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## **Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Makes Data Local at “Providence Data in Your Backyard” Event**

*Decreases in teen birth rate and infants born at risk, but highest rate of  
delayed prenatal care in the state*

*Improvements in several key education outcomes*

**Providence, RI (June 27, 2014)** - Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Analyst Stephanie Geller presented data from the *2014 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* to an audience of community leaders and policy makers. The *Providence Data in Your Backyard* presentation included highlights of improvements and declines in the well-being of children and youth in Providence. The data presentation was brought to the community in partnership with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet and was held on **Friday, June 27, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Young & Woods Elementary School**, 674 Prairie Avenue, Providence.

Geller welcomed participants, saying, “We are excited to partner with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet to bring local data to Providence City, District, and community leaders. The *Providence Data in Your Backyard* event is a great way to examine trends in child and family outcomes, identify successes and challenges, and develop ways to improve outcomes for all Providence children and families.”

### **Providence has high rates of poverty among children**

Although childhood poverty exists in every Rhode Island community, it is particularly concentrated in the core cities of Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket. 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. In 2013, the federal poverty threshold was \$18,769 for a family of three with two children and \$23,624 for a family of four with two children. More than one-third (37.2% or 15,151) of children in Providence live in poverty.

### **Improvements in several infant outcomes**

The teen birth rate is on the decline across the nation, in Rhode Island, and Providence. The teen birth rate is measured as the number of births per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19. While the teen birth rate is higher in Providence than the state as a whole, it is moving in the right direction. The most recent teen birth rate in Providence was 34.6 per 1,000 girls, compared to 48.0 per 1,000 teen girls five years before.

Babies born to unmarried teen mothers without a high school diploma are called *infants born at highest risk*, due to the multiple challenges they face. These babies

are more likely to grow up in poverty, are less likely to perform well in school, and are less likely to complete high school than their peers. In 2013, 5% of Providence babies were born at highest risk, down from 9% in 2009.

### **Highest rate of delayed prenatal care in the state**

It is important for pregnant women to have regular medical care for the health of both the mother and baby. Early prenatal care can identify and treat health problems, impact healthy behaviors, and result in healthy fetal development and continued health through infancy. Despite its importance, nearly 1 in 5 (19.2%) of Providence mothers received delayed prenatal care from 2008-12. This is the highest percentage of mothers receiving delayed prenatal care in the state.

“Increasing access to health insurance coverage can help improve outcomes for infants and their mothers,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “Low-income pregnant women with RIte Care coverage are more likely to have timely prenatal care than women who are uninsured. It is important to continue to maintain and protect programs like RIte Care, to improve access to prenatal care.”

### **School breakfast participation up**

Students who eat breakfast have higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness, and lower incidences of social and emotional problems. The Providence School District has implemented a number of strategies to increase school breakfast participation, including providing breakfast to all children, regardless of income, and offering breakfast in the classroom in all of its elementary schools. These strategies are paying off. In 2013, 63% of low-income Providence children ate breakfast each day, up from 34% in 2009.

### **Improvements in several education outcomes**

Early reading difficulties affect academic achievement and future employment success. Between 2005 and 2013, the percentage of fourth grade students in Providence public schools who were proficient in reading increased from 31% to 52%. During this time, reading proficiency among Providence eighth graders increased from 31% to 49% (while progress dipped from 2012 to 2013).

Children need to be in school to learn, and to remain engaged in school in order to succeed. Students are chronically absent if they miss 18 or more days of school per school year. Providence’s chronic early absence rate (grades K-3) has decreased from 22% during the 2010-11 school year to 19% during 2012-13. Providence’s chronic absence rate in high school has decreased in the same time frame as well, from 46% to 37%. Similar to students who are chronically absent, students who are suspended from school are more likely to experience disengagement and drop out of school. Although suspensions are decreasing in Providence, the majority of suspensions in the 2012-13 school year were out-of-school (6,162 out-of-school and 2,094 in-school).

A key indicator of future success, the Providence high school graduation rate has seen continued improvement in recent years. In Providence in 2013, 71% of students graduated from high school in four years, which is an increase from 58% in 2007.

“District, City, and community leaders in Providence, many of whom are active members of the Children and Youth Cabinet, have come together to address problems like chronic absence and the lack of high-quality early childhood programs, and we are beginning to see results,” said Geller. “Providence has turned the tide in positive directions for several key indicators and can continue to work together to improve more outcomes for children and families.”

## Profile of Providence, Rhode Island

<b>Census-Based Indicators</b>		1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Providence	37,972	45,277	41,634		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Providence	NA	NA	46%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
Children living in grandparent-headed households	Providence	NA	NA	7%		
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	6%		
				<b>2008-2012</b>		
Median family income	Providence		\$32,119	\$35,375		
	Rhode Island		\$66,156	\$68,326		
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Providence		40.5%	37.2%		
	Rhode Island		16.9%	18.4%		
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cost of rent	Providence	\$1,111	\$1,086	\$1,048	\$1,120	\$1,136
	Rhode Island	\$1,170	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154
Children in families receiving cash assistance*	Providence	10%	9%	13%	12%	10%
	Rhode Island	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Providence	20,771	22,933	23,803	24,034	23,238
	Rhode Island	53,466	59,652	63,783	64,866	63,971
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Providence	80%	78%	76%	74%	76%
	Rhode Island	77%	72%	68%	69%	66%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Providence	34%	34%	51%	56%	63%
	Rhode Island	27%	28%	36%	35%	39%
<b>Health</b>		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Providence	30,694	31,458	31,756	31,957	31,787
	Rhode Island	89,746	92,701	93,691	95,248	96,215
Infants born at highest risk	Providence	9%	7%	7%	5%	5%
	Rhode Island	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
		<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>2005-2009</b>	<b>2006-2010</b>	<b>2007-2011</b>	<b>2008-2012</b>
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Providence	30%	30%	30%	29%	27%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Providence	20.5%	22.1%	22.9%	20.9%	19.2%
	Rhode Island	14.0%	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%
Infants born with low birthweight	Providence	9.4%	9.3%	9.3%	9.1%	9.1%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Providence	9.3	9.5	9.3	8.7	8.9
	Rhode Island	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Providence	49%	49%	51%	52%	53%
	Rhode Island	57%	58%	59%	61%	62%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)*	Providence	3.0	2.3	4.0	3.9	3.7
	Rhode Island	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.1
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)*	Providence	48.0	46.6	40.6	38.3	34.6
	Rhode Island	30.7	30.1	27.0	25.5	23.3

\*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.

<b>Safety</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims (per 1,000 children)*	Providence	14.1	19.1	18.4	20.1	18.0
	Rhode Island	11.7	13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children)*	Providence	23.9	21.7	23.0	22.1	22.2
	Rhode Island	10.2	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.2
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Providence	35%	33%	33%	36%	NA
	Rhode Island	29%	28%	29%	31%	NA
<b>Education</b>		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Providence	55	123	154	163	149
	Rhode Island	376	508	519	522	503
Children enrolled in Head Start	Providence	797	790	777	768	641
	Rhode Island	2,455	2,471	2,432	2,432	2,040
Licensed early learning centers	Providence	50	49	47	47	46
	Rhode Island	338	330	309	314	309
Licensed family child care homes	Providence	428	415	376	338	335
	Rhode Island	705	688	639	585	581
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Providence	14%	22%	26%	32%	83%
	Rhode Island	4%	7%	12%	15%	78%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Providence	0%	10%	14%	25%	91%
	Rhode Island	1%	8%	12%	21%	82%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Providence	2,864	2,809	2,976	2,941	2,845
	Rhode Island	7,457	7,622	7,749	7,868	7,696
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Providence	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Rhode Island	60%	60%	64%	68%	70%
Students who are English Language Learners	Providence	15%	16%	17%	19%	21%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Students enrolled in special education	Providence	18%	17%	19%	19%	18%
	Rhode Island	17%	17%	18%	18%	17%
Student mobility rate	Providence	28%	25%	25%	24%	21%
	Rhode Island	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Providence	44%	47%	46%	45%	52%
	Rhode Island	67%	69%	71%	69%	71%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the reading proficiency level	Providence	45%	44%	52%	56%	49%
	Rhode Island	70%	74%	77%	77%	74%
4 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Providence	35%	42%	42%	43%	39%
	Rhode Island	62%	63%	65%	64%	63%
8 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Providence	28%	25%	31%	34%	34%
	Rhode Island	54%	54%	58%	58%	57%
11 <sup>th</sup> graders at or above the math proficiency level	Providence	11%	12%	11%	15%	14%
	Rhode Island	27%	33%	30%	34%	36%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Providence	21%	22%	22%	20%	19%
	Rhode Island	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%
Chronic absence in high school	Providence	43%	45%	46%	41%	37%
	Rhode Island	21%	25%	25%	25%	24%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Providence	49	53	48	49	35
	Rhode Island	30	30	31	30	23
High school graduation rate	Providence	66%	68%	66%	65%	71%
	Rhode Island	75%	76%	77%	77%	80%

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