

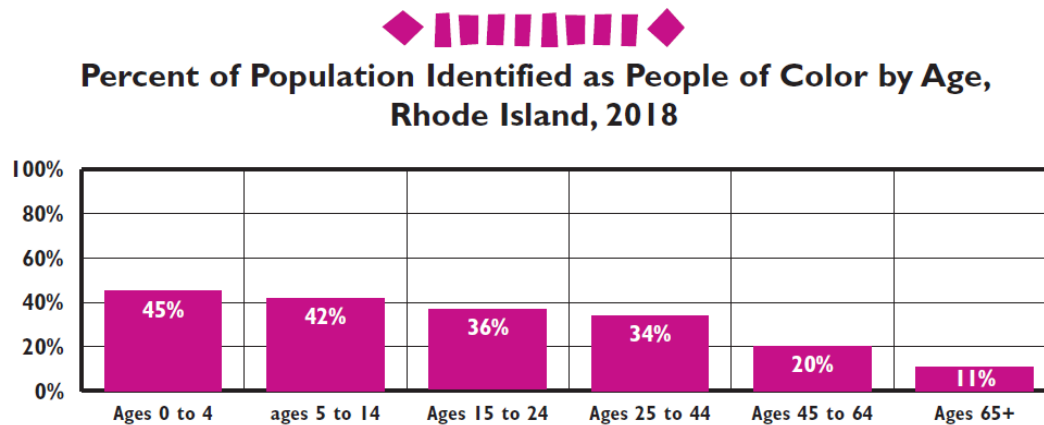
## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND TRENDS

### Child Population

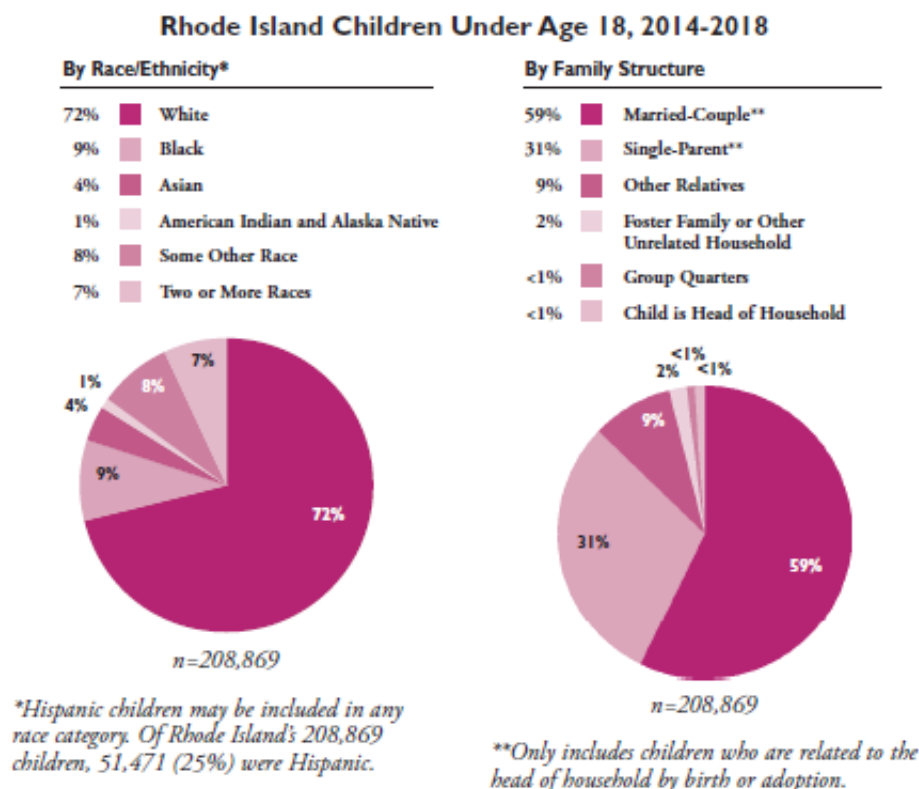
- In 2018, there were 203,908 children under age 18 in Rhode Island (19% of the state's total population).

### Rhode Island Children – Increasing Diversity

Young children in Rhode Island are more likely to be identified as people of color than any other age group. In 2018, 45% of Rhode Island children under age five identify as people of color, compared with 34% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 11% of people age 65 or over.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2018.



- Hispanics make up 25% of children under age 18 in the United States and 25% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.
- Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 28% were ages five to nine, 28% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.
- Sexual orientation is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

### Rhode Island Children – Persistent Disparities in Outcomes

Racial and ethnic disparities is the gap that exists in outcomes for children of different racial and ethnic groups in Rhode Island.

- Black, Latino, and Native American children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and face challenges above and beyond the burdens of individual poverty.
- Students in schools with high concentrations of low-income students and students of color have unequal educational opportunities, with classmates who generally have more absences and lower graduation rates and teachers who have less teaching experience and are more likely to teach outside their subject area of expertise.
- Students living in poverty often face a host of challenges outside the classroom that can negatively impact academic performance, including inadequate housing, less access to health care, lower parental educational levels, and fewer opportunities for enriching after-school and summer activities.

*The charts below outline disparities among Rhode Island children, across several issue areas:*



### Economic Well-Being Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in Poverty	14%	35%	26%	12%	63%	18%
Births to Mothers with <12 Years Education	6%	25%	13%	7%	23%	11%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	6.1%	4.6%	NA	NA	3.5%
Median Family Income	\$88,569	\$40,624	\$49,980	\$82,051	\$35,796	\$81,822
Homeownership	65%	28%	32%	49%	20%	60%



### Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children Without Health Insurance	2.4%	2.3%	1.4%	4.9%	NA	2.2%
Women With Delayed or No Prenatal Care	13.4%	18.2%	22.3%	16.4%	21.2%	15.9%
Preterm Births	8.1%	9.3%	11.2%	7.5%	13.2%	8.7%
Low Birthweight Infants	6.6%	8.0%	11.1%	7.5%	12.5	7.5%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	3.3	5.5	10.6	5.2^	*	5.2
Births to Teens Ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)	7.5	31.7	16.6	3.3	26.7	14.0



### Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Youth at the Training School (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	1.1	5.9	14.7	0.8	5.0	3.0
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.7	15.3	46.6	1.7	33.1	12.2
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	12.7	17.9	2.3	6.4	7.2



### Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	57%	33%	33%	58%	23%	48%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	45%	21%	24%	52%	16%	36%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	88%	70%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	72%	56%	61%	76%	59%	67%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35%	14%	21%	49%	17%	33%

## **The 2020 Census and Rhode Island Children**

- The decennial 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 wide array of programs that improve outcomes for children and families in Rhode Island.
- Certain populations have been historically undercounted in the decennial Census, including young children under age five, immigrants, low-income populations, people of color, people experiencing homelessness, and people in non-traditional households.

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

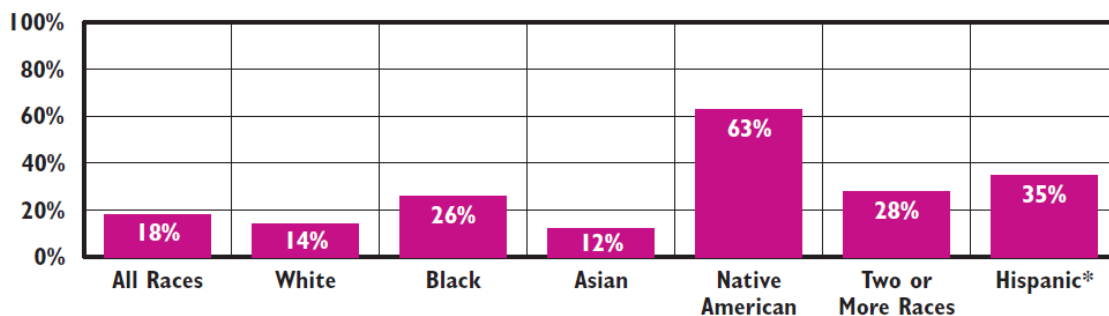
### Children in Poverty at Risk for Long-Term Negative Outcomes

Poverty is related to every KIDS COUNT indicator. 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, have trouble in school, become teen parents, and earn less or be unemployed as adults.

- In 2019, the federal poverty threshold was \$20,598 for a family of three with two children and \$25,926 for a family of four with two children.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 18% (37,402) of Rhode Island's 205,899 children under age 18 with known poverty status lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.
- In 2018, more than one in six (18%) children in Rhode Island (a total of 36,135 children) lived in poverty and 8% (16,505 children) lived in extreme poverty. This is an increase from 2017, when 17% of Rhode Island's children (33,858) lived in poverty.
- **Disparities:** In Rhode Island as well as in the United States as a whole, Native American, Hispanic, and Black children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.

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**Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2014-2018**



- 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.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 19.7% (12,806) of Rhode Island children under age six lived in poverty.

### Rhode Island's Cash Assistance Program Not Meeting Needs of Most Vulnerable Families

RI Works is Rhode Island's cash assistance program and is intended 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.

- Since 1996, when the program began, the RI Works caseload has declined steadily, from 18,428 families in 1996 to 3,879 families in 2019.
- The maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$554 per month. This benefit amount provides \$6 per person per day and has not been increased in almost 30 years.

### **Paid Family Leave an Important Resource, but Many Low-Income Families Cannot Afford to Take**

Although some workers in the U.S. have access to paid leave through their employers (an estimated 16% of private sector workers), the majority do not. High-wage workers are much more likely to have access to paid family leave than low-wage workers. Among workers who did not take family leave when needed, almost half report they could not afford to take the leave.

- In Rhode Island, there were 7,175 approved claims for TCI during 2019 (up from 6,760 in 2018); 80% were to bond with a new child and 20% were to care for a seriously ill family member.
- In 2019, 46% of individuals contributing to TDI/TCI earned less than \$20,000, yet only 14% of all approved TCI claims were for an individual with wages in this category.
- Forty-one percent of claims to bond with a new child were filed by men and 59% were filed by women.

### **Child Nutrition Programs Provide Vital Assistance to Children in Need**

Hunger and lack of regular access to enough food is linked to serious physical, psychological, emotional, and academic problems in children and can interfere with their growth and development.

Several federal nutrition programs provide nutrition assistance to children and families, including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In 2019, food pantries and soup kitchens provided emergency food assistance to 53,000 Rhode Islanders each month who needed additional help to meet their nutritional needs.

- **SNAP** is an important anti-hunger program that helps individuals and families purchase food when they have limited income, face unemployment or reduced work hours, or experience a crisis.
  - Of the 150,230 Rhode Islanders enrolled in SNAP in October 2019, 66% were adults and 34% were children. Of the children, 35% were under the age of six.
  - The number of children and adults receiving SNAP benefits decreased slowly between 2012 and 2015, then increased in 2016. It is possible that the 2016 increase was due to efforts to avoid denying eligible SNAP recipients during the difficult transition to the RI Bridges/UHIP computer system. Between 2016 and 2019, the number of adults and children receiving SNAP benefits again decreased.
- **WIC** provides nutritious food and nutrition education to pregnant women, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under age five living in low-income households
  - Rhode Island received \$16.8 million in federal WIC funding during FFY 2019, which was less than the \$21.7 million in funding for FFY 2018.
  - In June 2019, 20,507 women and young children participated in WIC, which is 47% of estimated eligible Rhode Islanders.
  - Infants and children ages one through four comprised more than three-quarters (78%) of the population being served by WIC in September 2019 in Rhode Island.

### **Cost of Rent Out of Reach for Many Families**

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. Healthy housing also protects families from weather, environmental hazards, and injury and provides a safe place for children to eat, sleep, play, and grow.

- In 2019, the average cost of rent in Rhode Island rose by \$30 from \$1,621 in 2018 to \$1,651, increasing 19% since 2014.
- The percentage of renters in Rhode Island who spent 30% or more of their household income on rent was 47% in 2018, down from 50% in 2009.

- In 2019, a worker would have to earn \$31.75 an hour and work 40 hours a week year-round to be able to afford the average rent in Rhode Island without a cost burden. This hourly wage is more than three times the 2019 minimum wage of \$10.50 per hour.

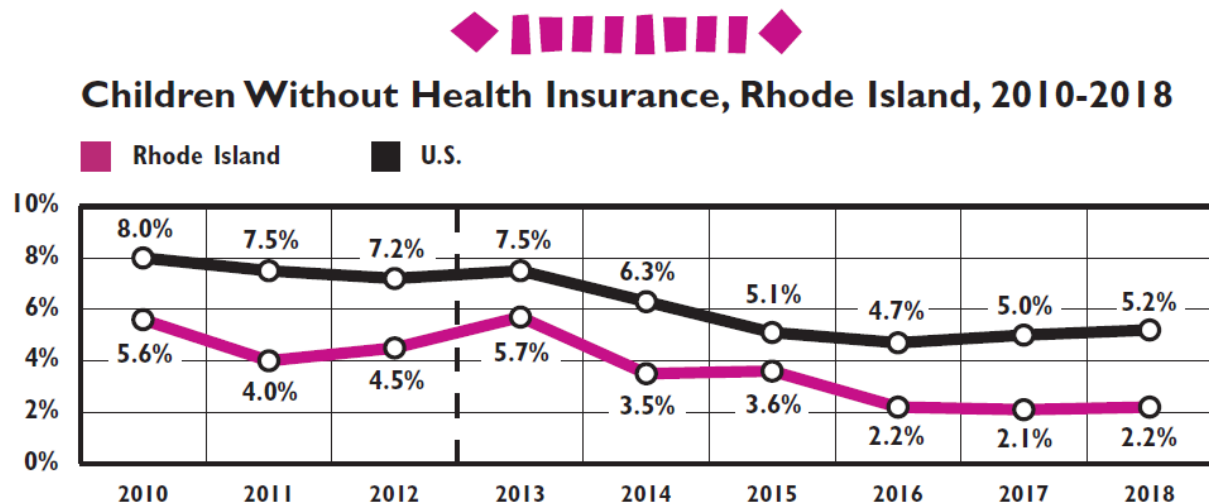
#### **New Data on Education Outcomes for Children Experiencing Homelessness**

- During the 2018-2019 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,475 children as homeless. Of these children, 70% lived with other families (“doubled up”), 16% lived in shelters, 13% lived in hotels or motels, and 1% were unsheltered.
- In Rhode Island in 2019, 25% of homeless students met expectations on the third grade *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)* English language arts assessment compared to 48% of non-homeless students. In Rhode Island in 2019, 11% of homeless students met expectations on the third grade *RICAS* mathematics assessment compared to 36% of non-homeless students.
- In Rhode Island, the four-year high school graduation rate for the Class of 2019 was 65% for homeless students and 84% for non-homeless students.

## HEALTH

### **98% of Rhode Island Children Have Health Insurance – Third Best in U.S.**

- In 2018, 2.2% of Rhode Island's children under age 19 were uninsured. Rhode Island ranks third best state in the U.S., with 97.8% of children covered. In 2018, 58% of Rhode Island children under age 19 were covered by private health insurance, most of which was obtained through their parents' employers.



- Approximately 68% of the estimated 5,028 uninsured children under age 18 in Rhode Island were eligible for RItE Care coverage based on their family income but were not enrolled.

### **Access to Dental Care – Including Dental Care for Pregnant Women**

- Fifty-five percent (70,023) of the children who were enrolled in RItE Care, RItE Share, or Medicaid fee-for-service on June 30, 2019 received a dental service during 2019. The number of children receiving dental services has increased by 62% since 2006, when RItE Smiles launched.
- As of December 31, 2019, there were 88,884 children enrolled in RItE Smiles. This is a decrease from December 31, 2018, when there were 113,462 children enrolled.
- Slightly more than half (56%) of Rhode Island women report having a dental visit during their pregnancy. Among those who received dental care, 43% had RItE Care and 67% had private insurance. Sixty percent of pregnant women reported receiving education about the importance of dental visits during pregnancy.

### **Mental Health Services Critical for Children and Youth**

- In 2018, there were 2,865 emergency department visits and 1,864 hospitalizations of Rhode Island children with a primary diagnosis of mental disorder.
- In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, 26% (31,394) of children under age 19 enrolled in Medicaid/RItE Care had a mental health diagnosis. Of those children with a mental health diagnosis, 23% were ages six and under, 38% were ages seven to 12, and 39% were ages 13 to 18. In addition, 42% were females and 58% were males.
- Children and youth with mental health conditions are at increased risk for suicide. In 2019, 15% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times during the past year. This is an increase from 11% in 2017.



- From 2014 to 2018, the number of teens ages 13 to 19 who were admitted to the emergency department or hospitalized after a suicide doubled. Twenty-five children under age 20 died due to suicide in Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018.

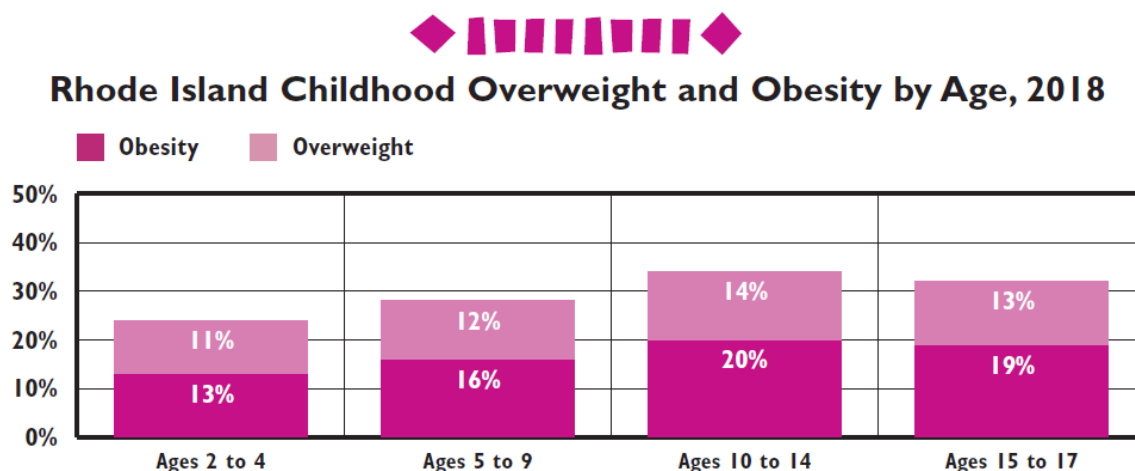
### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Infant Outcomes

- Severe maternal morbidity is defined as unintended outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant consequences to a woman's health. In 2014-2018, the Rhode Island severe maternal morbidity rate was 223 per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations. Black (345 per 10,000), Hispanic (254 per 10,000), and Asian (262 per 10,000) women all had higher rates of maternal morbidity than White women (189 per 10,000).
- Between 2014 and 2018 in Rhode Island, Black women (22.3%), Hispanic women (18.2%), American Indian and Alaskan Native women (21.2%), and Asian women (16.4%) were more likely to receive delayed prenatal care than White women (13.4%).
- In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, the Black infant mortality rate was 10.6 deaths per 1,000 births, which is over three times the White infant mortality rate of 3.3 deaths per 1,000 births.
- Structural racism is at the root of disparities in maternal and infant mortality, resulting in dramatically higher rates of maternal and infant mortality among Black mothers and their babies. It is critical to acknowledge structural racism and work to identify and remove systemic barriers that keep Black mothers and their babies from receiving needed care.
- Strategies to reduce disparities in maternal and infant mortality include supporting Black women in navigating the health care system, increasing access to midwives and doulas, training providers to address racism with their patients, increasing diversity of the health care workforce, and dismantling barriers to maternal and infant mental health care.

### New Data on Childhood Obesity

Prior to 2018, Rhode Island did not have adequate clinical childhood obesity data.

- A recent study of 65,829 deidentified records with clinical and related billing code data from 2018 found that 13% of Rhode Island children ages two to 17 are overweight and 17% are obese.
- Older children are more likely to be overweight or obese – 20% of children ages 10 to 14 and 19% of children ages 15 to 17 are obese, compared to 16% of children ages five to nine and 13% of children ages two to four.



- Twenty-two percent of children covered by Rite Care are obese, compared to 12% of children with private health insurance.
- Hispanic children (13% overweight and 23% obese) and Non-Hispanic Black children (14% overweight and 23% obese) have the highest rates of overweight and obesity.

### Substance Use – Increase in E-cigarette, Prescription Misuse

Key risk periods for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse occur during major life transitions, including the shifts to middle school and high school, when young people experience new academic, social, and emotional challenges. Adolescents are especially vulnerable to developing substance abuse disorders because their brains are still developing; the prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making and risk-assessment, is not mature until the mid-20s.

- Among Rhode Island high school students in 2019, 30% reported current use of e-cigarettes, 11% reported current binge drinking, 4% reported current cigarette use, 4% reported currently using over the counter drugs to get high, and 10% reported ever misusing prescription pain medication.
- There was an increase in e-cigarette use and misusing prescription drugs from 2017. Among Rhode Island high school students in 2017, 20% reported use of e-cigarettes, 11% reported current binge drinking, 6% reported cigarette use, 5% reported using over the counter drugs to get high, and 4% reported misusing prescription drugs.

### Current Substance Use, Rhode Island High School Students by Select Subgroups, 2019

	ALCOHOL USE*	E-CIGARETTE USE*	CIGARETTE USE*	MARIJUANA USE*	PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE**
Female	23%	31%	2%	22%	11%
Male	20%	28%	6%	24%	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	13%	18%	3%	17%	13%
White, Non-Hispanic	24%	36%	4%	25%	9%
All other races, Non-Hispanic	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Multiple races, Non-Hispanic	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hispanic	17%	20%	5%	20%	11%
9th Grade	11%	21%	2%	12%	7%
10th Grade	19%	25%	3%	22%	8%
11th Grade	22%	35%	4%	28%	14%
12th Grade	36%	42%	8%	33%	12%
<i>All Students</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>10%</i>

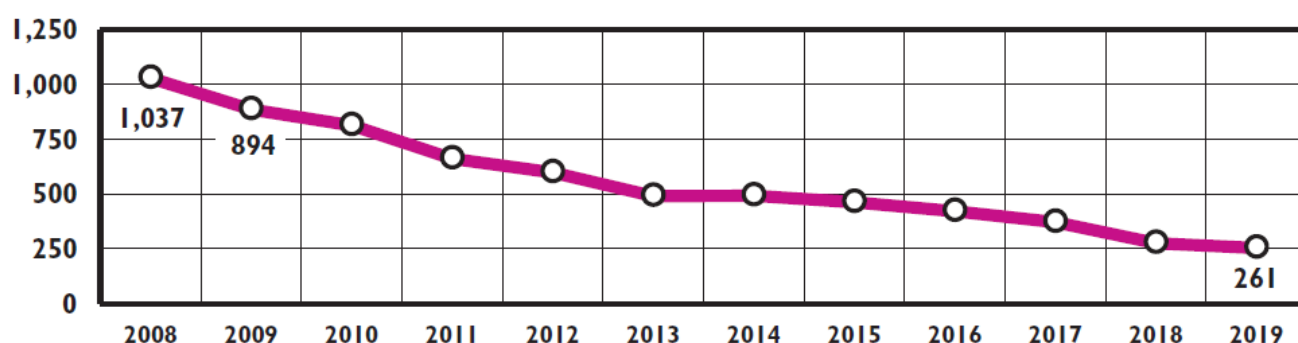
## **SAFETY**

### **Decrease in Youth in Juvenile Justice System**

- In 2019, 1,350 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools, down from 1,729 in 2018.
- On January 2, 2020, there were 380 youth on the DCYF probation caseload (334 males and 46 females), a decrease from 494 youth in January 2019.
- On December 31, 2019, there were 73 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 40 of whom were physically at the Training School, down from 95 and 51 respectively, the year prior.



### **Youth in the Care and Custody of the Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Years 2008-2019**



- Between 2008 and 2019, the annual total number of youth in the care and custody of the Training School at any point during the year declined by 75% from 1,037 to 261.

### **Increase in Need for Domestic Violence Services**

Rhode Island's statewide network of six domestic violence shelters and advocacy programs provide emergency and support services to victims of domestic violence.

- During 2019, the network provided services to 10,134 individuals, including 601 children (up from 8,514 and 556 respectively in 2018).
- Exposure to domestic violence is distressing to children and can lead to mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety in childhood and later life.
- Children exposed to domestic violence are often victims of physical abuse, and they are at increased risk of entering into abusive relationships or becoming an abuser themselves.
- In Rhode Island in 2017, there were 5,647 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests. Children were reported present in 27% (1,501) of these incidents.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect: 42% of Child Abuse and Neglect Victims Were Under Age 6**

- In 2019 in Rhode Island, there were 2,249 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 3,109 Rhode Island children. This is a decrease from 2018 in Rhode Island, when there were 2,430 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 3,505 Rhode Island children.
- In 2019, Rhode Island had 13.9 child victims of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children, which is lower than the rate (14.6) in 2018.
- In 2019, 42% of child abuse and neglect victims were under age six. There are services and supports available to young children in the child welfare system, including developmental screenings, Early

Intervention, evidence-based home visiting programs, and subsidized child care. (See p. 108 for more information.)

**Children in the Care of DCYF – Increase in Group Home Placements, Decrease in Adoptions**

- During calendar year 2019, 182 children in the care of DCYF were adopted in Rhode Island, down 29% from the 255 children adopted in 2018.
- On December 31, 2019, 309 children were living in a residential facility or group home, an increase from 303 children on December 31, 2018.
- The percentage of children in out-of-home placement who were in a relative foster care home decreased from 40% (872) on December 31, 2018 to 36% (786) on December 31, 2019.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-16 EDUCATION

## High-Quality, Affordable Early Child Care and Education Needed to Support Children's Learning and Ability of Parents to Work.

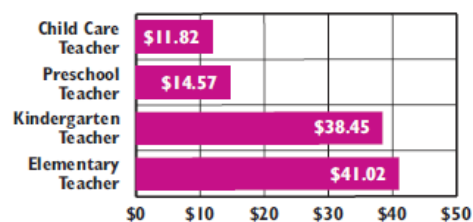
Families rely on child care to enable them to work and to provide the early education experiences needed to prepare their children for school. Yet the high cost of child care puts quality care out of reach for many low-income families. Decades of research show that high-quality early care and education programs can improve children's cognitive and social-emotional development, enabling them to perform better in school.

- As of December 2019, 16% of children participating in the Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program (income-based state subsidy) were enrolled in high-quality programs, up from 10% in December 2018.

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Average Annual Cost for Full-Time Child Care, Rhode Island, 2018	
PROGRAM TYPE	COST PER CHILD
Child Care Center (infant care)	\$13,093
Child Care Center (preschool care)	\$10,903
Family Child Care Home (preschool care)	\$8,811
School-Age Center-Based Program (child age 6-12)	\$7,664

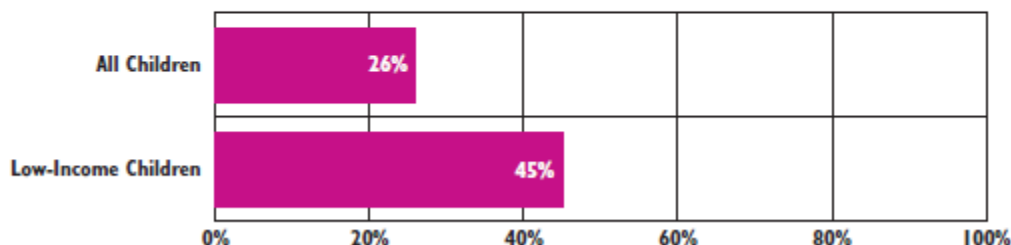
### Teacher Median Hourly Wages, Rhode Island, 2017



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

## Head Start and RI Pre-K Serving 45% of Low-Income Children

**Percentage of Children Enrolled in Head Start or RI Pre-K  
the Year before Kindergarten, Rhode Island, 2019-2020**



- As of the 2019-2020 school year, there were 2,584 children enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K during the year before kindergarten, approximately 26% of all children and 45% of low-income children.
- Of those children enrolled, 1,164 (45%) were enrolled in Head Start, 1,280 (50%) were enrolled in RI Pre-K, and 140 (5%) were enrolled in a classroom with braided Head Start and RI Pre-K funding.
- As of 2018, Rhode Island ranked 1st in the U.S. for meeting research-based Pre-K quality benchmarks, but 34th in the U.S. for enrollment of four-year-olds.

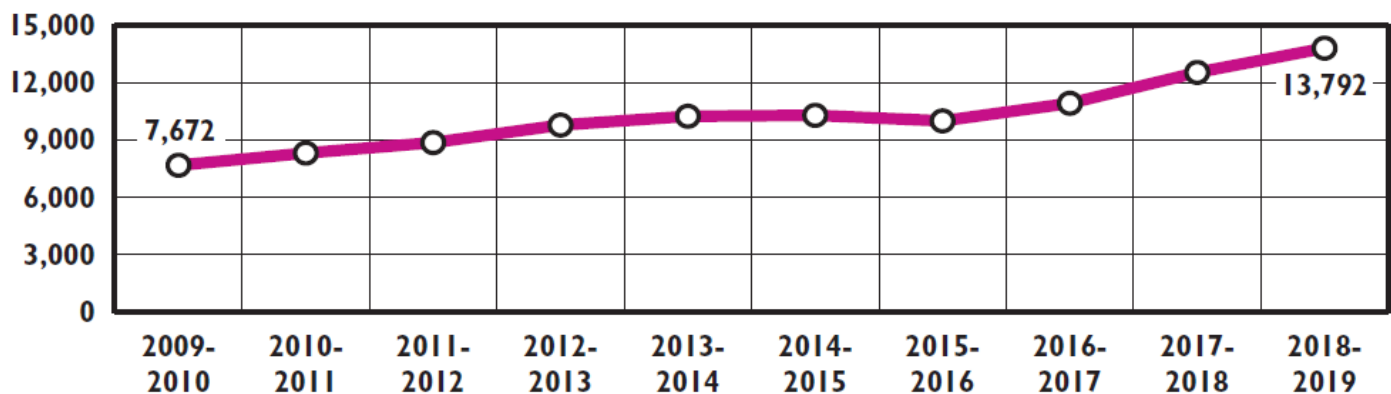
### Diversity of Rhode Island Students

On October 1, 2019, there were 143,557 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12.

- Of these students, almost half (48%) were low-income and eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Of these students, 55% of Rhode Island public school students were White, 27% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 5% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American.
- In Rhode Island as of June 30, 2019, 21,868 students in public schools ages six to 21 received special education services (15% of all students). Thirty-six percent of students receiving special education services in Rhode Island had a learning disability.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, 10% of Rhode Island public school students (13,792) were Multilingual Learners/English Learners (MLLs/ELs). The number of MLL/EL students in Rhode Island has nearly doubled in the past 10 years.



**Multilingual Learners/English Learners,  
Rhode Island, 2009-2010 Through 2018-2019 School Years**



### Importance of Increasing Number of Teachers of Color

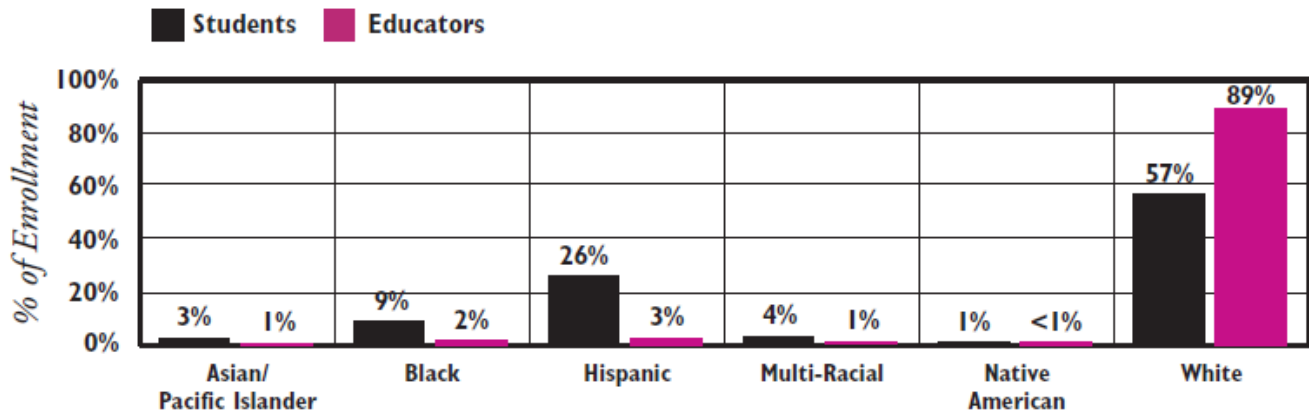
Students of color demonstrate long-term academic achievement including higher reading and math test scores, decreased likelihood of dropping out of high school, increased likelihood of going to college, and increased social and emotional development in classes with teachers of color.

- In October 2018, 89% (12,367) of Rhode Island public school educators identified as White, 3% (454) as Hispanic, 2% (249) as Black, 1% (120) as Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% (85) as Multi-Racial, and less than 1% (25) as Native American.



## Rhode Island Educator Demographics

### Rhode Island Public School Student Enrollment and Teacher Demographics by Race and Ethnicity, 2018-2019 School Year



#### Decrease in Suspensions

- From the 2017-2018 school year to the 2018-2019 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions decreased by 16%.
- 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.
- Kindergartners received 133 suspensions, including 110 out-of-school suspensions. Compared to the 2017-2018 school year, the number of kindergartners who were suspended decreased by 42%, the number of suspensions decreased by 53%, and the number of days kindergartners were suspended decreased by 54% in the 2018-2019 school year.

#### Gaps in Reading Proficiency Remain

- In 2019, 48% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)*, English language arts assessment
- In 2019, 19% of low-income eighth graders met expectations in English language arts on the *RICAS*, compared with 52% of higher-income eighth graders. There were also large achievement gaps by race and ethnicity.
- Less than 5% of Multilingual Learners/English Learners and students with disabilities met expectations on the eighth grade English language arts assessment.

#### Gaps in Math Skills Remain

- In Rhode Island in 2019, 22% of low-income third graders met expectations in math, compared with 51% of higher-income third graders. In Rhode Island in 2019, 10% of low-income eighth graders met expectations in math, compared with 37% of higher-income third graders. There were also large achievement gaps by race and ethnicity:

## Improvements in High School Graduation and College Enrollment

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2019 was 84%, up from 75% for the Class of 2009.
- Sixty-seven percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2018 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. Compared to the class of 2016, before the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship was available, the overall college enrollment rate has increased from 59% to 67%, the two-year college enrollment rate has increased from 16% to 25%, and the four-year college enrollment rate has decreased from 43% to 42%.
- Fifty-six percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2012 earned a college diploma within six years.
  - In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 37% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 68% of higher-income students.
- Disconnected youth are youth who are not enrolled in school, not in the Armed Forces, and not employed. Disconnected youth are at risk of experiencing negative outcomes as they transition from adolescence to adulthood and over the long term. Youth disconnection has declined in recent years. In 2017, 7% of youth ages 16 to 19 reported being disconnected; compared to 10% in 2014.



## Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2018, Rhode Island

