

Hawaii is the only island state in the U.S., comprised of seven populated islands organized into four major counties: Hawaii, Maui, Honolulu (Oahu), and Kauai. With a land mass of 6,422 square miles that span nearly 11,000 square miles, the state is home to 1.4 million residents with 70% living in the City and County of Honolulu.



Hawaii is one of the most ethnically varied states with no single racial majority. The population includes 36.3% Asian, 21.9% White, 9.5% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and less than 2% Black. The state has a large heterogeneous Pacific Islander and Asian population. Nearly 28.3% identify as multiracial, with indigenous Native Hawaiians comprising 22.6% (when combined with other races). About 18.6% of residents are immigrant, mainly from Asia and the Pacific.

The state government is responsible for functions usually performed by counties or cities in other states. For example, Hawaii is the only state with a single unified public school system. Similarly, Hawaii has no local health departments but has county-based state health offices on Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii Islands.

The Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) works to promote and protect the physical, psychological, and environmental health of the people of Hawaii through assessment, policy development, and assurance. The HDOH Family Health Services Division (FHSD) administers the federal Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant (Title V) to improve the health of women, infants, and children, including those with special healthcare needs. The four guiding pillars of MCH are: 1) Delivery of services using the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework; 2) Data-driven performance accountability; 3) Partnerships with agencies, community providers, and individual families/youth; and 4) Working to achieve optimal health for all MCH populations. To help expand its capacity and reach, FHSD leverages state and federal grant funds with community partners.

To set priorities for the state MCH program, a comprehensive needs assessment is conducted every five years. In 2025, Hawaii completed a new 5-year needs assessment and selected the following priorities for the 2026-2030 project period.

Population Domain	Topic	2026-2030 State Priority Need
Women's/ Maternal Health	Postpartum Visits	Increase the rate and improve the quality of postpartum care by promoting timely, comprehensive follow-up visits.

Population Domain	Topic	2026-2030 State Priority Need
Perinatal/ Infant Health	Safe Sleep	Increase the prevalence of safe infant sleep practices by partnering with communities to promote relevant education and resources that reduce the risk of sleep-related infant deaths.
Child Health	Developmental Screening	Increase the percentage of children ages 0–5 years who receive timely and continuous developmental screening by enhancing outreach, provider training, and coordination across early childhood systems to ensure early identification and connection to appropriate supports.
	Food Sufficiency	Ensure food sufficiency for infants and young children by strengthening access to WIC nutrition services and supports.
Adolescent Health	Bullying Prevention	Reduce the percentage of adolescents who experience or engage in bullying by promoting evidence-based prevention programs
Children with Special Health Care Needs	Medical Home	Increase the number of children with special health care needs who have a Medical Home by focusing on improving care coordination
Cross-Cutting	Mental Health	Increase access to responsive, trauma-informed mental health services and supports for birthing people, children, and families

Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Coming out of the global pandemic and Maui Wildfires, FHSD adopted a comprehensive approach to the 2025 five-year needs assessment. The assessment identified over 70 preliminary findings highlighting the profound impact of community-level factors that impact health including family stress due to the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, a growing need for mental health services; diminished social support and connection; concerns about family and community violence, inconsistent access to healthcare and social services, and a clear need for more relevant care.

Community Informed Process. The 2025 needs assessment was grounded in broad community engagement throughout planning and implementation. An Advisory Committee brought together community perspectives and internal staff expertise, and a planning meeting with more than 60 partners shaped the assessment approach—including expanded qualitative data collection in partnership with community-based organizations serving priority MCH populations. A dedicated needs assessment website kept stakeholders informed and supported ongoing participation.

Extensive Community Engagement. Throughout 2024–25, FHSD worked with community organizations to reach stakeholders statewide using multiple methods. An online survey gathered input from 1,053 respondents, including healthcare providers, families, and organizational partners. In addition, 26 focus groups engaged 171 participants—parents, caregivers, youth, young adults, advocates, community-based organizations, and health and social service providers. Participants represented every island, were predominantly women, and ranged in age from 16 to 65. This broad

engagement ensured the assessment reflected diverse lived experiences and community priorities.

Community-Centered Reporting. Over the past year, the program worked diligently to present assessment findings in user-friendly, community-centered formats. The 300+-page needs assessment report submitted with last year's Title V application was distilled into accessible summaries and visualizations that elevate community-identified priorities. FHSD is finalizing these products in July 2026 and developing plans for an effective rollout to community partners. This approach reflects the program's commitment to honoring the extensive community input that shaped the assessment and ensures the information remains meaningful and actionable for families, partners, and stakeholders.

FHSD Program Updates. FHSD continues to adjust and refine programs to more effectively address the most critical needs of communities across the state. Federal policy changes may require additional program modifications in the coming years. Despite ongoing vacancies and workforce strain, FHSD staff continue to demonstrate resilience - building new partnerships, adapting to shifting expectations, and addressing service gaps amid increasing demands.

Workforce Challenges & Opportunities: As reflected in the needs assessment, the state's public health workforce is experiencing notable challenges. Rising retirements among long-serving staff, combined with a contracting statewide labor market and population decline, contribute to persistent vacancies, elevated stress and burnout, and a loss of institutional knowledge across FHSD programs. At the same time, these shifts present opportunities, including a growing pipeline of young, dynamic public health graduates and new senior leadership working to modernize and strengthen program operations.

Workforce Development. FHSD is prioritizing workforce stabilization through stronger cross-division collaboration, expanded training and supports, and improved communication. These strategies aim to preserve critical knowledge, strengthen staff skills, and reinforce internal capacity so the Division can maintain core services and respond effectively to evolving statewide needs. By investing in new talent and a more connected workforce, FHSD is building the foundation needed to adapt to future demands.

Clients Served/Programs Reach. As reported in Form 5a, Title V programs continued to see growth in direct client services in 2025, with a 26.3% increase over 2024. Service levels were also 8.1% higher than 2019 pre-COVID levels, following the sharp decline experienced during the pandemic. The 2025 increase was not consistent across all program or population groups. The reach of other public health services, as reported in Form 5b, remained similar to 2024 but showed substantial gains compared to 2019, including a 93.2% increase in outreach to adults and a 7.5% increase in outreach to children, driven largely by expanded media initiatives.

5-Year Highlights for 2021-2025 Priority Performance Measures

This FY 2025 report concludes the final year of the 2021-2025 project period. The table below outlines which priorities will end and which will continue into the next cycle across the population domains. Also, brief accomplishments are highlighted for each priority.

Population Domain	Title V Priority Performance Measures
Women's/Maternal Health	Promote reproductive life planning (<i>last report year</i>)
Perinatal/Infant Health	Promote food security through WIC services (<i>moving to child domain</i>)
	Increase infant safe sleep conditions (<i>continuing</i>)
Child Health	Improve the percentage of children ages 0-5 years screened early and continuously for developmental delay (<i>continuing</i>)
	Reduce the rate of child abuse and neglect, with special attention to children ages 0-5 years (<i>last report year</i>)
Adolescent Health	Improve the healthy development, health, safety, and well-being of adolescents (<i>last report year</i>)
Children with Special Health Care Needs	Improve the percentage of youth with special health care needs ages 14-21 years who receive services necessary to transition to adult healthcare (<i>last report year</i>)
Cross-Cutting	Reduce disparities by expanding pediatric mental health care access in rural & at-risk communities (<i>last report year</i>)

DOMAIN: WOMEN'S/MATERNAL HEALTH

Promote reproductive life planning

- Partnered with the Hawaii Maternal Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC) and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to carry out the federal Maternal Health Innovation grant activities; completed and implemented a state MH Strategic Plan
- The MCH Branch continued to provide reproductive health services to at-risk communities statewide

DOMAIN: PERINATAL/INFANT HEALTH

Promote safe sleep practices

- Conducted multi-media messaging campaign to promote safe sleep and resources available through the state toll-free Parent Line and website
<https://www.parentlinehawaii.org/>
- Staffed the Safe Sleep Hawaii coalition and sponsored the annual Safe Sleep Summit

Address Food Insecurity through Improving WIC services

- Published data on WIC clients and retention rates used to strengthen program planning and evaluation

- Focused on workforce development for WIC staff to address retention and the changing needs of families

DOMAIN: CHILD HEALTH

Improve early and continuous screening for developmental delay

- Support innovative project integrating developmental screening kiosk into community health center pediatric practice using family navigators
- Evaluating whether to shift the *Hi'ilei* screening program from direct services to a systems building role to improve service coordination and statewide data collection

Reduce the rate of child abuse and neglect (CAN)

- Strengthened community capacity by awarding final year of federal ARPA funding to community-based family and parenting support services
- Expanded availability of state home visiting services and supported the network of home visiting programs

DOMAIN: ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Improve adolescent health and well-being

- Partnered with residential youth programs to provide evidence-based healthy youth development programs for the state's most at risk youth
- Partnered with the Department of Education to support training and develop a resource hub for teachers and staff to better support youth through puberty

DOMAIN: CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CSHCN)

Improve transitions to adult healthcare

- Completed a system for transition planning for enrolled Special Support Program youth using evidence-based Transition practices and data system (the system was adopted by the Kaiser Hawaii Adolescent Health program)
- Partnered with TeenLink Hawaii, a youth-driven, empowerment program to develop web-based resources and social media messages on health issues, including Transition to Adult healthcare

DOMAIN: CROSS-CUTTING/SYSTEMS BUILDING

Expand pediatric mental health care access to at-risk rural communities

- In partnership with the Queen's Medical Center, the pediatric mental health warmline pilot on Maui provided teleconsultation services and care coordination for pediatric providers (the warmline is being expanded statewide and to Pacific Basin)
- Conducted mental health training for pediatric and family service providers through dedicated seminars, institutes, and conference presentations

Optional Reporting. Under the new Title V guidance, most of the grant overview narrative updates are optional in the interim needs assessment years. Hawaii chose not to update most narratives in order to focus limited staffing resources on continuing needs assessment activities and advancing work on priority health issues.