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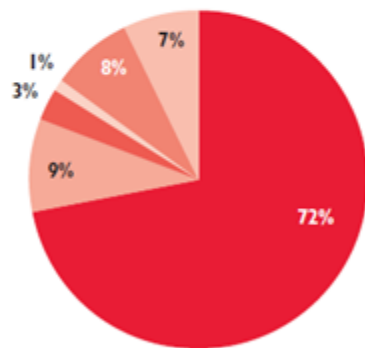
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND TRENDS

- In 2017, there were 206,972 children under age 18 in Rhode Island (20% of the state's total population).
- Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnicity, language, country of origin, and sexual orientation.
 - Mirroring the national trend, the Hispanic child population in Rhode Island has grown since 2000. Hispanics make up 25% of children under age 18 in the United States and 24% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.
 - Between 2013 and 2017, there were 8,981 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.
 - According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 11% of high school students describe themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2013-2017

By Race/Ethnicity*

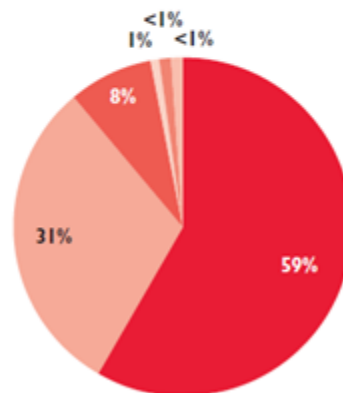
72%	White
9%	Black
3%	Asian
1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
8%	Some Other Race
7%	Two or More Races



**Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 210,582 children, 50,369 (24%) were Hispanic.*

By Family Structure

59%	Married-Couple**
31%	Single-Parent**
8%	Other Relatives
1%	Foster Family or Other Unrelated Household
<1%	Group Quarters
<1%	Child is Head of Household



***Only includes children who are related to the head of household by birth or adoption.*

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The 2020 Census and Rhode Island Children

- The Census count is used to apportion the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and to allocate federal program funding to each state for the following decade. These federal funds support a range of programs that improve outcomes for children and families in Rhode Island, including Head Start, Medicaid and CHIP health insurance programs, special education services, child nutrition programs (school meals, WIC), housing subsidies, child care services, and services for children in the child welfare system.
- Getting a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census will ensure that Rhode Island has appropriate Congressional representation and can access needed federal program funds to support children and families.
- Efforts are needed to focus on hard to count Census populations, including young children under age five, particularly those who are low income, children of color, and/or children in immigrant families.

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Percentage of children in poverty in Rhode Island continues to decline.

- Children who live in poverty, especially those who experience extreme poverty in early childhood, are more likely to have health, behavioral, educational, and social problems.

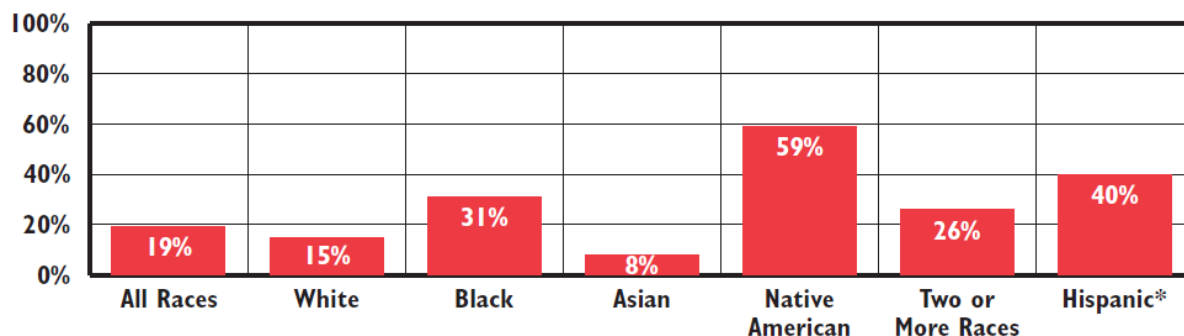
Children in Poverty				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
RI	19.8%	19.4%	17.0%	16.6%
US	21.7%	20.7%	19.5%	18.4%
National Rank*	24th			
New England Rank**	6th			

**1st is best; 50th is worst*

***1st is best; 6th is worst*

- In Rhode Island, the percentage of children living in poverty has decreased from 19.8% in 2014 to 16.6% in 2017.
- In 2018, the federal poverty threshold was \$20,231 for a family of three with two children and \$25,465 for a family of four with two children.
 - Extreme poverty is defined as families with incomes below 50% of the federal poverty threshold, or \$10,116 for a family of three with two children and \$12,733 for a family of four with two children in 2018.
- In 2017, about one in six (17%) children in Rhode Island (a total of 33,858 children) lived in poverty.

Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2013-2017



- Disparities in poverty rates:** 64% of Native American children, 38% of Hispanic children, 29% of Black children, 14% of White children, and 9% of Asian children in Rhode Island lived in families with

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incomes below the federal poverty threshold between 2013 and 2017 in Rhode Island.

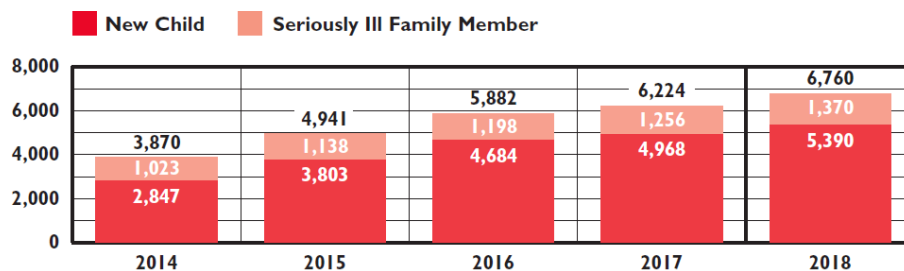
- *Young children in poverty:* 20.9% (13,560) of Rhode Island children under age six lived in poverty between 2013 and 2017.
 - Children under age six are at higher risk of living in poverty than any other age group.
 - Exposure to risk factors associated with poverty, including inadequate nutrition, 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.

Income Levels - Rhode Island Families

- *2018 Rhode Island Standard of Need:* It costs a single-parent family with two young children \$55,115 a year to pay basic living expenses, including housing, food, health care, child care, transportation, and other miscellaneous items, according to the Economic Progress Institute.
- *Racial disparities in income levels:* In Rhode Island in 2013-2017, the median income for White families in Rhode Island was higher than that of Asian families, and much higher than that of Black, Hispanic, and Native American families.
 - White \$85,409
 - Asian \$80,024
 - Black \$46,968
 - Hispanic \$37,585
 - Native American \$29,009
- *Income differences by family type:* In 2017, the median family income for married two-parent families (\$102,759) was almost two and a half times that of male-headed single-parent families (\$42,018) and more than three and a half times that of female-headed single-parent families (\$27,380).

Increased use of Paid Family Leave for bonding with new children, but low-wage workers are not using it as much as higher wage workers.

**Approved Temporary Caregiver Insurance Claims by Type,
Rhode Island, 2014-2018**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, TCI Program, 2014-2018

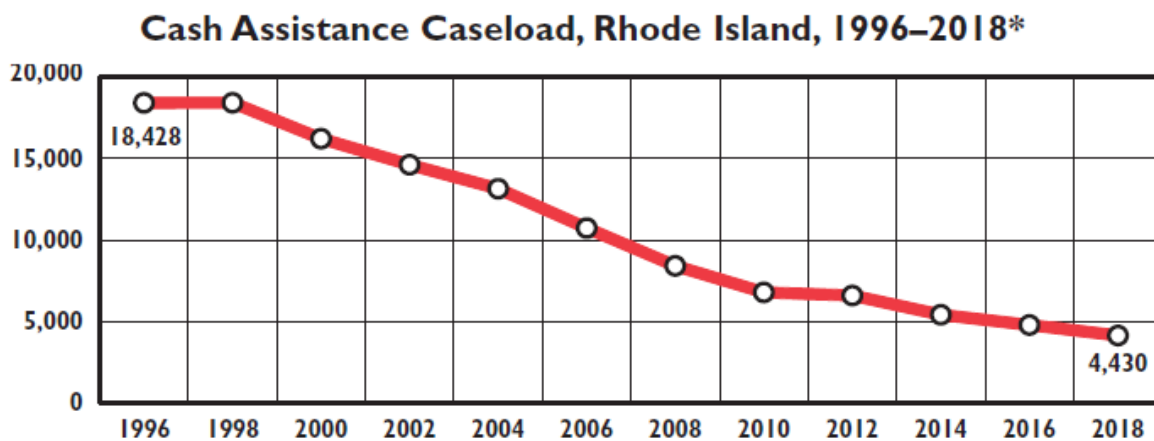
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- Paid Family Leave is the number of approved claims to bond with a new child or to care for a seriously ill family member through Rhode Island's Temporary Caregiver Insurance Program (TCI). Paid family leave provides job security and consistent income so that working parents can care for a new child or any worker can care for a seriously ill family member.
- There were 6,760 approved claims for TCI during 2018 (up from 6,224 in 2017); 80% were to bond with a new child and 20% were to care for a seriously ill family member. Forty-one percent of claims to bond with a new child were filed by men and 59% were filed by women.
- Forty-four percent of individuals contributing to TDI/TCI earn less than \$20,000, yet only 16% of all approved TCI claims were for an individual with wages in this category.

Children Receiving Cash Assistance (RI Works)

- The goal of RI Works is to help very low-income families meet their basic needs by providing cash assistance and work supports, including employment services, SNAP benefits, health insurance, and subsidized child care. RI Works cash assistance recipients must participate in an employment plan unless they meet specific criteria for an exemption.



- Since 1996, when the program began, the Rhode Island cash assistance caseload has declined steadily. Between 1996 and 2018, the Rhode Island cash assistance caseload decreased by 77% from 18,428 cases to 4,149 families.
- In December 2018, there were 2,781 adults and 7,195 children under age 18 enrolled in RI Works. Almost three-quarters (72%) of RI Works beneficiaries were children, and 43% of the children enrolled in RI Works were under the age of six.
- The lifetime limit for RI Works is 48 months. Families also are limited to no more than 24 months of cash assistance in a 60-month period.
 - Rhode Island is one of only 13 states that has a lifetime limit less than the federal 60-month time limit, and one of only eight states that imposes a periodic time limit on its entire caseload.

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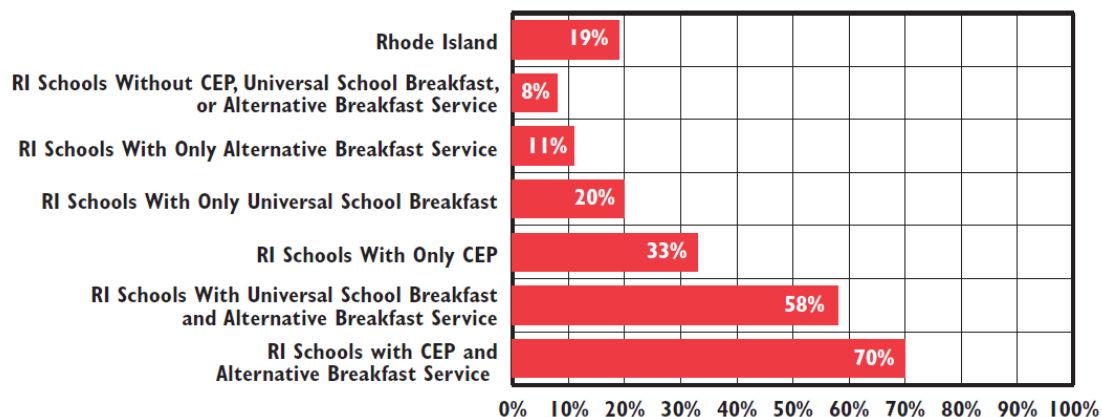
School Breakfast is reaching Rhode Island children through a variety of strategies.

Hunger and lack of regular access to food are linked to serious physical, psychological, emotional, and academic problems in children and can interfere with their growth and development. The School Breakfast Program helps ensure that the nation's most vulnerable children start their day off with a healthy meal. There are several strategies for increasing breakfast participation:

- The federal **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** allows schools and districts with 40% or more students identified as low-income or at-risk to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students and offers higher reimbursements.
- **Universal School Breakfast Programs**, which provide free breakfast to all children regardless of income, increase participation by removing the stigma often associated with school breakfast and can reduce the administrative burden for schools. During the 2018-2019 school year, all schools in Cranston and Woonsocket, selected schools in five other districts, and three charter schools offered universal school breakfast.
- **Alternative breakfast service:** Making breakfast part of the school day is another proven strategy for increasing reducing stigma, and increasing convenience. During the 2018-2019 school year, several Rhode Island school districts offered alternative breakfast service, including breakfast in the classroom, "grab and go" breakfasts, bagged breakfasts, or breakfast on a cart in all or some of their schools

Data included in the 2019 *Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* clearly show that CEP, and universal school breakfast, and alternative breakfast models increase school breakfast participation.

Children Participating in the School Breakfast Program, Rhode Island, October 2018



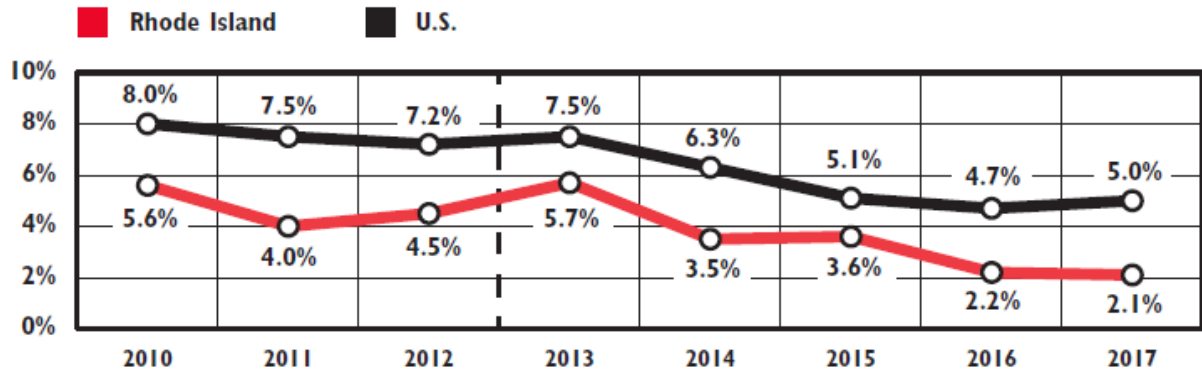
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, Office of Statewide Efficiencies, October 2018.

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HEALTH

Health coverage among Rhode Island children is 3rd best in nation, with 98% covered.

Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island and U.S. , 2010-2017



- In 2017, 2.1% of Rhode Island's children under age 19 were uninsured.
 - In 2017, 59% of Rhode Island children under age 19 were covered by private health insurance, most of which is obtained through their parents' employers.
 - Approximately 60% of children under the age of three were enrolled in Rlte Care/medical assistance in 2017.

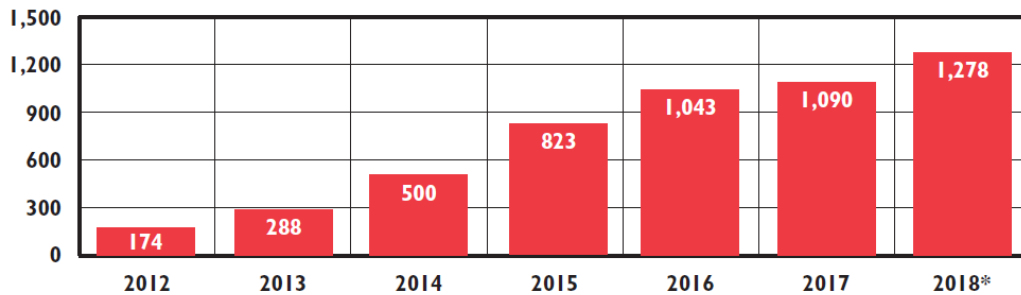
Increased participation in evidence-based home visiting

Home visiting programs provide parenting education to foster healthy, safe, and stimulating environments for young children. Children in at-risk families who participate in high-quality home visiting programs have improved language, cognitive, and social-emotional development and are less likely to experience child abuse and neglect.

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Families Enrolled in Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Coordinated by the Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island, 2012-2018



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Family Home Visiting, Family Visiting Database, October 2012-2018. *Beginning in 2018, enrolled families includes all families participating in Parents as Teachers programs, including those without MIECHV funding.

- As of October 2018, there were 1,278 parents/caregivers participating in evidence-based home visiting programs coordinated by the Rhode Island Department of Health; compared to 174 participants in 2012.
- **Early Intervention (EI)** States are required by federal law to identify and provide appropriate EI services to all infants and toddlers under age three who have developmental delays or have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that is associated with a developmental delay. In Rhode Island, nearly all (97%) EI services are delivered through home visits. As of June 2018, there were 2,219 children enrolled in EI in Rhode Island.
 - Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those children receiving EI services were male and just over one-third (37%) were female. Of these children, 57% were White, 30% were Hispanic, 7% were Black, 4% were Mixed Race, 2% were Asian, and <1% were American Indian or Alaska Native

Infant mortality disparities - Racial and ethnic disparities persist in rates of infant mortality.

- In Rhode Island between 2013 and 2017, the Black infant mortality rate was 11.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, up from 9.9 per 1,000 live births between 2012 and 2016. In Rhode Island between 2013 and 2017, the White infant mortality rate was 3.8 per 1,000 live births.
- The Hispanic infant mortality rate was 5.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births among non-Hispanics in Rhode Island.

The use of E-cigarettes and substances among Rhode Island youth

- E-cigarettes are harmful. They contain, among other chemicals, nicotine which is highly addictive and can harm brain development. Some e-cigarette pods have as much or more nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

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- While cigarette use among middle and high school students continues to decline, in Rhode Island in 2017, 20% of high school students reported *current* use of e-cigarettes and 40% reported *ever* using e-cigarettes.

Current Substance Use, Rhode Island High School Students by Select Subgroups, 2017

	ALCOHOL USE*	E-CIGARETTE USE*	CIGARETTE USE*	MARIJUANA USE*	PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE**
Female	26%	17%	5%	23%	3%
Male	20%	22%	7%	23%	4%
Black, Non-Hispanic	19%	12%	1%	27%	4%
White, Non-Hispanic	25%	23%	7%	22%	3%
All other races, Non-Hispanic	NA	16%	1%	19%	2%
Multiple races, Non-Hispanic	29%	20%	6%	38%	1%
Hispanic	20%	16%	6%	23%	4%
9th Grade	16%	17%	6%	15%	4%
10th Grade	20%	21%	5%	20%	5%
11th Grade	26%	22%	4%	26%	3%
12th Grade	33%	21%	9%	33%	2%
<i>All Students</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>4%</i>

Source: 2017 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis. *Current use is defined as students who answered yes to using respective substances in the 30 days prior to the survey. **Prescription drug misuse is defined as those without a doctor's prescription. NA is not available due to small sample size.

- Among Rhode Island high school students in 2017, 23% reported current alcohol consumption, 23% reported current marijuana use, 20% reported current use of e-cigarettes, 11% reported current binge drinking, 6% reported current cigarette use, 5% reported currently using over the counter drugs to get high, and 4% reported currently misusing prescription drugs.

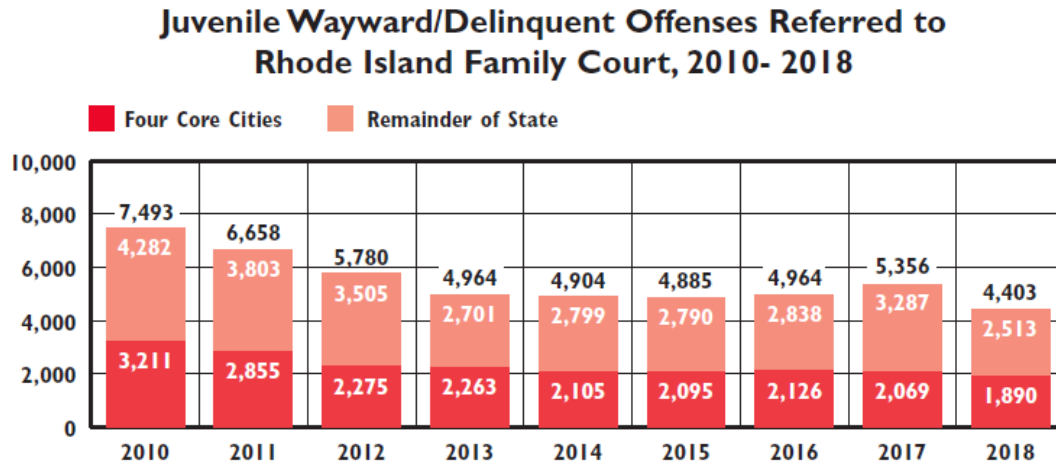
Rhode Island has the highest percentage of low-income children living in older housing in the country.

- Safe, affordable, and stable housing maintains the health and well-being of families and children, supporting mental and emotional health as well as physical safety.
- Poor quality housing is a strong predictor of emotional and behavioral problems. Adolescents living in poorer quality homes have lower reading and math proficiency than their peers.
- Between 2013 and 2017, Rhode Island had the highest percentage of low-income children (82%) living in older housing in the U.S., and the second highest percentage of all children (72%) living in older housing in the country.

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SAFETY

Declines in juvenile offenses



- The number of juvenile offenses fell by 41% since 2010, from 7,493 to a low of 4,403 in 2018. The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 40% between 2010 and 2018, from 4,288 to 2,565.

Increases in domestic violence

- In Rhode Island in 2016, there were 5,673 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, up 2% from 5,553 incidents in 2015.
- Children were reported present in 27% (1,513) of incidents in 2016, and in 28% (1,549) of incidents in 2015.

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Increases in child abuse and neglect

DCYF Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline Calls for Reports of Abuse and/or Neglect, Investigations,* and Indicated Investigations, Rhode Island, 2008-2018

YEAR	TOTAL # UNDUPLICATED CHILD MALTREATMENT REPORTS	% AND # OF REPORTS WITH COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS	# OF INDICATED INVESTIGATIONS
2008	12,204	51% (6,214)	1,913
2009	12,189	52% (6,362)	2,075
2010	13,069	53% (6,956)	2,392
2011	13,382	49% (6,520)	2,225
2012	13,540	50% (6,784)	2,266
2013	13,905	50% (6,975)	2,294
2014	14,735	51% (7,573)	2,413
2015	14,402	45% (6,470)	2,227
2016	14,942	40% (5,935)	2,074
2017	15,945	42% (6,628)	2,404
2018	21,837	38% (8,296)	2,430

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIIST, 2008-2018.

**One investigation can be generated by multiple hotline calls. Investigations can result in a finding of indicated, unfounded, or unable to complete (as when essential party cannot be found).*

- From 2017 to 2018 in Rhode Island, the number of unduplicated child maltreatment reports increased by 37%, and the number of completed investigations increased by 25%.
- The number of indicated investigations stayed about the same (2,404 in 2017 and 2,430 in 2018).
- In 2018, 29% (2,430) of the 8,296 completed investigations of child maltreatment were indicated, cases in which there is a “preponderance of evidence that a child has been abused and/or neglected”.

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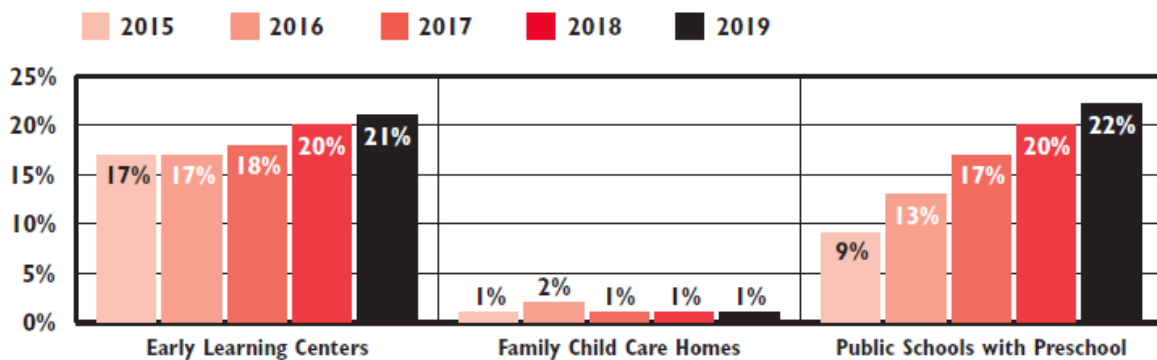
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-16 EDUCATION

Increases in percentage of high-quality early learning centers and public schools with BrightStars rating of 4 or 5 Stars

Children begin learning at birth and brain development proceeds rapidly in early childhood. Learning disparities appear early and grow over time without access to enriching early learning experiences. Participation in high-quality early learning programs from birth through kindergarten entry helps to ensure children enter school with the skills needed to succeed.

Programs across the U.S. and in Rhode Island vary markedly in quality and can range from rich learning experiences to mediocre care. Almost all states use Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to document and improve the quality of early learning and child care programs. **BrightStars** is Rhode Island's QRIS and conducts program quality assessments for early care and education centers, family child care homes, and public schools.

Percentage of Early Learning Centers, Family Child Care Programs, and Public Schools with a High-Quality BrightStars Rating (4 or 5 Stars), Rhode Island, 2015-2019



Source: RI Association for the Education of Young Children and RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), January 2015-January 2019.

- As of January 2019, there were 642 early learning programs with a BrightStars quality rating. Sixty-five (21%) licensed early learning centers, five (1%) licensed family child care homes, and 12 (23%) public schools had met the benchmarks for a high-quality rating of four or five stars.
- Since 2015, the percentage of early learning centers with a high-quality rating has grown from 17% to 21%, and the percentage of public schools serving preschoolers that have a high-quality rating has increased from 9% to 23%.

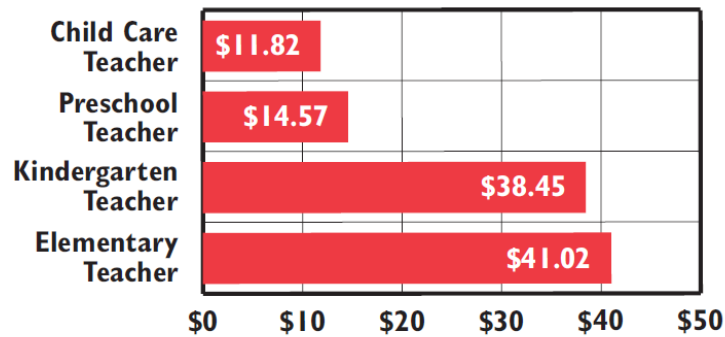
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- **Continued low numbers of children in the Child Care Assistance Program in high-quality programs, particularly young children:**
 - As of December 2018, 10% of children participating in CCAP were enrolled in programs with high-quality BrightStars ratings.
 - Preschool-age children were more likely to be enrolled in a high-quality program (12%) than infants and toddlers (8%) or school-age children (9%).

Disparity in incomes for Rhode Island early education teachers

Teacher Median Hourly Wages, Rhode Island, 2017



- Early childhood teachers in Rhode Island earn less than the overall state median wage (\$19.45) and have significantly lower wages than kindergarten and elementary school teachers.

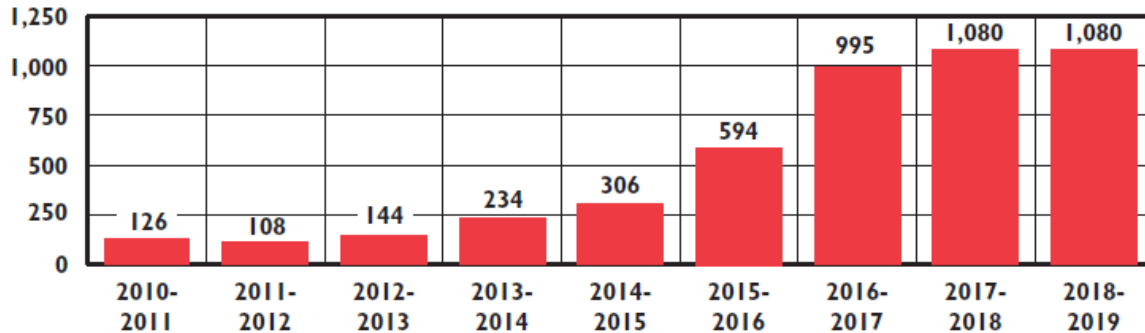
Rhode Island's State Pre-K Program

- In 2017 the Rhode Island State Pre-K program was recognized as one of only three State Pre-K programs in the U.S. to meet all 10 recommended quality benchmarks, including requiring teachers to have a bachelor's degree with specialized training in early childhood education and conducting annual classroom observations.
- The Rhode Island State Pre-K Program requires State Pre-K teacher salaries to be commensurate with kindergarten teacher salaries.
- An evaluation of the Rhode Island State Pre-K program found that it improves children's language and math skills and closes the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers by three-quarters.

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Rhode Island State Pre-K Enrollment, 2010-2011 through 2018-2019



- Rhode Island began offering State Pre-K for four-year-olds in the 2009-2010 school year through public schools, Head Start agencies, and child care programs.
- As of the 2018-2019 school year, 71% (768) of the children enrolled in State Pre-K were low-income and 29% (312) were higher-income.
- As of the 2018-2019 school year, there were 60 state Pre-K classrooms in Rhode Island with a total of 1,080 children enrolled. Of these classrooms, 37% were operated by Head Start agencies, 33% were operated by child care programs, and 30% were operated by public schools.

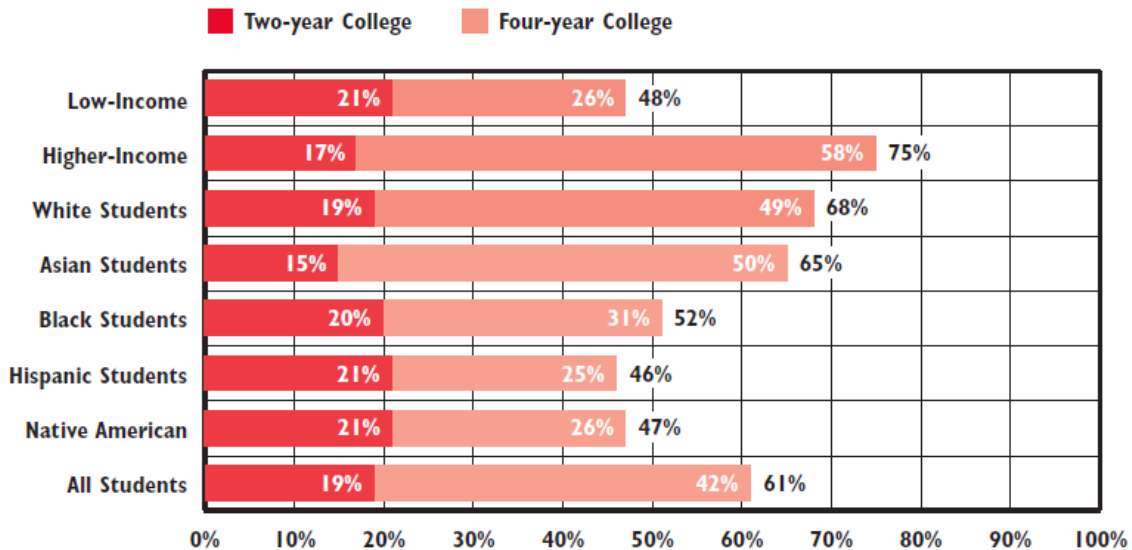
Increase in suspensions, including for kindergarteners

- In 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law that restricts the use of out-of-school suspensions to situations when a child's behavior poses a demonstrable threat that cannot be dealt with by other means.
- From the 2016-2017 school year to the 2017-2018 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions increased by 19%. More than half of out-of-school suspensions were for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination/disrespect, disorderly conduct, obscene/abusive language, alcohol/drug/tobacco offenses, and electronic devices/technology offenses.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, Rhode Island students with disabilities were suspended disproportionately. Students with disabilities represent 15% of the student population but represented 32% of suspensions.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, kindergarteners received 284 disciplinary actions, including 249 out-of-school suspensions. Compared to the 2016-2017 school year, the number of kindergartners who were suspended increased by 59%, and the number of suspensions increased by 68% in 2017-2018.

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Large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment

Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2017, Rhode Island



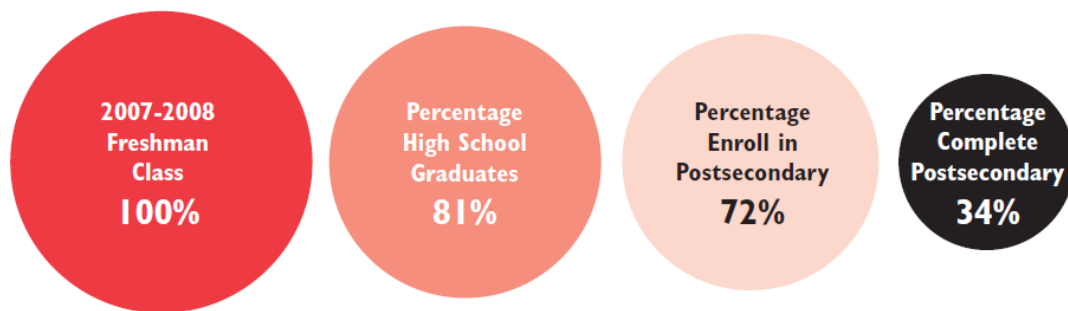
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2017. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

- Sixty-one percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2017 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students as well as by race and ethnicity.
- Twenty-six percent of lower income students enrolled in four-year college, compared to 58% of higher income students.
- Twenty-five percent of Hispanic students and 31% of Black students enrolled in four-year college, compared to 49% of White students and 50% of Asian students.
- Compared to the prior year, before the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship was available, the overall college enrollment rate has increased from 59% to 61%, the two-year college enrollment rate has increased from 16% to 19%, and the four-year college enrollment rate has decreased from 43% to 42%.

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Pipeline to College Completion

**Pipeline to College Completion, Rhode Island,
2007-2008 High School Freshman Class**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education. (February 13, 2019). PrepareRI college readiness project: A system-wide effort to prepare all students for college success. Retrieved March 18, 2019, from www.ride.ri.gov

Of the students who were freshman in high school during the 2007-2008 school year, 81% had graduated from high school, 72% had enrolled in college, and 34% had completed college 10 years later.