



# Recidivism in Hawaii for Foster Care



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## Abstract

This study was based on an exploratory research approach using a mixture of scholarly and peer reviews articles, including one field study. The articles that were chosen for this research project was used to research if my hypotheses were accurate. My independent variable was living environment, mental health, and finances. My dependent variable was maltreatment, substance abuse and domestic violence (DV).

## Research Design & Data Collection

For this research project the measurements was pulled from the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services Social Services Division Annual Progress and Services report. Other measurements that was found supported the measurements that was given by this Annual Progress and Services report.

## Discussion

Through my research I have found that there are different states nation wide that offer similar services. Yet, recidivism is still occurring throughout the Nation. Indeed, there is no system that isn't fragmented, but are we as a Nation capable of finding ways to prevent re-entry. Child Welfare Services (CWS) plays an active role in prevention and protection but are they effective enough with the services they mandate the parents to attend and complete before reunification? How much assurance is there to ensure the children are safe and they won't re-enter the foster care system?

## Introduction & Research Question

Child Welfare Services (CWS) is known to protect our children by removing children from unsafe conditions in their home due to maltreatment. When children are removed reunification is known to be the main goal for parents and children. Parents are expected to attend mandated classes to show effort to strengthen their need to protect their children. If CWS mandates these classes for the parents, are these effective enough to prevent children from re-entering back into the foster system?

Is Hawaii recidivism rate lower than the nation standard?

Hypothesis: Hawaii has a lower recidivism rate than half of the national standard.

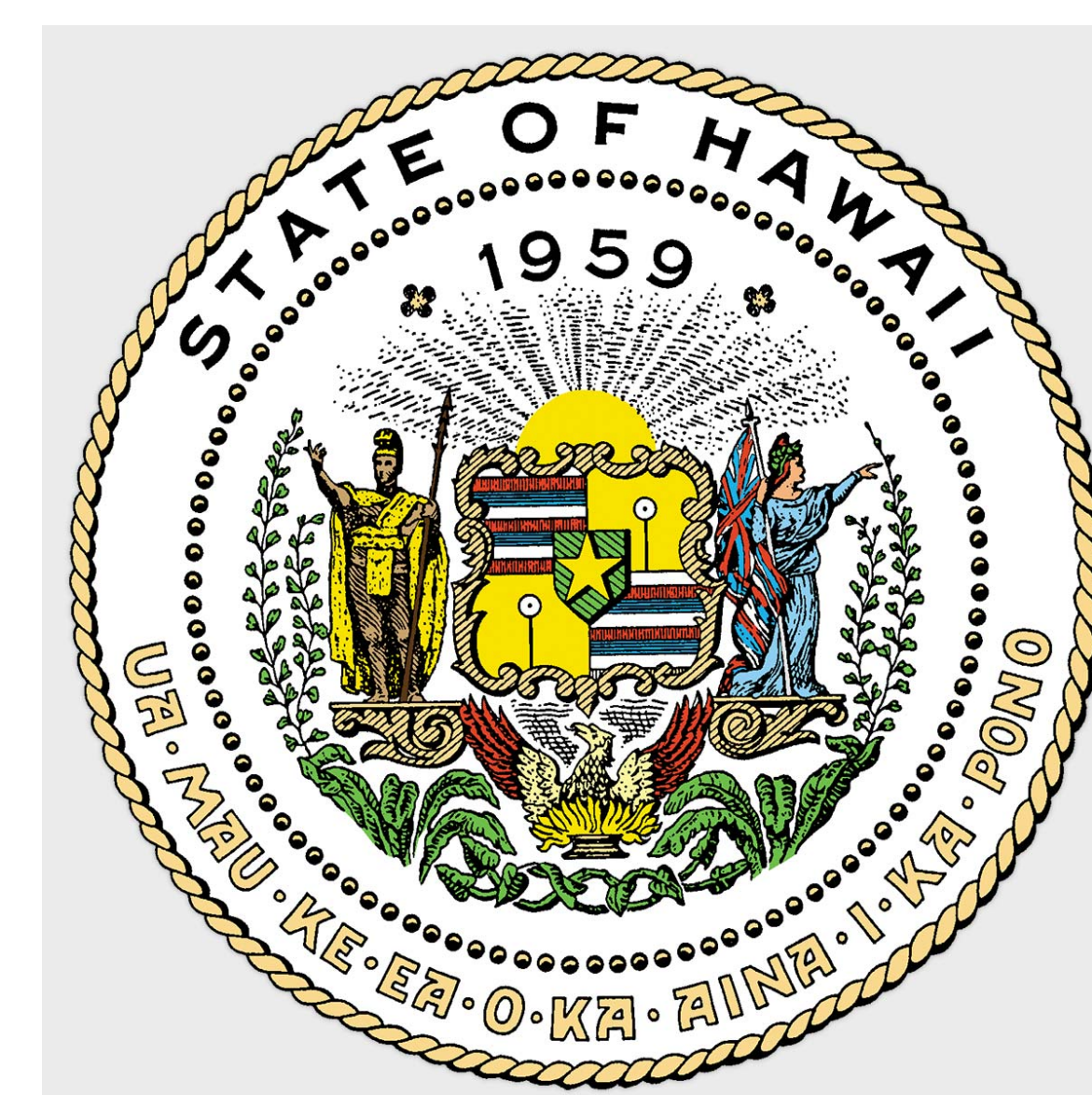
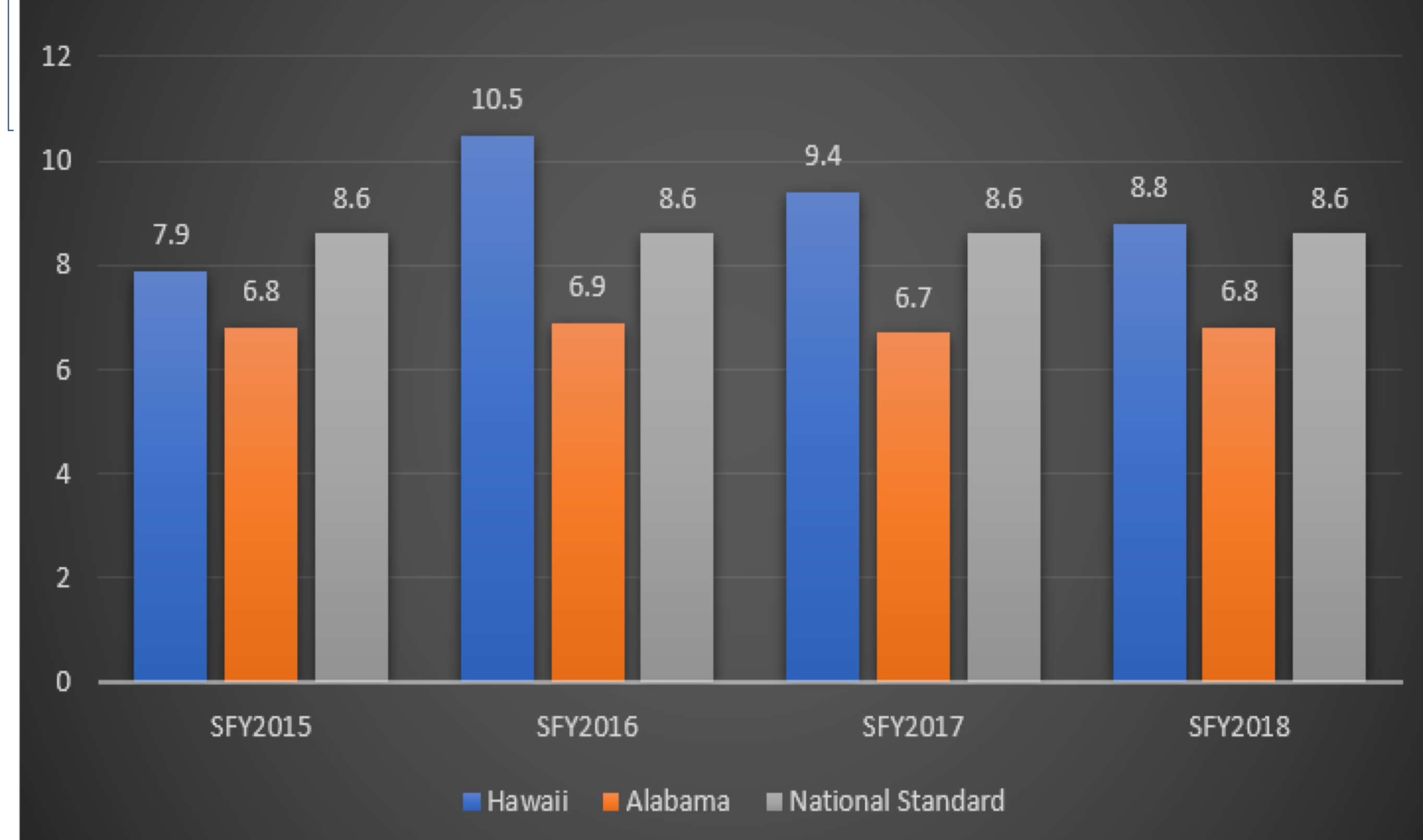
## What is Child Welfare Services

Child Welfare Services (CWS) formally known in Hawaii as Child Protective Services (CPS) are provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Social Services Division (SSD). The purpose of CWS is to protect and prevent abuse of children that are reported of suspected abuse/neglect. CWS also does provide families with support through resources to protect and prevent abuse to keep children out of the foster care system.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, my hypothesis was incorrect. According to my research it was found that Hawaii's is higher than the National Standard. States such as New York and Florida was higher than Hawaii's but not by a huge gap. I failed to find in my research what the difference were in other states that were lower such as Alabama. My hopes is Child Welfare Services here in Hawaii's can find the gap and work towards preventing recidivism in Hawaii's Child Welfare Services to be lower than the national standard.

### Hawaii vs. Alabama



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