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New Census Data Shows: Rhode Island Ranked 2nd Among States in Children's Health Insurance Coverage

98.1% of Rhode Island children had health insurance coverage in 2019

Rhode Island ranks 2nd best among states, up from 3rd last year

Only Massachusetts had more children covered

Providence, RI (September 15, 2020) – Rhode Island KIDS COUNT released new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) today. The ACS provides national and state-level data on health insurance coverage, poverty, and income. Data on poverty and income are due out on Thursday, September 17th.

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 medical homes and have fewer visits to doctors or dentists.

According to the ACS, in 2019:

- 98.1% of Rhode Island's children had health insurance coverage, and 1.9% of Rhode Island children (approximately 4,000 children) lacked health insurance coverage.
- Rhode Island ranks 2nd best among all states, up from 3rd last year. Only Massachusetts had a higher rate of children's health insurance coverage.
- Of the children who had health insurance in Rhode Island in 2019, 32.8% had coverage through Medicaid/RIte Care.
- 5.7% of all U.S. children lacked health insurance coverage.

“These data show that Rhode Island’s long-standing commitment to children’s health insurance coverage is paying off,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “Rhode Island’s ranking of 2nd best among all states for the percentage of children with health coverage is great news for Rhode Island’s children and families. Children need access to regular, high quality health care so they can have a strong start in life. We must continue to closely monitor children’s health insurance coverage rates and ensure that children remain covered during the pandemic and after. This is particularly important given the large number of parents losing employment (and their employee-sponsored health insurance) as a result of the pandemic.”

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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.