



2025

Poverty-Level Documentation

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	4
BRFSS Methodology	4
Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)	7
PRAMS Methodology	7
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)	10
Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)	10
Vital Statistics	10

Introduction

When household income and household size are available, HHDW calculates the percent of federal poverty level. While the procedure varies slightly by dataset, the following poverty dimensions are available upon request:

HHDW Health Indicator Names:

- POVERTY_LEVEL_2LVL (0-185%, 186+%)
- POVERTY_LEVEL_3LVL (0-130%, 131-185%, 186+%)
- POVERTY_LEVEL_4LVL (0-100%, 101-185, 186-300, 301+%)
- POVERTY_LEVEL_DTL (1-50%, 51-100%, 101-120%, 121-130%, 131-150%, 151-170%, 171-180%, 181-185%, 186-300%, 301+%)

Please note that due to small sample size, some categories may not have any responses in different years.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

BRFSS Methodology

The BRFSS survey captures demographic information such as the number of members in a household and income range. These two demographic variables are used to determine the 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 Hawai'i are published annually on their website:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

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

Step 1: Obtain imputed income.

The income value is imputed by taking the midpoint of the income range from the survey. For example, the income range of \$10,000 - \$14,999 results in an income of \$12,500. Below is sample data to illustrate the HDDW BRFSS Poverty Level methodology.

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

Income Range	Imputed Income
\$0 – \$9,999	\$5,000
\$10,000 – \$14,999	\$12,500
\$15,000 – \$19,999	\$17,500
\$20,000 – \$24,999	\$22,500
\$25,000 – \$34,999	\$30,000
\$35,000 – \$49,999	\$42,500
\$50,000 – \$74,999	\$62,500
\$75,000 +	\$75,000
Don't Know / Refused To Answer	

Step 2: Determine the number of people in the household.

For landline questionnaires (QSTVER = 10), add the BRFSS variables CHILDREN and NUMADULT.

For cell phone questionnaires (QSTVER = 20), add the BRFSS variables CHILDREN and HHADULT

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 Federal Poverty Level Guideline for the appropriate year and determine the standard income level for the specified number of household members.

POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINE FOR 2023:

Persons in Family Unit	Hawai'i
1	\$16,770
2	\$22,680
3	\$28,590
4	\$34,500
5	\$40,410
6	\$46,320
7	\$52,230
8	\$58,140
For each additional person, add	\$5,910

Example: A family of 3 should be at an income of \$28,590.

Step 4: Determine the poverty level for the household.

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

Example: Poverty level = 22,500/28,590

Poverty level = 78.7%

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 – 180%
181 – 185%
186 – 300%
301%+
Don't Know / Refused To Answer

A household with 3 household members with an imputed income of \$22,500 is at 78.7% poverty level. This means that they will be part of the 51% - 100% poverty level bracket.

Summary:

Year:	2023
BRFSS Income Range:	\$20,000 – \$24,999
Imputed Income:	\$22,500
Household Size:	3
Calculated PL%:	At 78.7% Poverty Level
Bucketed PL:	At 51 – 100% Poverty Level

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

PRAMS Methodology

The PRAMS survey captures demographic information such as the number of members in a household and income range. These two demographic variables are used to determine the 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 Hawai'i are published annually on their website:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

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

Step 1: Obtain imputed income

The income value is imputed by taking the midpoint of the income range from the survey. Below is sample data to illustrate the HDDW PRAMS Poverty Level methodology. In PRAMS, the income range values and HDDW imputed incomes have changed over time. The values for 2016-2023 are:

Income Range	Imputed Income
\$0 - \$18000	\$9,000
\$18,001 - \$23,000	\$20,500
\$23,001 - \$28,000	\$25,500
\$28,001 - \$33,000	\$30,500
\$33,001 - \$37,000	\$35,000
\$37,001 - \$46,000	\$41,500
\$46,001 - \$55,000	\$50,500
\$55,001 - \$65,000	\$60,000
\$65,001 - \$69,000	\$67,000
\$69,001 - \$84,000	\$71,500
\$84,001 - \$98,000	\$91,000
\$98,001+	\$98,000
Don't Know / Refused to Answer	

Example: If the PRAMS respondent selected the income range of “\$18,001-\$23,000”, then the imputed income would be \$20,500.

Step 2: Determine the number of people in the household.

The PRAMS survey asks: During the 12 months before your new baby was born, how many people, including yourself, depended on this income?

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 year-specific Federal Poverty Level Guideline (in this example, 2023) and determine the standard income level for the specified number of household members.

POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINE FOR 2023:

Persons in Family Unit	Hawai'i
1	\$16,770
2	\$22,680
3	\$28,590
4	\$34,500
5	\$40,410
6	\$46,320
7	\$52,230
8	\$58,140
For each additional person, add	\$5,910

Example: A family of 3 should be at an income of \$28,590.

Step 4: Determine the poverty level for the household.

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

Example: Poverty level = $20,500/28,590$

Poverty level = 71.7%

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 – 180%
181 – 185%
186 – 300%
301%+
Don't Know / Refused to Answer

A household with 3 household members with an imputed income of \$20,500 is at 71.7% poverty level. This means that they will be part of the 51%-100% poverty level bracket.

Summary:

Year:	2023
BRFSS Income Range:	\$18,001-\$23,000
Imputed Income:	\$20,500
Household Size:	3
Calculated PL%:	At 71.7% Poverty Level
Bucketed PL:	At 51 – 100% Poverty Level

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

No poverty level data collected.

Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

No poverty level data collected.

Vital Statistics

No poverty level data collected.