

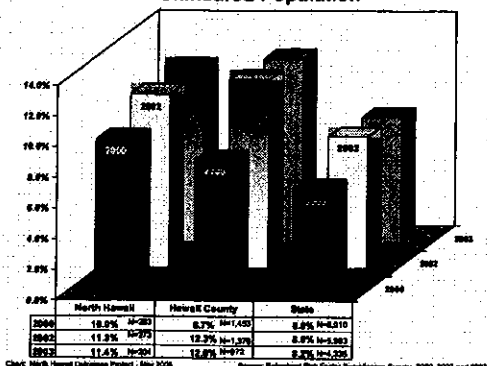
# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRESS

## Improving Access to Primary Care

Desired outcomes: Great place to live, great place to heal.

### INDICATOR

#### Uninsured Population



### Access to Physicians - 2003

Number licensed physicians per population\*

State	2.8 per 1,000 people
Hawaii County	2.1 per 1,000 people
City & County of Honolulu	3.1 per 1,000 people
Mauai County	2.1 per 1,000 people
Kauai County	2.2 per 1,000 people

Source: Numerator from Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs - 2005  
\*Uniform Crime Report 2003 population estimate

#### Primary Indicators:

% Age-adjusted mortality rate / neglect rate  
Ratio of primary care physicians per population (See page 29)  
% Uninsured (See page 29)

#### Related Indicators:

Annual percent decrease in emergency room visits  
Ratio of general physicians to population (See page 29)  
Infant mortality rate  
Stroke death rate

#### STORY behind the baseline:

- Research shows that overall death rates are highly correlated with lack of access to primary care
- Reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance health care in Hawaii is 30% to 50% lower than mainland reimbursement
- Cost of living in Hawaii is at least 50% higher than the mainland
- Public education in Hawaii is ranked as 6<sup>th</sup> worst in the country in total taxable resources spent on public education (See [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org))
- Retention of high quality health care providers and allied professionals limited by above challenges
- Increasing percent of population without health insurance.
- Community partnerships with state and national partners to recruit and retain primary care physicians have been effective elsewhere
- Perception that some local physicians may oppose recruitment of new physicians

#### PARTNERS with a role to play:

- Local:** Federal Qualified Health Centers, Mobile Care Van, Employers  
**County:** Hawaii Island Rural Health Association, District Health Office, UH Hilo-School of Nursing  
**State:** Primary Care Association, Department of Health-Primary Care Needs Assessment, Hawaii State Rural Health Association, Department of Health-State Office of Rural Health, Hawaii Uninsured Project, Hawaii Covering Kids, UH Manoa-School of Medicine, Hawaii Health Executive Committee  
**National:** National Rural Health Association, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
**Academic:**

#### What WORKS:

- Community partnerships with state and national partners to recruit and retain high quality primary care physicians.
- Promote local students entering health professions through partnerships with local schools

#### STRATEGY, ACTION PLAN AND EVENTUALLY BUDGET:

- Publicize phone numbers to access health insurance for kids.
- Collaborate with Hawaii Outcomes Institute to improve data to track primary care physician ratio.
- Collaborate with Hamakua Health Center (Federal Qualified Health Center) to increase access to high quality health care.
- Collaborate with State Office of Rural Health to find models and resources for recruitment and retention of primary care physicians.
- Collaborate with Hawaii Island Rural Health Association to develop Hawaii Island Primary Care Needs Report.