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Rhode Island Improves in Children's Health Insurance Coverage; Child Poverty Remains Unchanged

96.7% of Rhode Island children had health insurance coverage in 2014, Rhode Island ranks 7th in the nation

19.8% of Rhode Island children lived in poverty in 2014, Rhode Island ranks 26th in the nation

Providence, RI (September 17, 2015) – Rhode Island KIDS COUNT released new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) today. The ACS provides national and state-level data on health insurance coverage, poverty, and income.

Health Insurance Data

Children who have health insurance coverage are healthier and have fewer preventable hospitalizations. They are more likely to receive preventive care, be screened for the achievement of developmental milestones, miss fewer days of school and get treatment for illnesses and chronic conditions. Uninsured children are less likely to have a medical home and have fewer visits to doctors or dentists.

These ACS data are for 2014, the first year for which the federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* was fully implemented. Data address private coverage and public coverage, including Medicaid/CHIP (known as RItE Care in Rhode Island).

According to the ACS, in 2014:

- 96.7% of Rhode Island's children had health insurance coverage, and 3.3% (an estimated 7,107) Rhode Island children lacked health insurance coverage.
- 6% of all U.S. children lacked health insurance coverage.
- Rhode Island ranks 7th in the nation and 3rd in New England for children's health insurance coverage. This is an improvement from 2013, when Rhode Island ranked 16th in the country and last in New England.

Of the children who had health insurance in Rhode Island in 2014, 52.5% received coverage exclusively through their parents' employer-sponsored health plan, 34% were covered exclusively by Medicaid/RIte Care, and 14% had either another type of coverage or combination of coverage.

“These data show that our long standing commitment to covering Rhode Island children is paying off,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “There is more good news for Rhode Island children and families – our RIte Care program was recently ranked best in the country for quality of care. Rhode Island is leading the country in delivering high quality care, and we need to continue to make this worthwhile investment in the health of our children and families.”

Poverty Data

Children in poverty, especially those who experience poverty in early childhood and for extended periods, are more likely to have physical and behavioral health problems, experience difficulty in school, become teen parents, and earn less or be unemployed as adults.

According to the ACS, in 2014:

- 19.8% (nearly 1 in 5) of Rhode Island's children lived in poverty.
- Rhode Island ranks 26th in the nation – and last in New England – for the percentage of children in poverty.
- 21.7 % of all U.S. children lived in poverty.
- 40% (84,008) of Rhode Island children were low-income, which means their families had incomes below 200% of the federal poverty threshold.
- The poverty data are based on the federal poverty threshold, which was an annual income of \$19,073 for a family of three with two children and \$24,008 for a family of four with two children in 2014.

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

**Percentage of All Children Under Age 18
Without Health Insurance Coverage:
2013-2014**

Source: American Community Survey, 2013 and 2014

	2014	2013
United States	6.0	7.1
Alabama	3.8	4.3
Alaska	11.4	11.6
Arizona	10.0	11.9
Arkansas	4.8	5.5
California	5.4	7.4
Colorado	5.6	8.2
Connecticut	3.7	4.3
Delaware	5.7	4.5
District of Columbia	2.1	2.4
Florida	9.3	11.1
Georgia	7.6	9.6
Hawaii	3.1	3.0
Idaho	7.8	8.9
Illinois	3.3	4.2
Indiana	7.2	8.2
Iowa	3.2	4.1
Kansas	5.5	6.1
Kentucky	4.3	5.9
Louisiana	5.2	5.7
Maine	6.3	5.9
Maryland	3.2	4.4
Massachusetts	1.5	1.5
Michigan	3.8	4.0
Minnesota	3.8	5.6
Mississippi	5.3	7.6
Missouri	7.2	7.0
Montana	8.2	10.1
Nebraska	5.3	5.5
Nevada	9.6	14.9
New Hampshire	4.4	3.8
New Jersey	4.6	5.6
New Mexico	7.3	8.5
New York	3.3	4.0
North Carolina	5.2	6.3
North Dakota	6.9	7.9
Ohio	4.8	5.3
Oklahoma	8.7	10.0
Oregon	4.6	5.8
Pennsylvania	5.2	5.4
Rhode Island	3.3	5.4
South Carolina	5.5	6.7
South Dakota	5.7	6.3
Tennessee	5.2	5.7
Texas	11.0	12.6
Utah	9.4	9.5
Vermont	2.2	3.1
Virginia	5.7	5.4
Washington	4.7	5.9
West Virginia	3.0	5.3
Wisconsin	4.4	4.7
Wyoming	5.9	5.7

Compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, September 2015.
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2014.

Table R2702.

All Children Under 18 Living Below Poverty: 2013-2014

Source: American Community Survey, 2013 and 2014

	2014	2013
United States	21.7	22.2
Alabama	27.7	27.2
Alaska	15.8	12.1
Arizona	25.6	26.5
Arkansas	26.4	29.0
California	22.7	23.5
Colorado	15.4	16.9
Connecticut	14.9	14.5
Delaware	17.7	18.0
District of Columbia	26.0	27.2
Florida	23.8	24.5
Georgia	26.3	26.5
Hawaii	14.7	13.3
Idaho	18.8	19.1
Illinois	20.2	20.7
Indiana	21.5	22.2
Iowa	15.3	16.2
Kansas	17.7	18.7
Kentucky	26.2	25.3
Louisiana	27.9	27.7
Maine	19.1	17.7
Maryland	13.0	13.6
Massachusetts	15.2	16.3
Michigan	22.6	23.8
Minnesota	14.9	14.0
Mississippi	29.4	34.0
Missouri	21.1	22.2
Montana	18.5	21.3
Nebraska	16.2	17.7
Nevada	22.0	22.7
New Hampshire	13.0	10.2
New Jersey	15.9	16.7
New Mexico	29.5	31.2
New York	22.6	22.8
North Carolina	24.3	25.2
North Dakota	14.8	12.0
Ohio	22.9	22.7
Oklahoma	22.4	24.0
Oregon	21.6	21.6
Pennsylvania	19.4	19.4
Rhode Island	19.8	21.5
South Carolina	27.1	27.5
South Dakota	18.0	18.6
Tennessee	26.2	26.5
Texas	24.6	25.0
Utah	13.3	14.8
Vermont	15.8	15.3
Virginia	15.8	15.7
Washington	17.5	18.8
West Virginia	24.7	27.0
Wisconsin	18.4	18.4
Wyoming	12.8	13.2