



RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT
ONE UNION STATION
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

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Contact:

Katy Miller, Communications Coordinator
401.351.9400, ext. 22 / kmiller@rikidscount.org

**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Presents:
*Pawtucket Data in Your Backyard***

Pawtucket's child poverty rate is 29.4%, among the highest in the state

Delayed prenatal care and teen birth rate higher in Pawtucket than state as a whole

Education outcomes show improvements, including reading and graduation rates

Pawtucket, RI, (June 18, 2013) - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Analyst, Stephanie Geller, EdM, presented data from the *2013 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* to an audience of community leaders and policy makers. The *Pawtucket Data in Your Backyard* presentation included highlights of improvements and declines in the well-being of children and youth in Pawtucket. After the presentation, audience members discussed opportunities to improve outcomes for children in Pawtucket. The presentation was brought to the community in partnership with the Pawtucket School Department Child Opportunity Zone and was held on **Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI.**

Geller welcomed participants, saying "Today's event, co-sponsored by the Pawtucket Child Opportunity Zone, highlights how community groups can come together and work to improve child outcomes in health, family economic well-being, and education."

Pawtucket has high rates of poverty and extreme poverty among children

Although childhood poverty exists in every Rhode Island community, it is particularly concentrated in the core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. Nearly one-third (29.4% or 4,790) of children in Pawtucket live in poverty. In 2012, the federal poverty level was \$18,498 for a family of three and \$23,283 for a family of four. Of these 1,881 children live in extreme poverty (11.3% of all children in Pawtucket and 39.3% of poor children). A family is considered to be in extreme poverty if its income is less than half the poverty threshold (\$9,249 for a family of three).

Opportunity to Expand Participation in Universal School Breakfast

Students who eat breakfast have higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness, and lower incidences of social and emotional problems. Pawtucket is one of five school districts in Rhode Island with a district-wide Universal School Breakfast Program, which offers free breakfast to all children in elementary school classrooms, regardless of income. Despite universal access, many Pawtucket children still do not participate in the school breakfast program. With only 24% of low-income children in Pawtucket taking part in school breakfast, Pawtucket has the lowest participation rate of all the core cities.

“Communities like Providence and Central Falls have been able to increase school breakfast participation rates by offering breakfast in the classroom at the start of the school day. Pawtucket may be able to increase its participation rate and ensure that more students start their school days with a healthy breakfast by implementing this practice,” said Geller.

Improvements in Several Education Outcomes

Early reading difficulties have an impact on academic achievement and future employment success. Students who do not read proficiently by fourth grade have a much more difficult time with literacy and language development than their peers. Between 2005 and 2012, the percentage of fourth grade students in Pawtucket public schools who were proficient in reading increased from 48% to 60%. Between 2005 and 2012, the percentage of eighth grade students in Pawtucket schools who scored proficient in reading increased from 44% to 62%. Pawtucket’s high school graduation rate is also seeing steady improvement. In Pawtucket in 2012, 67% of students graduated from high school in four years, an increase from 48% in 2007.

Infant Outcomes Need Improvement

Early prenatal care is important in order to identify and treat health problems and influence positive health behaviors to promote fetal development, infant health and maternal health. Despite its importance, the percentage of Pawtucket mothers receiving delayed prenatal care has increased from 13.5% in 2002-2006 to 17.7% in 2007-2011, the third highest percentage in the state. Over the last two decades, the teen birth rate has decreased across the nation, in Rhode Island, and in Pawtucket. Despite these improvements, the teen birth rate per 1,000 teen girls ages 15 to 17 is substantially higher in Pawtucket (27.3) than the state as a whole (15.9), and the teen birth rate for older teens ages 18 to 19 in Pawtucket is the third highest rate in the state (83.8 per 1,000 girls ages 18 to 19).

New data presented on Preschool Special Education, Schools Identified for Intervention

Preschool Special Education

Beginning at age three, children are eligible for special education through their local school district if they have a specific disability or a developmental delay. During the 2011-2012 school year in Rhode Island, there were 2,927 preschool-age children who received special education services. In Pawtucket, 6% (203) of children ages three to five were enrolled in preschool special education.

“Preschool special education provides critical early learning opportunities to nearly 3,000 preschool-age children across Rhode Island, including 200 young children in Providence,” stated Geller. “The earlier we are able to include children with developmental delays in high quality special education programs, the better.”

Schools Identified for Intervention

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has implemented a classification system for all public schools, to recognize outstanding performance and provide support to low-achieving schools and options for intervention to improve student achievement. In 2012, 29 schools (10%) across Rhode Island were identified for intervention, and 2 (13%) of Pawtucket’s public schools were identified for intervention.



Rhode Island Kids Count 2013 Factbook

Indicators of Child Well-Being

Profile of Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Census-Based Indicators			1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Pawtucket		16,719	18,151	16,575		
	Rhode Island		225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Pawtucket		NA	NA	43%		
	Rhode Island		NA	28%	31%		
Children living in grandparent headed households	Pawtucket		NA	NA	7%		
	Rhode Island		NA	NA	6%		
				2000	2007-2011		
Median family income	Pawtucket			\$43,917	\$38,471		
	Rhode Island			\$66,156	\$68,507		
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Pawtucket			25.3%	29.4%		
	Rhode Island			16.9%	17.9%		
Economic Well-Being							
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Infants born at highest risk	Pawtucket		7%	7%	6%	4%	4%
	Rhode Island		5%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Cost of rent	Pawtucket		\$1,068	\$982	\$995	\$990	\$1,026
	Rhode Island		\$1,232	\$1,170	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176
Children in families receiving cash assistance*	Pawtucket		8%	6%	4%	6%	6%
	Rhode Island		6%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Children receiving SNAP	Pawtucket		4,578	5,790	6,396	7,153	7,366
	Rhode Island		41,421	53,466	59,652	63,783	64,866
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Pawtucket		92%	78%	75%	76%	73%
	Rhode Island		78%	77%	72%	68%	69%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Pawtucket		26%	25%	25%	27%	24%
	Rhode Island		29%	27%	28%	36%	35%
Health							
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children under age 19 receiving medical assistance	Pawtucket		8,881	9,322	9,742	9,641	9,913
	Rhode Island		84,717	89,746	92,701	93,691	95,248
			2003-2007	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Pawtucket		21%	21%	21%	21%	20%
	Rhode Island		15%	16%	16%	16%	16%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Pawtucket		14.7%	16.4%	17.5%	18.3%	17.7%
	Rhode Island		12.1%	14.0%	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%
Infants born with low birthweight	Pawtucket		8.8%	8.5%	8.4%	8.3%	8.6%
	Rhode Island		8.1%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Pawtucket		7.3	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.3
	Rhode Island		6.3	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.5
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)*	Pawtucket		NA	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.6
	Rhode Island		NA	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)*	Pawtucket		56.4	58.7	57.7	53.1	49.2
	Rhode Island		30.4	58.7	30.1	27.0	25.5
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Pawtucket		51%	51%	51%	52%	53%
	Rhode Island		57%	57%	58%	59%	61%

*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. **Average rent is the HUD Fair Market Rent. Rhode Island Housing Rent Survey data are not available for these years. ***Estimate has a high margin of error due to small sample size.

Safety		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims (per 1,000 children)*	Pawtucket	16.7	17.6	17.2	21.7	21.2
	Rhode Island	10.7	11.7	13.3	14.0	13.9
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children)*	Pawtucket	11.3	11.3	12.7	13.6	15.3
	Rhode Island	11.1	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.0
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Pawtucket	26%	28%	31%	29%	NA
	Rhode Island	31%	29%	28%	29%	NA
Education						
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children participating in Early Intervention (% of all children under age 3)*	Pawtucket	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
	Rhode Island	10%	10%	10%	11%	12%
Children participating in Early Head Start	Pawtucket	1	0	52	38	34
	Rhode Island	385	376	508	519	522
Children participating in Head Start	Pawtucket	200	184	194	206	196
	Rhode Island	2,484	2,455	2,471	2,432	2,432
Licensed early learning centers	Pawtucket	16	17	17	17	17
	Rhode Island	337	338	330	309	314
Licensed family child care homes	Pawtucket	61	47	49	48	43
	Rhode Island	845	705	688	639	585
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Pawtucket	NA	6%	12%	18%	18%
	Rhode Island	NA	4%	7%	12%	15%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Pawtucket	NA	2%	4%	10%	26%
	Rhode Island	NA	1%	8%	12%	21%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Pawtucket	697	706	762	776	817
	Rhode Island	7,633	7,457	7,622	7,749	7,868
Children in full-day kindergarten	Pawtucket	84%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Rhode Island	58%	60%	60%	64%	68%
Children who are English Language Learners	Pawtucket	10%	11%	12%	13%	13%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Students enrolled in special education	Pawtucket	16%	15%	16%	17%	17%
	Rhode Island	18%	17%	17%	18%	18%
Student mobility rate	Pawtucket	24%	24%	22%	21%	22%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	14%	14%	14%
4 th graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Pawtucket	58%	56%	61%	60%	60%
	Rhode Island	68%	67%	69%	71%	69%
8 th graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Pawtucket	52%	55%	62%	67%	62%
	Rhode Island	65%	70%	74%	77%	77%
4 th graders at or above the math proficiency level	Pawtucket	50%	51%	53%	48%	50%
	Rhode Island	63%	62%	63%	65%	64%
8 th graders at or above the math proficiency level	Pawtucket	35%	41%	40%	38%	37%
	Rhode Island	53%	54%	54%	58%	58%
11 th graders at or above the math proficiency level	Pawtucket	14%	13%	17%	14%	15%
	Rhode Island	27%	27%	33%	30%	34%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Pawtucket	NA	13%	14%	13%	12%
	Rhode Island	NA	11%	13%	12%	11%
High school attendance rate	Pawtucket	88%	89%	88%	91%	90%
	Rhode Island	91%	91%	91%	92%	91%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Pawtucket	39	37	28	37	55
	Rhode Island	30	30	30	31	30
High school graduation rate	Pawtucket	57%	55%	58%	63%	67%
	Rhode Island	74%	75%	76%	77%	77%

*Starting with data for 2011 and five-year data for 2006-2010, rates are based on the Census 2010 population. Previous years are based on the Census 2000 population. This change should be noted when looking at trends over time. For more information, please contact Rhode Island KIDS COUNT - (401) 351-9400 - www.rikidscount.org