



# Hawaiian Matters

Data Considerations for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Populations

**PASE REPORT**

Policy Analysis &  
System  
Evaluation

Kamehameha  
Schools

*Presented by*

Nolan J. Malone

*to the*

Subcommittee on  
Populations

Los Angeles, CA

22 May 2003

# Hawaiian Matters: Data Considerations for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Populations

NCVHS Subcommittee on Populations

22 May 2003

Los Angeles, California



## Overview

- Data Definitions
  - Grouped race categories
  - Multiple races
  - Bridges between old & new definitions
- Data Sources
  - Small populations
  - Respondents
  - Cross-sectional vs. longitudinal data
- Data Quality
  - Health issues
  - Language & culture
- Recommendations

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## Definitions: Grouped Data

- Some statistical organizations continue to report “API” as a single group.
- Although convenient, grouping broad racial/ethnic groups washes over salient differences.
- OMB Directive No. 15 Revisions: NHOPI

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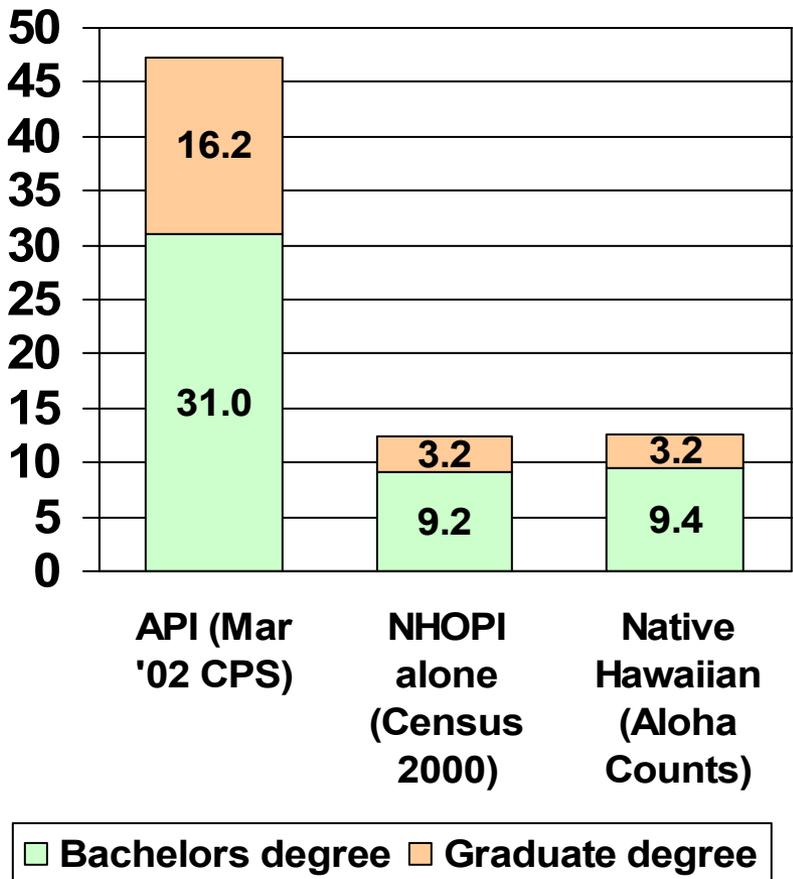
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## Example: Educational attainment

- Figures for “Asian/Pacific Islander” from March 2002 CPS suggest high attainment among Hawaiians.
- Census 2000 (SF3) data show lower estimates for “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders”
- Aloha Counts (special Census 2000 tabulations) isolate estimates to Hawaiians alone.



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## Definitions: Multiple Races

- Only 1 / 3 of all Hawaiians reported a single race in Census 2000.
- Although a recent phenomenon in federal statistics...
- ... Long history of interracial marriage and multi-racial population in Hawai`i.

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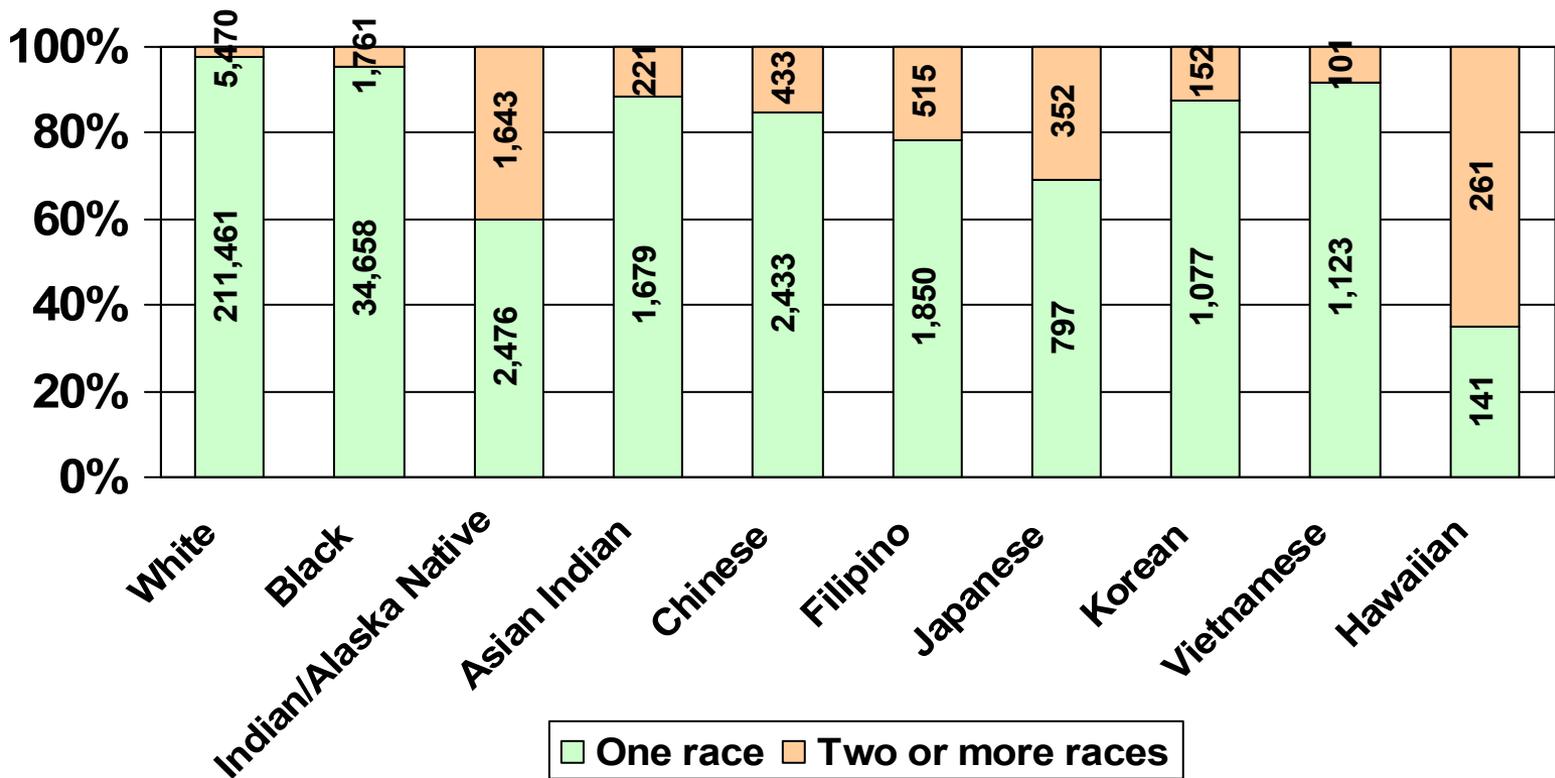
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## Example: Multiple Races



Source: Census 2000, Summary File 2, U.S. Census Bureau.

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## Definitions: Bridges

- Racial classifications can change over time
- Conflict between consistency and quality of the data
- OMB Directive No. 15 Revisions:
  - Institute changes by 2003
  - Provide bridges between old & new data

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## Data Sources

- What are the current obstacles to collecting data on Native Hawaiians?
- Are these barriers unique to the Native Hawaiian population?
- What types of data are needed?

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## Sources: Small Population

- Although it is difficult (and expensive) to capture Hawaiians using random sampling techniques...
- ..Sufficient sample sizes are needed in order to conduct statistical analyses
- Over-sampling under review:
  - Stratified, cluster techniques
  - Geography not necessarily the answer

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# Example: NHOPI on Mainland

All geographic entities (outside Hawai`i)  
with at least 20% NHOPI

At least 20% NHOPI	Number of block groups	Number of Census tracts
Alone (one race)	5	1
Alone or in combination (one or more races)	9	2

Source: Special Census 2000 tabulations performed by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Race and Ethnicity Advisory Council (REAC), May, 2003.

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## Sources: Respondents

- Among Hawaiians, “in-person” efforts more culturally acceptable than “detached” methods.
- Concepts of *o`hana*, *pono*, *malama* affect relationships with respondents.
- Attention to cultural differences can result in successful coverage.

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## Sources: Longitudinal Data

- Most current data sources are cross-sectional in nature
- Trends are crucial in on-going analyses of Native Hawaiian well-being and health
- Longitudinal analysis especially suited to Hawaii owing to uniqueness of (relative) geographic isolation

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## Quality: Health Issues

- Current research shows Hawaiians:
  - Are less likely to be insured or to seek treatment
  - Are more likely experience domestic violence or substance abuse
- Important measures:
  - Help-seeking and risk behaviors
  - Chronic illnesses, cancer, obesity
  - Detection and treatment

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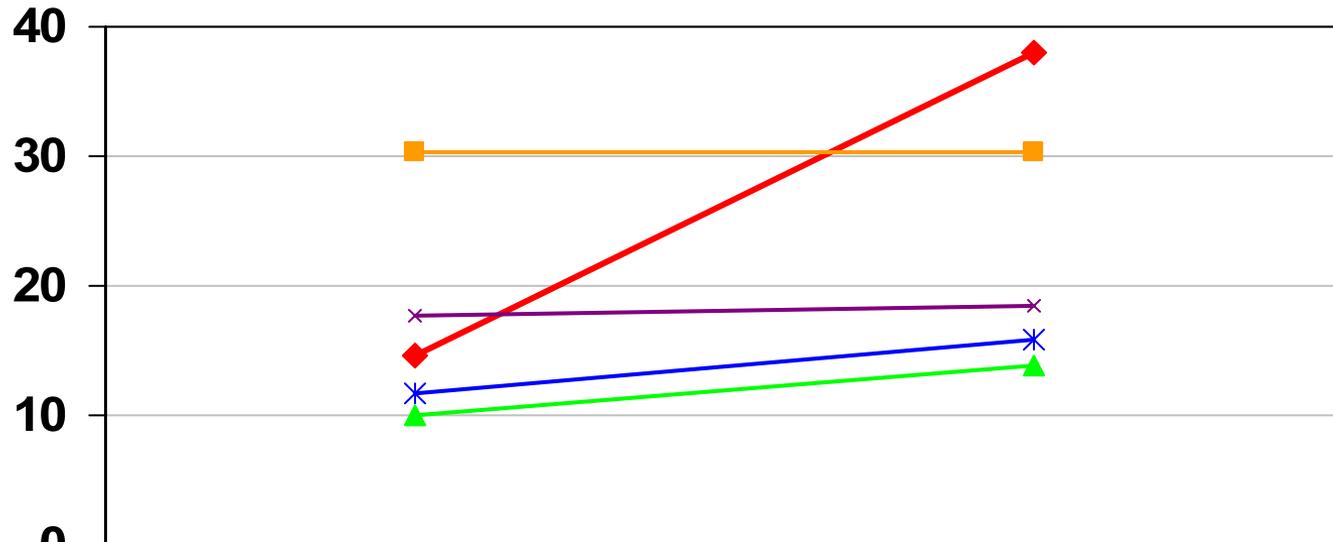


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## Example: Breast Cancer Mortality Rates in Hawai`i: 1976-80 and 1986-90

(Rates age-adjusted per 100,000 [1970 US Population])



	1976-80	1986-90
<b>◆ Native Hawaiian</b>	<b>14.69</b>	<b>37.96</b>
<b>■ Caucasian</b>	<b>30.29</b>	<b>30.25</b>
<b>▲ Japanese</b>	<b>10.06</b>	<b>13.85</b>
<b>× Chinese</b>	<b>17.69</b>	<b>18.39</b>
<b>* Filipino</b>	<b>11.75</b>	<b>15.89</b>

Source: 2001. Tsark and Braun. "Ten-year changes in breast cancer knowledge, attitudes and practices in Native Hawaiian women." Pacific Health Dialog 8(2):280-289.

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## Quality: Language & Culture

- Language revival
- Native Hawaiian health practices
- Differing family structures
- Western vs. Hawaiian values and priorities

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## Recommendations

- Improve coverage of Native Hawaiians
  - Over-sampling, targeted surveys, etc.
  - Especially on mainland
- Collect and report detailed race groups
  - Disaggregate traditional “API” group
- Develop longitudinal data sets
  - Trend analysis, individual development
- Consider cultural factors
  - Language, community and *aloha*

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## In Hawai`i: Data Sources

- State DOH data sources
  - Hawai`i Health Survey
  - Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System
  - Hawai`i Annual Vital Statistics
- Other data sources
  - Hawaiian Community Survey
  - *The State of Hawai`i Data Book*
  - Hawai`i Tumor Registry
  - Native Hawaiian Data Book

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## In Hawai`i: Talk Story

- Face-to-face interviews
- Language flexibility: Hawaiian, Hawaiian Pidgin, Tagalog, etc.
- *Talk story*
- Communication of results

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## In Hawai`i: Community

- Hawai`i DOH
- Papa Ola Lokahi
- University of Hawai`i's  
John A. Burns School of Medicine
- Kamehameha Schools - PASE
- Hawai`i DOE
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

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*Mahalo.*