Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders
Data: The Power to Incite Positive Change

Maile Taualii, PhD, MPH
Director, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center
Case Study:

Despite community and legislative efforts to disaggregate Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders from Asians ....we are still struggling to address this challenge.

This case study examines the affect aggregation has, the most challenging places this still exists, and positive and constructive efforts to address this challenge.

Source: 2000 US CENSUS
Background
Federal Racial Data Collection Mandates

- October 30, 1997—OMB published final Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.

- OMB standards apply to “all federally collected data and reporting, including all levels of education, the national census, medical research, disease statistics, drawing boundaries for Congressional districts, the Voting Rights Act, and compliance with federal law and statutory regulations.”

- "Asian or Pacific Islander" was split into two categories, "Asian" and a "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander."

Source: 1997 OMB
Challenges with the Data
Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders Profile
Overview (Demographics): This racial group refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.

- **Cancer:** Asian/Pacific Islander women are 30% less likely to have breast cancer as non-Hispanic white women.
- **Diabetes:** Asians are 30% less likely than non-Hispanic whites to die from diabetes.
- **Heart Disease:** Asian/Pacific Islander adults are less likely than white adults to have heart disease and they are less likely to die from heart disease.
- **Stroke:** Asians/Pacific Islander adults are less likely to die from a stroke.
Another Example

- Study done to assess the mortality of the adult Asian and Pacific Islander population in the United States.

- Overall age-standardized mortality was the lowest in Asians/Pacific Islanders, whose risk of death was about 40% lower than whites.

- CONCLUSIONS: Overall mortality is substantially lower among Asians and Pacific Islanders than in all other major ethnic groups.

## Mortality Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total US population</td>
<td>524/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>350/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiians</td>
<td>901/100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information Cycle

Population

Health Data

Inform Policy

Programs/Services to Address Needs

Funding Distribution
No Data ≠ No Problem

Lack of Quality Data Can Silence A Community
Percent Late or No Prenatal Care Washington Birth Certificate, 2005–2007

Source: Washington State Dept. Health
Mortality Rates –
Leading Causes of Death in Hawaii, 2000
Native Hawaiian vs. All Other Ethnicities

- Heart Disease: 68% higher
- Cancer: 34% higher
- Stroke: 20% higher
- Diabetes: 130% higher
- Injuries: 16% higher

Source: D.B. Johnson 2004
Effective Strategy
Established January 1, 2009

Division of Papa Ola Lokahi
- Assist in the development of workable strategies to address data issues around Native Hawaiian populations
- Native Hawaiian community based and controlled
- Partnerships with the private sector and federal, state, local governments
Primary Services

- Provide Technical Assistance to Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems
- Produce National Native Hawaiian Health Reports
- Develop Instruments for Data Gathering
- Report Findings to Broader Community to Raise Awareness of Native Hawaiian Needs
- Serve as a Clearing House of Information Essential to NHHCS & the Communities they Serve
Pacific Islander EpiCenter

- Established 2010

- Housed within Guam Communications Network
  - Long Beach, California
  - Serves Pacific Islanders residing in all 50 States
  - Director, Joey Quenga
Region IX

Data Round Table

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Minority Health Region IX
California Department of Public Health
California Dept of Health Care Services, Office of Multicultural Health

Sacramento, California - May 18-19, 2009
Never Use the Category – Asian/Pacific Islander
  - Instead – *No data available for Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
When you report “race” – Don’t just show Black & Hispanic
  - Honor the Diversity Among Us –
  - Don’t Succumb to the Divide and Conquer Strategy
For the Statisticians in the Group….
  - Don’t Simply Adjust for Race - Stratify and Report by Race Groups
For the Feds in the Group……
  - Work with your community partners –
  - If we aren’t at the table, we are on the menu.
For the Community Folks in the Group…..
  - Find Government Allies –
    They can help us get to the table and sometimes help prepare us.
Hello Maile!

First, I wanted to say that I really enjoyed your presentation at last week’s HHS Region IX meeting. I found it very refreshing and informative.

Secondly, I have very good news for you: OSHPD is now collecting race/ethnicity data with Asian and Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian broken out into two separate categories. So, in the not too distant future we hope to be able to present data specifically on the Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian population in California.

Please keep up your excellent work!

Dave Carlisle
Director, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Maile Taualii, PhD, MPH
Director, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center
Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Email: mtaualii@papaolalokahi.org
Office Phone: 808–591–6653