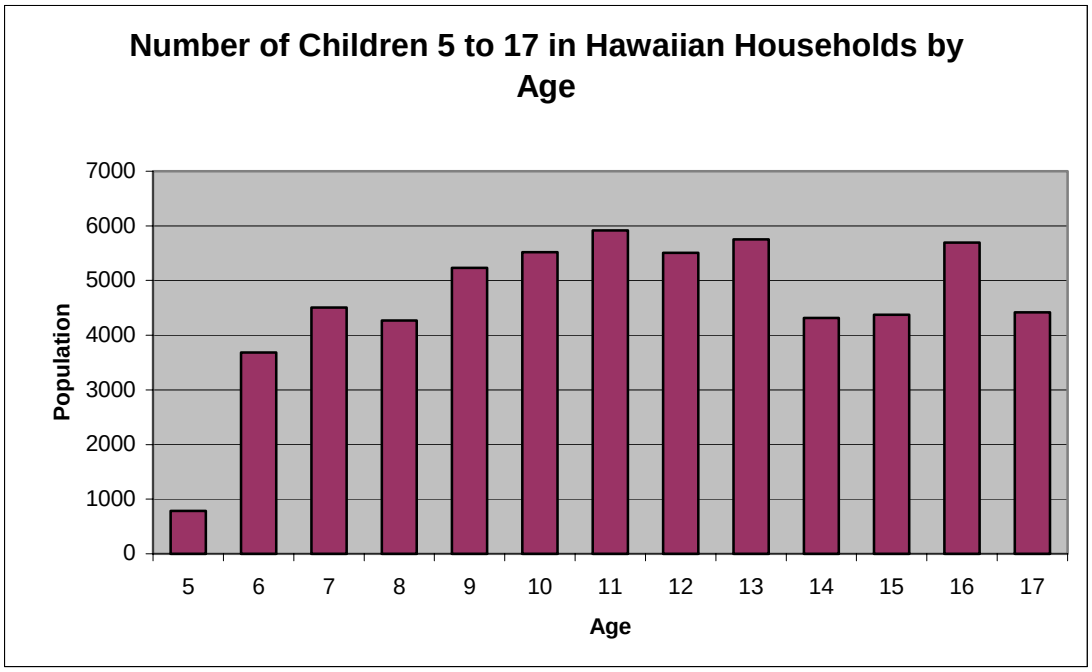
The survey data is organized into the following seven categories:

1. Number of children 5 to 17 by age
2. Parents' ages
3. Parents' education
4. Parents' employment status
5. Parents' Kamehameha Schools alumni status
6. Income of all members of the household before taxes, 2000
7. Household size

1. Number of Children 5 to 17 by Age

According to the estimates from the survey results, the total number of children 5 to 17 living in Hawaiian households in Hawai'i in 2001 is 59,982.[1] Total numbers for each year from 5 to 17 are represented in the following graph:

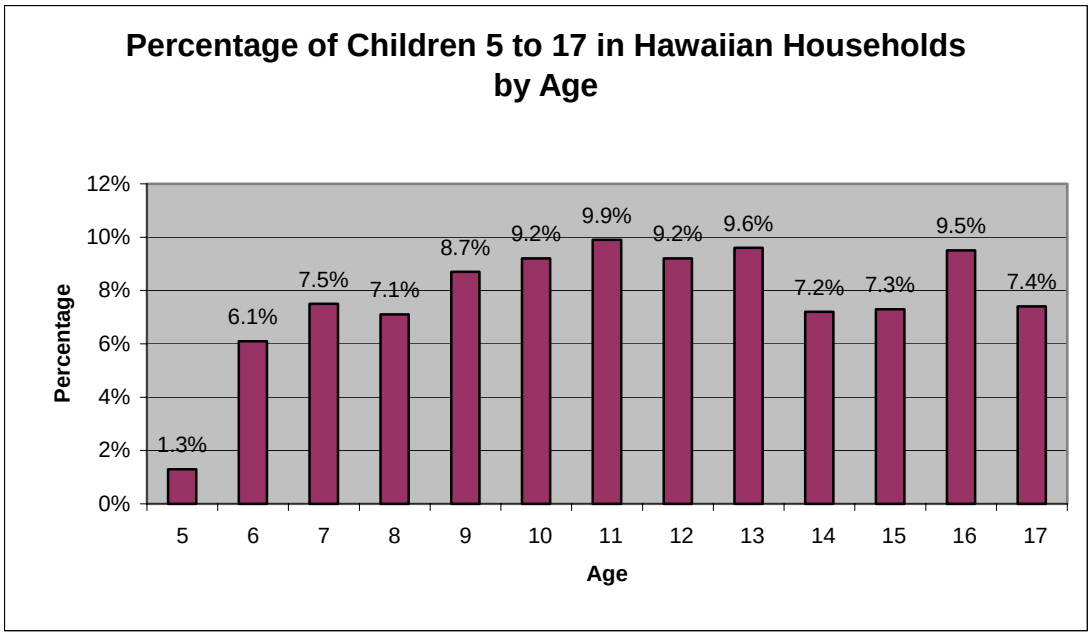
Figure 1



[1] This number and all the numbers used in this report are weighted estimates calculated from the sample survey of 2000 households. Data from the Hawaii Department of Health's 2000 Hawaii Health Survey were used as the baseline data for these estimates. For a detailed description of how the numbers were weighted please refer to the last section at the end of the report.

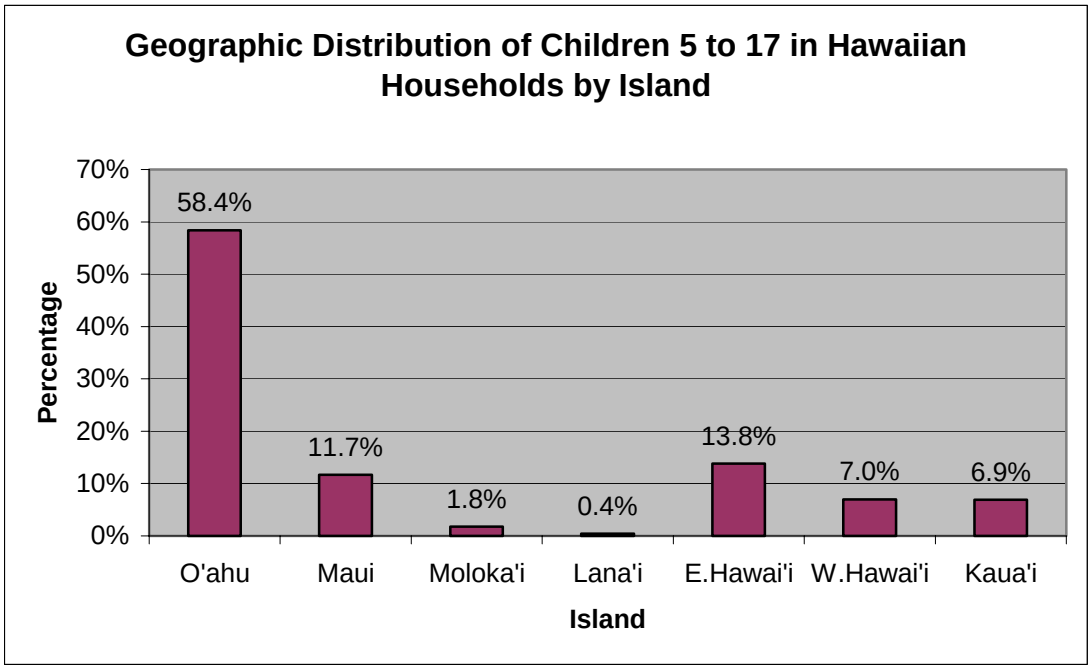
The numbers by percentage are represented in the following graph:

Figure 2



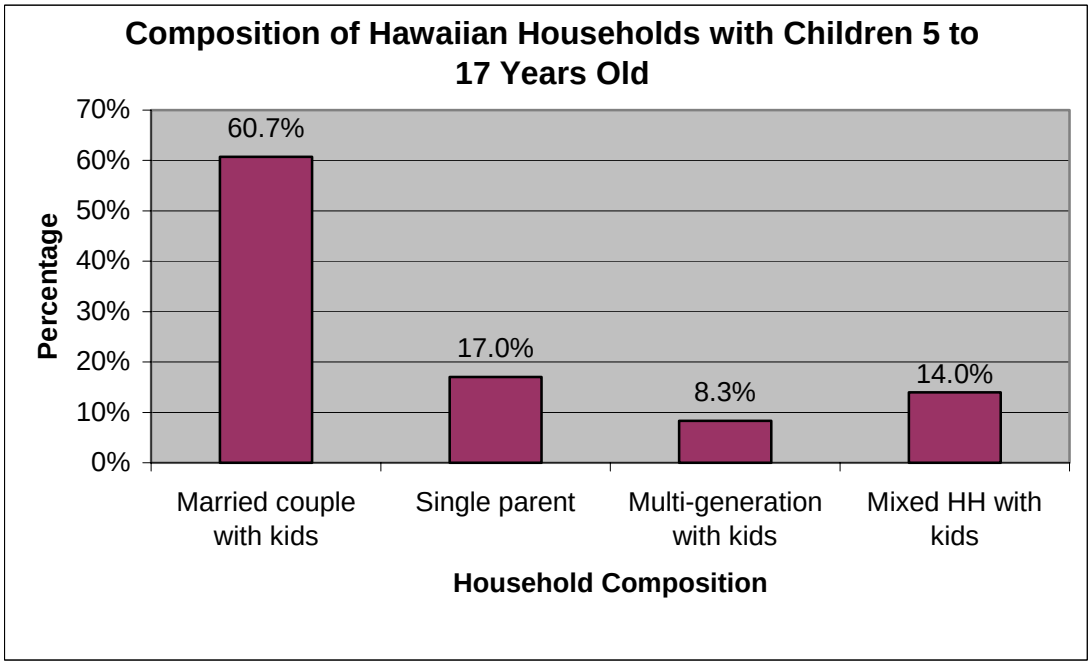
The vast majority of all children ages 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households live on O'ahu; over 50% of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households in 2001 live on O'ahu. Of the 59,982 children 5 to 17 who live in Hawaiian households in Hawai'i, 35,020 or 58.4% live in O'ahu.

Figure 3



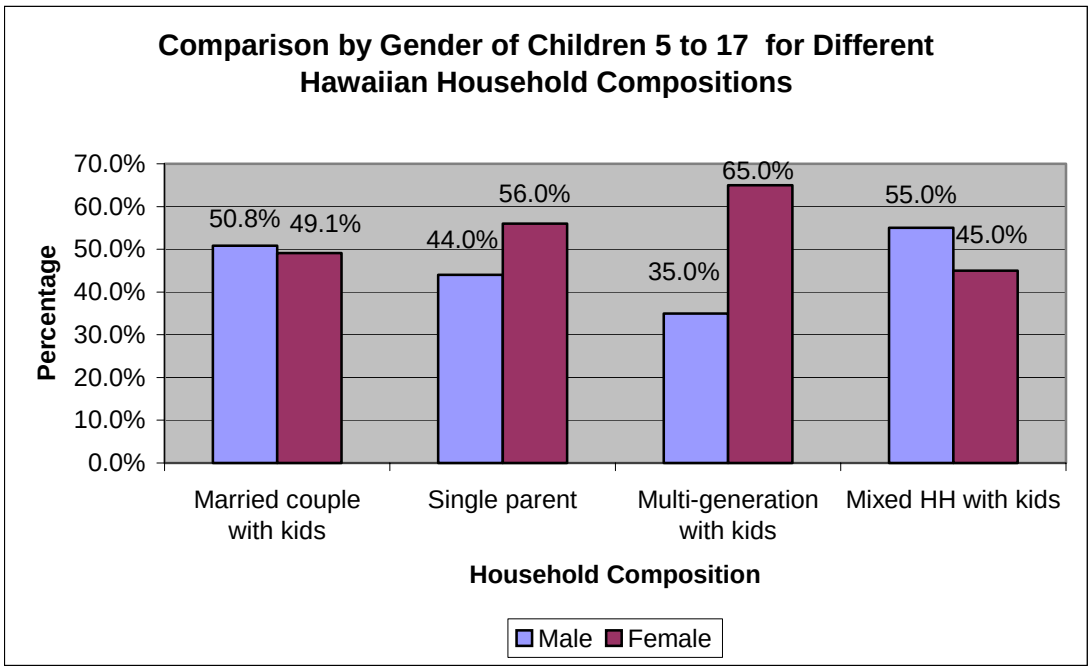
Of the total number of children ages 5 to 17 living in Hawaiian households, 60.7% live in what is considered the traditional household arrangement composed of a married couple with kids. 17.0% live in a single parent household, 8.3% live in a multi-generation household with kids, and 14.0% live in a mixed household with kids.

Figure 4



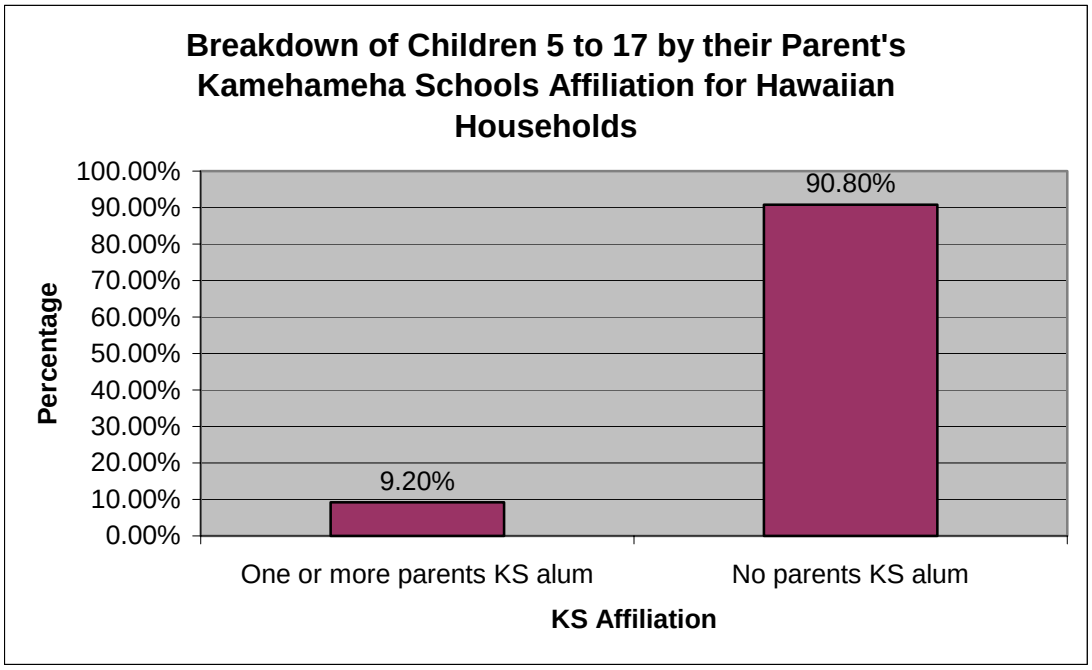
There are some noteworthy numbers about household composition as it breaks down by gender. The total number of males and females 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households breaks down almost evenly as one might expect. Of the total population in this category of 59,982, 29,323 or 48.9% are male and 30,659 or 51.1% are female. However, broken down by household composition, most of the numbers do not fall down the middle. For example, of the 10,213 children 5 to 17 who live in Hawaiian households with a single parent, 4,490 or 44% are male and 5,723 or 56% are female. Of the 4,983 children 5 to 17 who live in multi-generation Hawaiian households with kids 1,738 or 35% are male and 3,245 or 65% are female. Of the 8,381 children 5 to 17 who live in mixed Hawaiian households with kids 4,589 or 55% are male and 3,792 or 45% are female. The only category in which the numbers split roughly evenly are for the married couple category where of the 36,404 children 5 to 17 18,507 or 50.8% are male and 17,897 or 49.1% are female. It may be interesting to further investigate why there is a difference in living situations for the different genders.

Figure 5



According to the survey data, of the total population in this category of 59,982, 5,524 or 9.2% have either their mother, father or both as Kamehameha Schools Alumni. Conversely, 54,458 of the 59,982 or 90.8% have neither one nor both parents who are Kamehameha Schools alumni.

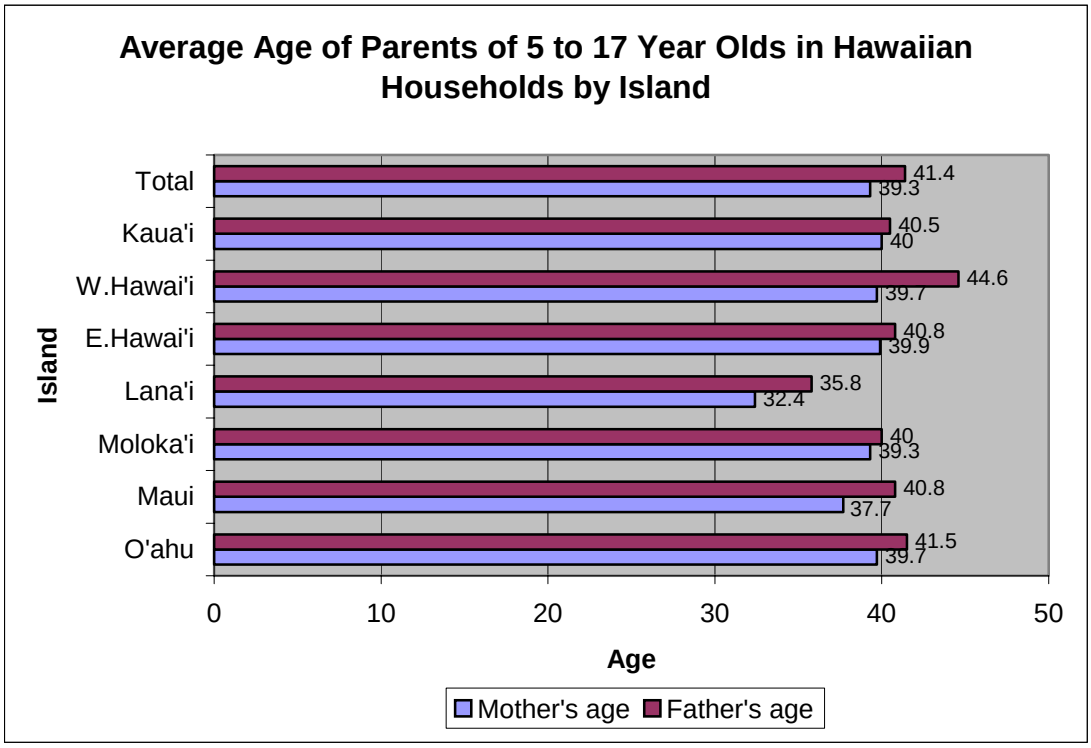
Figure 6



2. Parents' Ages

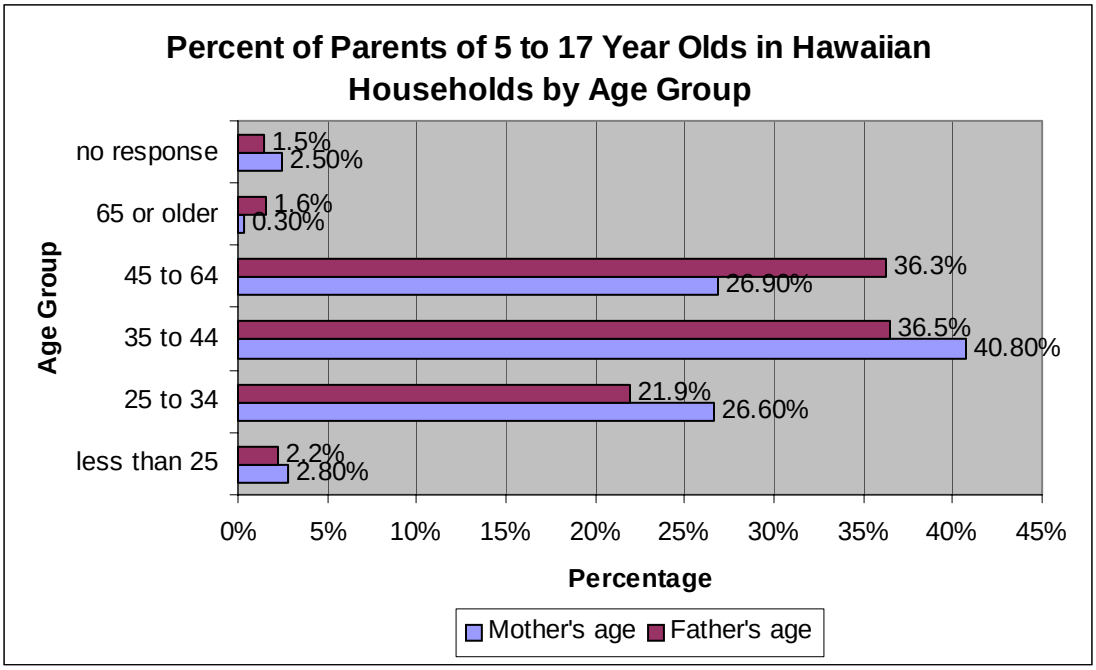
According to the estimates from the survey results, on average, mothers with children 5 to 17 years old in Hawaiian households are younger than fathers with children 5 to 17 years old in Hawaiian households: the mean age of mothers is 39.3 and 41.4 for fathers. The average age for mothers by island is relatively uniform with the oldest average for Kaua'i at 40 and the youngest average for Lana'i at 32.4. Lana'i is the only island that has a drastically lower average than the other islands as shown by figure 7. The father's age by island ranges between 44.6 for West Hawai'i and 35.8 for Lana'i. An interesting note: Lana'i has the youngest mean ages for both mothers and fathers.

Figure 7



The majority of mothers and fathers of children ages 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households fall within the 35 to 44 year old age group. A higher percentage of mothers less than 35 years old have 5 to 17 year olds (29.4%) than fathers do in that age category (24.1%). On the other hand, a higher percentage of older fathers have children 5 to 17 years old than older mothers--36.3% versus 26.9% for the 45 to 64 age category and 1.6% versus 0.3% for the 64 or older age category. (Of course, the inability of women to have children after a certain age due to the onset of menopause contributes to this disparity and must be kept in mind when assessing these comparisons).

Figure 8



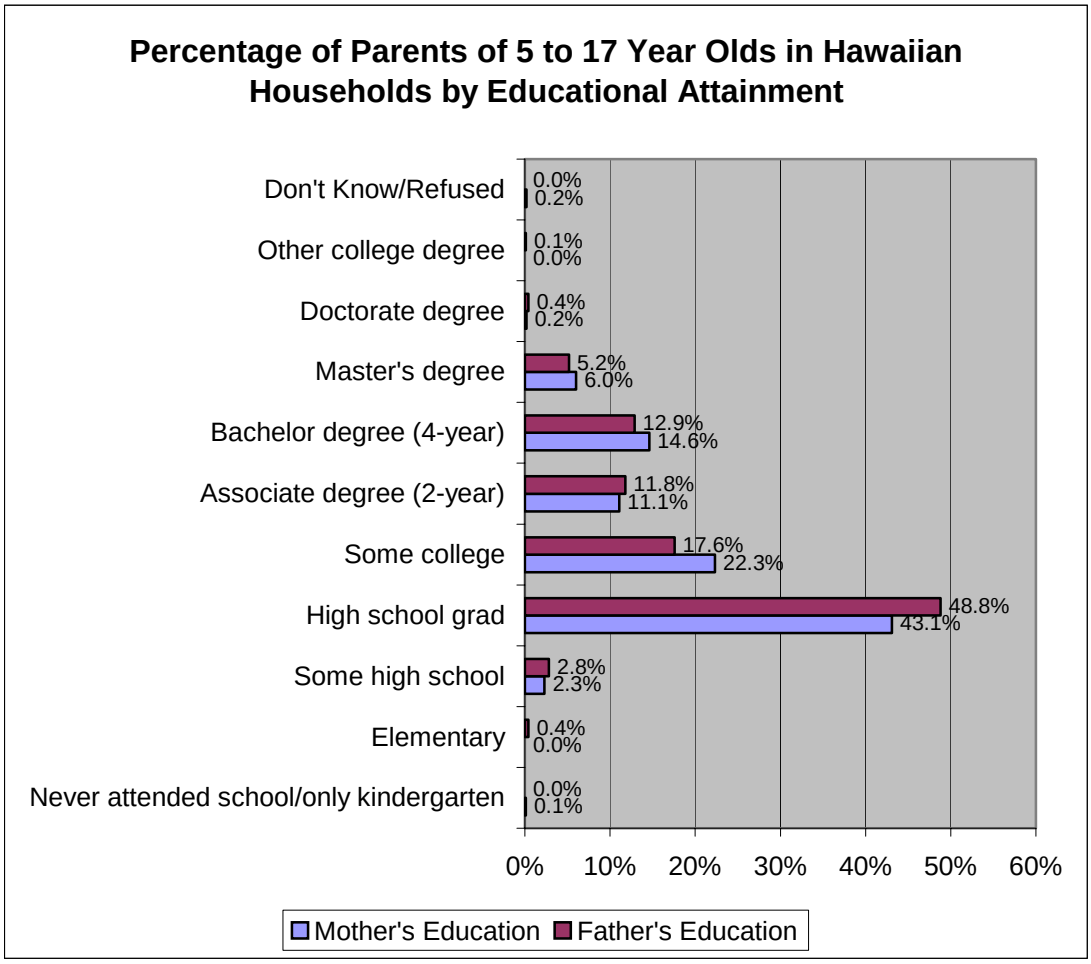
3. Parents' Education

Parental Education is a strong indicator of a child's educational opportunities.[2] Parents with more education in general provide better financial resources for the family. Also, mothers with more education tend to have better access to child development information and can provide better health and education for their children.

According to the survey data, the majority of mothers and fathers in Hawaiian households are high school graduates (43.1% of mothers and 48.8% of fathers).

[2] Manski, C., G. Sandefeur, S. McLanahan, and D. Powers, "Alternative Estimates of the Effects of Family Structure During Childhood on High School Graduation," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 87, 1992, pp. 25-37; World Bank, *World Development Report*, Washington, D.C., 1993.

Figure 9



Some Outside Comparative Data on Mother's Education

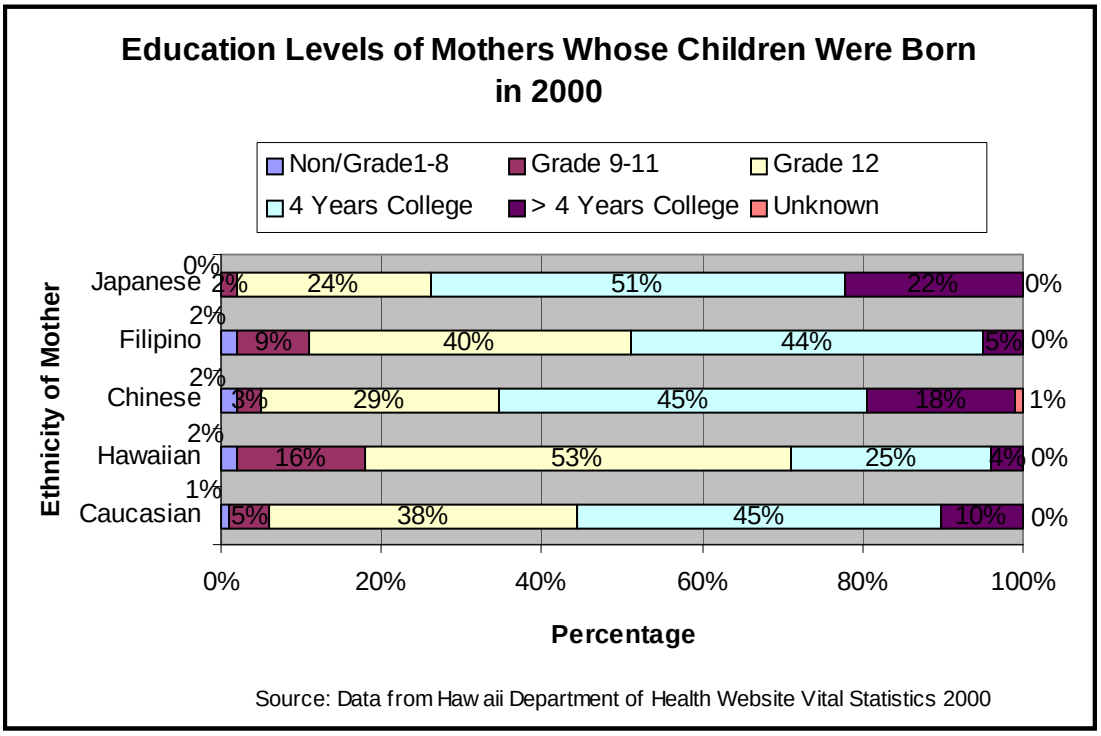
The following is parental educational data outside of the survey that is meant to complement the data. It should not be used as a strict comparison, because "mothers" in this case is defined as a woman with a child 18 years or younger, not a woman with a child 5 to 17 years old, which is how this data in this survey defines a mother:

In the State of Hawai'i large differences in educational achievement of mothers exist across racial and ethnic groups.

In 2000, only 25% of Hawaiian mothers had completed 4 years of college compared to 45% of Caucasian mothers, 45% of Chinese mothers, 44% of Filipino mothers, and 51% of Japanese mothers.

In 2000, only 4% of Hawaiian mothers had completed more than 4 years of college compared to 10% of Caucasian mothers, 18% of Chinese mothers, 5% of Filipino mothers, and 22% of Japanese mothers.

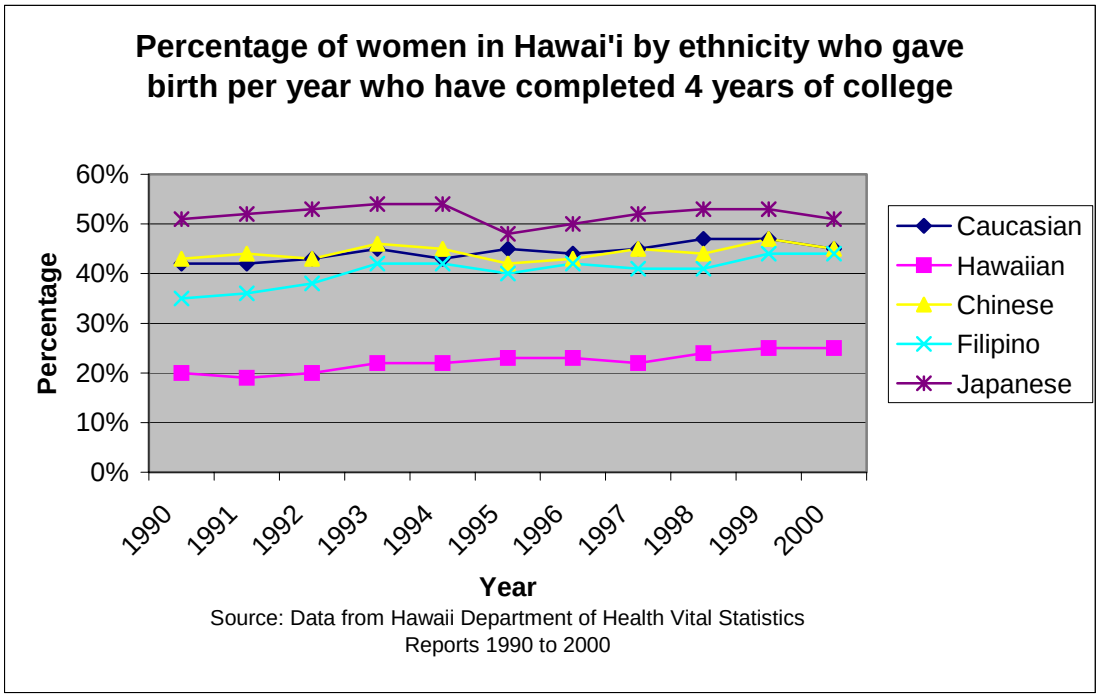
Figure 10



Add up some of these numbers and the results for Hawaiian mother's is shocking compared to mothers of other ethnic groups. For example, 73% of Japanese mothers whose children were born in 2000 had at least 4 years of college education. Only 29% of Hawaiian mothers had at least 4 years of college education. Historically in Hawai'i, Hawaiian mothers have consistently had a much lower rate of completing 4 years of college compared to other ethnic groups.

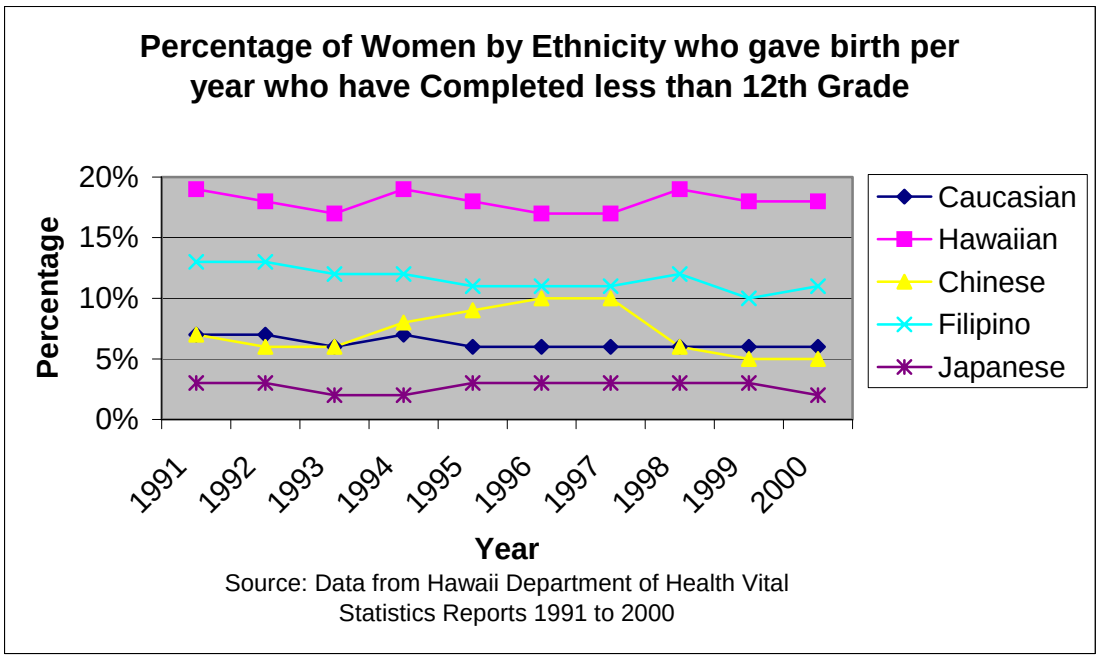
The trend continues today. In 2000, 18% of Hawaiian mothers had completed less than 12th grade compared to only 6% of Caucasian mothers, 5% of Chinese mothers, 11% of Filipino mothers, and 2% of Japanese mothers.

Figure 11



Also, the historical trend shows that Hawaiian mothers have completed less that 12th grade at a much higher rate compared to other ethnic groups.

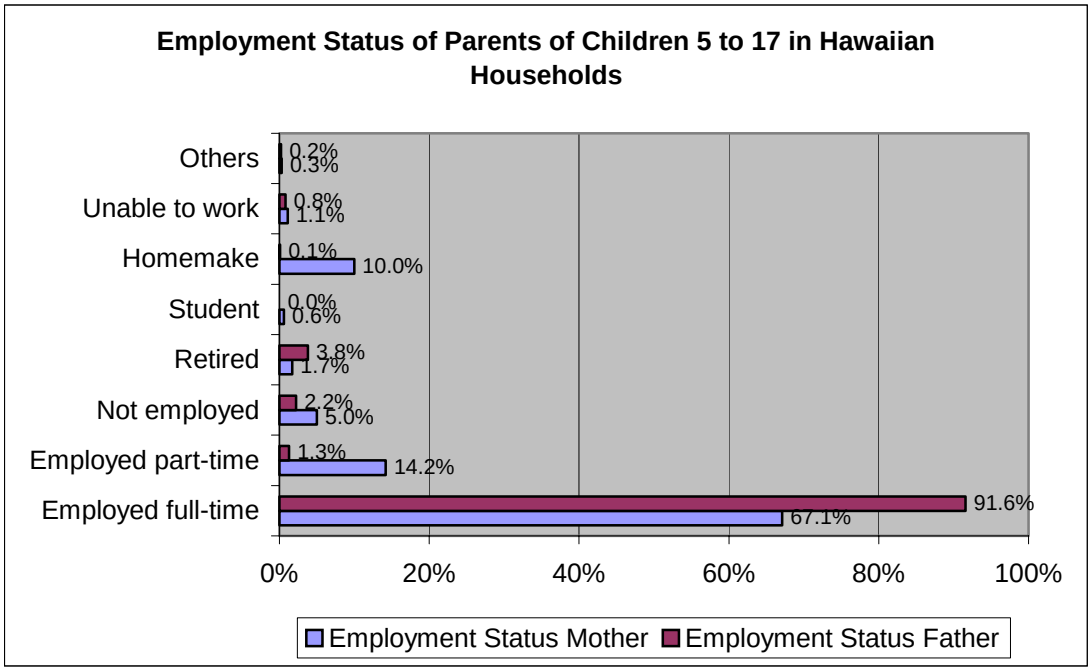
Figure 12



4. Parents' Employment Status

According to the survey data, 91.6% of fathers of 5 to 17 year olds in Hawaiian households are employed full time compared to only 67.1% of mothers of 5 to 17 year olds in Hawaiian Households. 14.2% of mothers in Hawaiian households work part time compared with 1.3% of fathers, and 10% of mothers are homemakers in Hawaiian households compared with only 0.1% of fathers.

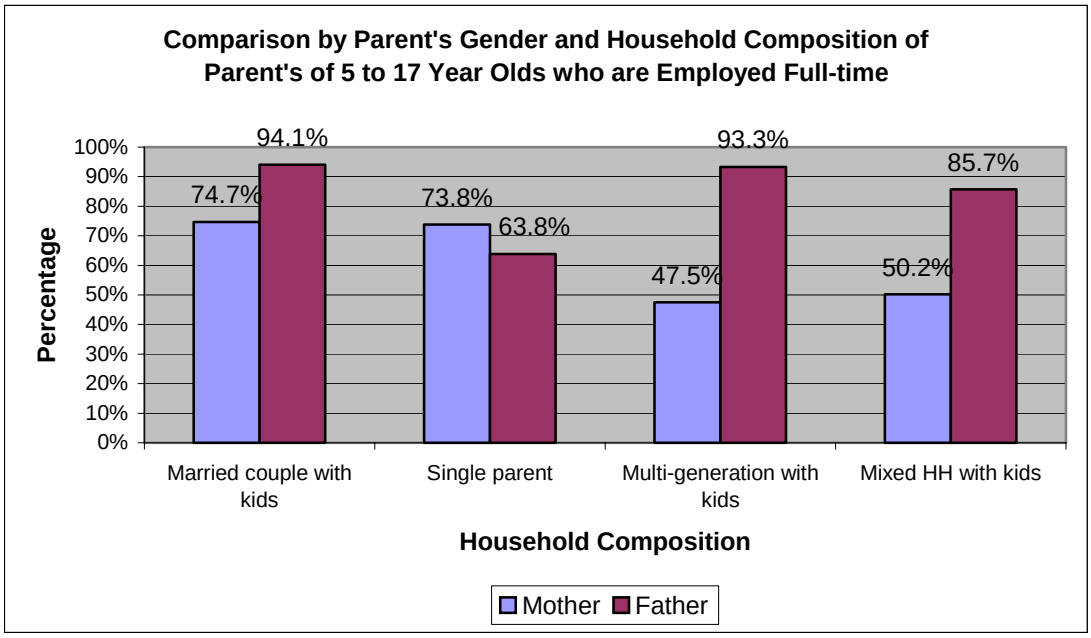
Figure 13



Moloka'i and East Hawai'i had the highest unemployment rate for fathers of 5 to 17 year olds in Hawaiian households at 8.3% and 8.6% respectively. Lana'i and East Hawai'i had the highest unemployment rate for mothers of 5 to 17 year olds in Hawaiian households at 14.3% and 15.3% respectively.

An interesting comparison: broken down by household composition, fathers are employed full time more than mothers except for the category of single parent. In Hawaiian households where the mother or father is a single parent, 73.8% of mothers work full time compared with 63.8% of fathers.

Figure 14



5. Parents' Kamehameha Schools Alumni Status

Besides figure 6 on page 8 that describes the percentage of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households who have one or more parents who are alumni of Kamehameha Schools, there are a couple other noteworthy numbers to look at. According to the survey data, 2.6% of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households have a mother who is a Kamehameha Schools Alumna. This is compared to 7.9% of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households whose father is a Kamehameha Schools alumnus.

Surprisingly, there are no children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households on O'ahu whose mother is a Kamehameha Schools alumna. This is compared to 11.9% of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households on O'ahu whose father is a Kamehameha Schools alumnus.

The island that has the highest percentage of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households whose mother is a Kamehameha Schools alumna is Moloka'i with 12%. The island that has the highest percentage of children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households whose father is a Kamehameha Schools alumnus is O'ahu with 11.9%.

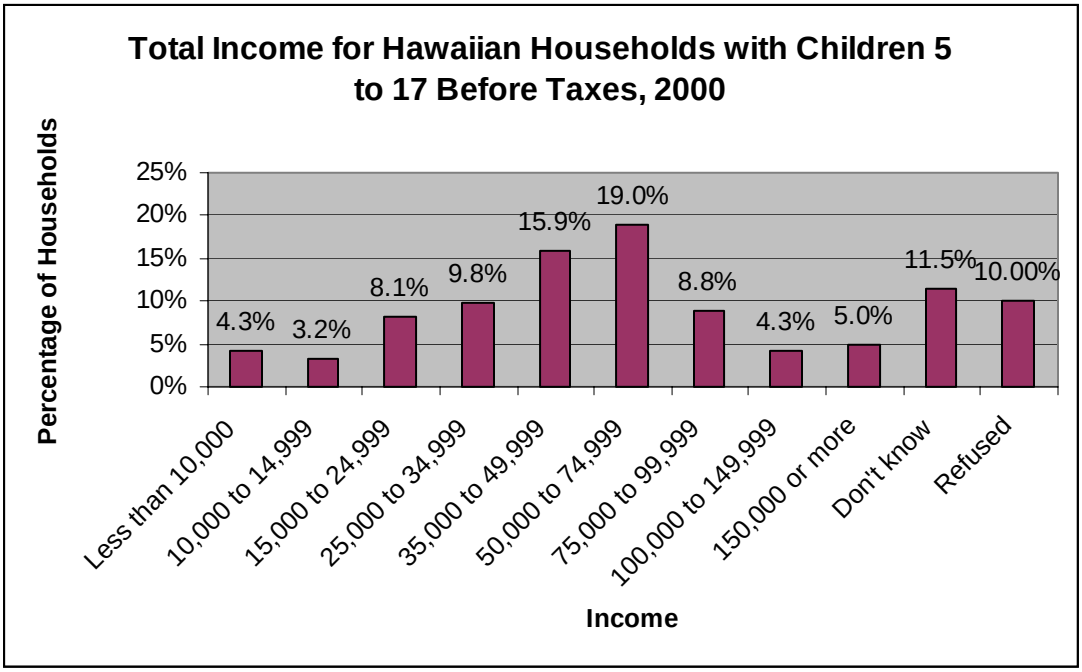
6. Income of All Members of the Household Before Taxes, 2000

Family income is an important indicator of more economic resources available for a child's education and subsequent lifetime learning opportunities. In general, families with low incomes are more likely to have difficulty making ends meet for basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and housing, and therefore have limited ability to pay

for extras such after-school program activities and saving for their children's college education. Also, it is possible that for low income families in which both parents are working a lot to make ends meet, the parents are unable to spend much time giving attention to their children talking to them and helping them with homework due to their overloaded work responsibilities.

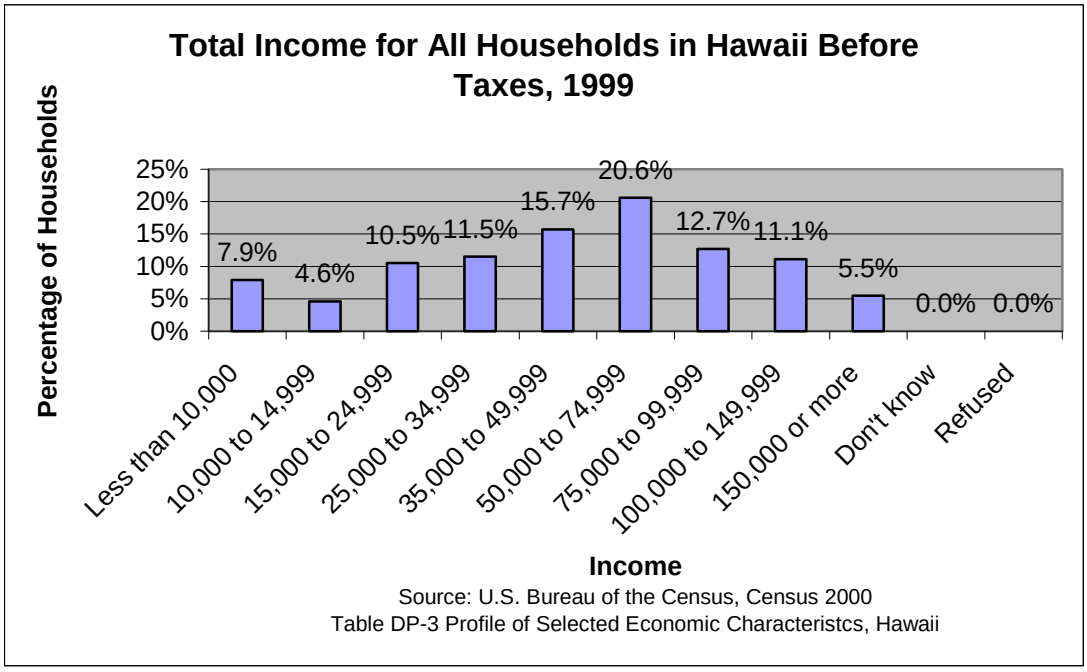
Interestingly enough, a significant percentage of respondents to the question of total income of all members of the household before taxed in 2000 stated they did not know (11.5%). If the respondents are being truthful, then this implies Hawaiian households are not too diligent about financial planning and record keeping. On the other hand, the respondents could be deliberately evasive by responding that they did not know (though there is a separate category for those who chose not to answer this question: "refused to answer").

Figure 15



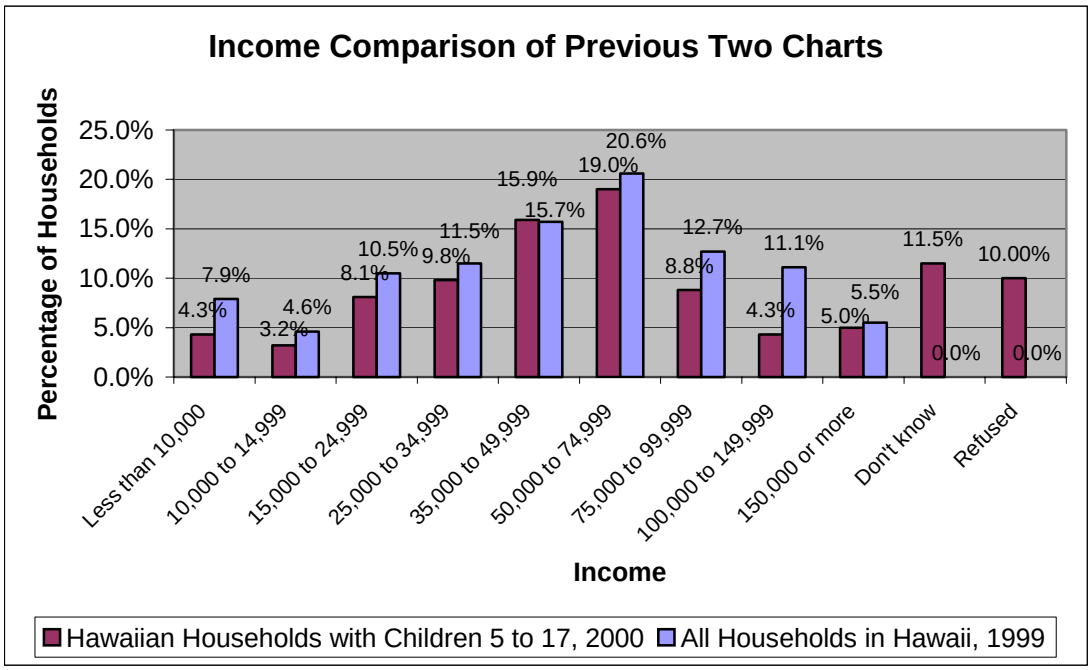
Compare this to a similar statewide table from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000:

Figure 16



A comparison of the two graphs side by side reveals two major differences: 1) the disparity in the amount Hawaiians earn in relation to the rest of the state's population above $75,000; 2) the amount of Hawaiian households that don't know or refused to answer question about their income level:

Figure 17



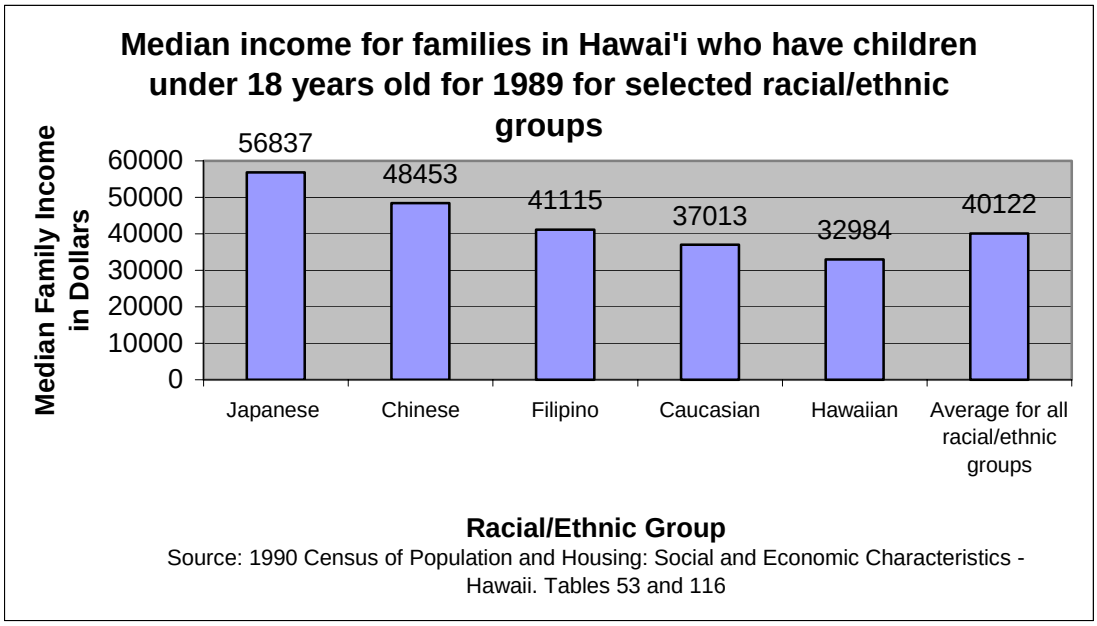
It is possible to explain the high figure for "don't know" and "refused" by looking at the data collection methodology. The Kamehameha Schools survey was conducted by telephone. It is very possible that the high incidence of "don't know" and "refused" answers is due to the fact that the person who answered the phone was not necessarily the person in the household who knows about the household income and financial matters. On the other hand, the U.S. Census data was collected differently allowing family members time to consult before submitting their data.

Some Outside Comparative Data on Household Income

The following is family income data outside of the survey that is meant to complement the data. It should not be used as a strict comparison, because "families" in this case is defined as a family with a child 18 years or younger, not with a child 5 to 17 years old as it is defined in the current data. Also, "family" is defined differently than "household." Finally, this Census data is from 1989 and therefore outdated for making strict comparisons.

Data for 1989 show that Hawaiian families with children under 18 had lower median income compared to Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Caucasian families. Hawaiian families also had lower median incomes than that of all groups combined in Hawaii.

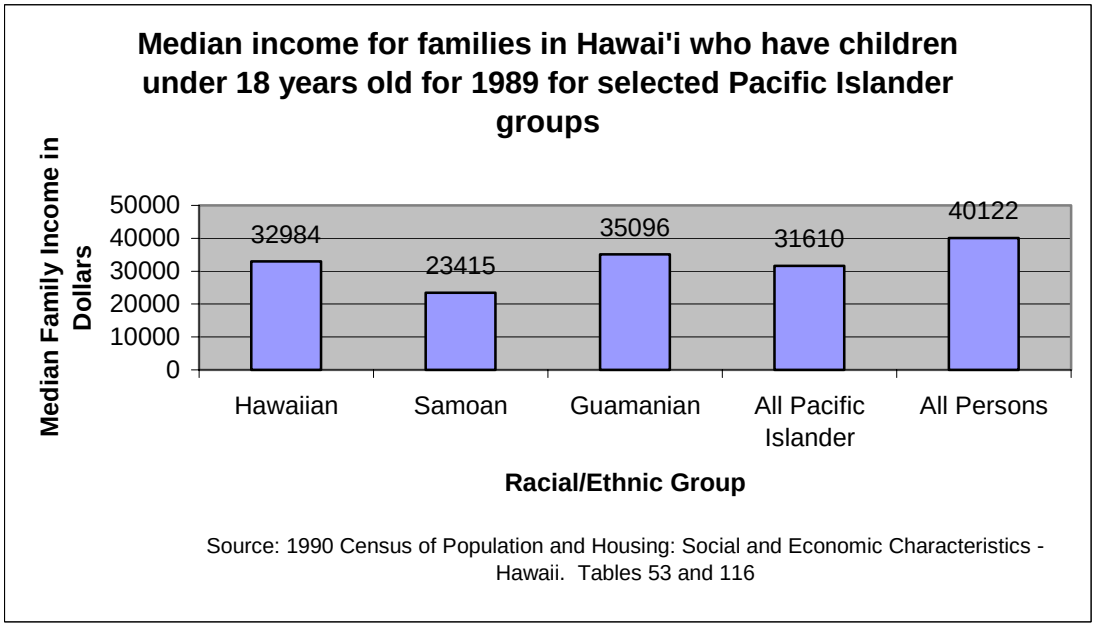
Figure 18



Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Social and Economic Characteristics - Hawaii. Tables 53 and 116

Within the Pacific Islander group, Samoans had the lowest median family income for families with children under 18. The median family income for all Pacific Islander groups in Hawaii combined is lower than for all groups combined for families with children under 18.

Figure 19

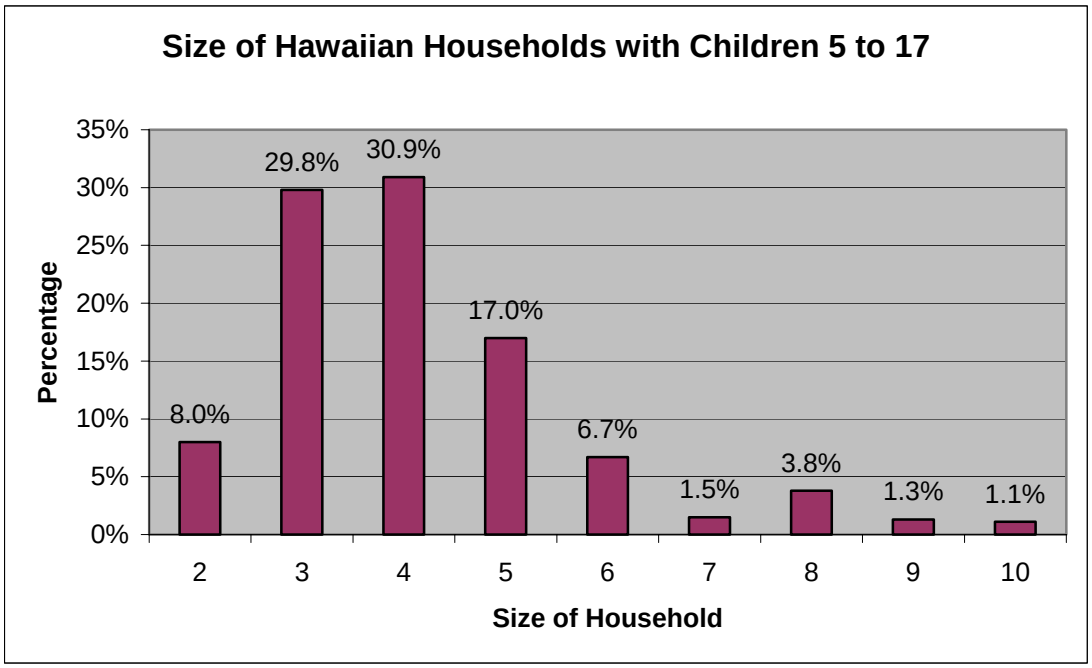


Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Social and Economic Characteristics - Hawaii. Tables 53 and 116

7. Household Size

According to the survey data, Hawaiian households with children 5 to 17 years old tend to be large. 74% of these types of households are composed of four or more people with the largest percentage being households of four people (30.9%).

Figure 20



III. Policy Implications – Further Study

Clearly, it is important to gain a better understanding of how this data compare to that of other ethnic groups in Hawaii and also on a national scale. Unfortunately, for this category of data it is very hard to make accurate comparisons with other data, because other data on characteristics of 5 to 17 year olds of other ethnicities in Hawaii or even nationwide are rare (it is easier to find data for all children 18 years and younger). Furthermore, it is hard to compare parental data on parents of 5 to 17 year olds, because more of the parental data at the state level and national level define parents as those with children 18 and under, not children 5 to 17.

With the proper resources it would be a good idea to do a statewide survey for parents of all ethnicities of children 5 to 17 years old to get a more accurate idea of how children 5 to 17 in Hawaiian households compare to their piers in terms of educational and other opportunities during this period in a child's growth and development.

However, some inferences can be made with this data that might have implications for public policy. Improving the lives of children 5 to 17 years old living in Hawaiian households must start with parental education. The data indicate that Hawaiian mothers have less education than other ethnicities. There must be some way to compensate for this gap in formal education by aiding parents (especially mothers) with programs that teach mothers and fathers the importance of education for their children and that gives them concrete skills in helping their children succeed in school.

It would be interesting to investigate why there is a disparity between males and females 5 to 17 living in Hawaiian households in terms of household characteristics. Why do more female 5 to 17 year olds live in single parent Hawaiian households and multi-generation Hawaiian households compared to males of the same age?

Finally, more resources should be devoted to getting accurate data on the status of Hawaiian children 5 to 17 years old. Without a clear picture of the status of Hawaiian children 5 to 17 years old, it is unclear what their needs are and how to formulate policies that work to meet those needs. This survey is a step in the right direction. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

IV. Limitations of Survey

Readers should bear in mind several things while reading this data summary. First, the numbers used are an estimate based on a sample of 2000 households. The Hawaii State Department of Health's Hawaii Health Survey for 2000 was used as the baseline data. A ratio was used between the numbers gathered in the 2000 household phone survey and the Hawaii Health Survey's data to arrive at the weighted numbers. Therefore, the reader must view such numbers for heavily segmented categories with some skepticism due to the high probability for a high standard error.

Second, due to the method in which the data was gathered it is difficult to make comparisons with surveys conducted in other manners. People are bound to respond differently if the survey is conducted differently. If one decides to compare this phone survey with a mail-in pen and paper survey, it is highly inevitable one will find disparities in the comparison.

Third, one must always keep in mind that the survey's results use *Hawaiian households* as the baseline data and not Native Hawaiians. The way 'Hawaiian households' is defined is critical in making any comparison with other data. Also, data results about Hawaiian households cannot be easily translated into data about Hawaiians due to the fact that many Hawaiian households contain people who are not Native Hawaiian. For example, according the definition used for the survey, a household composed of two ethnically Japanese parents who adopt a Native Hawaiian child is considered a Native Hawaiian household. Therefore, the way Hawaiian household is defined makes any comparison with data related to Native Hawaiians very tenuous.