



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNVEILS NEW ONLINE RESOURCE OFFERING A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF COMMUNITY AND STATE HEALTH

HONOLULU – As part of Public Health Week (April 2-8, 2007), the Hawai'i State Department of Health has launched www.healthyhawaii2010.org, a new web site that gathers health-related data from various sources and makes it available to the public. The data presents the most comprehensive picture currently available of factors that could affect the health of Hawai'i's residents, and how communities around the state compare to one other.

The online resource is intended to empower Hawai'i citizens as well as researchers, epidemiologists, and policy makers to make informed decisions about their health and the health of our communities.

"We are equipping the public with data, so that together we can work on improving health for everyone in Hawai'i" said Dr. Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, Director of Health. "For the first time, the public will have easy access to updated, comprehensive Department of Health data and can compare differences in health among Hawai'i's ethnicities, geographical areas, and varying income and education levels."

www.healthyhawaii2010.org is comprised of reports generated from a new data warehouse that contains data from six different sources, many of which were previously inaccessible to the general public or available only in limited detail. These include national surveys such as the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System and data collected by the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

Statistics span topics such as health disparities across various demographic groups, chronic disease, alcohol and tobacco use, women's health, access to health insurance, lifestyle, prevention, mortality and more. A sample of 2005 statistics, for example, reveals that:

- A higher percentage of adults with less than high school education reported that they were in poor health when compared with adults with college degrees (10.6% versus 1.8%)
- While overall smoking rates have decreased from 20% in 2000 to 17% in 2005, rates for young women ages 18-24 reflect a slight increase, from 18% to 19%
- Over 90% of women over the age of 40 had a mammogram done
- Over 52% of Hawai'i's adults were either overweight or obese
- Heart disease was Hawai'i's number one killer

“This website allows people to obtain information that is more meaningful to and reflective of Hawai‘i’s population,” said Robert Hirokawa, epidemiologist for the Hawai‘i State Department of Health’s Healthy Hawai‘i Initiative. “It can help people learn more about the many factors that may affect the health of Hawai‘i’s communities on many different levels.”

About the Hawai‘i Health Data Warehouse

To standardize the collection and management of Hawai‘i’s health data and support the goal of the Healthy People 2010, the Department of Health (DOH) established the Hawai‘i Health Data Warehouse Project in 2000 as a part of the Healthy Hawai‘i Initiative (www.healthyhawaii.com). It is funded by DOH to administer the design, creation, and management of a centralized data warehouse and for related training and education purposes. The data warehouse, through www.healthyhawaii2010.org, gives citizens, public health professionals, and policy makers instant access to public health data and reports to support the overall improvement and expansion of health and services for the people of Hawai‘i.

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