



A Healthy Equity Framework for Native Hawaiians (NH)

Barriers to Health Equity

Community-Based Strategies

Health Disparities

Social Determinants of Health

Predisposing barriers

Community Interventions

Capacity Building Opportunities

Outcomes

Native Hawaiians have among the **highest incidences of behavioral health problems** of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. In 2019, **suicide was the leading cause of death for Native Hawaiians** ages 15-24¹

Economic Well-Being

Native Hawaiians had the highest rates of using public assistance and homeless services, and the highest rate of poverty among Hawai'i's major ethnic groups²

Neighborhood & Built Environment

Lack of access to nature/natural environment, food sovereignty, and protection of spiritual sites have contributed to a decline in (NH) sense of identity and mental well-being

- Shortage of Native Hawaiian health professionals and culturally relevant programs/services
- Historical trauma resulting from oppression, colonialism, and cultural disruption for Native Hawaiians
- **Corporate tourism** and the rising **influx of non-native mainlanders** relocating to the islands have made the **cost of living unaffordable** for Native Hawaiians. In Maui alone, 52% of homes are sold to nonresidents, and 60% of condos and apartments have gone to investors and second homeowners³

- Implementing **cultural revitalization programs** that promote positive Hawaiian values/identities
- **Trauma-informed mental health programs** that acknowledge the Native Hawaiian communities knowledge, cultural identity, ancestral relations and values. For example, the importance of lōkahi (harmony), aloha 'āina (love for the land), mālama 'āina (land preservation) & nā akua (god/spirits)²

- Adapting **services grounded on place-based & family-centered practices** that reflect traditional Hawaiian beliefs about physical and spiritual well-being
- Adopting effective, sustainable, and **culturally responsive health intervention programs** that revitalize cultural practices

- Improved capacity for health care professionals to provide mental health education and behavioral services
- Improved cultural knowledge and behavior-based practices to address disparities and **empower (NHs) to reconnect with their culture and well-being**