

Childhood Hunger in Hawaii

An estimated **54,650 children in Hawaii** live in households that struggle to put enough food on the table.ⁱⁱ

Hunger is more than just a hungry belly. Kids without consistent access to nutrition have a harder time focusing in school, they visit the school nurse more often due to stomach aches and headaches and they are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems. Additionally, kids who struggle with hunger are more susceptible to obesity or being overweight, and are sick more often.

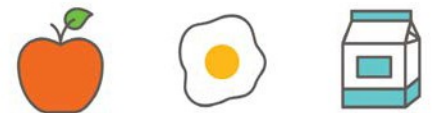
This is a problem with a solution. Programs like school breakfast are designed to close the gap between kids who have enough to eat and those who don't. These programs are only successful, however, when they actually reach the kids who need them.

Childhood Hunger in Hawaii By the Numbers

- 54,650** Number of children in Hawaii who struggle with hunger.ⁱⁱ
- 17.8%** Percentage of children in Hawaii who struggle with hunger.ⁱⁱ
- 25th** Hawaii ranks 25th in the nation among percentages of kids struggling with hunger.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 41.8%** Percentage of kids getting a free/reduced-price lunch who are also getting school breakfast.^{iv}
- 50th** Hawaii ranks 50th in the nation among percentages of kids getting a free/reduced price lunch who are also getting school breakfast.^{iv}

BREAKFAST

IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY!



Students who regularly eat breakfast score

17% HIGHER

on standardized math tests.ⁱ



AND YET,

Every school day in Hawaii

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS go to school HUNGRY.ⁱⁱ



RESOURCES

i. No Kid Hungry, HUNGER DEVASTATES CHILDREN: [FACTS ON CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN AMERICA](#), 2016.

ii. Feeding America, "[Meet the Meal Gap](#)", 2018 Child Food Insecurity Module.

iii. Feeding America. "[Meet the Meal Gap 2018](#)", A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2016

iv. FRAC, "[School Breakfast Scorecard](#)", 2017–2018 School Year (February 2019)