

Health Status - Children

Vision: *Children are safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school.*

Hawaii County Has More Children Living in Poverty than Other Counties

Nearly one in five Hawaii County children under 18 years old were estimated to be living in poverty. In 2008, 16.3% of children under 18 years old in Hawaii County lived in poverty, compared to less than 10% in the City and County of Honolulu, according to the U.S. Census estimates.

North Hawaii 3rd Grade Reading Below State Average

Since education is correlated with health and with adult success as noted on page 7, reading proficiency is a relevant indicator.

Data from the Department of Education website on 3rd grade reading proficiency and math proficiency shows that the Hawaii Island Public Schools in North Hawaii are generally lower than the state average, except for Waikoloa Elementary school in 2008, which was higher.

Implication:

Improving the health of the people in Hawaii County will require mobilizing resources to support children to have reading skills by grade four, graduate from high school and complete at least a 13th year of school.

Figure 37

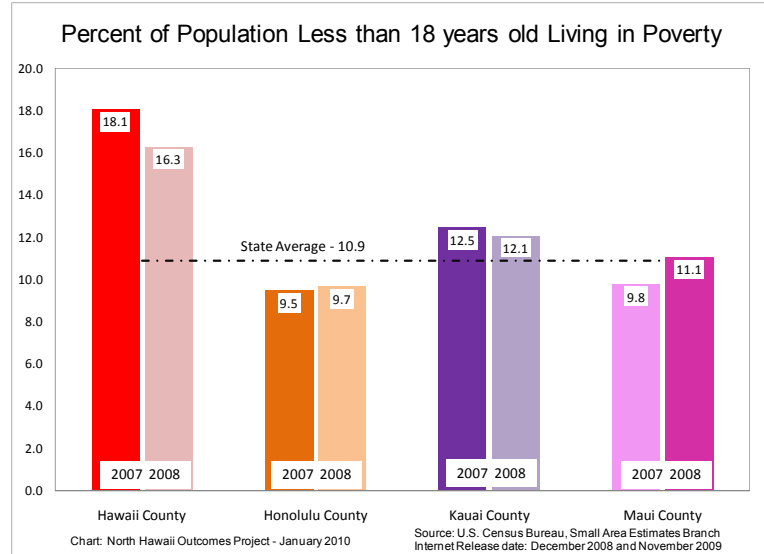


Figure 38

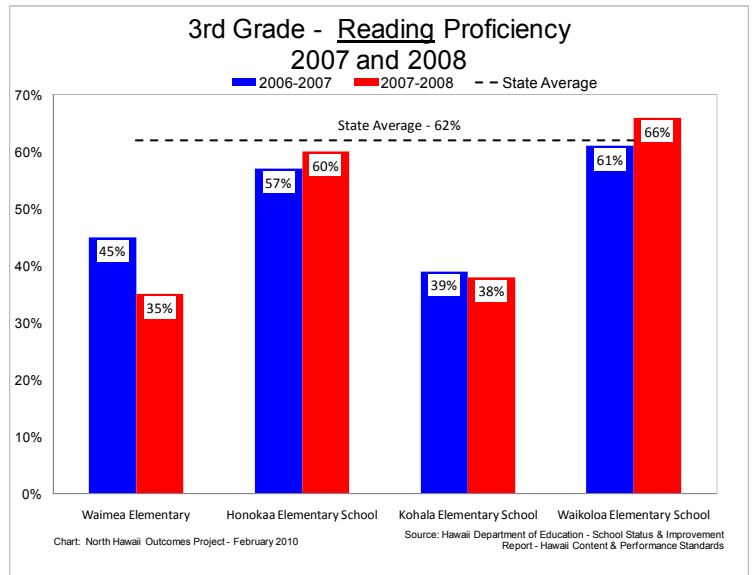
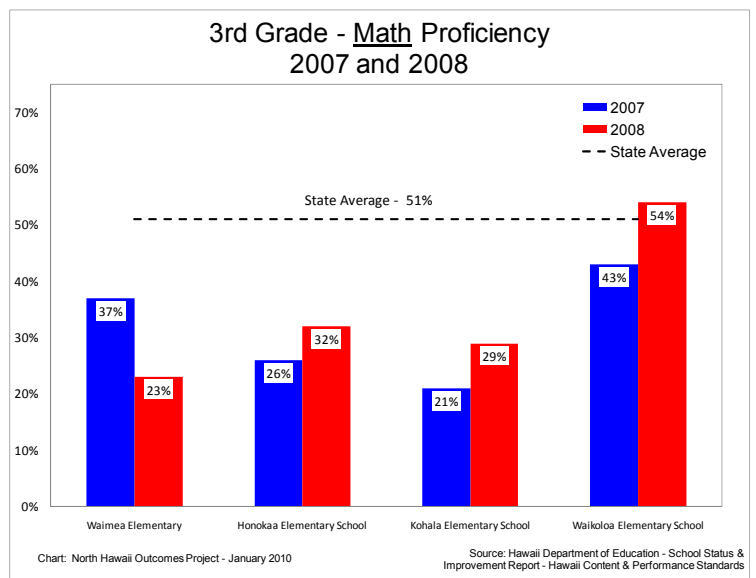


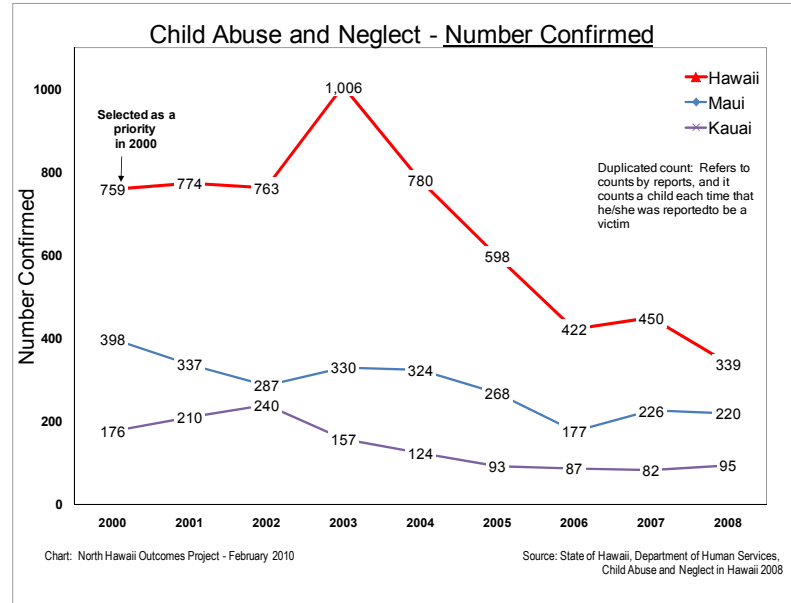
Figure 39



Hawaii County Has Higher Number of Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect than Other Neighbor Islands.

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii County is higher than in the counties of Maui and Kauai. However, it appears to be declining. Further analysis is needed.

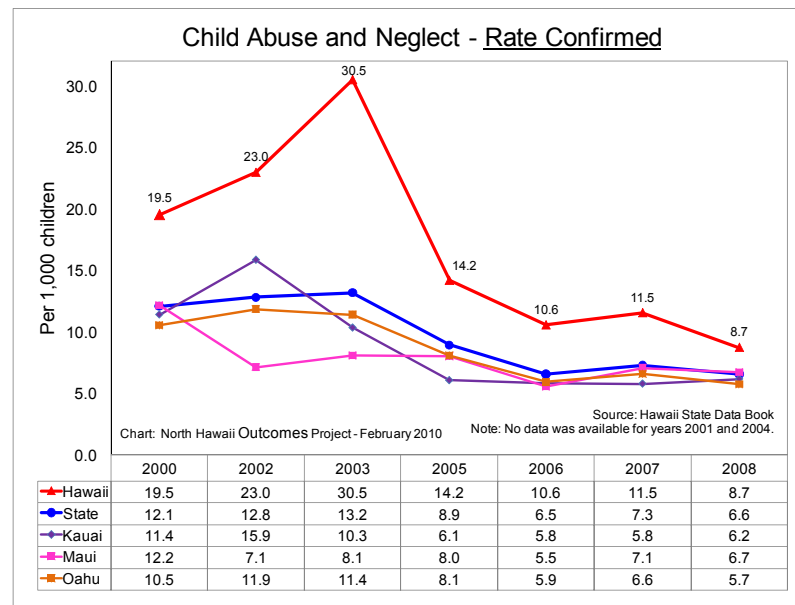
Figure 40



Hawaii County Has Higher Rate of Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect

Hawaii County has a consistently higher rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect compared to all of the other Hawaiian Counties. However, the rate appears to be declining.

Figure 41



Note: Child abuse is a critical indicator to improve, in part because victims of child abuse and neglect have significantly more mental illness and chronic diseases and require substantially more support. Victims of child abuse are also less likely to receive the nurturing necessary for optimal development and health.