

## Economic Well-Being Indicators

### Children in Poverty

- In 2015, the federal poverty threshold was \$19,096 for a family of three with two children and \$24,036 for a family of four with two children.
- In 2014, nearly one in five (19.8%) children in Rhode Island (a total of 41,629 children) lived in poverty.
- Between 2010 and 2014, almost two-thirds (64%) of Rhode Island’s children living in poverty lived in just four cities - Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

**Child Poverty Concentrated in Four Core Cities,  
Rhode Island, 2010-2014**

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER IN POVERTY	PERCENTAGE IN POVERTY	NUMBER IN EXTREME POVERTY	PERCENTAGE IN EXTREME POVERTY
Central Falls	2,361	41.9%	968	17.2%
Pawtucket	5,120	32.1%	2,449	15.4%
Providence	15,894	39.7%	7,522	18.8%
Woonsocket	4,036	42.0%	1,934	20.1%
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>43,144</i>	<i>20.1%</i>	<i>19,449</i>	<i>9.1%</i>

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2010-2014 American Community Survey data.

- The four core cities also have substantial numbers of children living in extreme poverty, defined as families with incomes below 50% of the federal poverty level, or \$9,548 for a family of three with two children and \$12,018 for a family of four with two children in 2015.
- Between 2010 and 2014, 24.8% (16,530) of Rhode Island children under age six lived in poverty. Children under age six are at higher risk of living in poverty than any other age group. Exposure to risk factors associated with poverty, including inadequate nutrition, environmental toxins, crowded and unstable housing, maternal depression, trauma and abuse, lower quality child care, and parental substance abuse interferes with young children’s emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

### Cost of Housing

- In 2015, the average cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island was \$1,238. The percentage of renters in Rhode Island who spent 30% or more of their household income on rent increased from 47% in 2006 to 53% in 2014.
- In 2015, a worker would have to earn \$23.81 an hour and work 40 hours a week year-round to be able to afford the average rent in Rhode Island without a cost burden. This hourly wage is more than two and a half times the 2015 minimum wage of \$9.00 per hour.

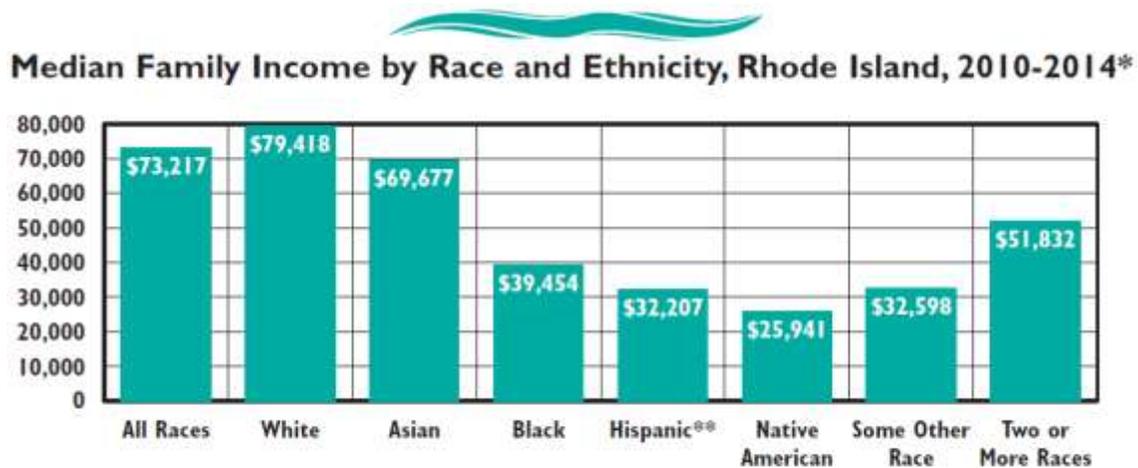
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### Homeless Children

- In 2015, 482 families with 988 children stayed at an emergency homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, or transitional housing facility in Rhode Island. Children made up 23% of the people who used emergency homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing in 2015. Half (47%) of these children were under age six, not yet school age.
- During the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,031 children as homeless, up from 1,023 the year prior. Of these children, 63% lived with other families (“doubled up”), 28% lived in shelters, 8% lived in hotels or motels, and 2% were unsheltered.

### Median Family Income

- In 2014, the median family income for Rhode Island families with their own children was \$61,605. Rhode Island had the 16th highest median family income nationally and the 4th highest in New England.
- The median income for White families in Rhode Island is higher than that of Asian families, and much higher than for Black, Hispanic, and Native American families.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D, B19113F, B19113G, and B19113I. \*Median Family Income by race and ethnicity includes all families because data for families with “own children” are not available by race and ethnicity. \*\*Hispanics may be in any race category.

### Paid Family Leave

- Rhode Island’s Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program, launched in 2014, provides up to four weeks of wage replacement benefits to eligible workers who need to take time off from work to bond with a newborn, adopted or foster child, or to care for a seriously ill family member. There were 4,941 approved claims for TCI during 2015 (up from 3,870 in 2014); 77% were to bond with a new child and 23% were to care for a seriously ill family member.

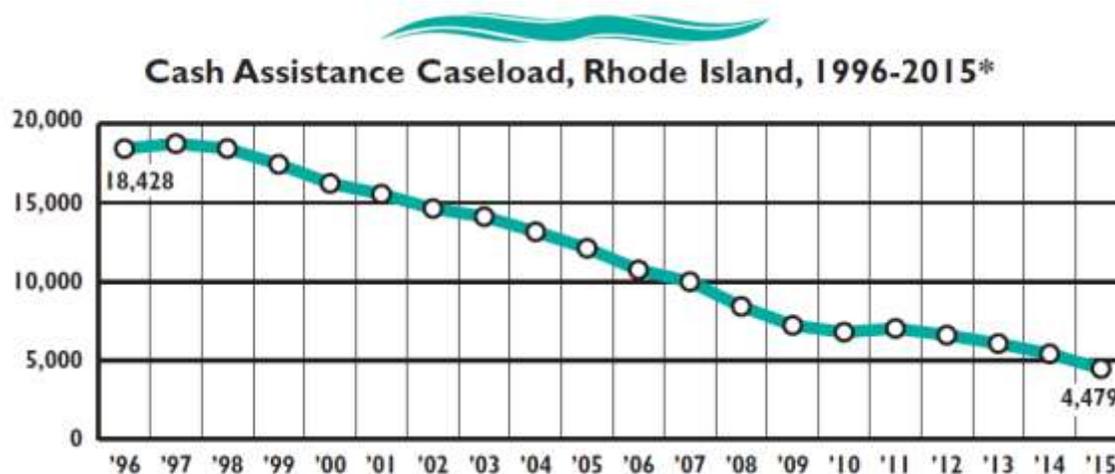
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### Children Receiving Child Support

- As of December 1, 2015, there were 74,672 children in Rhode Island's Office of Child Support Services system. Among these children, 6,335 were enrolled in Rhode Island Works (RI Works). In Rhode Island, the first \$50 of child support paid on time and in full each month on behalf of a child receiving RI Works cash assistance goes to the custodial parent. The remainder is retained by the federal and state government as reimbursement for assistance received through RI Works.
- Non-custodial parents who pay regular child support are more involved with their children, providing them with emotional and financial support, and receipt of regular child support can have a positive effect on children's academic achievement.

### Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance

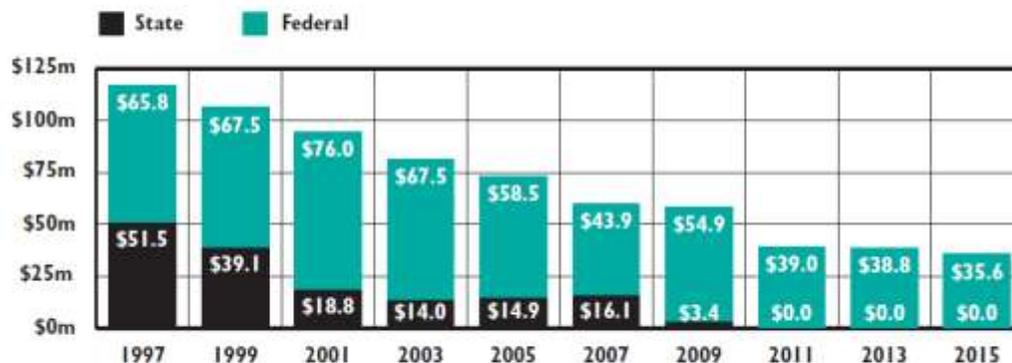
- Since 1996, when the program began, the Rhode Island cash assistance caseload has been steadily declining. Between 2014 and 2015, the caseload decreased by 17%, from 5,422 to 4,479 families.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, December 1, 1996-2015. Cases can be child-only or whole families and multiple people can be included in one case. \*The Rhode Island Department of Human Services changed the method for calculating the caseload data starting in the 2012 Factbook. This change is reflected in 2010-2015 caseload data. Comparisons to earlier years should be made with caution.

- In 2014, 19,151 children in Rhode Island lived in extreme poverty, yet only 7,675 received cash assistance in 2015.
- In State Fiscal Year 2015, for the sixth year in a row, no state general revenue was allocated for cash assistance. The cash assistance program is now entirely supported by federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds.

### Rhode Island Cash Assistance Expenditures, State Fiscal Years 1997-2015

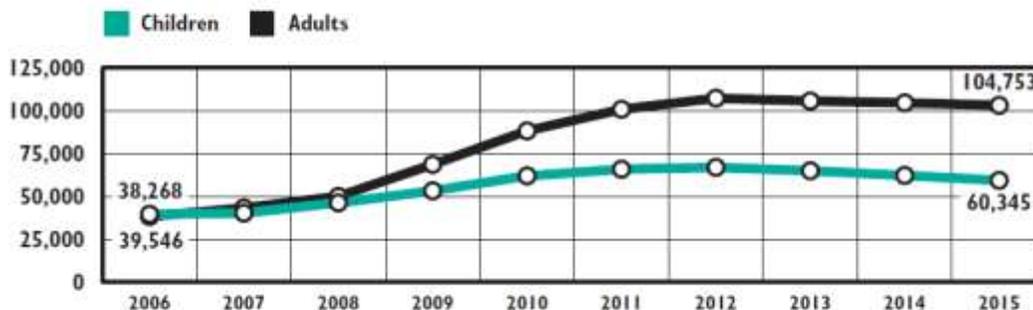


Sources: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, *Family Independence Program 2007 annual report*. (FY 1997-2001); House Fiscal Advisory Staff. (2004-2015). Budget as enacted: Fiscal Years 2005-2016. (FY 2003-2015). Fiscal years 1997-2013 are funds spent and FY 2015 is final budget.

### Children Receiving SNAP Benefits

- From 2008 to 2012, the number of Rhode Islanders receiving SNAP benefits increased steadily, but the number has slowly declined since 2012. SNAP is designed to respond quickly to economic changes; enrollment expands when the economy is weak and shrinks when the economy begins to recover.

### Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Children and Adults, Rhode Island, 2006-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, 2006-2015. Data represent children under age 18 and adults who participated in SNAP during the month of October.

- On October 1, 2015, almost three-fourths (74%) of Rhode Island families receiving SNAP benefits had incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$20,090 for a family of three in 2015).
- In 2015, the average monthly SNAP benefit for a family of three in Rhode Island was \$361.

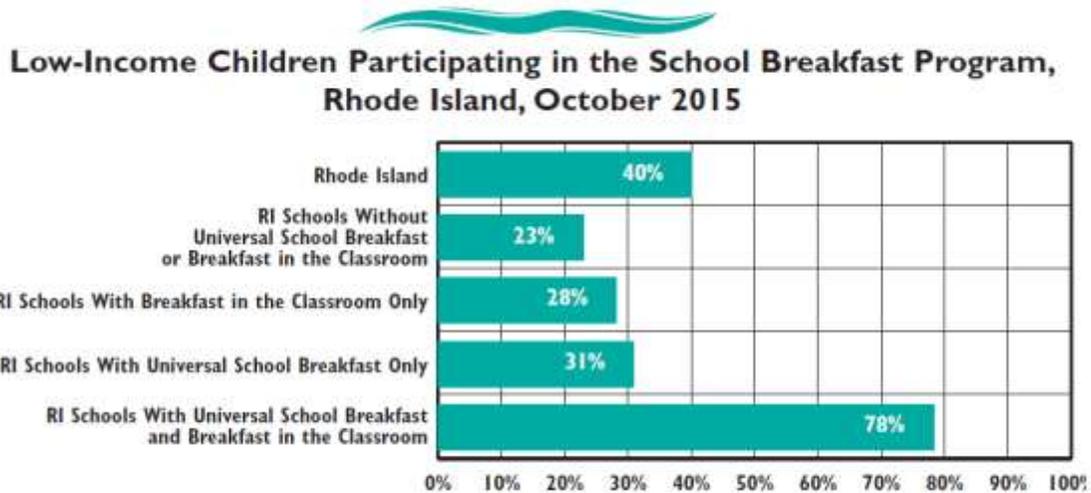
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### Women and Children Participating in WIC

- In September 2015, 24,227 women, infants, and children in Rhode Island were enrolled the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The program served 59% of eligible women, infants, and children.
- WIC participation has been shown to reduce infant mortality, improve birth outcomes, enhance maternal and child dietary intake, reduce child abuse and neglect, improve child growth rates, boost cognitive development, and increase the likelihood of having a regular source of medical care.

### Children Participating in School Breakfast

- During the 2014-2015 school year in Rhode Island, 51 low-income students participated in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 low-income students that participated in the School Lunch Program.



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of School Food Services, Office of Statewide Efficiencies, October 2015.

- Universal School Breakfast Programs, which provide free breakfast to all children regardless of income, increase school breakfast participation by removing the stigma often associated with school breakfast and can reduce administrative costs.
- Making breakfast part of the school day is another proven strategy for increasing breakfast participation, reducing stigma, and increasing convenience.

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Economic Well-Being

- In Rhode Island, a number of measures show that the economic well-being of children and families differs substantially by race and ethnicity.

#### Economic Well-Being Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>Children in Poverty</b>	15%	41%	36%	15%	57%	20%
<b>Births to Mothers with &lt;12 Years Education</b>	8%	27%	17%	9%	28%	13%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5%	9%	12%	NA	NA	6%
<b>Median Family Income</b>	\$79,418	\$32,207	\$39,454	\$69,677	\$25,941	\$73,217
<b>Homeownership</b>	65%	28%	31%	49%	22%	60%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2010-2014. *Unemployment Rate* data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2015. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race, NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.