

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

HHDW BRFSS Poverty Level Methodology

The BRFSS survey captures demographic information such as number of members in household and income range. These two demographic variables are used to determine poverty level. Poverty Level is defined as the percentage range above or below the poverty line as stated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The HHS poverty guidelines for Hawaii are published annually on their website: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>

Since BRFSS does not provide a specific income, the HHDW calculates Poverty Level using several steps:

Step 1: Obtain imputed income

The income value is imputed by taking the mid-point of the income range from the survey. For example: Income range \$10,000 - \$15,000 results in an income of \$12,500. Below is sample data to illustrate the HHDW BRFSS Poverty Level methodology.

In BRFSS, the income range values and HHDW imputed incomes are:

Income Range (in US Dollars)	Imputed Income
0 - 4999	2500
5000 - 12499	8750
12500 - 17499	15000
17500 - 22499	20000
22500 - 29999	26250
30000 - 42499	36250
42500 - 62499	52500
62500 - 74999	68750
75000 +	
Don't Know / Refused To Answer	

Example: If the BRFSS respondent selected the income range of "\$12,500-\$17,499", then the imputed income would be \$15,000.

Step 2: Determine the number of people in the household

Add the BRFSS variables CHILDREN and NUMADULTS

Example: CHILDREN (1) + NUMADULTS (2) = 3

Step 3: Obtain the Poverty Level Guideline for the number of people in the household

Compare the number of people in the household against the “Sample Poverty Level Guideline for 2005” and determine the standard income level for the specified number of household members.

SAMPLE POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINE FOR 2005:

Persons in Family Unit	Hawaii
1	\$11,010
2	14,760
3	18,510
4	22,260
5	26,010
6	29,760
7	33,510
8	37,260
For each additional person, add	3,750

Example: A family of 3 should be at an income of \$18,510

Step 4: Determine the poverty level for the household:

Poverty level = Imputed income/income level standard based on poverty guidelines.

Ex: Poverty level = 15,000/18,510

Poverty Level = 81%

Step 5: Determine the Poverty Level bucket range that the household falls into:

For reporting purposes, the poverty level ranges are:

Poverty Level Buckets
1 - 50 %
51 - 100 %
101 - 120 %
121 - 130%
131 - 150%
151 - 170%
171 - 184%
185+
Don't Know / Refused To Answer

A household with 3 household members with an imputed income of \$15,000 is at 81% poverty level. This means that they will be part of the 51%-100% poverty level bucket

Summary:

Year:	2005
BRFSS Income Range:	\$12,500-\$17,499
Imputed Income:	\$15,000
Household Size:	3
Calculated PL %:	At 81.0% Poverty Level
Bucketed PL:	At 50 – 100% Poverty Level

Hawaii Health Survey (HHS)

The percent poverty levels for HHS are:

- < 63%
- <63 - 100%
- 101 - 133%
- 134 - 185%
- 186 - 200%
- 201 - 300%
- > 300%

Note:

- < 100% denotes "Below poverty level"
- Percent Poverty determined by 2003 total household income and 2004 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Example:

Poverty ⁴	
<63%	25,948
63-100%	41,089
101-133%	55,041
134-185%	80,247
186-200%	34,419
201-300%	142,648
>300%	493,773

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

PRAMS is using the 1999 federal poverty guidelines in each state. The HHDW reports on PRAMS poverty level using the following grouping:

Poverty Level
0-100%
101-185%
186% +
UNKNOWN

The logic to derive PRAMS Poverty Levels is listed below:

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** Hawaii: highest annual income category = more than $50,000;
** Asks about family income 'last year';
IF income=. THEN incomel=.;
ELSE IF income=01 THEN incomel=5000; *recodes to midpoints to use;
ELSE IF income=02 THEN incomel=12500; *as a continuous variable;
ELSE IF income=03 THEN incomel=17500;

ELSE IF income=04 THEN incomel=22500;
ELSE IF income=05 THEN incomel=27500;
ELSE IF income=06 THEN incomel=32500;
ELSE IF income=07 THEN incomel=37500;
ELSE IF income=08 THEN incomel=42500;
ELSE IF income=09 THEN incomel=47500;
ELSE IF income=10 THEN incomel=98000; * top end coding estimated based on
distribution of income above that level;

2000 data for Hawaii; * according to Census

fm_size=liv_tot3; **family size at time of survey;

**1999 cut-offs for Hawaii;
IF incomel=. THEN povt=.;
IF fm_size= 1 THEN povt=incomel/9490;
IF fm_size= 2 THEN povt=incomel/12730;
IF fm_size= 3 THEN povt=incomel/15970;
IF fm_size= 4 THEN povt=incomel/19210;
IF fm_size= 5 THEN povt=incomel/22450;
IF fm_size= 6 THEN povt=incomel/25690;
IF fm_size= 7 THEN povt=incomel/28930;
IF fm_size= 8 THEN povt=incomel/32170;
IF fm_size= 9 THEN povt=incomel/35410;
IF fm_size=10 THEN povt=incomel/38650;
IF fm_size=11 THEN povt=incomel/41890;
IF fm_size=12 THEN povt=incomel/45130;
IF fm_size>=13 THEN povt=incomel/48370;

povper99=povt*100;

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if povt=. then inccat=1;                                *missing;
else IF 0 < povper99 =<100 THEN inccat=2;              *0-100%;
ELSE IF 100 < povper99 =<185 THEN inccat=3;           *101-185%;
ELSE IF 185 < povper99 THEN inccat=4;                 *186% +;

if inccat=1 then incomelevel=.;
if inccat=2 then incomelevel=1;
if inccat=3 then incomelevel=2;
if inccat=4 then incomelevel=3;

PROC FORMAT LIBRARY=LIBRARY;
VALUE inccat 1='missing'
              2='0-100% poverty level'
              3='101-185% poverty level'
              4='186% + poverty level'
              ;
VALUE incomelv 1='0-100% poverty level'
                2='101-185% poverty level'
                3='186% + poverty level'
                ;
```

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Poverty level reporting for WIC changes from year to year. Please check the WIC Poverty Level table for details regarding poverty level criteria based on household income and number of individuals in the household.

WIC reports poverty level using the following groupings:

- 0%
- 1-50%
- 51-100%
- 101-120%
- 121-130%
- 131-150%
- 151-170%
- 171-180%
- 181-185%
- 186+%